

Tribal member  
competes in Mrs.  
American pageant  
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# SMOKE SIGNALS

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## Female candidates make Tribal history

### Voters send George, Tuomi and Harvey back to council

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

With only four candidates on the 2022 ballot, Tribal voters were going to do one of two things – re-elect two incumbents and return a former Tribal Council member to the governing board, or return two former Tribal Council members and re-elect one incumbent.

They did the former.

And Tribal voters did something that has never occurred since 1983's Restoration – elect an all-female trio during a Tribal Council election.

Incumbents Denise Harvey and Kathleen George won two of the three open seats during the Sept. 10 Tribal Council election, which



Kathleen George

marked the smallest slate of candidates ever nominated since Restoration.

Harvey, who was first elected to Tribal Council in 2013 after five un-



Brenda Tuomi

successful campaigns, captured her fourth consecutive three-year term.

Harvey, 60, previously finished first in 2013 and 2019, and third in 2016. She finished third with



Denise Harvey

741 votes.

“My life's greatest work is serv-

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## Tribe renames Willamette Falls site Tumwata Village

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

OREGON CITY – Blue Heron is out; Tumwata Village is in. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde announced on Wednesday, Sept. 7, that it has chosen a new name for the 23-acre site near Willamette Falls that was once home to the former Blue Heron Paper Mill.

Tumwata Village includes the Native name for the falls and reflects the Tribe's longstanding connection to the area.

“As a name, Tumwata Village represents the Grand Ronde Tribe's connection to the falls as well as the sacred lands and practices of our ancestors,” said Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy in a press release announcing the name change. “As a place, Tumwata Village will be a welcoming one that provides public access to the falls, a chance to learn about our heritage and culture, and an opportunity for new prosperity throughout the region.”

The Tribe purchased the site in August 2019 for \$15.25 million. It marked the first time that the Tribe owned land at Willamette Falls in more than 150 years.

Along with the new name, the Tribe launched a new website, [www.tumwatavillage.org](http://www.tumwatavillage.org), so that people can learn more about its vision for the site, development plans, progress and how to support restoration efforts.

“Tumwata Village is a meaningful name for a meaningful site,” Kennedy said. “It connects the

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Photo by Kamiah Koch

Candic Linton sits in a meeting room within Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, Ore., on Thursday, Sept. 8. She is serving an almost four-year sentence in the facility.

## Grief relief

### Tribal member turned to drugs to cope with murder of husband

*(Editor's note: The U.S. criminal justice system disproportionately affects Native Americans, women in particular, who are overrepresented in the prison population with the highest incarceration rate of any racial group. This story is the fourth and final in a series that examines the effects of mass incarceration on Grand Ronde Tribal mothers and their children. Previous stories focused on early post-prison release, several years after incarceration and the intergenerational effects of the criminal justice system on families.)*

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals assistant editor / staff writer

WILSONVILLE— When Grand Ronde Tribal member Candic Linton was sentenced to almost four years in prison in early January 2022 for delivery of methamphetamine, she knew it was time to make changes.

It wasn't her first experience with incarceration.

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