

# 'Tribal governments existed here before there was a State of Oregon'

FIRST NATIONS continued  
from front page

Oregon's 150th year of statehood acknowledges Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes, the first people and their rich heritage, traditions and stewardship of cultural and natural resources, residents on these lands from time immemorial," the proclamation says.

"Tribal governments existed here before there was a State of Oregon and stand side by side with the State as continuing and viable governments in Oregon today."

Grand Ronde Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Tribal Council Vice Chair Reyn Leno, Tribal Council Secretary Jack Giffen Jr. and Tribal Council members Wink Soderberg, Kathleen Tom, Valorie Sheker, Steve Bobb Sr. and Chris Mercier attended the proclamation reading. Other Tribal members in the crowd included Spirit Mountain Community Fund Director Shelley Hanson, Tribal Elder Carol Logan and Tribal Executive Officer Chris Leno.

Also in attendance were representatives from the other four western Oregon Tribes, including Tribal Chairs Bob Garcia, Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw; Sue Shaffer, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua; Ed Metcalf, Coquille; and Delores Pigsley, Siletz. Representatives from several eastern Oregon Tribes also attended.

After reading the proclamation, Kulongoski mingled with Tribal representatives, posed for numerous photos and shook hands with Tribal dignitaries.

## Video debuts

At 1:30 p.m. Friday, the five western Tribes unveiled a 55-minute video at the Oregon State Fairgrounds that tells the combined history of the Tribes. Cow



Above, Grand Ronde Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, second from right, sits with other western Oregon Tribal leaders before the debut of a 55-minute video that told the combined histories of the five western Oregon Tribes.

With Kennedy are, from left, Siletz Chairwoman Delores Pigsley, Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Chairman Bob Garcia, Cow Creek Chairwoman Sue Shaffer and Coquille Chairman Ed Metcalf. Left, Kulongoski reads a proclamation before more than 100 attendees, including a large contingent of Grand Ronde Tribal members, at the State Capitol on the morning of Friday, Jan. 30, that named Jan. 31 Oregon Tribal Nations Honor Day.

Photos by Dean Rhodes



Creek's Creative Images created the video, which was supervised by video producer Carl Metzler. Tribal member and Cultural Resources Department Manager David Lewis supervised the Grand Ronde Tribe's section.

Kulongoski attended the premiere, as did many political figures, including State Sen. Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day), newest member of the Oregon Commission on Indian Services; former Gov. Vic Atiyeh; and representatives from the con-

gressional offices of Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio.

Shaffer, who introduced the video, stressed the talking point "Before Oregon" to the approximately 150 people in attendance. Grand Ronde



At the end of the first Grand Entry of the Gathering of First Nations Powwow on Saturday, Jan. 31, Tribal members from across Oregon and the country filled the pavilion at the State Fairgrounds in Salem. Drum groups spread across the front of the pavilion, at bottom in the photograph.

Photo by Ron Karten

Tribal Council member June Sell-Sherer attended the video's debut along with the aforementioned members of Tribal Council.

Grand Ronde Tribal Elder and former Tribal Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison was featured in the video's introduction dressed in regalia before the film broke into five segments, telling the individual and intertwined histories of the five western Oregon Tribes.

"I loved it," Kennedy said. "It was just excellent."

After the video was shown and received a round of applause, Shaffer said that Kulongoski had requested a copy.

## Powwow draws 5,000 to Fairgrounds

On Saturday, Jan. 31, about 5,000 people watched and participated in the Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow held at the Oregon State Fairgrounds Pavilion in Salem.

"The intent of the five western Oregon Tribes was to educate Oregonians about the Oregon Tribes, and to say that they were here for thousands of years prior to Oregon statehood. And that we are still here," Kennedy said.

A group of representatives from the five western Oregon Tribes worked on organizing the event since early in 2008. Kulongoski appointed Shaffer to spearhead the western Oregon Tribes' effort to celebrate the state's 150th birthday. Kennedy, Lewis and Grand Ronde Tribal Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor took lead roles in representing the Grand Ronde Tribe on the organizing committee.

Nine drums representing urban, rural and Tribal communities included Eagle Beak from Grand Ronde, Round Stone from Siletz, Star Horse from Warm Springs, Red Hawk Canyon from Umatilla, Thunder Water from the Cow Creeks, 4 Directions from Portland, Red Nation Singers from Salem and Chemawa Indian School, Signal Butte from the Eugene/Springfield area, Dancing Spirit from Ashland and Southern Oregon, and Stagger Butte, a Klamath Tribe group from Chiloquin.

Tribal Elder Bob Tom shared an-

nouncing duties with Fred Hill, a General Council Interpreter with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

"It is really nice that all of the Tribes are here together," said Grand Ronde Tribal Council member Kathleen Tom. She added that she looks forward to a gathering one day of all American Indian nations.

"I felt so good because we all worked together," Shaffer said. "So often you'll see jockeying for position. I saw none of that. Everybody was so helpful in our mission of showing our beautiful homeland, and that we are sovereign nations."

The Oregon 150 DVD "Before Oregon" played continually in a room set aside for the project.

"Hopefully, through the video, Oregonians will become knowledgeable that we continue to live today," said Kennedy. "My hope is that Oregon schools will include this in their history lesson about the Tribes."

"This is a once in a lifetime thing," said Grand Ronde Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison, who participated in the 1 p.m. grand entry with Kennedy and Tribal Elder Donna Casey.

"This was my very first grand entry," said Casey. "I was proud to be there."

Grand Ronde Tribal members and employees played a big role in the event, with the Tribe's Prostar Security team augmenting State Fair security.

"They did such a good job," said Taylor. "They understand powwow and grand entry, and they work so well with Tribal people."

The Grand Ronde/Chinook Canoe Family opened the day with a



Photos by Ron Karten



Grand Ronde Tribal Elders participated in the Saturday, Jan. 31, Grand Entry. From left in the top photo were Tribal Elders Donna Casey, participating in her very first Grand Entry, Kathryn Harrison, former Chairwoman of the Grand Ronde Tribe, and Cheryle A. Kennedy, current Chairwoman. In the bottom photo, Grand Ronde Tribal Council members and Tribal Elders, from left, Jack Giffen Jr., Steve Bobb Sr. and Reyn Leno also march in during the Grand Entry.

paddle song and dancers.

Grand Ronde craftspeople and merchants, including Tribal members and brothers Bobby and David Mercier, Greg Archuleta and Tribal Elders Pat Allen, Charlotte Gray, Linda Bean Olson and

sisters Violet Folden and Gladys Hobbs, were among the many vendors on the floor.

Taylor led a group including Tribal members and Cultural Resources Department Manager David Lewis, Public Affairs Administrative Assistant Kristen Ravia and Public Affairs temp Janelle Gutierrez-Riggs, who helped answer questions and distribute materials at the Grand Ronde Tribe's information booth in the pavilion's lobby.

The event started at 10 a.m. and the pavilion was filled up by noon. The powwow lasted until 11 p.m., with a second grand entry occurring around 6 p.m.

"The 150th Oregon birthday celebration was thrilling. It was fulfilling. It was a mark in history," said Kennedy. "It warmed my heart to witness over 5,000 citizens of Oregon who came together joining us, the five western Oregon Tribes, at the Oregon First Nations Powwow."

"It was a very good day." ■

The Grand Ronde/Chinook Canoe Family was first to perform at the Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow on Saturday, Jan. 31, at the State Fairgrounds. From right are Grand Ronde Tribal members Kyoni Mercier and Madison Leno, Chinook Tribal member Mary Johnson and Makah Tribal member Adrianna Rico.

