



Smoke Signals screenshot

Grand Ronde Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach received a lifetime achievement award from the Indigenous Superstars Music Awards on Sunday, Feb. 13. He also was honored for Best Native American Flute Recording for his 2021 release “Earth Tribe.” The awards ceremony was broadcast live in Canada and can be viewed on YouTube.

Reibach receives fourth lifetime achievement award

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA — Grand Ronde Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach received his fourth lifetime achievement award on Sunday, Feb. 13, when the Indigenous Superstars Music Awards honored him for his “remarkable impact” over the course of 28 Native American flute albums.

“We are pleased to announce the presentation of the highest honor of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Jan Michael Looking Wolf for the remarkable impact through his music artistry, as a Native American educator and humanitarian that spans decades,” said Awards Program Director Rhonda Head.

The lifetime award is presented in memory of Canadian Aboriginal musician Vince Fontaine.

In addition to the lifetime award, Reibach also won the award for Best Native American Flute Recording for his album “Earth Tribe” that was released in 2021.

Reibach, who works as the Tribe’s Lands Department manager, thanked everyone for their love and support.

“Without you, this music would not be possible,” he said. “Without love, the notes on my flute would be meaningless. And without the Creator, I would not even have breath to share. Music is a language that we all share together. Everyone on Mother Earth is a descendant of an In-

igenous ancestor, and in that way we are all related. Please remember that your feelings are so important and that you are appreciated.”

In his career, Reibach has released 26 albums, performed more than 700 concerts, made dozens of music videos and taught accredited Native American flute courses for 20 years at universities including Oregon State.

The Indigenous Superstars Music Award honor marks the fourth lifetime achievement award that Reibach has received. In 2020, he became the first Native American and flutist to receive the Global Music Awards Odyssey Award for a lifetime achievement in music. He also is a Hall of Fame member at One World Music Radio and lifetime achievement honoree from Spirit Wind Records.

His music career also includes seven Native American Music Awards, including Artist of the Year, and 11 Global Music Awards. He has received the Peace Star Award from Oregonians for Peace and a Hero Award from the Children’s Cancer Association.

The Indigenous Superstars Music Awards was broadcast in Canada to recognize prominent Native artists in North America (Turtle Island). It can be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjHBfh6h7Rw with Reibach accepting the lifetime achievement award at about the 46-minute mark. ■

Harrison’s name was among the top 20 suggestions that the task force considered

SCHOOL continued
from front page

in the Elk Lodge in the Adult Foster Care facilities in Grand Ronde. She will attend the ceremony, which is closed to the general public to protect Harrison’s health. Masks also will be required.

The event will include comments by Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy and Harrison, as well as a salmon lunch prepared by Cultural Education Coordinator Jordan Mercier.

Harrison was one of three people that Corvallis School District Superintendent Ryan Noss recommended to the School Board in June 2021 after a process to rename some schools within the Corvallis School District started in August 2020.

The Corvallis School Board had 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 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 that emphasized 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 previously to *Smoke Signals*.

Public comments were most in favor of Harrison, Letitia Carson and Chepenefa while students leaned toward Harrison, Harriet Tubman and John Lewis.

Carson was the only Black woman in Oregon to secure a land claim as a result of the 1862 Homestead Act. Tubman was known for the



Kathryn Harrison

Underground Railroad abolitionist movement during the Civil War and Lewis was a Georgia politician and one of the original Freedom Riders during the civil rights movement of the early 1960s.

Noss said that in addition to Harrison, he recommended Coleman and Carson as new elementary school names, which were adopted by the School Board in September 2021. Harrison’s name was applied to Jaguar Elementary School.

Harrison was born Kathryn May Jones in 1924 in Corvallis to Harry William Jones and Ella Flemming. Her father was Mollalla 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 to her people 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. ■



Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?

Do you have questions about diabetes?

Do you need help managing your diabetes?

If so...

Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002

To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment