



Willamette Heritage Center *at The Mill* Announces New Spring Exhibition

WHAT: **ill?í luchmən – ntsayka ikanum: *Grand Ronde Women – Our Story***
WHERE: The Willamette Heritage Center *at The Mill*, 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, OR, 97301
WHEN: Friday, April 6 through Monday, May 28
COST: Free with Mission Mill Museum admission
INFO: 503-585-7012, <http://www.willametteheritage.org>

Women have always held vital and varied roles among the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, whose members descend from western Oregon. Tribal women are artists, entrepreneurs, teachers, doctors, and council and religious leaders, as well as mothers, grandmothers, daughters, aunts and sisters. This exhibition celebrates the women of the Grand Ronde community, past, present and future. Purchase area vendor wares like hand-dyed yarns or browse through the wonderful shops.

This exhibition is created and sponsored in part by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Also sponsored in part by the City of Salem Transient Occupancy Tax Grant with additional help provided by Salem Weekly, Bank of the Cascades, Jennifer Jopp & Bill Smaldone, Gretchen & Mike Moon, Anne & Everett Mozell, and Ellen Eisenberg & Ami Korsunsky.

Educational Offerings: *Women in the Native Community of Western Oregon*

In conjunction with the exhibit, the WHC and the Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) are planning a series of educational offerings that focus on key aspects of Grand Ronde culture highlighting the importance of women to the Native community in western Oregon.

April 7: Book Signing and Presentation: June Olson, Great Circle, *The Grand Ronde Reservation: 1855-1905*, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm in the Church. Free.

June Olson, former manager of CTGR's Cultural Resources Cost: Department, has published this unique look at the first generation to call the Grand Ronde Reservation home.

April 7: Panel: Grand Ronde Women Leaders: Former US Representative Elizabeth Furse, Moderator, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm in the Church. Free to CTGR and WHC members, \$2 students with ID, \$5 non-members.

Always important to the Native community of western Oregon, women were especially instrumental in securing Grand Ronde's restoration of tribal recognition. They continue to provide valuable leadership for the community today. This discussion about the triumphs and challenges they and the People encountered will include former Tribal Chair Kathryn Harrison, current Tribal Chair Cheryle Kennedy and Council Member Kathleen Tom.

April 24: Chinuk Wawa Language Presentation and Class

Presented by Dr. Henry Zenk, University of Oregon and Kathy Cole, CTGR Cultural Education Coordinator
11:00 am - 1:00 pm in the Church. Free.

The Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is working to preserve the language that was once a common trade language among the western Oregon Native Peoples - Chinuk Wawa. In the first hour, Henry Zenk will speak about his recently published Chinuk Wawa dictionary. In the second hour, Kathy Cole will lead a Chinuk Wawa class with elders and youth in a school-like setting.

May 12: Grand Ronde Weaving Demonstration

11:00 pm - 3:00 pm, part of *Sheep to Shawl*. Free.

Weaving has long been a tradition among Northwest Native Peoples. This art form survives among the Grand Ronde community. Native weavers Connie Graves, Margaret Mathewson, Stephanie Wood and others will demonstrate contemporary basket weaving at the WHC's 28th Annual *Sheep to Shawl*. Examples of their work will also be available.

May 19: Grand Ronde Dance Demonstration and Presentation

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. \$2 Students, \$3 WHC and CTGR members, \$5 non-members.

Led by CTGR Language and Cultural Specialist Bobby Mercier, community members will demonstrate the beauty and rhythm of western Oregon Native Dance and Music.

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.willametteheritage.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.

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