

Tomanowos draws attention

METEORITE continued
from front page

vis Stewart, Tribal Cultural Youth Education specialist, with Tribal Council member Cheryle A. Kennedy providing the invocation.

While Tomanowos has a spiritual and cultural tie to the Grand Ronde people, Stewart said that he's noticed how everyone is drawn to Tomanowos, referring to museum visitors who gather around it.

Tribal youths Shane Thomas and Scott Hedenskog, who were chosen for this year's summer Internship Program between the Tribe and the museum, recited a history of Tomanowos.

Every year, two Grand Ronde youth are chosen for the Internship Program and Stewart served as their chaperone for the first half of the three-week internship. Chris Bailey, Youth Education's high school lead, will serve as chaperone for the second half.

Thomas and Hedenskog spoke about the meteorite's impact with Earth more than 10,000 years ago and how glacial melting and ensuing flooding transported it to the Willamette Valley, where its resting place became a sacred site for the Clackamas Chinooks. They also spoke about Tomanowos' cultural significance to them.

Following the youth, Tribal Historian David Lewis talked about the history of the Clackamas people. He said that Tomanowos has a very powerful presence and it is awe-inspiring that Tomanowos has been around for hundreds of generations



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Richard Fenwick and Tribal Council member Kathleen Tom talk before the private ceremony with Tomanowos held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on Monday, June 23.

of Grand Ronde people.

Kennedy said that she was glad to be in New York City with her cousins, Tribal Council member Kathleen Tom and Tribal Elder Laura Lund. She said that "Tomanowos is on exhibit at the museum to speak for us."

Kennedy said that the meteorite has a longevity, along with the Clackamas people. She said she sits back and reflects upon what her ancestors did and it gives her strength and hope to move forward and find ways to resolve issues. She

also added that she decided that she needed to come back for the ceremony to renew and refresh.

Tribal Council member Denise Harvey was attending her second ceremony. Her first time was in 2005 when she served as a chaperone for Tribal young women who were interns that year.

Harvey said the ceremony is very touching and meaningful, and she's very fortunate to come again.

Tom said she was glad to see the young men and hoped that they learn about the Tribe and their

families. She also said that "it's such a blessing to be here today" and every year that she has attended the ceremony it gets even deeper.

Tribal Elder Richard Fenwick thanked everybody for the opportunity and added, "The souls of my ancestors thank you for this opportunity." He said that the ceremony was intense and all his ancestors' souls came out.

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Grand Ronde Tribal members who participated in this year's private ceremony with Tomanowos at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City are from, left, Travis Stewart, Scott Hedenskog (behind Stewart), Shane Thomas, Chelsea Clark, Tribal Elder Laura Lund, Tribal Council members Cheryle A. Kennedy, Kathleen Tom and Denise Harvey, Tribal Historian David Lewis and Tribal Elder Richard Fenwick.