

Contest Powwow set for Aug. 20-22

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The annual Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Contest Powwow, one of the largest held in the Pacific Northwest, will be held Friday through Sunday, Aug. 20-22, at Uyxat Powwow Grounds next to Fort Yamhill State Park off Highway 22.

Host drums will feature Black-lodge of White Swan, Wash., Eagle Whistle of Fort Berthold, N.D., and Meswaki Nation of Tama, Iowa.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, with the first Grand Entry and Royalty coronation set for 7 p.m.

On Saturday, Aug. 21, a parade will start festivities at 10 a.m. and be followed by Grand Entry at 1 p.m., dancer registration deadline at 2 p.m. and another Grand Entry at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, Aug. 22, the final Grand Entry will be held at 1 p.m.

Prizes range from \$1,000 for first place to \$25 for fifth place, depending on category, and tax forms are required for participants, as well as Social Security numbers and photo identification.

Specials will include \$800 first-place prizes for Women's Jingle and Men's Grass dances.

Master of ceremonies will be Jerry Meninick (Yakama), who will be aided by Patricia Ike (Yakama) as head judge and Freddie Ike, Jr. (Yakama/Rock Creek Wasco) as arena director.

Free camping is available at Uyxat Powwow Grounds and parking will cost a \$1 or a canned food donation. Day Pay is guaranteed for the first 20 drums to attend.

No pets are permitted in the powwow arena and a shuttle will be available from Spirit Mountain Casino to the powwow grounds.

The public, all dancers and drummers are invited to attend. ■



Smoke Signals file photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member and Jingle dancer Malia Blanchard, left, participates in a Grand Entry of the 2009 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow last August.

'We are a witness of greatness'

SHAFFER continued
from front page

said, adding that Tribal sovereignty has been a theme of Shaffer's for many years.

Atiyeh, who was Oregon governor when four western Oregon Tribes, including the Cow Creek, were restored, said Shaffer should be proud of what her Tribe has accomplished.

"They have always had good leadership," Atiyeh said. "Sue is feisty as hell and would not let go (of an issue)," he added before planting a kiss on Shaffer's forehead.

Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services Director Karen Quigley continued the effusive compliments.

"I am totally overwhelmed by the number of folks who want to honor Sue," Quigley said. "Our phone has been ringing off the hook. I don't know anyone with so many connections. It is a remarkable achievement, the level of folks that she has touched."

Quigley said she has worked 15 years with Shaffer on the commission.

"If Sue was an ice cream flavor, she looks like traditional old-fashioned vanilla, but you take a bite and find it is feisty dynamo," Quigley said.

Shaffer also was honored by two U.S. senators, with letters read from Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden and Hawaii's Sen. Daniel Inouye.

"Sue has been a key force behind many projects in Oregon," Wyden wrote. "She is an example of dedication and passion."

Inouye commended Shaffer for demonstrating strong leadership and "unwavering dedication to your people."

After the dignitaries delivered their compliments, Tom opened the floor up to comments from those in the audience.

Former Canyonville Mayor Gloria McGinnis said she knows Shaffer as a wife, mother and friend, and added that Shaffer was a "human dynamo."

"She was blessed with an exception-



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, left, gives Sue Shaffer, former chairwoman of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, a pin that reads "Sovereign Women Strengthen Sovereign Nations" during a dinner honoring Shaffer at Spirit Mountain Casino on Thursday, July 22. In the middle is Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison.

Shaffer's service in Indian Country

Former Cow Creek Chairwoman Sue Shaffer's service in Indian Country and in Douglas County includes:

- Chairwoman of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and member of the Board of Directors since reorganization in 1974;
- Delegate to National Congress of American Indians;
- Umpqua Community College Board of Trustees member for 17 years;
- 26-year member of Canyonville Park Board;
- 33-year member of South Umpqua Historical Society;
- Board member of Native American Rights Fund;
- Canyonville City Council member;
- Organizer and president of the Canyonville Business Woman's Association.

To see an in-depth list of Shaffer's service and honors, visit www.tribalgov.pdx.edu/bio_shaffer.php.

ally intelligent husband," McGinnis said, "who supported her," referring to Shaffer's late husband, George.

Brown, who served on the Legislative Commission on Indian Services when she was a state legislator with Shaffer, called her a mentor, teacher and friend.

"She is like the energizer bunny," Brown said. "She keeps going and

going and going and going. It was an incredible honor to work with you. You are amazing."

Bradbury reminisced about meeting Shaffer when he was a state representative and then asked people to analyze a picture of a young Shaffer sitting on a horse that was displayed on a large screen in the room.

"She is strong, determined, with a

don't mess with me face," Bradbury observed. "Yet, she is a very thoughtful person. It is real clear that this is a very smart person. A smiling, impish person. That sums up Sue Shaffer. It has been a complete joy for me to know you."

Douglas County Commission Joe Laurance recalled Shaffer's lightning wit, telling a story about when he first met her in a meeting. Laurance said he proudly referred to the fact that his family had lived in the county for several generations.

When it came Shaffer's turn to introduce herself, her kind retort was to mention that her Native American family's roots were almost as long as Laurance's in the county.

"Greatness is something we recognize instinctively," Laurance said. "I recognize greatness in Sue."

Klamath Tribal representative Taylor David and Klamath Tribal Council member Frank Summers called Shaffer a "really, really great woman" and presented her with a yellow shawl with blue trim.

"Yellow is a healing color and blue is a royal color," David said. "I have always thought of Sue as a queen."

Quinalt Indian Nation Council member James Delacruz said that his Tribe respects what Shaffer has done in Indian Country.

"You have been like a thunderbird carrying your people," he said.

Finally, after all the accolades, Shaffer was given the microphone.

"I am so, so honored by your presence," she said. "I am overwhelmed by the wonderful statements and overwhelmed by the presence of each and every one of you."

"It warms my heart. We're all family and I believe that we're all at our best when we're together. It is a testament to our Tribes that we have interfaced with our communities."

To close the event, Grand Ronde Tribal Council members presented Shaffer with a Grand Ronde Pendleton blanket and a surprise birthday cake.

"You're always welcome in Grand Ronde land," Tom said. ■