

Veterans gather at powwow each year



Senior Veterans Queen Kallie Provost gives a baseball hat to Tribal Elder Raymond Petite Jr. during the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde on Saturday, July 7. Petite is a veteran and hats embroidered with "CTGR Veterans Powwow" were given to all veterans in attendance.

POWWOW continued from front page

Bob Duncan served active duty in the Navy from 1964-68 and two more years inactive. He served in Morocco on the USS Sandoval ABA 194.

Pee Wee (Jesse Jr.) Robertson served in the Navy in Yokosuka, Japan, from 1981-85, and again

this year enjoyed the powwow with fellow veterans Jerry Puderburgh, who went through boot camp with Pee Wee and served on the same ship, the USS Kirk FF 1087. They sat with fellow Navy veteran Mark Schweizer, also from the USS Kirk, who served from 1981-95.

The Veterans Powwow is often the place where Robertson and his



Kiana Leno does a fancy dance in an intertribal dance during the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow. In the background is Kailiyah Krehbiel.

Tribal Vice Chair Reyn Leno, right, Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr., second from right, Tribal Council Secretary Jack Giffen Jr., third from right, and Tribal Council member June Sherer, behind the three, participate in grand entry. Leno, Bobb and Sherer are veterans.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo



Tony Whitehead was whip man. The husband-and-wife team of Deitrich and Rose Peters were head man and woman.

Wayne Chulik, Patty Coffey and Tom Smith carried Eagle staffs during grand entries this year. Honor Guard included Chulik, Gene LaBonte and Wink Soderberg.

An Owl dance, a Team dance, Hoop dances and Grass dances were supported throughout the weekend by drums from far and near, including Iron Lung, Johonaaii, Little River, Eagle Warrior, Turquoise Price, Signal Butte and Autumn Creek. Navajo Gourd dancers from southern Oregon also gave an exhibition.

The Aztec Dancers, mostly from the Salem area, stepped in at the last minute with an exhibition "and did a great job," according to Dakota Whitecloud, chair of the Veterans' Special Event Board.

Royalty, both present and future, were on hand in force and included Elizabeth Watson-Croy, Amelia Mooney, Iyana Holmes, Sasheen Baker, Amaryssa Mooney, Nikia Mooney, Kaleigha Simi, Madison Ross, Kiana Leno, Makenzie Aaron,

From left, Grand Ronde Princess Elizabeth Watson-Croy, Little Miss Grand Ronde Amelia Mooney and Junior Miss Grand Ronde Iyana Holmes use fans to cool themselves as they wait for grand entry.



Kailiyah Krehbiel dances a fancy dance in an intertribal dance during the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde on Saturday, July 7.



Tribal Elder Deitrich Peters and his wife, Rose, dance an owl dance during the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde on Saturday, July 7. The couple was the head man and woman for the powwow.

Visit the Tribe's facebook page to see more photos

Kailiyah Krehbiel, Nakoosa Moreland and Kallie Provost.

The Culture Committee, under the watchful eye of Tribal Elder Betty Bly, hosted a crafts booth with beading, coloring and painting for children. Chalino Randall, 9, made a bead necklace "for my mom," he said, and also had been painting and coloring on Saturday afternoon.

His sister, Hanna Randall, also 9, was making necklaces for her two sisters and her mother. May Conrad, 8, beaded a necklace for herself.

Booths also included the Roofers Apprenticeship Preparation Training and Occupational Readiness (RAPTOR) program and the Veterans Benefits Administration.

The Veterans' Special Event Board held raffles of items donated by vendors to support the board's annual powwow work.

Vendors sold Navajo "horse hair" pottery made with red and white clay, so-called because it is decorated with horse hair impressions. Artisans sold yew and hazelnut bows and arrows, with buffalo hide quivers. Steel, stone and bone knives and hatchets were available, as were gourd vessels made with leather dye and sandstone and granite paint.

The powwow, held under the big tent, saw hot days and cool evenings, sometimes with an intimate, family atmosphere, and sometimes busy and bustling. It competed with two other powwows here in the Northwest.

"I think it went very well," said Whitecloud. "Never heard a complaint all weekend. We fed dinner

to almost 400 people on Saturday, and we served breakfast on Sunday morning to a couple hundred people, if not more."

Whitecloud said a whole host of folks helped put the event together, including Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor and Graphic Design Specialist George Valdez; all the veterans and the Honor Guard. "The crew of 13, hired through the Tribe's Human Resources Department, did a great job," Whitecloud said. "Everybody just seemed to work together this year. Everything just worked. And it went real well."

She also thanked Royalty and Veterans' Special Event Board members Gene LaBonte, Wink Soderberg, Reina Nelson, Bob Duncan and Wayne Chulik.

The T-shirt legend most representative of the veteran spirit? "Impossible is nothing." ■

