



Grand Ronde Tribal member Maya Frost, center, received her Ph.D. in Polymer Engineering from the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest in Athlone, Ireland, on Oct. 29.

Tribal members in Ireland graduate

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Grand Ronde Tribal members Maya Frost, 52, and her son, Liam O Gallachoir, 17, have graduated from a doctoral program and high school, respectively, in their adopted homeland of Ireland.

Frost and her son were featured in a March 2020 “So Far Away” story about Tribal members who live overseas and significantly distant from the Reservation.

Liam graduated from secondary school – the equivalent of a U.S. high school – and received his first choice of universities. Starting in October, he began attending the British Irish Modern Music Institute through the Technological University of Dublin.

“He is doing a bachelor of arts in Commercial Music in drumming,” Frost said in an e-mail.

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions in Ireland, there was no graduation ceremony, but Liam received a Pendleton blanket from the Tribe.

Frost graduated on Oct. 29 with a Ph.D. in Polymer Engineering from the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest. She wore a button blanket robe during the ceremony and feathers in her hair. She thanked her cousin, Dolores Parmenter, for help and guidance and Bobby Mercier, Greg Robinson and the Tribe for inspiration. The feathers were a gift from Lands Manager Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach who visited them in 2012.

“My research explored the synthesis of thermosensitive polymers for use in drug delivery applications,” Frost said. “I succeeded in creating a novel, less expensive, more environmentally friendly method of synthesis of a safe, non-toxic polymer suitable for use in targeted drug delivery platforms. This is a means of delivering a needed medication to a person at the site of the disease in the body rather than to the person systemically which can have an



Tribal member Liam Ó Gallachóir graduated from secondary school recently in Ireland. He is attending the British Irish Modern Music Institute through the Technological University of Dublin where he is pursuing a degree in Commercial Music. He is wearing a blanket sent by the Tribe.

effect on the body as a whole.”

Frost is currently working as a research scientist at the Technological University of the Shannon on an Innovations Partnership Program with Nelipak Healthcare Packaging headquartered in Cranston, Rhode Island.

“I have been able to do this because of support through the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde,” she said. “I had never expected to get this far and it has been a tough journey, but worth it. I can only ever encourage people to educate themselves, whether it is academically or through experience. We can only be better for it. You have all made it possible ... hayu masi, tilixam!”

Frost, who is Molalla and Chinook, is descended from her great-grandmother, Esther LaBonte. She grew up in Oregon City, overlooking Willamette Falls, and has lived in Ireland for more than 20 years. ■

Appeals Court tosses Oregon sacred site case

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A federal appeals court dismissed a lawsuit involving the bulldozing a Native American sacred site near Mount Hood in 2008 to add a turning lane to a nearby highway.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit sided with the federal government on Wednesday, Nov. 24, saying the case was moot.

Grand Ronde Tribal Elder Carol Logan joined members of the Yakama Nation to say that the federal government broke numerous laws by destroying the site, including the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and several environmental laws.

Logan and the other Native leaders alerted the federal government to their use of the site before construction began, but their pleas went unheeded. In response to their original lawsuit, the government claimed it has complete authority to destroy sacred sites located on federal land and a trial court agreed.

The oral argument in *Slockish v. U.S. Federal Highway Administration* was presented by Becket Fund for Religious Liberty attorney Joe Davis in the Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

The Appeals Court ruled that since the Oregon Department of Transportation had been dismissed from the lawsuit, the remaining federal government defendants did not have the authority to make the changes sought, such as removing the guard rail and reconstructing the stone altar.

The site was called Ana Kwna Nchi Nchi Patat, or Place of Big Big Trees. ■

Harrison is the eldest Elder of the Grand Ronde Tribe at 97

TiMet bus continued from front page

ant Tribal leaders,” said a TriMet website post about the bus wrap. “She is known especially for her work as a member of the Tribal Council of the Grand Ronde and for her contributions during the Termination era, a time when the Eisenhower administration deprived Tribes of formal recognition.”

Other Tribal leaders to be featured on the bus wrap are John “Buzz” Nelson (Oglala Lakota), Se-ah-dom Edmo (Shoshone-Bannock/Nez Perce/Yakama), Ed Edmo (Shoshone-Bannock), Christine Dupres (Cowlitz/Cree), SandeBea Allman (Oglala Lakota/Nimiipuu), Terry L. Cross (Seneca Nation), Tawna Sanchez (Shoshone-Bannock/Ute/Carrizo) and James Parker (Chippewa Cree).

The TriMet bus wrap effort also has honored leaders in the Black, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Hispanic and LGBT+ communities.

Harrison, 97, is the eldest Elder of the Grand Ronde Tribe and is still active in the Tribal community. 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.

Some of her more recent honors include being named to the American Museum of Natural History’s Board of Trustees in 2018 and having Jaguar Elementary School in Corvallis renamed after her earlier this year, of which Harrison said she was “humbled and very flattered.”

“We are profoundly humbled to have our school named for Kathryn Jones Harrison and we are hoping to engage our students, staff and community in the change,” Principal Beth Martin said. “For us, there is such immense opportunity and learning that can take place. At the same time, we want to ensure we move through this change in a way that honors who she is as well as the collective culture she represents.”

Harrison lives at the Tribe’s Adult Foster Care housing in Grand Ronde.

To find out more about the bus wrap and read about all of the Native leaders honored, visit trimet.org/celebrate/nativeleaders.htm. ■



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