



First Fish Ceremony— pg. 6

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Tribal Elder Edward ‘Eddie’ Larsen walks on at age 81



Smoke Signals file photo

Tribal Elder Edward “Eddie” Larsen passed away on Thursday, July 16. He was a well-known figure in the Grand Ronde community.

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Elder and longtime Tribal Council member Edward Earl “Eddie” Larsen, passed away on Thursday, July 16, 2024, in Grand Ronde at the age of 81.

Larsen was born Dec. 4, 1942, in McMinnville to Verna Larsen (Riggs) and Ed Larsen Sr. He was the eldest of six children.

He began riding in a log truck with his father at a young age and would get out and open the gates and put the chains up, setting chokers by the time he was a sophomore in high school.

Larsen graduated from Willamina High School in 1960 and became a logger and log truck driver, like most young men in Grand Ronde during that time.

During a 2017 interview with Smoke Signals, Larsen said he had always taken great pride in his Native heritage, which is something he learned from his father, who was Chinook.

Larsen also learned the value of hard work and said that he carried those teachings with him throughout his life.

He served on Tribal Council from

**See LARSEN
continued on page 3**



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Deitrich Peters participates in the 1 p.m. grand entry of the 2024 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 13.

Veterans Powwow brings people together to celebrate

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Wearing everything varying from jeans and T-shirts to traditional regalia, and in some cases a mixture of the two, Tribal members and their guests from across the region danced joyfully at the 2024 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow.

Toddlers in regalia clung to the hands of older siblings and occasionally tried to mimic a step or two, mothers danced with infants in their arms, and parents and older siblings demonstrated steps for children as the drums pounded out the rhythm. A pair of young boys in regalia, each dancing alone, showed off their impressive dance moves.

The older girls in both the outgoing and the newly crowned Veterans Royalty danced in miniscale,



perfectly timed steps while the tiniest children concentrated on staying in line, and family members walked behind them.

With a heat wave still lingering over the Pacific Northwest, keeping temperatures about 10 degrees above normal, Master of Ceremonies Nick Sixkiller (Cherokee) stopped the dancing periodically on Saturday, instructing the dancers to leave the arena and have something to drink before they returned.

**See VETERANS POWWOW
continued on pages 13-16**

Grand Ronde Contest Powwow set for Aug. 16-18

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

The 2024 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow will come to uyxat Powwow Grounds starting Friday, Aug. 16 and will conclude on Sunday, Aug. 18.

There is no cost to attend. Camping is available for \$5 with parking.

Host drum will be Northern Cree. Powwow Chair Dana Ainam said that will be “a huge draw.”

“They’re a very popular drum and it will be a first time for them to come to our area,” she said.

In addition, invited drums are Bad Canyon,

Ozuye, Battle Nation, Ho-Chunk Station and Bad Eagle, who will compete for \$30,000 in prize money.

Howie Thompson (Assiniboine) will be the emcee, while Anthony Quenelle (Grand Ronde) will serve as arena director.

**See CONTEST POWWOW
continued on page 9**

Traditional dancers participate in grand entry during the 2023 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds. This year’s Contest Powwow is Aug. 16-18.



Smoke Signals file photo