

‘It’s pretty amazing’

**TOMANOWOS continued
from page 12**

Other Tribal members in attendance were Tuomi, Galligher, Grout, Tribal intern Payton Smith and Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez.

Family members and significant others at the ceremony were Ron Tuomi (Brenda Tuomi’s husband), Tim Hernandez (Stacia Hernandez’s husband), Michael Baranski (Clark’s husband) and Faith Hayes (Grout’s partner).

“I am glad everyone made it out here,” Stewart said. “This is almost the 20-year anniversary of doing this, but our connection goes back more than 10,000 years. In time, if we learn to listen to this history, it can come back to us. ... There has been a lot of discussion about whether we should have Tomanowos here or in Grand Ronde. No matter what, it is important for our people to come here and listen to it. We want people to get a chance to interact with it.”

After the introduction, the meteorite was washed with rose hip and princess pine-scented water while cedar boughs and personal effects were placed inside and on it. Atanacio lit the sage and soon the area around the meteorite took on the smell of a forest with the sounds of Tribal drumming in the background.

As the ceremony progressed, some attendees climbed the meteorite as a part of the cleansing process to ensure all of it was covered by the water. After the ceremony was complete, the delegation walked several blocks and placed the boughs in the Hudson River. Atanacio, Bailey and Stewart sang and drummed. A crowd of onlookers gathered, watched and listened as the sun set on a warm New York day.

Part of the interns’ duties is to



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

From left, Payton Smith, Tim Hernandez, Travis Stewart, Ron Tuomi, Tribal Council member Brenda Tuomi, Tribal Elders Rick Grout and Leonette Galligher, Chelsea Clark, Kaleb Reid, Stacia Hernandez, Michael Baranski, back, Nicolas Atanacio and Chris Bailey participated in the 18th private ceremony honoring Tomanowos at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on Wednesday, June 20.

educate the public about the significance of Tomanowos, so with some encouragement they spoke with those who had gathered around.

It is Bailey’s fourth time to New York City to participate in the ceremony and help supervise interns.

“It’s fun to see the kids get this experience outside of what they are used to,” he said. “Every year, it is a group of much different personalities and a whole new adventure.”

Smith and Reid’s duties of greeting and educating museum visitors of all ages from all over the world about the Tribe and the meteorite are no easy task for teens used to living in small communities back home.

“For many visitors from other countries, Spaghetti Westerns may be their only experience with Native Americans,” Bailey said.

“Some people don’t even think Indians exist anymore,” Stewart added.

Smith, 16, said being a museum

intern was “the coolest thing I have ever done.”

“I really enjoy learning about the science behind the meteorite and cultural side,” he said. “The idea of seeing and knowing we had a meteorite is fascinating. Standing by it is just jaw dropping.”

Smith said the most challenging aspect of being a museum intern is learning to talk to strangers.

“We supply the Tribal side of the story as well as what makes the meteorite look the way it does,” he said. “We are learning how to interact with various age groups.”

Being from the small town of Rainier, Smith said adjusting to life in the big city is a bit of a culture shock.

“But everyone is really friendly,” Smith said. “I wasn’t expecting that. And there are a lot of people. My favorite part is being in the hall of meteorites or just coming in here where Tomanowos is at. We have learned a lot about the universe.”

Reid, 17 and a Willamina resident, said he appreciates the opportunity to soak in the sights and sounds of the Big Apple.

“I like all of the food and exploring the city,” he said. “It’s definitely different than Willamina and I am learning what I can about the meteorite and getting in depth at the museum.”

Reid encourages other young people to apply for the New York internship.

“Give it a chance, it’s pretty amazing,” he said.

Eighteenth year of partnership

On Thursday, June 21, the Grand Ronde delegation was welcomed back to the museum for a private breakfast of fruit, sausage and egg frittatas in the Astor Turret.

The Grand Ronde delegation included Brenda and Ron Tuomi, Grout, Stacia and Tim Hernandez, Galligher, Smith, Reid, Baranski, Clark, Atanacio and Stewart.

Breakfast attendees from the museum included Senior Vice President

for Institutional Advancement, Strategic Planning and Education Lisa Gugenheim, Communications Senior Vice President Anne Canty, Senior Vice President Ann Siegel, Earth and Planetary Sciences Curator Denton Ebel, General Counsel Sheree Carter-Galvan, Associate Director of Visitor Services Larry Spain, Senior Manager of Museum Learning Melanie Cohen, Associate Director of Foundation Support Kim Thompson-Almanzor, Assistant Director of Government Relations Danielle Mazzeo, Senior Director of Education Mariet Morgan, Strategic Planning and Foundation Support Director Emily Summerhays, Public Programs and Exhibition Education Director Bella Desai, Director of Foundation and Government Relations Angela Stach, Manager of Middle and High School Programs Leah Golubchick, Development Associate Jeamir Diaz, Cultural Anthropology Educator Marissa Gamliel, Vice President of Institutional Advancement Camille Coley and Manager of Government Relations Caitlin Miller.

“It’s always very special to me to meet new members of the delegation and to welcome you to the museum every year,” Gugenheim

**TOMANOWOS continued
on page 14**



Tribal Council member Brenda Tuomi, middle, talks with American Museum of Natural History’s Assistant Director of Government Relations Danielle Mazzeo, right, after gifting her and Kim Thompson-Almanzor, associate director of Foundation Support at the museum, a beaded necklace, chocolate, sage and cedar rose during a breakfast held at the museum on Thursday, June 21.

Tribal Council member Brenda Tuomi and her husband Ron read information about Tomanowos before the start of the 18th private ceremony honoring the meteorite at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on Wednesday, June 20.

