

Tribal member
Deitrich Peters
(right) and Tribal
Council member
June Sell-Sherer
participates in the
afternoon Grand
Entry of the 2009
Grand Ronde
Contest Powwow on
Saturday, Aug. 15.



POWWOW continued from page 6

wow we went to in Virginia."

On Sunday, two clowns, one dressed as a woman in a tutu and the other dressed as a pregnant old woman, entertained the powwow crowd with "kind of goofy dances" under the tent.

Anthony Quenelle and Carlos Calica (Warm Springs) came up with the idea because "we wanted to goof around" with Edmund Bull (Cree) and Sidrick Baker (Dakota), lead singers of the Red Bull Singers and Mandaree Singers, respectively, two of the host drums.

"They have been visitors regularly of the Tribe for the last couple of years," said Quenelle.

It was late Sunday afternoon, and they figured they'd do "a little dance to liven the crowd up, to give the drummers and dancers a break, give them time so points could be tallied for the contests," said Quenelle.

"If you knew me regularly," said Quenelle, "I'm kind of goofy. I'm kind of spur of the moment. I'll just do it. That's kind of my thing. I like to goof off, I like to have fun. It was something to do beyond the regular powwow contests."

They danced two songs.

"Let's find out who these dancers are," said Hill, and the two, unmasked, took their bows.

"Maybe we'll host a Clown Dance

Special next year," said Quenelle, coming up with the idea at the spur of the moment. "No, definitely. We're going to host a Clown Dance Special next year."

"If I can do something like that," he added, "then I feel like I'm doing my people and our visitors some good."

Meanwhile, Frank Windels (Gros Ventre) returned to the Contest Powwow after striking up a buffalo venture with Møk Møk Haws during this year's Veterans' Powwow. Though Windels works for the Oregon Parks Department in Salem, he also is working with the Gros Ventres, based in Fort Belknap, Mont., where they run "almost 700 buffalo," Windels said.

"The slaughterhouse is USDA inspected," he said of this cross-Tribal venture just getting under way.

As a result of the meeting at the

Veterans' Powwow, Møk Møk Haws now buys a number of smoked buffalo products from the Little River Meat packing plant in Fort Belknap that sells through the Fisher Buffalo Meat Distributor, Windels said. The Gros Ventre Tribe also is an established member of the Intertribal Bison Cooperative based in South Dakota.

"We want to help other Tribes get healthy," he said, referring to the low fat content of buffalo meat. "We want to show respect for the icon of the West. It was almost extinct, and now it's coming back."

While powwow served up the main event and family gatherings offered other options, the growth of the powwow in Grand Ronde was also seen this year in the effort of Tribal member Solomon George, who is growing into his role as a music promoter for the

community.

On Saturday night, he organized a heavy metal, drug- and alcohol-free show in the Tribal gymnasium that brought in four bands from as far away as the Flathead Reservation in Montana.

"When I was a kid," he said, "we had powwows behind the school. They had these little gatherings for the kids called sober dances. Those of us kids in the community wondered what happened to those and why they went away."

"Now that I'm old enough to do something about it, I'm trying to resurrect the idea of a positive place to go where kids can be themselves without the influence of drugs and alcohol. I wanted the local kids to have something to brag about, something so they can say, 'We have awesome shows in Grand Ronde.'" ■

Kallie Provost, left, 2009-10 Princess, and Promise Rimer, 2009-10 Veterans' Queen, dance during the afternoon Grand Entry of the 2009 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow on Saturday, Aug. 15.

