

## Oregon Historical Society to honor Kathryn Harrison

### Sept. 27 dinner fetes four new History Makers

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison will soon join author Jean Auel, movie director Gus Van Sant and Columbia Sportswear matriarch Gertrude Boyle as an Oregon History Maker.

On Thursday, Sept. 27, Harrison will be among four new History Makers to join the ranks of other "extraordinary Oregonians" at the fourth annual History Makers Dinner sponsored by the Oregon Historical Society.

Joining Harrison this year are former Portland Trailblazers President Harry Glickman; Gerry Frank, former chief of staff for Sen. Mark Hatfield; and former Secretary of State Norma Paulus.

"In just a few short years, the Oregon History Makers medal has earned a reputation as one of the most prestigious awards an Oregonian can receive," said Kerry Tymchuk, executive director of the Oregon Historical Society. "We are delighted to honor four remarkable and iconic Oregonians as our History Makers Class of 2012."

According to the Historical Society, History Makers are "contemporary individuals who have made

a significant impact in their field of work or service during their lifetime. These individuals, with ties to Oregon, are making history through scientific discovery and exploration, innovation in business, communications, the arts, or service in their communities. Whether they were born here, lived here or work here, Oregon History Makers represent the best of what the state has to offer."

Harrison is being honored for overcoming adversity to become "one of Oregon's most influential and respected Tribal leaders."

Harrison was born March 28, 1924, the descendant of her Alaskan Native (Eyak) mother Ella and Henry William Jones (Molalla), in Corvallis. She was named Kathryn May Jones in honor of her great-great-aunt Molalla Kate.

Orphaned at 10, she eventually graduated from Chemawa Indian School in 1942 and subsequently married Frank Harrison, with whom she had 10 children and endured years of poverty.

In 1972, she became the first



Kathryn Harrison

### History Maker recipients

**2009:** Gertrude Boyle, Brian Druker and Mike Powell.

**2010:** David Adelshiem, Jean Auel, Mercy Corps and Medical Teams International.

**2011:** Ken and Joan Austin, Allyn Ford, Albert Starr and Gus Van Sant.

**2012:** Kathryn Harrison, Gerry Frank, Harry Glickman and Norma Paulus.

Source: Oregon Historical Society

regain federal recognition in November 1983.

Harrison and two of her children were part of the Grand Ronde contingent that testified before Congress about restoring the Grand Ronde Tribe, which was terminated in 1954.

Following Restoration, Harrison was elected to the Grand Ronde Tribal Council from April 1984 through September 2001, never losing an election. She served as chair of the Tribal Council for five years, helping to oversee the Tribe's resurrection from Termination and guiding the development of gaming as a revenue source to fund Tribal educational, health and cultural efforts.

Harrison, now 88, continues to be an occasional ambassador-at-large for the Grand Ronde Tribe. Her life was detailed in a book, "Standing Tall: The Lifeway of Kathryn Jones Harrison," written by Kristine Olson.

"She remains a revered voice in matters of concern to Native Americans," the Historical Society said.

The History Maker's medals will be presented during a sold-out ceremony and dinner at the Historical Society, 1200 S.W. Park Ave., Portland. ■

## Chinuk Family Literacy Night set for Sept. 26

A Chinuk Family Literacy Night will be held from 5:15 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26, in the Tribal gym.

Everyone is welcome to attend a night of Chinuk family literacy that will include food and activities. Each attending family will receive a translated book to take home. Dinner will be provided.

To RSVP, contact Esther Stewart at 503-879-1443 or [esther.stewart@grandronde.org](mailto:esther.stewart@grandronde.org). ■

## Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program:

*Wawa pus tenas*  
'Speaking for  
Children/Youth'



STAND UP  
FOR OUR  
NATIVE CHILDREN

The Tribal Court is looking for committed, caring adults who have an interest in helping one of the nearly 90 Grand Ronde children currently in foster care by becoming a CASA volunteer. As a volunteer, you will be trained to help give children a voice during a difficult time by appearing at Court, attending meetings involving the child, and advocating for the child's best interest.

For more information or to apply, contact Adrea Korthase, Tribal Court Program Specialist at 503-879-4623 or email [adrea.korthase@grandronde.org](mailto:adrea.korthase@grandronde.org)

## Taking the oath



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council member Jon A. George, right, is congratulated by Tribal Elder Bonnie Mercier and Tribal Council member Cheryle A. Kennedy by Tribal Elder Pearl Rife after the swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected Tribal Council members in Council chambers on Wednesday, Sept. 12.



Tribal Council member Toby McClary takes the oath of office during the swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected Tribal Council members in Council chambers on Wednesday, Sept. 12. In the background are Tribal Council member Jon A. George, left, and Tribal Council member Cheryle A. Kennedy, who also were sworn in to three-year terms.