

## Five Tribes 'Stand Strong' at State Fair



For the third consecutive year, the five western Oregon Tribes presented "Standing Strong" during the opening day of the 2011 Oregon State Fair in Salem on Friday, Aug. 26. Members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw, Coquille Indian Tribe and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians put on a three-hour presentation on the State of Oregon stage to educate fairgoers about Oregon's federally recognized western Oregon Tribes. Tribal Council members Kathleen Tom,

Wink Soderberg and Chris Mercier attended the event with Tom delivering a welcome speech to the Grand Ronde Tribe's ceded lands. Above, Tribal member T.J. Grefsrud, left, and Grand Ronde Station General Manager Chris Tinney (Lower Eastern Cherokee), right, brought in the Grand Ronde and POW/MIA flags, respectively, as members of the Honor Guard and the Grand Ronde Canoe Family, led by Tribal member Bobby Mercier, provided the bulk of the entertainment, dancing to seven different songs. The opening Paddle Song was led, above right, by Kimberly Contreras, Kyoni Mercier, Anna Jeffers and Kayla Grijalva. In addition, Tribal members Delores Parmenter and Greg Archuleta displayed necklaces, basketry and beadwork, and Tribal Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor and her staff manned an information table that offered copies of *Smoke Signals* and other Tribal publications. Also attending was Grand Ronde Royalty, who performed "The Lord's Prayer," and Senior Miss Grand Ronde Nakoosa Moreland, right, delivered "Did You Know Facts" about the five western Tribes. Tribal Elder CeCe Kneeland, far right, was one of several Tribal Elders in attendance. Below, the Grand Ronde Canoe Family performed a co-ed Celebration Song during the event.



Photos by  
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