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Oregon Animal Sanctuary opens with Dedication Ceremony

BY BARBARA HOLIDAY

On a picture-perfect spring day, the Oregon Animal Sanctuary on Upper Applegate Road opened its doors to more than 100 supporters with a dedication ceremony highlighted by the blessing of Agnes Baker Pilgrim. Agnes, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, is the oldest living female who is a direct descendant of the Rogue River Indians who once lived in southern Oregon for 20,000 years.

Joining Agnes in the blessing ceremony were Russell Beebe, a local woodcarver and sculptor (and of Anishinabe heritage), and Agnes' grandson, Tyson Storm, who accompanied the ceremony with his flute-playing. Drummers were spread throughout the audience.

Lloyd Mathew Haines, whose vision created this lovely sanctuary, assured everyone that "We intend to be good neighbors and do wonderful things in the Applegate."

Two former endurance horses have the place to themselves right now, but as the sanctuary is developed slowly and thoughtfully, species from llamas and guinea pigs to birds and reptiles will be



housed and cared for there.

A public Grand Opening is tentatively scheduled for June, with one event possibly held in Medford and the another in the Applegate.

In the meantime, the sanctuary is open for visits by appointment only. Call Julie Fritz, farm manager, at 541-899-8627. For more information about the sanctuary, visit their website at www.oregonanimalsanctuary.org.

Barbara Holiday • 541-218-8606

Photo top: Overlooking the front pastures of the Oregon Animal Sanctuary where two horses rule, but may have company in the near future.

Photo bottom: (from left) Russell Beebe, Tyson Storm, Agnes Baker Pilgrim and Lloyd Michael Haines at the dedication ceremony of the Oregon Animal Sanctuary in Applegate. (Photos by Barbara Holiday.)

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