

# Circle of life

Annual Contest Powwow brings together Tribal youth, Elders in celebration

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Tribe's Uyxat Powwow Grounds filled up with dancers not yet in regalia all day on Friday, Aug. 17.

The day was warm and windy, but not torrid like the previous almost 100-degree plus days.

Boys threw footballs back and forth on two sides of the powwow tent during the afternoon. They weren't yet in anybody's way.

It was appropriate as children were the centerpiece of the Tribe's 2012 Contest Powwow.

"Children," said Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryl A. Kennedy in her welcoming introduction to a filled tent, "you are the reason your parents come to the powwow. They come to see you doing things in the right way." She thanked the children "for helping carry on our traditions."

Culture & Language Specialist Bobby Mercier, in his invocation following Grand Entry on Saturday night, had another take on the children.

"We are not raising children," Mercier said. "We are raising Elders who can lead us in the future."

Elder Marcella Selwyn watched her 3-year-old granddaughter Rayauna Meneley dance in her first powwow while wearing her first regalia. Selwyn said she spent the week before making the jingle-style dress, including moccasins.

"She said, 'I want a dress that makes noise,'" Selwyn said. At powwow, under the tent, "Rayauna looked at her feet and looked at Sage (her cousin, also dressed in regalia and ready to dance), and she was out dancing," Selwyn said.

New Tribal Royalty also was crowned under the tent.

Dancing as the West Coast Boys drummed, 16-year-old Kiana Leno,



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Leah Brisbois, right, participates in an intertribal dance during the 2012 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde on Saturday, Aug. 18. Later that day, Brisbois competed in the Women's Traditional dance category and took third place.

a junior at West Salem High School, was named Senior Miss Grand Ronde for 2012-13. In 2000-01, she was Little Miss Tiny Tot. Before that, she was an honorary princess.

Starting this summer, Leno has once again been busy with Tribal activities, starting with a summer intern position in the Cultural Resources Department.

"I realized I did want to be a lot more involved with the community

and the Tribe," Leno said.

Kailiyah Krehbiel, 10 and a sixth-grader at Willamina Middle School, danced her way to this year's Junior Miss Grand Ronde, though selections are based on more than just dancing. This was her first involvement with Tribal Royalty.

"I wanted to learn more about my

Tribe," Krehbiel said.

The contest for Little Miss Grand Ronde for 2012-13 was delayed until the fall.

More every year, the Tribe is seeing the increasing benefits of Royalty in every corner of Tribal activities. Krehbiel also has paddled on the Tribal Canoe Journey



Newly crowned Senior Miss Grand Ronde Kiana Leno, left, and Junior Miss Grand Ronde Kailiyah Krehbiel, right, take a lap around the dance arena, with family and friends following them, after being crowned at Uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde on Friday, Aug. 17.



Brian Krehbiel, right, dances during Grand Entry of the 2012 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde on Friday, Aug. 17.

## 2012 Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Contest Powwow winners

**Junior Girls Jingle:** Alayna Bevis, Umatilla, first; Jackie Zamora-Heath, Warm Springs, second; Shandiin Shebala, Blackfeet/Navajo, third; Jocelyn Hernandez, Siletz, fourth; and Victoria Butler, Siletz/Yurok, fifth.

**Junior Girls Fancy:** Leilonnie Wilson, Klamath, first; Carissa Jackson, Klamath Modoc, second; Nizhoni Tallman, Yakama/Navajo, third; Tawny Etta Hunt, Yakama, fourth; and Kailiyah Krehbiel, Grand Ronde, fifth.

**Junior Girls Traditional:** Jovena Scabbyrobe, Yakama, first; Oteskwebeeksaki Shebala, Blackfeet/Navajo, second; Gagne Upshaw, Navajo, third; Chelo Garcia, Siletz, fourth; and Elizabeth Watson-Croy, Grand Ronde, fifth.

**Boys Grass:** Josiah Barney, Navajo/Burns Paiute, first; Marcel Allen, Grand Ronde, second; Rusty McCloud, Dakota/Puyallup, third; Xavier Bolton, Blackfeet/Tsimshian, fourth; and Dominicio Tafoya, Warm Springs, fifth.

**Boys Fancy:** Dasan Scholfield, Wintu/Potawatomi, first; Colby White Jr., Kalispel/Navajo, second; Sunhawk Barney, Navajo/Burns Paiute, third; Litnakapi Scabbyrobe, Yakama, fourth; and D.J. Shadleg, Klamath, fifth.

**Boys Traditional:** Demarcus Pacheco, Yakama, first; Leland Whiteplume, Nez Perce, second; Gus Garcia, Siletz, third; Isaac Butler, Siletz/Yurok, fourth; and Dru Moses, Yakama, fifth.

**Teen Boys Grass:** Tre'leigh Scabbyrobe, Blackfeet/Cree, first; Dakota Upshaw, Navajo, second; Desmond Madera, Blackfeet/Colville, third; Elijah Bevis, Umatilla, fourth; and Jordan Warren, Karuk/Hoopla, fifth.

**Teen Boys Fancy:** Davey Madera, Blackfeet, first; Manny Totus, Walla Walla, second; Ila Pinkham, Nez Perce, third; Garrett Begay, Yakama, fourth; and Richard Scholfield, Potawatomi, fifth.

**Teen Boys Traditional:** Red Bear McCloud, Dakota, first; Tommy Whiteplume, Nez Perce/Arapaho, second; Garyson Johnson, Warm Springs, third; Teminah Greene, Nez Perce, fourth; and Sikoya Scabbyrobe, Cree/Blackfeet, fifth.

