



New Exhibit: The Grand Ronde Canoe Journey at The Willamette Heritage Center *at The Mill*

WHAT: The Grand Ronde Canoe Journey
WHEN: Friday, April 8 through Monday, May 30, 2011
WHERE: 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, OR 97301
COST: FREE with Mission Mill Museum admission

This Spring, the Willamette Heritage Center is proud to welcome the Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde as they unveil their special exhibition, ***Grand Ronde's Canoe Journey***. The exhibition is curated by David Lewis, Manager, Cultural Resources Department, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in collaboration with Willamette Heritage Center ***at The Mill***.

This exhibition brings to life the cultural importance and heritage of the historic shovelnose canoes used by the Native Peoples to travel throughout the Willamette Valley. These canoes, perfect for the shallow Willamette River, were smaller and more agile than the larger, more familiar Chinook style-canoes that plied the Columbia. In the first section of the exhibition, the two oldest Kalapuya shovelnose canoes known to be in existence will be on display - one from Grand Ronde and the other from the Center's collection.

In addition to highlighting the types and technology of historic canoes, the exhibition explores how they were a central part of Native culture in what is now western Oregon. The exhibition moves from the historic canoes into a discussion of how the Grand Ronde community is rediscovering the art of canoe making. This is the Canoe Journey tradition, a recent cultural phenomenon among the Northwest Native People. Finally, for the first time in living memory, Grand Ronde community members will come to the Center to create a Kalapuya Shovelnose Canoe in the historically accurate style. This new construction will be visible to visitors and offers the opportunity to chat with the canoe builders and watch the progress of the canoe, both in person and online via the Center's website.

This Exhibition is Presented by the Confederated Tribe of Grand Ronde along with a donation from Bill and Judy Meier. The Canoe Recreation was made possible in part by a grant from Oregon Humanities (OH), a statewide nonprofit organization and an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, which funds OH's grant program. Contributing In-Kind Sponsorship also provided by Interpretive Exhibits, Inc.

For more information, visit www.missionmill.org or call 503 585 7012.

The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill, a unification between Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society, is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an *American Treasure* by the National Park Service. Since its founding in 1964 as a private non-profit association, Mission Mill Museum has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon's history. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily and group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit <http://www.missionmill.org>.

The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies.

Submitted by: Cheryl Clark, Aura Marketing, cclark@auramarketing.com ###