



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Desirae Hernandez, 13, dances during the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, July 12.

Veterans Powwow draws crowd of celebrants

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

A man danced with his eyes locked on the tiny newborn cradled in his arms as the baby slept, oblivious to the pounding drums. Children danced or walked with their parents and the youngest simply hopped alongside, as the dancers made their way around the arena in grand entry on a blazing hot Saturday afternoon at the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow.

The annual event was held at the uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, July 11 to Sunday, July 13.

“I kind of need this today as a bit of a tonic, because I was in The Dalles yesterday, at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Commission) meeting where everything we’ve worked on for a long time was kind of taken away from us again,” Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier said. “So, this is a good example of how powwow can be a very healing experience, a very rejuvenating experience, and I think a lot of us need this for our souls right now. It’s a temporary setback; we’ll get over it like we get through everything else, but I personally really needed a powwow mind today.”

Saturday’s grand entry had been postponed a half hour to accommodate traffic moving slowly

See POWWOW
continued on pages 14-15



The Grand Ronde Honor Guard walks in the 1 p.m. grand entry of the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, July 12.