

DECEMBER 15, 2002



SMOKE SIGNALS

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

www.grandronde.org

UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA

Child's Play



Photos by Peta Tinda

All The Secrets In The World And Someone Special To Tell Them To — Chinuk Language Immersion students Kyoni Mercier and Lauren Lucio share a secret during class. As many Tribal languages die each year, the Grand Ronde Tribe's Language Immersion program is the first in Oregon to teach children Chinuk Wawa — leading to a revival of the language in our community through our young people. (See special pullout section inside).

INTERIM CASINO CEO KNOWS THE ROPES

■ Bill Pierce brings his experience with the Oregon State Police to the job.

By Ron Karten

Bill Pierce, a Cherokee Tribal member, grew up in Willamina, joined the Marines after high school and spent a year that changed his life with a rifle company in Vietnam.

"It was a real formative time," he said. "I haven't been really excit-

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BILL PIERCE

Photo by Ron Karten



Photo by Peta Tinda

Back In The Day — Tribal member Jesse Peters stands proudly with a cedar plank that he split for the Tribe's planned longhouse. Peters and members of his family joined Tribal Elder Don Day and friends to volunteer their time to split cedar planks for the longhouse in the traditional ways of the past.

Traditional Longhouse Project Gains Momentum

■ Tribal members volunteer to split cedar planks the old-fashioned way, with tools from days gone by.

By Peta Tinda

Splitting cedar logs is hard work. Particularly if it's raining, and you're slipping down a muddy hillside in the middle of the wilderness somewhere.

None of this seems to bother Tribal member Don Day and his crew of a half-dozen volunteers. In fact, the harder it rains, the more

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