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Casino employees help save motorists — pg. 6

Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Canoe exhibit honored

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

The revival of traditional canoe culture in Grand Ronde was honored recently by the nation's leading history museum association.

The Tribe and Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill won the 2012 Award of Merit from the Nashville-based American Association of State and Local History for the "Grand Ronde Canoe Journey" exhibit.

The exhibit was displayed at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem during April and May 2011. The exhibit came out as the top entry for recognition in the association's Leadership in History program.

David Lewis, manager of the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department, said the award "means we are doing good work, and the local community

is beginning to recognize and understand the importance of the cultural work occurring.

"We were asked to submit (this exhibit to the AASLH) by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, so people are getting what we are doing. This is important because 10 years ago, few Oregonians knew we had a living culture."

"This exhibit is really fulfilling the mission of Willamette Heritage Center," said Executive Director Peter Booth. "We are dedicated to bringing out the heritage of the peoples in the valley. It's a big job. And part of it is to eke out partnerships that are going to help us do that. This partnership is exactly what we envisioned when we set out on our mission: Better preserving the story and the heritage, and bringing them to the larger



Smoke Signals file photo

The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill in Salem and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde won the 2012 Award of Merit from the Leadership in History program of the American Association of State and Local History.

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Tribal members visit Tomanowos

By Michelle Alaimo

Smoke Signals photographer

NEW YORK CITY — Tribal member Lisa Archuleta, Tribal Services Representative for the Portland area office, said during her first visit to Tomanowos, "As soon as I walked into the museum, I felt the energy. It was very strong, very powerful."

Archuleta was participating in the Tribe's annual private ceremony with Tomanowos, the 15.5-ton Willamette meteorite that was found 110 years ago in modern-day West Linn near Willamette Falls. The ceremony took place at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, which has been Tomanowos' home since 1906, on Monday, June 11.

See TOMANOWOS
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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Arlene Kautz takes a photo of an informational sign about Tomanowos during the Tribe's private ceremony with the meteorite at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on Monday, June 11.

Float rocks



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Spirit Mountain Casino's float, "Love Rocks," rolls down Northwest Weidler Street in Portland during the Spirit Mountain Casino Grand Floral Parade on Saturday, June 9. Models for the float were Tribal members Kiana Leno and Peter Nelson. The float won the President's Award and was the lead float in the parade.

Tribal Elders Laura Lund, left, and Kathryn Harrison work on covering part of a Spirit Mountain Casino sign with rice that was dyed blue as they help decorate the casino's float in Portland on Thursday, June 7. When the sign was completely covered with natural materials, it went on the casino's float, "Love Rocks." See more photos and story on page 5.

