

Heritage center revives local history journal

Who, besides old-timers, knew that Albany-Lebanon once boasted a ballroom that drew such storied entertainers as Johnny Cash and "Fats" Domino?

How many locals know the stories behind the names of Salem-Keizer's schools and how naming trends reflect our society?

These stories and more are part of the Willamette Heritage Center's new journal, "Willamette Valley Voices: Connecting Generations." Vol. 1, No. 1 has just been published; it's on sale for \$10 at the heritage center's gift shop.

The theme for this first edition is "Public Spaces." The eight articles are by local historians, graduate students and governmental and tribal officials.

The publication revives an old practice of the Marion County Historical Society, which merged with the Mission Mill Museum to create the Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill.

The historical society used to chronicle various aspects of local history in a publication titled "Marion History."

"It always has been a desire of Willamette Heritage Center to bring that tradition

back," said Executive Director Peter Booth.

He said that as a relative newcomer (four years) to the Mid-Valley, he learned a lot from the new journal.

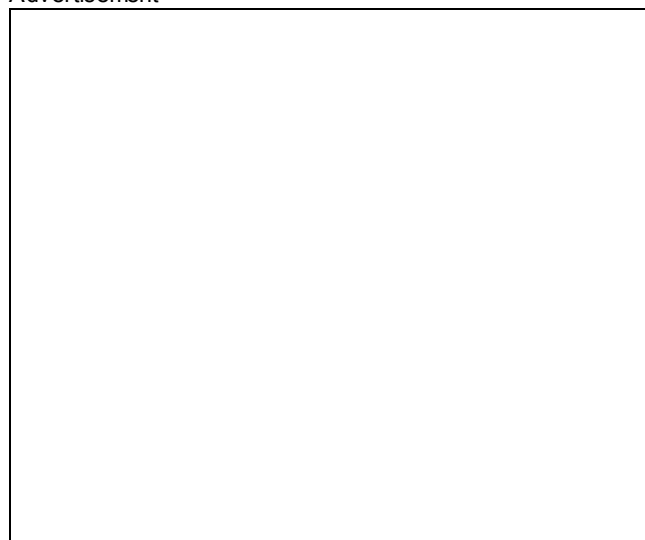
He mentioned "A House Built of Cedar Planks," the article by David G. Lewis, cultural resources department director for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community. It relates how tribal members re-created a traditional home to celebrate their culture.

"A cedar house has never been built on what is now the reservation," Booth said. "It was a great opportunity ... for a community disrupted by disease and forced relocation, that has been struggling since the 1860s ... It shows how far the community has come."

The publication is billed as "a showcase for scholarly writing," but that shouldn't deter nonhistorians, Booth said.

"This is a storybook about various aspects

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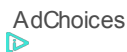
of our community,” he said. “It’s part of the rich fabric of the Willamette Valley’s heritage.”

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About the journal

“Willamette Valley Voices: Connecting Generations, Vol. 1, No. 1” is available for \$10 at the Willamette Heritage Center gift shop, 1313 Mill St. SE.

“Community Celebrations” is the theme for issue No. 2. Abstracts of up to 200 words can be submitted through Aug. 31. If accepted, writers can submit papers of 2,000 to 7,000 words. For details, contact curator Keni Sturgeon, (503) 585-7012, Ext. 257, or ksturgeon@statesmanjournal.com



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