



Tribal youths learn to weave — pg. 10

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# SMOKE SIGNALS

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## Board holds first reading to name school after Kathryn Harrison

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

The Corvallis School Board was scheduled to hold a first reading on Thursday, Aug. 12, that will rename one of the district's schools after Kathryn Harrison, a key figure in the Grand Ronde Tribe's Restoration effort and a longtime Tribal Council member.

Corvallis School District Superintendent Ryan Noss said that Harrison was one of three people he recommended to the School Board on Thursday, June 10.

Harrison, who at 97 is the Tribe's eldest Elder, said in June that she was "humbled and very flattered."

The process started in August 2020, according to reporting from the *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, when the Corvallis School Board voted to remove the names of former presidents Herbert Hoover, Thomas Jefferson and Woodrow Wilson from elementary schools because the men engaged in racist practices. The schools then temporarily adopted the names of their mascots for the 2020-21 academic year.

In December 2020, the Corvallis School District formed a Renaming Task Force to find new names for Husky, Jaguar and Wildcat elementary schools, and potentially some of the other 14 district-owned buildings. Harrison's name will be applied to Jaguar Elementary School.

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Contributed photo

As visitors enter the proposed Spirit Mountain at Wood Village, the architect's rendering shows wood planks surrounding it, complemented by lights designed to look like a river and highlight the Grand Ronde Tribe's connection to local waterways.

## Tribe updates Wood Village officials on casino plans

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

WOOD VILLAGE — Tribal Council members and staff met with Wood Village officials on Friday, July 30, to provide an update on casino plans for the former 26.5-acre Multnomah Greyhound Park property the Tribe has owned since 2015.

"This has been a fun, exciting project to work on," Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez said. "It's been a fantastic process and we're excited to share it with you."

Tribal officials shared architectural renderings of the Spirit Mountain at Wood Village project, which would feature a 350,000-square-foot casino that includes a 120,000-square-foot gaming floor, 300 hotel rooms and

more than 3,000 parking spaces. There also would be space for concerts and events.

In addition to Hernandez, Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George, Tribal Council member Lisa Leno, Tribal Attorney Rob Greene and Project Manager Ryan Webb at-

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## Roads to Recovery: Leno used meth for 28 years before seeking help



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal Elder Rhonda Leno shares her story about the recovery process on Tuesday, June 22.

(Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of Smoke Signals stories in 2021 that examines addiction and recovery.)

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

When one thinks of a stereotypical addict who finally seeks help, the picture that often comes to mind is a homeless person, someone who has been in and out of jail, or an individual who has lost ties with family due to their drug use.

Tribal Elder Rhonda Leno, 58, defied all of these stereotypes.

Although she used methamphetamine for 28 years, her drug addiction was mostly



well-hidden from those who didn't know her well. She was never arrested and never spent time in jail.

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