



SMOKE SIGNALS

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A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

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UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA

Tribe Lends A Helping Hand To Contamination Cleanup



Photos by Toby McClary

Together — On Saturday, February 11, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy spoke to the importance of the cleanup at the McCormick and Baxter Superfund site in the Portland Harbor. "We want to let you know that this site is in the homelands of the Grand Ronde people," said Kennedy.

■ Everybody celebrates a dramatic improvement by planting trees and shrubs at the McCormick and Baxter Superfund site.

By Ron Karten

The continuing cleanup at the McCormick and Baxter Superfund site in Portland Harbor was punctuated on Saturday, February 11, with the planting of more than 10,000 native trees and shrubs.

"We want to let you know," said Grand Ronde Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy, "that this site is in the homeland of the Grand Ronde people."

She said that the Grand Rondes were "astonished to what degree contamination affected the lands and peoples that lived here."

Representatives of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Governor's office, the City of Portland as well as community and public interest groups also spoke at a short ceremony nestled between the plantings at the shore of the Willamette River. Five other Tribes also participate in the

clean-up effort, though none were represented at the ceremony.

"What has been accomplished here in the last few years runs counter to

the idea that government can't get things done," said EPA Regional Administrator in Seattle Michael Bogart.

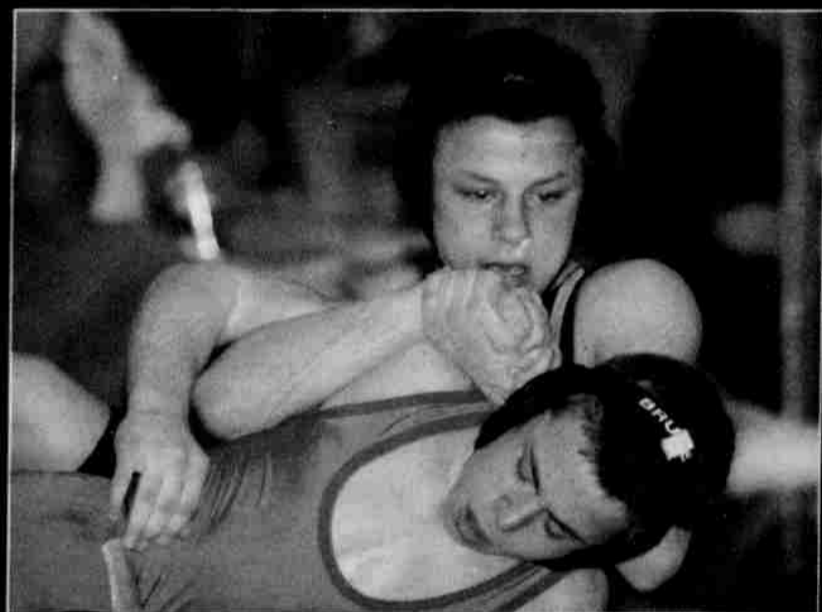
The McCormick and Baxter site is one of seven Superfund sites within the Portland Harbor, itself a Superfund site, established in 2000. The McCormick and Baxter Creosoting Company operated from the 1940s to 1991 as a wood-treatment facility on 41 acres along the east side of the Willamette River.

According to an EPA and DEQ Project newsletter

from the spring of 2005, "The site is contaminated with creosote, arsenic, dioxin and pentachlorophenol (PCP), a common wood-treating chemical. All of these are harmful



Tree Story — Sheadon Lawes, 2-1/2 of Portland, digs a hole for one of some 10,000 trees and shrubs.



Photos by Toby McClary

Intensity Tribal member and Willamina Sophomore Brandon Linton locks a hold on Issac Jepson from Clatskanie at the district tournament held at Sheridan High School on the weekend of February 10-11. Linton went on to place second in the 119 pound weight class. **More photos on page 6.**



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