

Tribe harvests  
15 salmon limit  
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# SMOKE SIGNALS

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## Revered Restoration figure Kathryn Harrison walks on

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

Grand Ronde Tribal matriarch Kathryn Harrison walked on Sunday, May 21, at the age of 99. Harrison 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 serving 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 elected 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.

Harrison was born Kathryn May Jones on March 28, 1924, in Corvallis to Harry William Jones and Ella Fleming. Her father was Molalla and her mother Eyak from Alaska. Her grandparents were George A. Flemming Sr. and Elena Kal'Tane and Billy Jones and Philomene Nellie Jones. Her name honored her great-great-aunt, Molalla Kate.



Kathryn Harrison

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Tribal Veteran Coordinator Jon Taylor speaks during the Tribe's annual Memorial Day observance held at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus on Monday, May 29. Taylor was one of two guest speakers at the event.

## Honoring those who served

### Eight names added to West Valley Veterans Memorial

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals assistant editor / staff writer*

The Memorial Day ceremony returned to Grand Ronde's West Valley Veterans Memorial for the 20th time on Monday, May 29, and included the addition of eight names to the four black granite pillars that represent the major branches of the U.S. military.

The eight who were honored during the ceremony included longtime Tribal employee Albert J. "Joe" Martineau, an Air Force veteran who walked on Feb. 1 at the age of 63. He was from the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa of Minnesota and worked for the

Tribe as an alcohol and addictions counselor.

Martineau's name was etched on the Air Force pillar, along with the names of Jack Bailey and Jefferie J. Tucker.

Approximately 100 people attended the 1 p.m. ceremony, held under sunny skies with a light breeze. A boxed lunch, served to attendees at the Tribal Community Center by Veterans Royalty, preceded the event.

Veterans Special Event Board member Molly Leno served as the master of ceremonies.

"Thank you for joining us today to honor all

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## All three incumbents seeking re-election to Tribal Council

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal Council incumbents Chris Mercier, Lisa Leno and Michael Langley will be seeking re-election during the Sept. 9 election.

Mercier, Langley and Leno set new benchmarks for the most votes received in a Tribal Council election in 2020 with each one receiving more than 960 votes each.

Mercier, 47, will be seeking his seventh and potentially final term on Tribal Council and will tie former Chairman Reyn Leno for second longest-serving Tribal member at the conclusion of his term in September 2026 if he is elected again.

"Yes, probably," Mercier said in an e-mail to *Smoke Signals*.

"I've gone back and forth on it all year. A few months ago, I'd have told you my chances were 50/50 of running again. There are a few things, like enrollment and the problems caused by the '99 amendment, that I'd like to see through, in addition to a few backburner issues.

"Right now though one more term is all I can see doing. I love this job, this community and I feel truly lucky to have served this long. Lucky is probably an understatement. Regardless, I've a number of unchecked boxes in my life that are nearly impossible to do while doing this. So should I be here another three years, expect me to start making preparations for the next step in life, and hopefully we will see somebody who will make me confident to step away."

Langley, 56, will be seeking his third consecutive three-year term on Tribal Council. He has been serving as Tribal Council secretary since September 2021.



Chris Mercier

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