

# Tribal Chair attends White House Christmas party

*"I only got to speak with the President for a few minutes, so I gave him the card and told him it was signed by our Elders. I told him we supported him."*

~ Kathryn Harrison

By Tracy Dugan  
Editor

Tribal Council Chair Kathryn Harrison and Legislative Affairs Specialist, Justin Martin traveled to Washington to attend a Holiday party at the White House in December.

Harrison received a special invitation inviting her and a guest to the party early that month, but didn't consider attending until the tribal Elders prompted her to go on the Tribe's behalf.

"It was really close to Christmas, and the weather wasn't that great," said Harrison. "I really didn't plan to go."

But the Elders at the Mealsite encouraged her during lunch one day, so she reconsidered.

"We couldn't let Kathryn pass up this opportunity," said Violet Zimbrick. "It took a lot of convincing, but we finally got her to go, on behalf of the Tribe and the Elders."

Tribal Elder Dorothy Lawe also did some encouraging, and said that when they saw the invitation, that was addressed to Harrison person-



Photo courtesy of the White House.

President Clinton accepts a Christmas card from Kathryn Harrison on behalf of the Elders.

ally, they knew it was a big deal.

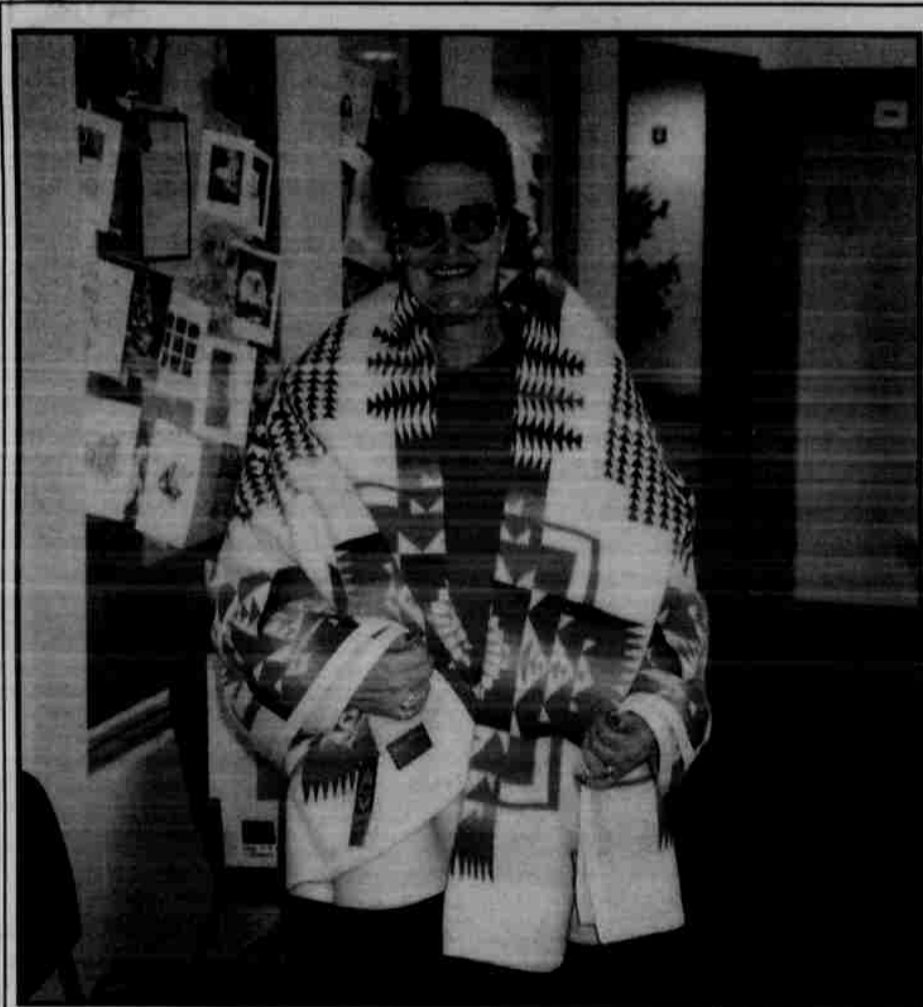
Harrison invited Justin Martin, who is a tribal member and the Tribe's Legislative Affairs Specialist, to go with her. All the Elders at the Mealsite got a Christmas card and

signed it, for Harrison to give to President Clinton.

"Looking back now, I am glad I went," said Harrison. "I only got to speak with the President for a few minutes, so I gave him the card and

told him it was signed by our Elders. I told him we supported him."

Harrison said that President Clinton was visibly moved by the gesture, and a few weeks later she received a thank-you note from him.



## Tribe thanks retiring Willamina Mayor

Last month, the Tribal Council hosted a party for Twila Hill, the retiring Mayor of Willamina. Mayor Hill has been supportive of the Tribe and its economic endeavors over the years, and has many good friends in Grand Ronde. Tribal Council presented her with a Pendleton blanket, and wishes her the best in whatever she chooses to pursue next. Thank you Mayor Hill!

Photo by Lauri Smith

## Lodge Celebration

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Tribe's desire to give back to the Grand Ronde community and the state of Oregon, as well as work to help better the lives of tribal members.

"Our way is to work hard and share what we have. That's what we have been taught."

Grand Ronde Royalty also attended the celebration. Ali Holsclaw (Jr. Miss Grand Ronde) and Halona Butler (Miss Tiny Tot) helped meet and greet guests.

Part of the celebration included special events inside the Casino, like the Cash Cube. The Cash Cube is a large glass box that uses forced air

to blow money around. Casino guests were picked at random to enter the cube and try to pick up as many bills as possible in 30 seconds.



Little Zoey Holsclaw poses with her sister Ali (top left) and Halona Butler at the Spirit Mountain Lodge Grand Opening Celebration. The children especially enjoyed the traditional music of the flute player who was invited to perform.

Photo by Dale Petersen