

Portland exhibit to feature tribal art

Ancestral art of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs will be part of an exhibition in January at the Portland Art Museum.

The exhibit, *People of the River: Native Arts of the Oregon Territory*, will run from January 22 through May 29, 2005.

This will be the first major exhibition to focus specifically on the art created by the Native Americans who lived from time immemorial along the shores of the Columbia River, said Bill Mercer, curator of Native American art at the Portland Art Museum.

Cultures featured in the exhibit will be those of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Umatilla, Yakama, Grand Ronde and Chinook.

The exhibition has been carefully assembled to present a comprehensive overview of the artistic traditions that emerged over thousands of years and countless generations along the Columbia River. "This region has been continuously populated from time immemorial by the direct ancestors of our current tribal communities," Mercer said.

The exhibit, he said, will be divided into three sections:

sculpture, beading and basketry.

The goal is to present a comprehensive examination of the artistic traditions that emerged, while emphasizing the uniqueness of these traditions and how they emerged independently of any other cultural region in North America, said Mercer.

People of the River consists of 204 objects dating from the pre-contact era to the middle of the Twentieth Century.

The objects are being brought together from private collections and museums around the country including the Portland Art Museum, Field Museum of Natural History, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, Maryhill Museum of Art, and the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, among others.

There has never been a major museum exhibition that has examined the arts and culture of the Columbia River before, and this will be the most extensive collection of these art works ever assembled, said Mercer.

Many of these objects were collected more than 100 years ago, have been stored away in museums and private collections, and have never been on public display before.

People of the River will identify

and trace specific stylistic characteristics that through time, and from one medium to another, further emphasize the unique nature of Columbia River art.

The first section of the exhibition focuses on sculptural works made from stone, wood, horn, bone, and antler, including some that pre-date European contact.

Highlighting this section of the exhibition is a four and one-half-foot tall anthropomorphic figure carved from basalt that is the largest pre-contact Native American stone sculpture ever found in North America.

The second section of the exhibition will feature the various basketry forms and techniques used by the people of the Columbia River.

Included in this portion of the exhibition are rare Nineteenth-Century Chinook baskets, as well as finely woven cylinder baskets created by the Wasco and Wishram.

The final section of the exhibition consists of beadwork, a major form of artistic expression, with an additional focus on the art of a rare type of woven beadwork made only on the Columbia River and nowhere else in North America.

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School board to meet Nov. 8 in Warm Springs

The Jefferson County School District 509-J Board of Directors will meet in Warm Springs at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 8.

The meeting, in the library of Warm Springs Elementary School, will be in regard to Impact Aid funds.

The public is invited to attend. Parents and guardians of students who reside on the reservation are encouraged to ask questions and state opinions regarding district 509-J programs and the

use of funds.

The school district board meets annually in Warm Springs to discuss federal Impact Aid funding. The funds are in lieu of property taxes.

People who have disabilities who wish to attend the meeting are asked to contact the district 509-J office. Call Cindy Harris at 475-6192 to discuss special arrangements, which may allow full participation in this public hearing.

Lecture series at High Lookee

Suzie Slockish of the Culture and Heritage Department will be the featured speaker this afternoon, October 28, at High Lookee Lodge.

Slockish will speak as part of the *Celilo, Salmon, & Smoke* lecture series, presented by the

Warm Springs branch of Central Oregon Community College.

For the occasion, High Lookee will serve a salmon lunch for \$3. To reserve a lunch, call 553-1182. The program begins at noon.

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Truancy meetings help address lack of attendance

Are you concerned about your youth's education?

If you are, then Flossie Wolfe of the Juvenile Coordinator's Office encourages you to attend a Community Truancy Board meeting.

Attending a meeting is a good way to begin doing something about a potential problem in a student's school attendance, said Wolfe.

Community Truancy Board meetings are held at the Juvenile coordinator's office, upstairs at the Tribal Courthouse. The meetings are from 6 to 8 p.m., the first of every month until the end of the school year.

"If you live in the community of Warm Springs, Simnasho, Sildwalter or Seekseequa, then please come and join us," said Wolfe.

"We have been having these meetings for the last two years now, and we have only a few interested members. We need more people to show interest in our children's attendance," said Wolfe.

For more information, call Wolfe at the Juvenile Coordinator's office, 553-3335.



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