



Third annual Indigenous Peoples' Day event — pg. 7



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# SMOKE SIGNALS

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## Tribal chair becomes a hologram to tell tale of Oregon's first people

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

OREGON CITY — Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy is no stranger to sharing the Grand Ronde Tribe's history and experiences with fellow Oregonians.

Now, she will share it every day for those who view the "Oregon's First People" film at End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive & Visitor Information Center. It has been closed for several months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but Executive Director Gail Yazzolino is hopeful that it will be open sometime this spring.

"We are very excited about this film," Yazzolino said. "It is a dream come true ... a milestone to be at a point where we can share this project with the (Grand Ronde) community."

The film is expected to be complete by the end of November. Kennedy is featured as a hologram welcoming film viewers to Willamette Falls, which is located near the center.

"My ancestors are from this place," she says. "They lived in villages on these lands, fished at these falls and regulated commerce in the region for thousands and thousands of years. My great-grandfather was Chief Wacheno. He was a chief at Willamette Falls when the settlers arrived in Oregon."

Kennedy speaks about how the Native people became ill after the settlers arrived and eventually had their villages destroyed, plank-houses burned and were removed from their homelands.

"Today, we are rebuilding our community and our homelands,"

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Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

After sitting idle for several years, the site of the former Multnomah Greyhound Park in Wood Village, which is owned by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, has been identified as the location of a possible new Tribal casino.

## Second casino?

Grand Ronde Tribe reassessing Wood Village property for gaming

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

WOOD VILLAGE – The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, in reaction to the Siletz Tribe's proposal to build a casino in north Salem, is reassessing the former Multnomah Greyhound Park property in Wood Village for construction of a gaming facility.

The general membership was informed of the Tribe's plan during the Sunday, Oct. 4, General Council meeting.

"For our Tribe to be prepared, we are looking at

putting the Wood Village property into trust for the purposes of gaming," Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said on Wednesday, Sept. 30, with the provision that the information remain embargoed until after the General Council meeting.

The Tribe purchased the former racetrack in east Multnomah County in December 2015 for \$10 million after it had been proposed twice as the possible site for Oregon's first privately owned casino. Oregon vot-

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## Years of Service awards honor 72 employees

Higher Education Curriculum Specialist/Academic Adviser Mercedes Jones was congratulated for five years of employment during the third-quarter Employee Recognition event held in the Tribal gym in September 2019. She reached the six-year mark this year.



File photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

SEVENTY-TWO employees with a combined 1,105 years of service to the Grand Ronde Tribe were honored during the third quarter of 2020.

During previous years, fall honorees and other Tribal employees typically enjoyed a hearty breakfast served in the Tribal gym. However, due to the

COVID-19 pandemic, indoor group gatherings of more than 10 people have been prohibited, so no celebration is currently planned.

Leading those honored in employment longevity was Natural Resources Department Timber and Roads Program Manager Jeff Kuust, who

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