

y friends and family, and for everyone else’



ance during the 2024 Marcellus Norwest
wvow Grounds on Friday, July 12.

Oglesbee said he never expected to end up playing flute, let alone making and selling them.

“A feller I met four years ago, Jon Two Eagles, he put the flute into my hands and said, ‘Play it,’” Oglesbee said. “I told him ‘I have mechanic hands; it’s not going to happen.’ And a few years later, here I am. It really does soothe the soul.”

He also sells aprons and other goods made by his sister-in-law.

Oglesbee said he’s just beginning to explore his Native heritage. “I think my grandmother was Siu-slaw,” he said, but finding information is difficult.

“My grandmother said she was white; she was not,” he said. “She was still practicing, just in silence.”

On the other side of the booth, Dean Armstrong (Lakota) was sell-



Tribal Elder and Vietnam veteran Steve Rife, left, and Navy veteran Nick Sixkiller (Cherokee) shake hands after introducing themselves to the crowd during the 2024 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 13.

ing strings of bells for male dancers, along with dance sticks and coyote and wolverine head mounts.

Armstrong, who said he made his own buckskin regalia and head mounts, also dances in the men’s traditional, which he has been doing for 8 or 9 years.

Powwow concluded Sunday with a final grand entry at noon.

The next powwow will be the Grand Ronde Contest Powwow slated for Aug. 16-18. ■



Tribal member Tynan George dances in the grand entry of the 2024 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds on Friday, July 12.

Brendyn Smallwood, 6, joins other participants in the grass dance special during the 2024 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 13. The special was sponsored by his grandmother and Tribal Council member Brenda Tuomi.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

