

Exhibit opening
at Chachalu
— pg. 9



SMOKE SIGNALS

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ATNI Winter Convention held in Portland

Grand Ronde Tribe is prominently represented

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals assistant editor/staff writer

PORTLAND – The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians' Winter Convention returned to an in-person format for the first time since 2020 and continued to be well-attended with the Grand Ronde Tribe prominently represented.

The annual event, held Sunday, Jan. 22, through Thursday, Jan. 26, at the DoubleTree Hilton is an opportunity for meetings, discussion, presentations and committee work that affects policy, legislation and the future of Indian Country in the Pacific Northwest.

ATNI represents 57 Tribal governments from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, northern California, southeast Alaska and western Montana. The Winter Convention is sponsored by Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes.

Grand Ronde Tribal Council member Jon A. George serves as the second vice president of the organization and led Monday's invocation.

Flags were brought in by the Northwest Indian Veterans Association, which included the Grand Ronde Veterans Honor Guard. Veterans Service Officer and Tribal member Ramona Quenelle carried in the Grand Ronde Tribal flag.

Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy welcomed the more than 200 attendees to the Tribe's homelands and thanked the color guard and drummers.

"It's a pleasure to be here," Ken-

See ATNI
continued on page 5

Ukraine pain

Tribal employee conducts fundraiser for war-torn school

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals assistant editor/staff writer

Tribal employee Anne Falla developed deep ties to Ukraine while spending three years working in a social services program and in youth development at a school in the eastern European country.

In Grand Ronde, she works as the Tribe's victim assistance advocate in the Warriors of Hope program.

Falla served with the Peace Corps in a Ukrainian area known as Kherson Oblast from March 2010 to March 2013. During her time in the country, she made friends with several teachers, social service employees and locals, whom she has been trying to stay in touch with since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Falla has done a series of fundraisers to help the local residents and the Second School, where she taught youth development and enrichment classes.

"On Jan. 4, I received a desperate request from the Second School," she wrote on a GoFundMe page seeking donations. "The liberation of parts of Kherson Oblast has given many locals the ability to go home. Many are picking up the pieces of their destroyed properties and are trying to get back to life. Unfortunately, in many villages around our county seat, the school facilities took the brunt of the damage. Our facility is one of the first to try and offer classes, but they are having issues with maintaining

See UKRAINE
continued on page 7



Photo by Kamiah Koch

Tribal Warriors of Hope Victim Assistance Advocate Anne Falla served in the Peace Corps in Ukraine from 2010 to 2013. Because of her connections to people living in the eastern European country, she is currently raising funds to help a school in the recently liberated Kherson Oblast region of the war-torn country.



Map created by Samuel Briggs III

Fullerton ousted as Tribe's general manager

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Longtime Tribal employee David Fullerton is no longer the Tribe's general manager after being relieved of his duties after more than seven years in the position on Friday, Jan. 13.

No official reason for Fullerton's termination was given since personnel matters are considered confidential. However,



David Fullerton

Fullerton was criticized during the Oct. 12 Tribal Council meeting by Tribal Elder Virginia Kimsey-Roof for allegedly filing a false police report and calling a sacred Tribal ceremony a "peyote party."

Tribal Council Secretary Michael Langley suggested that Kimsey-Roof talk with Tribal Council outside of a public forum during the Oct. 12 meeting.

Grand Ronde Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight said that his department did not take a police report from Fullerton.

The general manager, who is a direct report to the nine-member Tribal Council, exercises direct authority over most Tribal departments in carrying out day-to-day operations of the Tribal government.

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said during the Jan. 25 Tribal Council meeting that the decision to dismiss Fullerton was not unanimous.

See FULLERTON
continued on page 6