

For more information, contact:
Samantha Brown
Manager, Development & PR
Historic New Harmony
812.682.4488
sabrown1@usi.edu



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLUNGE INTO THE WABASH HERITAGE PADDLE FEST

Family-fun day offers food, music, games, canoe challenge and FREE kayak

NEW HARMONY, IN (July 17, 2008) – Sponsored by the Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation, Shetler Moving & Storage, Inc. and Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, the 4th annual *Wabash Heritage Paddle Fest (WHPF)* will be held **Saturday, August 16**. The day-long event will include a 9.7 mile canoe float with registration/check-in beginning at 7:30 a.m. in New Harmony. The canoe float will start at 10:00 a.m. in Grayville, Illinois. All activities will end at 3 p.m.

Grayville mayor, Henry Kijonka, has issued a challenge to Ralph Weinzapfel, Posey County Council, that the Illinois war canoe will beat the Indiana war canoe, in a race to the finish line. The winning paddlers will be treated to dinner and drinks by the losing canoe.

Regarding the *WHPF* event, Kijonka stated, "It will be an opportunity for all the communities on the Wabash to share this great experience that illustrates tremendous natural resources that Indiana and Illinois share."

In addition to the canoe challenge, special events will take place throughout the day in both communities. In Grayville, a pancake breakfast, sponsored by the Grayville Lions Club, will begin at 8 a.m. while "Quick Start" canoe classes will be offered at 9 a.m. In New Harmony, food provided by the Red Geranium Restaurant will be available at 11 a.m., music will begin at noon under the tent at the riverfront and there will also be children's games, as well as historical demonstrations.

Also in New Harmony, sponsors such as Gander Mountain and Top Spot Outdoors will be near the riverfront displaying boats, canoes, kayaks, mountain bikes and will offer coupons and merchandise to anyone who stops by their tents. HOT 96 radio station will remote broadcast and hand out t-shirts. Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission and a new website company www.WabashRiver.us will each display and distribute promotional items. Additional sponsors of the *WHPF* are Historic New Harmony, the University of Southern Indiana, town of Grayville, Gray Cemetery Trust, the Evansville Convention & Visitors Bureau, and television news station 14 WFIE.

All registered paddlers will be entered to win a kayak, courtesy of Gander Mountain. Participants are welcome to use their own canoes or kayaks; canoe rental is available for \$30.00 while supplies last. Registration for adult paddlers is \$25.00; children 15 years of age and under is \$15.00. **Anyone who registers before 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 14 will receive a free *WHPF* t-shirt.** Transportation between New Harmony and Grayville will be free for all registered participants. Any person who wishes to register the day of the event should go to the Atheneum/ Visitors Center located at 401 N. Arthur Street in New Harmony.

An on-line registration form, more day-of-event logistics, information on sponsors, canoe rental, and lodging partners can be found at www.usi.edu/paddlefest or by calling 812.464.1989. Historic New Harmony is a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites.

#