



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Violet Folden, left, and Pam Sass, Tribal substitute bus driver for Early Childhood Education, glue rice to a Spirit Mountain Casino sign while decorating the casino's float "Dances With Roses" at Studio Concepts Inc. in Portland on Wednesday, June 5. The float was in the Rose Festival's Spirit Mountain Casino Grand Floral Parade on Saturday, June 8, and received the award for best use of roses.

Float was decorated at Studio Concepts Inc.

PARADE continued
from front page

of Spirit Mountain Community Fund, included plenty of Tribal history and culture in presenting the Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation a check for \$25,000. The grant will benefit the foundation's Pediatric Diabetes Telemedicine Clinic.

"We love to take any opportunity to show what our recipients do," George said. "That is exciting information that more Oregonians should know about."

Native American Music Award-winner Jan Looking Wolf Reibach provided the float with the title track from his 2012 release "Wind Dreamer." The music was broadcast through the float's speaker system.

The float, with two Native shawl dancers twirling, also included many large, volunteer-made roses, along with a copy of the Salmon Street fountain done in a flowing white design. The colors of the dancers' regalia match the Royal Rosarians' colors — off-white with burgundy shawls.

In addition, casino Sponsorship Administrator Jocelyn Huffman said, "We added a few elements this year. Those included opportunities for the Grand Ronde Canoe Family to appear and perform at World Environment Day on June 5. A Tribal canoe was on display."

On the waterfront, the Tribal Natural Resources Department staffed a booth where employees promoted the Tribe's efforts with habitat and wildlife, focusing particularly on information about lamprey.

Participants from Natural Resources included Andrew Puerini, Lindsay Belonga, Colby Drake and Felix Conley, with set-up help from Kylie Hofenbredl.

"The partnership with the Rose Festival and the Grand Floral Parade give not only the casino, but the Tribe an outlet to tell our story

and welcome people from all walks of life to our ceded lands," said Huffman, who leads the annual casino effort with the Rose Festival.

Casino personnel prepare for the Grand Floral Parade year-round, she added.

The current contract calls for a three-year commitment and 2013 marks the third year of the casino's title sponsorship for the Grand Floral Parade. The casino participated as a smaller partner for a dozen years before the 2011 event. Now that the 2013 event is over, the Tribe will consider its options for coming years.

The parade "is a good opportunity to show everyone our Tribe's story, and to let them know that this is our ceded lands," said Kiana Leno, Senior Miss Grand Ronde.

Leno said she most appreciated opportunities to talk about Tribal programs and culture that the parade made possible.

She and other Tribal Royalty — including Kailiyah Krehbiel, Junior Miss Grand Ronde, Kaleigha Simi, Little Miss Grand Ronde, and Iyana Holmes, Grand Ronde Veterans Queen — walked with the float past the VIP seating and until it hit the streets.

Simi passed out to parade watchers most of 100 cedar roses that Cultural Education Specialist Brian Krehbiel made for the event.

Volunteers for the float building included Tribal Elders along with Tribal and casino employees; too many to name, Huffman added.

"It was awesome, even if I spent three days with it," said volunteer Elder Violet Folden. "Each day, it got prettier."

Tribal sponsorship of the event made VIP seating available to members of the Tribe.

Bobb said that he believes the parade sponsorship gives the Grand Ronde Tribe unprecedented publicity in one of Portland's, and Oregon's, best-loved and best-viewed events. ■

Capitol invocation



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council member Cheryle A. Kennedy gives an invocation to open the Oregon State Senate session at the State Capitol in Salem on Monday, June 3. Kennedy is the Grand Ronde Tribe's representative on the Legislative Commission on Indian Services.

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