

'For me, it is quite overwhelming'

JOURNEY continued
from front page

of Indians, sponsored Northwest Shells & Cedar, an educational and community-focused program to highlight Tribal crafts and language programs.

Eric Bernando, a Chinuk Wawa language teacher at the Portland satellite office, described the alphabet to onlookers.

"We've been living on the reservation for so long," he said, "some of the language is influenced by Elders' conversation melded into the Oregon coast Athabaskan language."

Greg Archuleta staffed a booth with necklaces and cedar hats, and his own carving of two sides of a rattle that is yet to be put together. Ceded Lands Program Manager Michael Karnosh had his eye on a particular necklace adorned with a necklace-sized paddle.

Connie Graves sat at a cedar weaving booth, where she kept busy answering questions and showing how she weaves cedar, baskets and her current project, 1,000 cedar roses for the Tribe's 30th anniversary of Restoration set for November.

One of the big draws at the booth was some of her tiny creations, baskets about half the size of fingernail. She made them, she said, because she couldn't bear to waste any of the well-prepared cedar bark traditionally used for baskets.

Annette Ingram, Debi Anderson and Veterans Queen Savannah Ingram showed bone necklaces. There also was a graduation cap made of cedar bark.

Jordan Mercier demonstrated how he makes cedar hats.

Tribal members and staff joined a traditional game of shinny. Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribal members Doug Barrett and Jesse Beers brought the sticks and toggle, made from tennis balls tied together with a leather strap that are used in the game. Traditionally, said Karnosh, the balls were made of wood.

A group from the Native American Rehabilitation Association made and sold fry bread. With three buckets of dough, the group was prepared to make 300 pieces, said Sande Bea Allman, who has a rich mix of Native American ancestors and is development director for the group.

Later in the afternoon, Grand Ronde's two canoes, stankiya (meaning coyote), and a new canoe, ulxayu (meaning seal) and on its maiden journey, arrived at a Champoeg dock below the Shells & Cedar event.

Joining the Grand Ronde canoes was one that the Coquille Indian Tribe shared with members of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribe, who have their first on order from Quinault carver Guy Pullman.

A Suquamish Tribe canoe also met in Champoeg and made its way north with the group. In addition, a hand-carved canoe made by Siletz Tribal member Willie Towner made the first leg of the journey.

All the canoes fought the wakes from motor boats pulling water skiers up and down the Willamette River. Towner's canoe took on so much water that it was immediately pulled



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Grand Ronde Canoe Family member Zoey Holsclaw helps her nephew Red Sky Clawson into ulxayu, meaning seal, the Tribe's newest canoe as they prepare to depart on this year's Canoe Journey, Paddle to Quinault 2013, from Rogers Landing in Newberg on Saturday, July 20.



The Grand Ronde Canoe Family sings a blessing song at their first stop on this year's Canoe Journey, Paddle to Quinault 2013, at Champoeg State Heritage Park in St. Paul on Saturday, July 20.

from the river when it arrived.

"We were bailing from way down the river," said Towner.

"We were fighting motor boats," said Brian Krehbiel, Cultural Education specialist for the Tribe, who was skipper of ulxayu. "You have to be perpendicular to the waves or they come over the sides."

Bobby Mercier, Cultural Outreach specialist for the Tribe and organizer of the Tribe's canoe journeys since the first one for the Tribe in 2005, was skipper of stankiya.

Crowds filled the dock as the canoes arrived about 10 minutes apart. They also filled the steps down to the dock and across the landing at the top of the stairs. Drums and song pulled everyone together as they honored the coming canoes.

When all had landed and mounted the steps to higher ground, Tribal Council member Cheryl A. Kennedy gave the welcome.

"Come ashore," she said. "We welcome you. Eat with us. Sing with us. Dance with us."

Also honoring members of the journey were State Parks Director Tim Woods and two chaplains from the Aurora Volunteer Fire Department chaplain.

Tribal GIS Coordinator Volker

Mell created maps of the voyage, including one through which viewers could follow the canoes' progress in real time.

Sky Hopinka (Ho Chunk) and Myron Lameman (Cree), operating under the name Meewa Cinema, filmed the day. They were contracted by the Land and Culture Department to make a film promoting lifeways activities for the Tribe planned for use during the Tribe's 30th anniversary of Restoration.

World War II veteran Harold Jacobs, part Seneca, of McMinnville, attended with his wife, Louise. He has been involved with Native Americans since 1990, he said.

"It's about feeling when I get around Native people," he said.

Among guests of the Grand Ronde Canoe Family was Tai Mamaku, 37, a Tribal relative from the Maori people of New Zealand. He teaches Maori history in addition to having extensive canoe experience. He has studied celestial navigation for more than five years, he said. The Maori have been a seafaring people for the last 1,200 years, he added.

Two other Maori sailors were expected later in the week.

"For me, it is quite overwhelming," said Mamaku of his first visit

to the land of the Grand Ronde Tribes, "to see Tribal people bonding together and to see Tribal culture strong in this country."

Most Tribal Council members and many Elders and staff and their families attended. Also, the Aurora Volunteer Fire District pitched in before the day was over with a cook-out of hot dogs and hamburgers.

On Monday at Willamette Park in John's Landing, Secretary of State Kate Brown joined the journey. She traveled in one of the Grand Ronde canoes down to the south waterfront where she disembarked at the River Place marina.

"The canoe journey was a great opportunity for me to get a sense of the strong commitment to honor Tribal customs," she said. Brown is a board member of Spirit Mountain Community Fund. "I also think it's an important reminder to the citizens of Oregon about our state's heritage."

Land and Culture, Public Affairs, Social Services Manager David Fullerton, Youth Prevention Specialist Lisa Leno and many others did the hard work of making this year's event possible. Youth Prevention provided chaperones for youth 14-18.

Five Tribal members set out on their first canoe journey this year, including Osprey and True Gibbons, Michaela Gonzales, Goldie Bly and Ferrell DeGarmo.

"New beginnings," is how Marcus Gibbons, father of the Gibbons boys, described their coming adventure. ■