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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Sheker elected ATNI VP

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council member Valorie Sheker was elected third vice president of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians during the organization's fall conference held in Pendleton and hosted by the Umatilla Tribe in late September.

Sheker received 330 votes, defeating Richard George Jr. (Yakama), who garnered 280 votes. She will serve out the final year of a three-year term.

Sheker, 46, is currently serving the final year of her second three-year term on the Grand Ronde Tribal Council. ATNI Executive Board members must be actively

serving Tribal Council members.

"Several of my colleagues and Tribes with the ATNI organization asked and encouraged me to run," Sheker says. "Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy said that it would be appropriate for someone on the Grand Ronde council to throw their hat in the ring for the election and I just believe in the ATNI organization so much. Everything that we do, all the lobbying that we do... everything that ATNI stands for, I believe in as well. And unity among Tribes is a special thing to me."

Sheker joins ATNI's Executive Board, which also includes President Brian Cladoosby (Swinom-

ish), First Vice President John Stensgar (Colville), Second Vice President Harvey Moses Jr. (Colville), Secretary Norma Jean Louie (Coeur d'Alene), Assistant Secretary Sonya Tetnowski (Lower Elwha Klallam) and Treasurer Sharon Goudy (Yakama).

"It was a little bit intimidating,"



Valorie Sheker

Sheker said about running for ATNI office. It didn't help that the Yakama Tribe ran a slate of candidates and bussed in voters.

"Val did well with the smaller Tribes and got good support from the Oregon Tribes," says Dave Tovey (Umatilla), director of the Siletz Tribal Business Corp. and former ATNI treasurer in the 1990s. "She will give Grand Ronde an extra voice at the regional policy level."

"Putting yourself out there for your own Tribal election is a very scary thing," Sheker says, "but when you put yourself out there

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Reibach wins NAMMY award for best flutist

'Unity' now qualifies for possible Grammy Award



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach won Flutist of the Year for 2007 at the Native American Music Awards held in Niagara Falls, N.Y., on Saturday, Oct. 4. He also won Flutist of the Year for 2007 at the Indian Summer Music Awards held Sept. 5-7, in Milwaukee, Wis.

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

It's unanimous. The Indian Summer Music Awards and Native American Music Awards agree on who the best Native Flutist of the Year is on compact discs released in 2007 — Grand Ronde Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach.

Reibach became the only Native American flutist to win both prestigious awards in the same year on Oct. 4 when he received the NAMMY at the 10th annual awards ceremony held at the Seneca Niagara Casino and Hotel in

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Tribe to salute Grand Ronde Honor Guard with recruitment dinner

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Mark Oct. 21 on the calendar. At 6 p.m. Tuesday, the Tribe will host dinner at the Community Center to support the Grand Ronde Honor Guard (a Special Events Board for the Tribe) in its efforts to recruit new members.

Jim Willis, director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, will be guest of honor.

The regular coming and go-

ing of Honor Guard members has tipped the wrong way in recent years. The shortage of volunteers is worse now than it has been in awhile, owing to a collision of coincidences: poor health, age, family moves and new rules have reduced the number participating in the Grand Ronde Honor Guard.

A few years ago, the Grand Ronde Honor Guard succeeded

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Grand Ronde Honor Guard members, from left, Max Hoffman, Norris Merrill and Tribal member Steve Rife salute during the Memorial Day ceremony at the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom Memorial on the grounds of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs in Salem on May 30.