

# Rose Festival Court visits Grand Ronde

*Princesses enjoy meal, socializing, learning Tribe's history*

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

The new 2009 Rose Festival Court visited the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde on May 8 at a new location — the Elders' Activity Center, which opened last year.

Fourteen of the 15-member court arrived in Grand Ronde after negotiating roadwork on both Oregon Highway 18 and Grand Ronde Road.

Their coach was met in front of the Governance Center by Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor, who boarded and directed them to the Elders' Activity Center, where the princesses would mingle with Tribal Royalty, Elders and Tribal Council members, as well as eat lunch and watch the Tribe's 25th Restoration video to learn about the Tribe's history.

The Rose Festival princesses disembarked the coach, all dressed in powder blue sweatshirts, and were greeted by Tribal Council members Wink Soderberg and Steve Bobb Sr., as well as Grand Ronde Veterans' Powwow and Competition Powwow Royalty Peter Nelson, Promise Rimer, Halona Butler, Mary Lopez, Nakoosa Moreland, Kallie Provost and Goldie Bly.

Tribal Royalty members were dressed in regalia, which fascinated many of the princesses and their chaperones.

After mingling and photo-taking, the princesses entered the Elders' Activity Center for a lunch of cod, rice, asparagus and strawberry shortcake prepared by Tribal Food Service Coordinator Kristy DeLoe and her staff.

The princesses dined with Tribal Elders Kathryn Harrison, Val Grout, Russell Leno, Nora Kimsey and Margaret Provost.

Lopez, Butler and Moreland performed an honor song while all the



**Above, Grand Ronde Veterans' Royalty Senior Young Warrior Peter Nelson and Rose Festival Court Princess Sylvie Dady greet each other as the 2009 Rose Festival Court arrives at the Elders' Activity Center on Friday, May 8. At left, Tribal Council member Wink Soderberg talks with Rose Court Princess Breanna Burnett during the 2009 Rose Festival Court's visit to the Elders' Activity Center.**

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Grand Ronde Royalty signed "The Lord's Prayer" performed by Aaron Neville before lunch.

Butler and Moreland also handed out homemade gifts — beaded neck-

laces and earrings, respectively.

The Rose Festival princesses then lined up and introduced themselves and told about a specific Rose Festival event going on this year.

They then collectively danced to Peaches & Herb's "Shake Your Groove Thing."

This year's Rose Festival Court includes Kia-Lynette Carter, Jefferson High School; Ahoefa Ananouko, Roosevelt High; Joy Shufeldt, Franklin High; Katrina McFeters, Marshall High; Breanna Burnett, Tigard High; Sylvie Dady, Cleveland High; Linda Nguyen, David Douglas High; Madeline Heinrich, Central Catholic High; Charlotte VanCleve, St. Mary's Academy; Rachel Seeman, Grant High; Mataya McNeill, Madison High; Ciara Dines, Parkrose High; Miranda Hardy, Lincoln High;

Eugenia Jacobsen, Wilson High; and Shakhara Green, Benson High. Only Seeman did not attend the Grand Ronde event.

Rose Festival princesses then presented gift bags that included potted rose plants to Tribal dignitaries.

They were then shown the Tribe's 25th Restoration video to remind them that they live in the ceded lands of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and to give them a crash course on Tribal history.

After the video, Tribal Council member Chris Mercier answered questions about the Tribe.

And the princesses received Tribal gift bags created by Spirit Mountain Casino. The gift bags included a casino water bottle and other Tribal items.

"It was amazing," Tigard High's Burnett said about her visit to Grand Ronde. "It was great hospitality and a great space. I absolutely loved it."

Taylor added that the Rose Festival princesses are living examples of the "power of positive thinking ... and that is what this Tribe is all about."

The Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade will be held June 6 in downtown Portland. ■



**Little Miss Grand Ronde Promise Rimer gets an autograph from Rose Court Festival Princess Ciara Dines after she got one from Princess Eugenia Jacobsen, right, during the 2009 Rose Festival Court's visit to the Elders' Activity Center.**