

Tribal Council adds 25 more names to Restoration Roll

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council continued adding members to the Restoration Roll by approving 25 new names during its Wednesday, Aug. 11, meeting, which marked the first time it has met at 4 p.m. since March 2020.

The 25 names brings the number of Tribal members who have been added to the historically important roll since 2019 to 446. Tribal Council added 204 names in 2019, 127 names in 2020 and has now added 115 names this year.

The Restoration Roll was the first roll compiled of Grand Ronde Tribal members after Nov. 22, 1983, and included 1,101 names. However, because the membership had become so dispersed during the 29 years after 1954’s Termination, all those who should have been included could not be identified at the time or were unaware that they should have had their names on the roll.

The current process, which requires Tribal members apply to Member Services for addition to the Restoration Roll, allows a Tribal member who was living on Aug. 13, 1954 – date of congressional approval of the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act – and born to a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to be added.

In November 2018, Tribal Council approved a resolution that established criteria for consistently applying the phrase “entitled to be on the membership roll of the Tribe on Aug. 13, 1954” as meaning that the person was entitled to be on the roll if that person was alive on that date and born to a Tribal member.

The 25 names now move forward to the Department of the Interior for approval.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Designated Sept. 15 as the next per capita payment day;
- Approved a fourth supplemental budget for 2021, allocating an additional \$300,000 in gaming dividend to the popular Small Loan Program. The first \$100,000 allocation to the program, which allows Tribal members to borrow up to a \$1,000 with two years to pay it back, was depleted within six weeks after it started in early March. The first supplemental budget of 2021 funded a cost-of-living increase for the Elders’ pension program, the second allowed the Natural Resources Department to purchase a new 500-gallon wildland fire engine and the third allowed the Tribe to purchase properties in Grand Ronde and Wood Village;
- Approved the Integrated Pest Management Plan as presented by the Natural Resources Department. The plan is a systematic way of addressing invasive plant species issues and provides a step-by-step process to evaluate the best management practices to control them by taking into account site conditions, weather, the target species, etc.;
- Approved the enrollment of three infants into the Tribe because they meet the requirements outlined in the Enrollment Ordinance and the Tribal Constitution;
- Approved management plans for the Ahsney and Noble Oaks

conservation properties that the Tribe acquired through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. Fish & Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen said that the Bonneville Power Administration, which funds the program, has already approved the two plans. The Tribe acquired the 61-acre Ahsney property in Polk County and the 667-acre Noble Oaks property outside of Willamina in 2019. In addition, Tribal Council OK’d a Noble Oaks Partnership Program with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board;

- Approved RJS Construction, a Native-owned business out of Yakima, Wash., to begin construction of infrastructure and utilities for the Tribe’s home ownership development project on the 86.5-acre Rink 2 property in Grand Ronde. Tribal Council also approved a contract with Willamette Valley Excavating Inc. of Turner, Ore., to construct infrastructure and utilities to support the Creekside Elder Housing development that will

be built at the southwest corner of Grand Ronde and Hebo roads;

- And approved a construction contract to replace a culvert on BIA Route 304 in the Tribal forestlands north of Grand Ronde. Public Works Manager John Mercier said the new bottomless culvert will allow for better fish passage on Yoncalla Creek.

Also included in the Aug. 11 Tribal Council packet were two approved authorizations to proceed that will allow the Information Systems Department to work with Native Networks to submit a grant application to fund installing a fiber optic network on the Reservation where feasible and gives Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe permission not to renew the adult foster homes’ license with the Oregon Department of Human Services because of the limitations and barriers the state places on residency in the program.

To watch the entire meeting, visit the Tribal government website at www.grandronde.org and click on the Government tab and then Videos. ■

Harrison served on Tribal Council from 1984 to 2001

NAMING continued
from front page

Harrison’s name was among the top 20 suggestions that the task force considered. The top names also included Chepenefa, which was an indigenous Kalapuyan group that lived in present-day Corvallis; Bessie Coleman, the first known African American and Native American woman to hold a pilot’s license; and Tiacan, a Santiam Kalapuya principal chief.

The task force filtered suggestions through six criteria, the *Gazette-Times* reported, emphasizing names that evoke inspiration, reflect commitments to social justice, represent women, honor local Indigenous history, show the community’s connection to place and reject white dominance.

After the top 20 suggestions were released to the public, the task force received feedback from 150 community members and 187 students returned surveys sent out by Noss.

“There were about four people who received almost unanimous support, and Kathryn was one of them,” Noss said.

Public comments were most in favor of Harrison, Letitia Carson, the only Black woman in Oregon to secure a land claim as a result of the 1862 Homestead Act, and Chepenefa. Students leaned toward Harrison as well, and Harriet Tubman and John Lewis.

Tubman was known for her Underground Railroad abolitionist movement and Lewis was a Georgia politician and one of the original Freedom Riders.

Noss said that in addition to Harrison, he recommended Coleman

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and Carson as new elementary school names.

Harrison was born Kathryn May Jones in 1924 in Corvallis to Harry William Jones and Ella Flemming. Her father was Molalla and her mother Eyak. She attended school in Corvallis before enrolling in Chemawa Indian School in Salem.

She was a key participant in the Grand Ronde Tribe’s early 1980s Restoration efforts and was one of five Tribal members who testified before the U.S. House of Representatives on Oct. 18, 1983, in support of restoring the Tribe to federal recognition. The Tribe’s federal recognition had been Terminated 29 years earlier in 1954.

After the Tribe was restored on Nov. 22, 1983, she continued her service on Tribal Council from 1984 to 2001. During her time on Tribal Council, she served as secretary, vice chair and six years as Tribal chairwoman. She never lost a Tribal Council election and was the first woman to serve as Tribal chair.

During her time on Tribal Council, she helped guide the Tribe into gaming through the signing of a compact with Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts in July 1993. She also suggested the Tribe start endowment funds to benefit education, health care, economic development, and social and cultural programs. Those funds continue to be an important economic resource to this day for the Tribe.

Today, she lives at an adult foster care facility in Salem. ■



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Clothes Closet

• Open to All •

Open on

Fridays

9 a.m.

-Noon

SERVICES OFFERED:

Children’s Clothing

Women’s Clothing

Men’s Clothing

Blankets

Free Dog & Cat Food

Diapers and Toilet Paper

Emergency Hygiene Kits

Camping Supplies (Tents, Tarps, Wood)

Small Appliances and Household Items

Toys

SEASONAL PROGRAMS

Backpack & School Supply Giveaway

For children ages K-12 at the start of school

Christmas Shop

Adults can pick out 1 new gift for each child in their household. Children can shop for 1 gift for each adult in their household.

The Grand Ronde Clothes closet is located on the Tribal Campus near the Elders Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive. The Clothes Closet accepts donations in clean and good condition. Please put donations in plastic bags for sanitation purposes and drop them off during open hours. Please use the Community Board to post large items. For more information or emergency clothes, contact Lori Walker-Hernandez at 559-847-7565.