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SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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Harvey attends Tribal Nations Summit in Washington, D.C.

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Staying united, strong and keeping gains made during the past 4 years for Indian Country were key takeaways from



Contributed photo

Above are Tribal Council member Denise Harvey and Tribal member and Bureau of Indian Affairs Director Bryan Mercier.

the White House Tribal Nations Summit, according to Tribal Council member Denise Harvey.

Harvey attended the summit, held Monday, Dec. 9, as well as an Indian

Gaming Association Tribal leader meeting the following day. Harvey serves as the Northwest delegate.

“It was a really positive environment,” she said. “We all know we are in for some changes but there wasn’t any negativity in the room. We talked about the accomplishments that Indian Country has been able to make in the last 4 years, and really the message was how do we maintain that and hang onto that. We can assume we won’t get a lot of added benefits in the next administration but if we can hang on to

See SUMMIT
continued on page 5



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Benefits/Risk Manager Tammy Gould hugs Tribal Council member Brenda Tuomi as Gould is recognized for 29 years of service to the Tribe during the fourth quarter service awards and annual holiday party held at Spirit Mountain Casino’s Event Center on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Honoring employees

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

The Tribe honored 73 employees for more than 1,000 years of service on Thursday, Dec. 19, at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center during the quarterly service awards. The event

doubled as the annual employee holiday party and luncheon.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier, Tribal

See AWARDS
continued on page 8

Time is scarce to stave off salmon extinction

Editor’s note: Salmon, rain and conifer forests are symbols of the Pacific Northwest. In a three-part series, “The salmon situation,” Smoke Signals examines how the region’s signature fish is heading for extinction, with little time left to reverse course and save these ancient species, which are crucial to both the ecosystem and Tribal culture. In the end, the Tribe’s best hope to prevail may lie in winning an epic battle with bureaucracy. Parts two and three will run in the editions of Jan. 15 and Feb. 1, respectively.

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

For more than 5 million years, salmon have played a key role in the ecosystem of the Pacific Northwest, providing food for wolves, bears, eagles, sea birds, gulls, orcas, seals, sea lions and sharks, as well as people. Salmon carcasses littering streambanks



See SALMON
continued on page 6



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 70% of salmon and steelhead harvested in the state come from a hatchery. Salmon River Fish Hatchery in Otis produces coho and fall Chinook salmon, summer steelhead and rainbow trout.