



Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribe buys island in Clackamas River



By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council voted to purchase a 17.5-acre island in the Clackamas River for \$75,000 at its Feb. 19 meeting.

Apsug Itcalxum, which means “the area of Eagle Creek” in the Clackamas Chinook language, is located west of Eagle Creek and near Bonnie Lure State Park, which is within the Tribe’s ceded lands.

The island is comprised of two tax lots in Clackamas County and is of cultural significance to the Grand Ronde Tribe.

“The history of this area is very important to the Tribe,” said Tribal Land and Culture Manager Jan Looking Wolf Reibach. “In addition to

being a summer fishing place for the Clackamas Chinook people, this was near the birthplace of John Wacheno, son of Chief Wacheno, who signed the Willamette Valley Treaty for the Tribe.”

The Willamette Valley Treaty, signed in 1855, ceded most of the northern Willamette Valley between the Cascade and Coast mountain ranges to the federal government in exchange for a reservation and benefits, such as health care and education.

Reibach said he is expecting to close on the land purchase in early March.

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Lone star bears



Photo courtesy of Kelly Dirksen

From left, Jamie Jackman, Joey Sheffield and Trevor Jackman, a falling crew from subcontractor Cross and Crown Inc., hold bear cubs that they accidentally came upon on Tuesday, Feb. 18, in a bear den in a hollowed-out log during a logging operation. They helped save the cubs on Thursday, Feb. 20.

Cubs saved from starvation by loggers and Tribal, state officials headed to Austin, Texas, zoo

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Three black bear cubs soon will be on their way to a Texas zoo after being saved from almost certain starvation by loggers and state and Grand Ronde Tribal employees.

Grand Ronde Fish and Wildlife Program

Manager Kelly Dirksen said he was contacted by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Don Vandebergh, who is based out of Portland, about a Stimson Logging Co. logging operation occurring immediately south of Tribal lands in western Yamhill County.

The falling crew from subcontractor Cross

and Crown Inc. accidentally came upon a bear den in a hollowed-out log on Tuesday, Feb. 18, that was occupied by a sow and her cubs.

“They had no indication earlier that a den was in the area,” Dirksen said. “They looked

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