

Tribal police dog Nixwa put down during attack

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal K-9 Police Officer Nixwa was killed while he was attacking the family members of a Grand Ronde police officer on Sunday, March 20, in Otis outside of Lincoln City.

The Tribal police officer had been caring for Nixwa for about a month at his home.

“A tragedy occurred when a Tribal police dog bit family members of one of our Tribal police officers,” said a March 21 statement released by Tribal Council. “Our thoughts and hopes for a speedy recovery are with those who were injured. The Grand Ronde Tribal Police are working with other local authorities to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident.

“When animals are involved, no matter how well-trained, there is always a measure of unpredictability and action must be taken to protect all involved. During the course of the attack it became necessary to put the dog down to cease the attack. We expect a full report in the days to come. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those affected by this tragic incident.”

According to a Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office press release, Nix-



Smoke Signals file photo

Tribal K-9 Police Officer Nixwa

wa attacked a 2-year-old boy and when the boy’s mother attempted to pull Nixwa off the child, she was attacked.

The mother alerted a next door neighbor by throwing a stick at his window, causing him to look outside. The neighbor fired one round from a shotgun over Nixwa, but the dog continued biting the woman. The neighbor then fired a second round, which stopped the attack.

Nixwa was ruled deceased by Animal Service Deputy David Martin upon his arrival, the press release

stated.

Martin told the *Lincoln City News Guard* that the dog was being kept in a kennel at the officer’s home and the wife and son let the dog out for a bathroom break. “It’s unknown why, but the dog attacked the child,” Martin said.

Martin added that the officer in charge of Nixwa had worked the night shift.

Both victims were transported to Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital in Lincoln City. The boy was then transferred to Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland where he was treated and released for multiple bite wounds on his ear and legs. The mother remained in Lincoln City and also was treated and released for multiple bite wounds on her legs.

Martin said no charges were filed in the case.

The police officer’s family and neighbor requested that their names not be released and the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office did not cite an address where the incident occurred because it is the home of

a law enforcement officer.

Nixwa was selected in January 2014 from among three dogs at Adlerhorst International Kennels in Riverside, Calif., to join the Grand Ronde Police Department. Nixwa, which is Chinuk wawa for “show me,” was certified by the National Police Canine Association and Oregon Police Canine Association in 2014 for drug detection.

During his career with the Tribal Police Department, Nixwa was credited with sniffing out more than \$29,000 worth of illicit drugs for various law enforcement agencies in the West Valley area.

Nixwa was a male Belgian Malinois and was 4 years old.

At the Wednesday, March 23, Tribal Council meeting, Tribal Chairman Reyn Leno said that Tribal Council would not entertain any questions about the incident until a thorough investigation was completed.

“Our main focus right now is on the well-being of those involved,” Leno said. “This is a tragic event and we are doing everything in our power to support our Tribal police family.” ■

Includes information from the Lincoln City News Guard.

Board seeking younger veterans

The Tribal Veterans Special Event Board is attempting to recruit younger veterans – Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans – to join.

“Our committee is getting older,” said Veterans SEB Chairman Steve Bobb Sr., who is a Vietnam War-era Marine Corps veteran.

Members of the Special Event Board attend events as flag carriers and represent the Tribe, as well as their branch of service.

Veterans interested in volunteering should contact Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Martin at 503-879-2304 or stacia.martin@grandronde.org. ■

Ceremonial Hunting Update

We currently have one vacancy for a board member on our committee. We meet quarterly at Natural Resources on a Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. If anyone is interested, please contact Michele Volz at Natural Resources for an application. I would love to have a new member with fresh ideas and a commitment to improving our harvest rate. We have had two deer harvested thus far this year. In April, we will be able to hunt for elk and hopefully can increase our meat supply for Tribal use. Good luck to those of you who have tags and if anyone has questions, please call me, Marline Groshong, at 503-474-7000. ■

Night at the Museum

April 8th– April 9th

Join Culture Department for our Second “Night at the Museum”!

Event is for youth in Grades 6-12 and will include food, games, activities and a movie.

Registration: In order to attend, you must register with the Culture Department prior to the event. To register contact Flicka Lucero at 503-879-2268. Attendance is limited to the first 20 registrants, make sure to sign up early!

What to bring:
 1- Parent or guardian to sign you into the event.
 2- Sleeping bag & pillow
 3- Toiletries
 4- Optional- Camera
 Please leave all other electronic devices at home.

Drop-off: 5:30 pm April 8th
 Pick-up: 9:00 am April 9th
 No late pick-ups !!

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
 Culture Department
 8720 Grand Ronde Road
 Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347
 Phone: 503-879-2226

free gardening course

Seed to Supper: Growing Veggies on a Budget

Mondays
April 4th-May 9th
6-8 pm

Learn low-cost ways to build healthy soil, plan your growing space, choose your crops, care for your growing garden, and harvest your bounty!

where
 Iskam Mek h Mek Haws
 9675 Grand Ronde Rd.
Taught indoors with possible visits to onsite garden

how
 Registration is required. Contact Surabhi at 503-581-3855.
 Contact Francene Ambrose at 503-879-3663 for more information.

details
 Please plan to attend all 6 classes. Participants get a free gardening book, seeds, and other goodies!