June 11, 2010

“Oregon is Indian Country” exhibit in Grants Pass

GRANTS PASS – Rogue Community College, ArtWorks, Home Valley Bank and Josephine Community Library are hosting a special exhibit of Oregon’s Native American heritage, June 13 through July 9.

“Oregon is Indian Country” brings all nine Oregon tribes together to present never-before-assembled information into one exhibit on contemporary indigenous cultures. Oregon’s Indian traditions will be represented through native voices, historical artifacts, photographs, and more.

The exhibit is a result of the Oregon Tribes Project, a multi-year collaboration between the Oregon Historical Society’s Folklife Program and Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes. Tribal members documented their contemporary traditions and worked with society staff to plan a series of heritage resources to teach about tribal histories and cultures.

“We have survived the tidal wave of immigration to our country,” said Antone Minthorn, chairman, board of trustees, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservations. “The American public needs to hear these stories of survival. This place, the United States of America, is our home, but we all have a voice in shaping a legacy for our children.”

“Oregon is Indian Country” will be shown in three-parts at three locations; there is a map available to assist viewers navigate among the different sites.

Rogue Community College and ArtWorks will host “Traditions that Bind” at the RCC FireHouse Gallery, 214 SW 4th St. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday or by appointment.

This portion of the exhibit is an investigation into the cultural heritage of Oregon’s tribes, including their oral traditions, material culture, art and traditional ways of life. The exhibit highlights ceremony and tradition, language, and how traditions are important in the survival of people and their cultures. Call 541-957-7849 for more information.

Home Valley Bank will host “Federal Indian Policies,” which explores the changed lives since the first official exploration by the U.S. government into the territory, Lewis and Clark’s expedition in 1805. This part of the exhibit explores the complexities of current issues affecting Indian country through an examination of significant historical events and policies such as sovereignty, treaties, the reservations system, termination and restoration.

Home Valley Bank is at the corner of 4th and G streets. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays.

(more)
Josephine Community Library is hosting “The Land,” which looks at how the physical environment influences tribal cultures, uses of natural resources, and the ties that tribes have with the land.

The Josephine Community Library is at 200 NW C St. Hours are 2-7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, and 12-4 p.m. Saturday. For more information call 541-476-0571.

Support for the exhibit is provided by the following organizations: Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation; Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund and the Siletz Tribal Council; Spirit Mountain Community Fund; Wildhorse Foundation; Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Oregon State Library National Endowment for the Arts; Oregon Arts Commission; Oregon Heritage Commission; Collins Foundation; Jackson Foundation; PGE Foundation; and Oregon Council for the Humanities.

###

N10-88