

celebrate what Restoration means to us'



Elder Alton Butler, carrying the eagle staff, leads the Veterans Honor Guard during Grand Entry of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde 39th Restoration anniversary celebration powwow held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Tuesday, Nov. 22. It was the first in-person Restoration celebration held since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Tribe was restored to federal recognition on Nov. 22, 1983, when President Ronald Reagan signed the Grand Ronde Restoration Act. The powwow followed a celebration luncheon held earlier in the day.



Round bustle dancer Tye Russell-Tom (Grand Ronde/Siletz/Yakama) participates in Grand Entry during the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde 39th Restoration anniversary celebration powwow held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

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Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

with host drum Bad Soul providing Grand Entry music as the Honor Guard brought in the colors.

Tribal member Anthony Quenelle served as arena director, with Tribal member Tynan George as the powwow emcee-in-training and Warm Springs Tribal member Carlos Calica as emcee.

Grand Ronde Tribal members Marcel Allen Jr. and Halona Butler were head man and head woman.

Dance categories included golden age, adult, teen, junior and tiny tots. Specials featured \$1,000 in prizes for old style and contemporary fancy shawl, dance your style, a head woman family team dance, and head man grass dance and chicken dance.

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center, Kennedy, Tresa Mercier and Bonnie Tom were honored during the powwow.

Mercier, who is the Tribe's longest-serving employee with 38

years of service, worked as the health clerk. Tom was the Community Health representative and Kennedy, who has served as Tribal Council chairwoman for several years, was the first director of the Tribal Health Department, starting shortly after 1983's Restoration.

After the Tribe was terminated by the federal government in 1954, a vast majority of Tribal members were forced to relocate from Grand

Fancy dancer and Grand Ronde Tribal member Elizabeth Ulestad, 7, participates in a tiny tot dance.



Ronde in order to survive.

Tribal leaders saw the realization of a dream when the Grand Ronde Restoration Act was signed on Nov. 22, 1983, by President Ronald Reagan. Since then, the Tribe has gone from having little money and only five acres of land to operating a successful casino that generates millions in revenue every year, having its hunting and fishing rights restored, and rebuilding Tribal institutions and culture.

Every year since the Tribe was restored, it has held a celebration that includes a meal, giveaways, speeches, dancing, drumming, singing and a Restoration Powwow. However, in 2020 and 2021 those celebrations were held virtually due to the pandemic. ■



Traditional dancer and Tribal member Chad Leno participates in Grand Entry during the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde 39th Restoration anniversary celebration powwow.

Sisters Tessa, center left, and Cheyenne Simmons, center right, dance during the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde 39th Restoration anniversary celebration.