**Teen Girls Jingle:** Hokian Win McCloud, Dakota/Sioux/Puyallup, first; Kateri Whitehead, Siletz/Colville, second; Nakoosa Moreland, Grand Ronde, third; Cecillie Butler, Siletz/Colville/Grand Ronde, fourth; and

Decole Wilson, Navajo, fifth.

**Teen Girls Fancy:** Mariah Leavitt, Yakama/Puyallup, first; Alicia Scholfield, Wintu/Potawatomi, second; Julianne Scabbyrobe, Blackfeet, third; Carole Azure, Yakama, fourth; and Mayu Molina, Kechua, fifth.

**Teen Girls Traditional:** Soshana Kee, Shoshone/Navajo, first; Mary Ann Matheson, Colville, second; Sydney Matheson, Colville, third; ReeDawn Weisse, Chippewa/Klamath, fourth; and Ashley Meanus, Oglala Lakota, fifth.

**Mens Grass:** Colton Tohannie, Shoshone/Ute, first; Kelsey Haywahe, Wasco/Assiniboine, second; Lee Jack Jr., Dine, third; Dakota Madera, Blackfeet/Colville, fourth; and James Day, Ojibwe, fifth.

**Mens Fancy:** Douglas Scholfield, Wintu, first; J.J. Meninick, Yakama, second; Clint Blackweasel, Blackfeet, third; Jamie Ward, Wintu, fourth; and Adrian George, Yakama, fifth.

**Mens Traditional:** Colby White Sr., Navajo, first; Russell McCloud, Puyallup/Yakama, second; Sheldon Shebala, Navajo, third; David Spotted Eagle, Blackfeet, fourth; and Bryon Adams, Yakama, fifth.

**Womens Jingle:** Paula Shebala, Blackfeet/Choctaw, first; Candice Chief Scabbyrobe, Cree, second; Taunie Cullooah, Kalispel, third; Prairie Rose Jack, Dine, fourth; and Jodie Starlight, Cree, fifth.

**Womens Fancy:** Urseloria Kanuho, Dine, first; Carol Melting Tallow, Blood, second; Latrishia Scabbyrobe, Blackfeet/Cree, third; Shandiina Jack, Dine, fourth; and Irene Onepennee, Yakama/Blood, fifth.

**Womens Traditional:** Thea McCloud, Dakota Sioux, first; Hollie Eagle Speaker, Blackfeet/Blood, second; Leah Brisbois, Grand Ronde, third; Tisa Matheson, Nez Perce, fourth; and Crystal Howell, Paiute/Lummi, fifth.

**Womens All Categories:** Charlene Tilleguots, Yakama/Nez Perce, first; Louise Scabbyrobe, Blood/Yakama, second; Lynne Pinkham, Nez Perce, third; Audrey Olney, Yakama, fourth; and Nancy Tailfeathers, Wasco/Paiute, fifth.

**Men All Categories:** Charles Tailfeather, Cree/Blackfeet, first; Peter Joe Olney, Yakama, second; John Mennick, Yakama, third; Rainbow Azure, Chippewa, fourth; and Gary Greene, Nez Perce, fifth. ■

and attends cultural presentations with her father, Brian Krehbiel, a Cultural Education specialist with the Tribe. And she is among a number of this year's Contest Powwow dancers who also have been participating in recent intertribal powwows for children coordinated by Halona Butler and Washie Squetinkin (Colville).

Butler also has been a longtime Royalty member, active in Tribal affairs before this year by starting the monthly children's intertribal powwows. She also works for the Education Department at the Tribe.

Another involved with the children's intertribal powwows was Elizabeth Watson-Croy, who wore traditional-style regalia for the Contest Powwow. On Saturday afternoon, she had danced once and was happily getting ready to dance a second time. She finished fifth in the Junior Girls Traditional contest.

Others from the children's intertribal powwows who also participated in the 2012 Contest Powwow included Dakota and Madison Ross, Kaleb Reed, Makenzie Aaron, Iyana Holmes and Kevin Simmons' five children — Kaelynn, 11, Makai, 9,

Shasta, 7, Seq'hiya, 6, and Qwinem, 14 months — who come up from Eugene for most of the powwows.

"They always look forward to powwows," said Robin Simmons, their mother. "They like coming up and having to be in Grand Ronde."

Dana Leno-Ainam, chair of the Tribe's Powwow Special Event Board, called it "a whole new revitalization for our young people."

"Many will be out at powwow for the first time," she said, because "young people are understanding powwow and wanting to be involved with regalia and through dance."

Leno-Ainam said that 25 Grand Ronde youth between 6 and 12 years of age participated this year compared to eight in 2011.

"In addition," Leno-Ainam said, "there were several others who danced socially. This is attributed to the work of the cultural program and those like Halona Butler and Washie, Brian Krehbiel, Bobby Mercier and many others have done to start and support dance class, regalia making and children's powwow."

The Tribe's Culture Committee hosted a children's play center with beads, drawing utensils and adult supervision that stayed busy.

A 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, the first ever at a Grand Ronde Contest Powwow, was sponsored by

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Nakoosa Moreland, 16, competes in the Teen Girls Jingle dance category during the 2012 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde on Saturday, Aug. 18. Moreland placed third.



Sophia Morningstar-Stewart, 9, performs a Fancy dance while participating in Grand Entry of the 2012 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde on Friday, Aug. 17.