

Employees honored for
years of service — pg. 7

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribal Council OKs general manager contract

*David Fullerton officially hired
to lead Tribal government*

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

After spending almost five months as interim general manager, former Social Services Department Manager David Fullerton is now officially the Tribal government's new leader.

Tribal Council approved an employment agreement effective as of Jan. 7 with Fullerton during its Wednesday, Jan. 20, meeting.



David Fullerton

Fullerton started working for the Tribe in June 2001 as an Indian Child Welfare caseworker. He managed the Social Services Department from December 2001 through late August 2015 when he was tapped to serve as

interim general manager.

Before joining the Grand Ronde Tribe, Fullerton was the Social Services director for the Quinault Indian Nation in Washington state. He also has worked as a probation officer for the Lake County Youth Court in Poulson, Mont., and as a sociology instructor for Stone Child Tribal College on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Montana.

Fullerton earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Montana in Missoula, where he minored in both Native American studies and criminology. He graduated from Jesuit High School in Portland, Ore.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved the Yeti Logging Unit timber sale,

See COUNCIL
continued on page 9

Thorsgard joins Yosemite staff

By Brent Merrill

Smoke Signals staff writer

Grand Ronde Tribal member Eirik Thorsgard began a new chapter in his life and professional career when he accepted a job with the National Park Service at Yosemite National Park in Mariposa, Calif., in December.

Thorsgard, who holds a doctorate degree in archaeology from Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia, and a master's degree in applied anthropology from Oregon State University, is the national park's new cultural anthropologist and American Indian liaison.

Thorsgard, 38, will be working directly with the seven Native American Tribes that border the park.

Scott Carpenter, who heads up Yosemite's cultural anthropology program, said Thorsgard will be very active in compiling "really important information" about the park's history and the Tribes that border it.

Carpenter said the park has been doing a lot of catching up over the last 50 years in its relationships with area Tribes and that Yosemite is one of only a few national parks in the United States to have a full-time anthropologist.

The land for Yosemite National Park was set aside when President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill passed by Congress in 1864. The park was actually created when Congress passed the Yosemite Act in 1890.

Yosemite National Park covers an area of 747,956 acres of well-known granite cliffs, waterfalls, pristine streams, giant sequoia

See THORSGARD
continued on page 10



Contributed photo

Tribal member Eirik Thorsgard is the new cultural anthropologist and American Indian liaison at Yosemite National Park in northern California. The park includes several world-famous landmarks, such as Half Dome, Bridalveil Falls and El Capitan, and is the third most-visited national park in the United States, with almost 3.9 million visitors in 2014. Thorsgard is standing in front of Lower Yosemite Falls in the national park.

Education Board allows Indian mascot exceptions

*Grand Ronde influential in
asking for government-to-
government consultation*

By Brent Merrill

Smoke Signals staff writer

SALEM — The Oregon Board of Education decided to trust Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes in deciding what imagery associated with American Indians and used by Oregon schools

"Putting this decision back in the hands of the Tribes to work on these issues and to move through these exceptions when it makes sense may be the most respectful act we can make as a board."

*Oregon Board of Education
Vice Chairman Charles Martinez*

as mascots is appropriate at its Thursday, Jan. 21, meeting.

The issue of Native American mascots used by Oregon schools has

been on the Board of Education's radar since a meeting in December 2006 and work groups were formed in 2007 to decide whether Native

American mascots used by Oregon schools should be banned.

After five years of studies being presented to the Board of Education, its members adopted a resolution and rule that would have entirely banned Native mascots in schools by the end of the 2017 school year. In particular, the board sought to ban names like Warriors,

See MASCOTS
continued on page 5