

ses 2017's attendance



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

shaking hands with other Royalty members. Then, it was interTribal time, where dancers of all ages and styles came together in the arbor. Afterward, an honoring and giveaways were held by the Contreras-Langley family in memory of Beryle Langley Contreras and Kateri Atanacio, who both passed away recently. Afterward, the “School Is Cool,” dance contest was held for all kindergarten through 12th-graders,

whether or not they wore regalia, followed by a junior and teen girls special in all dance categories sponsored by the 2017-18 outgoing Royalty.

Saturday grand entry and contest dancing

Saturday afternoon’s grand entry attendance filled the arbor stands to capacity, as well as rows of extra chairs and bleachers that had been set up.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Leevi Johnson competes in the Teen Boys Traditional dance category during the 2018 Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Contest Powwow held at úyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, Aug. 18. Johnson placed fifth in the category.



Photo by Auburn Logan

Dine Tribal members Sheldon Shebala, left, and Fernando Littlesinger, right, participate the Contest Powwow’s final grand entry on Sunday, Aug. 19.

Kaleigha Simi competes in the Girls Jingle dance category during the 2018 Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Contest Powwow held at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, Aug. 18. Simi placed fifth in the category.

Following the previous evening’s protocol, the Grand Ronde Honor Guard posted the colors. They were followed by veterans, Tribal Council members, Royalty from various Tribes and contest dancers. Grand entry took approximately 20 minutes to complete. Dancers frequently stepped into the crowd to hug friends and family, and some attendees used their phone’s video chat function to live stream the action for those unable to attend. Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George led the invocation, first in Chinuk Wawa and then English. Cree Confederation played the “Canadian Flag Song,” which master of ceremonies Bart Powaukee said was similar to America’s national anthem. Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier welcomed Saturday contestants and attendees. “We’re grateful you are here and want to express our gratitude,” he said. “We’d also like to thank our ancestors. Without them, we wouldn’t be where we are today. I would also like to thank our veterans for their service and each and

every one of you who chose to spend your afternoon with us. Our goal is for this powwow to be on your calendar each year.” Mercier also acknowledged past Tribal Council members Reyn Leno, Steve Bobb Sr. and Tonya Gleason-Shepek for their attendance, noting that there likely others in the audience he hadn’t seen yet. “This is a chance to reconnect and come together and just be Native,” he said. During grand entry, veterans also were acknowledged and introduced themselves. After interTribal dances were held, the contest portion of the powwow was in full swing. First up were the Tiny Tots, followed by Senior Golden Age Women, Senior Golden Age Men, Junior Golden Age Women and Junior Golden Age Men. Also held were the Junior Girls Finals in Traditional, Jingle and Fancy, followed by Junior Boys, Teen Girls and Teens Boys finals, all in the same categories. Powaukee asked audience members to stand and recognize the

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Newly crowned Grand Ronde Royalty are, from left, Little Miss Princess Grace Allen, Little Miss Grand Ronde Sophia Grout, Junior Miss Grand Ronde Kaleigha Simi and Senior Miss Grand Ronde Isabelle Grout. They took their honor dance after being crowned at úyxat Powwow Grounds on Friday, Aug. 17.