

Western Oregon Tribes 'Standing Strong'

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Kate Daly and Carolyn Bowser, friends from Salem, arrived at the "Tribal Celebration of History, Sovereignty and Culture" held at the Oregon State Fair in Salem early on Friday, Sept. 4.

"The sound drew us," said Daly, as the Siletz Tribal Feather Dancers, led by Siletz Vice Chair Bud Lane III and Tribal Council member Robert Kennta, performed on the Bi-Mart Spirit of Oregon stage at the northeast end of the fairgrounds.

"I'm very impressed seeing the different generations represented," Bowser said.

"I find it deeply moving even though I don't intellectually understand it," Daly said. "It goes right to my heart."

Grand Entry for "Standing Strong — The Tribes of Western Oregon" began at 10:10 on the sunny Friday morning, and featured a Color Guard representing the five federally-recognized western Oregon Tribes.

The morning's event also included performances and information booths from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Coquille Indian Tribe and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians.

Two hundred from the Tribes participated, said Tribal member Kristen Ravia, assistant to Tribal Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor, who organized the event.

The event comes as part of an agreement with the State Fair, Taylor said. In exchange for providing the Oregon Tribes with a pavilion for their celebration of Oregon's 150th anniversary in January, the Tribes agreed to develop this event for the fair.

"We have been here since time immemorial," Tribal Chairwoman Cheryl A. Kennedy told the mostly Native audience that nevertheless drew a few non-Natives.

She referred to the hard times that led up to the treaties of the 1850s. "Our time here did not cease," Kennedy said. "We stand tall today, and we welcome you to



our homelands."

"Our strength in Indian Country is among ourselves," said Cow Creek Chairwoman Sue Shaffer.

The Cow Creek's Michael Rondeau sang the national anthem and "The Lord's Prayer" as royalty from both the Grand Ronde and Siletz Tribes danced.

Portland-based Small Agency Drum and the Cow Creeks' Thundering Water served as host drums,

with Thundering Water performing the Honor Song beginning the event.

The Grand Ronde Canoe Family performed with drums and voices both on the stage and in dance among the crowd.

Among those in the information booths were Tribal members Greg Archuleta, Debi, Eric and Erin Bernando, CeCe Kneeland and Chinook Tribal member Greg Robin-

Above, representing the Grand Ronde Canoe Family are, from left, Tribal members Brian Krehbiel, Nick Atanacio and Travis Mercier drumming, and Tribal member Mary Lopez dancing. At left, seated before the program began are, from left, Tribal Council Secretary Jack Giffen Jr., Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr., Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryl A. Kennedy speaking with Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians Chairwoman Sue Shaffer. The woman on the right is unknown.

Photos by Ron Karten

son, who demonstrated traditional crafts and passed out information about the Grand Ronde Tribe.

Royalty from many Tribes provided the audience with Tribal factoids as the morning went on.

"Oregon Tribes employ over 5,000 people," said Tribal member and Veterans' Queen Promise Rimer.

Tribal quilts and the one-hour Tribal video made for the Oregon sesquicentennial, "Standing Strong," were available to fair-goers in the Jackman Long Building.

"It was very appropriate on Oregon's sesquicentennial to start the day here," Bowser said. ■

Fundraiser benefits Resource Center

A fundraising dinner and auction will benefit the Grand Ronde Community Resource Center starting at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18.

Events will begin in the Tribal Community Center at 5 p.m. with viewing of auction items followed by dinner at 6 and the auction at 7.

Auction items will include weekend getaways, Native American artwork, gift baskets, handcrafted quilts, tickets to a Seattle Seahawks football game and other items.

Proceeds will support the Grand Ronde Food Bank, Community Garden Project, Senior and Disabled Meals on Wheels, canning and nutrition classes, and other services provided by the Resource Center.

Cost is \$12.50. To order tickets, contact Patrice at 503-879-5731 or GRCRC@hotmail.com. ■

~ Elder's Fundraiser ~

Potluck and Pampered Chef Party

Monday, September 21

11 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Elders' Activity Center

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For more information contact Kristy DeLoe at 503-879-2018 or Daniel Ham at 503-879-2233.