

Tyee Nature Reserve open to the public

By Rebecca McCoun

Tribal biologist

The Tyee Nature Reserve, located to the south of the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority building, is open for public use and is accessible from Housing Authority's parking lot.

Restoration of this site has been an ongoing project between the Tribe's Natural Resources and Cultural Resources departments and the Institute for Applied Ecology, a non-profit group.

The Tribe has used the Tyee site as a Nelson's checkermallow plant reserve since the 1990s. Nelson's checkermallow is a plant on the threatened species list that can be found throughout Grand Ronde.

Work to restore prairie habitat and enhance the Nelson's checkermallow population began several years ago when Melanie Gisler with the Institute for Applied Ecology approached the Tribe with grant funds from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The institute collected seed from the local plants for genetic preservation and brought in Nelson's checkermallow plants from other

reserve sites.

Other native prairie plants were introduced to the property with an emphasis on plants with cultural uses to ensure plant diversity and improved overall ecosystem function. Some of these plants include camas, tarweed, juncus and bitter-root, among others.

Tribal staff is hoping that this site be used in the future as a locally available gathering area for camas and other cultural plants. Currently, plants on this property are not available for harvest because of a need for the plants to be established before gathering can begin. This will ensure a sustainable harvest in the future.

An official celebration marking the opening of the site will occur early next spring when flowers are in full bloom. Until then, take a walk on the gravel paths and enjoy the flowers that are in bloom.

For more information about the Tyee Nature Reserve, contact Tribal Biologist Rebecca McCoun at 503-879-2396 or Tribal Cultural Protection Specialist David Harrelson at 503-879-2320.

Special thanks to Gisler, staff and volunteers from the Institute



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

From left, Melanie Gisler, habitat restoration program director for the Institute for Applied Ecology, Tribal Biologist Rebecca McCoun, Tribal Cultural Protection Specialist and Tribal member David Harrelson and Tribal Forestry Technician and Tribal member Torey Wakeland stand by the new sign at the Tyee Nature Reserve, which is behind the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority building in Grand Ronde on Wednesday, May 30. They each were involved with restoration of the reserve.

for Applied Ecology, the Tribe's fish and wildlife volunteer interns, the Tribe's silviculture crew, grounds

keeping and the 2011 Summer Youth Crew for their contributions to the project. ■

Youth Ed schedules camp

The Tribe's Youth Education Program is holding a two-day Camp Dakota on Monday and Tuesday, July 16-17, in Scotts Mills.

The program will start with lunch in Salem and then will travel to Camp Dakota, where participants will go through a rope course, ride a zip line, play paintball and operate remote-controlled cars.

The event is open to male Tribal members, descendants and enrolled Native American students who were in sixth, seventh or eighth grade in 2011-12 school year.

For more information or reserve a spot, contact Chris Bailey at 503-879-4534 or by e-mail at chris.bailey@grandronde.org. ■

'She was hurting'

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"I was talking to Lucille and trying to get her to respond to me, and get her undone from her seatbelt."

At this time, he added, "The car was pretty much all the way inflated. They had started to spray fire extinguishers."

A Sheridan firefighter pulled Anderson out of the windshield and had the equipment to take out the rest of the glass. And that was quickly removed.

Anderson ran back to the rear driver's side window and reached in for the dog. It didn't want to come when he got its collar, so he reached in and hugged it to his chest and carried the dog out. He brought the dog to Baumann.

Hanes, an unnamed firefighter and EMT pulled Pruhsmeier from the SUV. They put her on a gurney.

"She was hurting," said Wheeler, "but she was not burned and she was conscious. What I remember is her bare feet coming out and the fire coming out. I expected to see her feet all burned."

The bird, flapping wildly inside a Plexiglas cage with small breathing holes in the back of the SUV, was last to emerge, Anderson said. Hanes never saw the bird.

Afterwards, when the adrenalin subsided, Wheeler said, "I could have found a corner of the casino to sit down in and cry."

"When the adrenalin wears off, you realize what happened," said Hanes. "The emotions that get you afterwards: I could have bawled."

"I was coughing from the smoke," said Hanes. "Dawn couldn't get a deep enough breath."

Wheeler used "an old fireman's

trick," he said. "I covered my face with my coat and didn't get it as bad."

Heffner, Hanes, Wheeler, Anderson and the crash victims ended up at the Willamette Valley Medical Center in McMinnville. Baumann went from there to Oregon Health & Science University Hospital in Portland.

At the hospital, Hanes found pieces of the tempered glass from the windshield in his jacket pockets.

"I got some plastic string on my glasses," said Wheeler. "I hadn't noticed until after."

Anderson suffered from smoke inhalation with cuts on his leg and hand. "He had been punching the window," said Hanes.

"We're very proud of the unselfish, heroic actions our officers took during this harrowing rescue," said Joann Mercier, director of Security for the casino. "They displayed tremendous courage."

"It says even more that these guys stopped on their own time," she added. "They don't just do their job at work, but also outside of work."

Anderson took in the dog and bird following the accident, said they were "100 percent OK." The bird spent the weekend mimicking the coughing and gasping it had heard, Anderson said.

Baumann and Pruhsmeier were subsequently released from the hospitals. Baumann picked up her pets on Tuesday, June 5, and although she did not return a call for comment, she told Anderson that when things calmed down, she wanted to have everybody over for a barbecue.

"It was the most extreme circumstances," said Hanes, "and the best result." ■

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Contact Brian Krehbiel:
503-879-4639
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Please leave a message with name and number.

