



May is Historic Preservation Month!

Exciting Events planned
See p. 6

Research Deep-Dives

Meet Brad Lemmon, this month's History Article Author
See p. 4



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—APRIL 2023



The Deschutes Public Library's A Novel Idea: Twenty Years of Building Community, One Book at a Time.

When the Deschutes Public Library System (DPLS) started A Novel Idea community read program 20 years ago it was with a simple question in mind: What would happen if everyone in Deschutes County read the same book? The goal was to engage with the community through thought-provoking and relevant programming and wrap it all up with a free and accessible visit from the author. That first year, a small committee of five readers looked for a book with regional roots and selected David James Duncan's *The River Why*. The weeklong A Novel Idea event coincided with National Library Week and ended with a capstone presentation by Duncan; 400 people took part in seven programs.

Fast forward to 2019, the last year pre-pandemic, and A Novel Idea had evolved into a month-long event, with 23 programs drawing in more than 7,500 participants. With a quick pivot to online-only programming in 2020, more than 9,000 people took part in virtual programs and presentations.

The tremendous growth of A Novel Idea is a testament to the readers and thinkers of Deschutes County. Your interest and your enthusiasm have enriched A Novel Idea year after year.

At the end of the second decade of A Novel Idea, clearly a celebration was in order. Picking just one book to mark this tremendous milestone was a daunting task. The DPLS invited back authors from past years, and to their delight, David James Duncan, María Amparo Escandón, Peter Heller, and Anne Griffin all said yes. All four authors will return to Central Oregon on April 29 for the main event, along with more than two dozen engaging programs in the month before their visit.

The Deschutes Historical Museum is proud to partner with the Deschutes Public Library System to honor this celebration with an exhibit showcasing highlights from the last 20 years' events including art quilts, photos, and memorabilia. **Exhibit Opening April 1**

1965 Boundaries of Acceptable Speech at Central Oregon College

By Brad Lemmon

During meetings of a music/art/poetry society on the campus of Central Oregon College (COC) during the 1964-65 school year, Professor Ashleigh Brilliant recited or played recordings of poetry (both his own and by Beat poets) that the college administration found objectionable – the eventual result was that his teaching contract was not renewed.

Main Characters:

Dr. Ashleigh Brilliant (1933-) – Assistant Professor of Social Science, Ph.D. in History from University of California, Berkeley (1963)

Dr. Don Pence (1909-1994) – COC President 1952-1967, Ed.D. in Education from Oregon State University (1960), music educator 1932-1952

Dr. Orde Pinckney (1917-1997) – COC Dean of Instruction, Ph.D. in History from University of California, Berkeley, at COC starting 1955, retired in 1988

Central Oregon Area Education District Board of Directors (Owen Panner – Bend attorney, Robert Chandler – Bend Bulletin Editor, William Miller – Bend businessman, Rupert Park – Redmond attorney, Richard McRae – Prineville accountant, William Robinson – Madras Pioneer Editor, Millard Eakin – Madras businessman)

Faculty Forum – All COC teachers were members. Ashleigh Brilliant was elected President at the start of the 1964-65 school year.

COC Executive Council – Likely consisted of President Pence, Dean Pinckney, and approximately 5 Department heads.

Ashleigh Brilliant was born in 1933 in England. His father was a diplomat and Ashleigh spent most of World War II in the US and Canada. While visiting relatives in 1951, 17-year-old Ashleigh hitch-hiked across the US with a friend. He earned an undergraduate degree in history from University College London in the early 1950s. He spent his 1953 college summer break in Israel. After living 10 years in England after the war, his family moved to the US permanently. In 1955 he studied at Claremont Graduate School near Los Angeles. In 1959, he attended the Vienna Youth Festival and then traveled to the USSR afterwards. In December 1963, Mr. Brilliant received a PhD in History from the University of California, Berkeley. Then 30 years old, Ashleigh Brilliant was broadly educated and well-traveled.



Record that Ashleigh Brilliant played in 1965 (owned by Terry Foley)

In summer 1964 Ashleigh Brilliant, still a British citizen, was interviewed by Don Pence and Orde Pinckney and offered a job teaching history at 15-year-old Central Oregon College (now named Central Oregon Community College). Dr. Brilliant accepted the position and arrived in Bend on August 25, 1964.

COC classes started at the newly built Awbrey Butte campus site on September 28, 1964. Professor Brilliant was assigned one section of US History and three sections of Western Civilization to be taught in Building B (now Deschutes Hall). Since he only had to prepare for two courses, Dr. Brilliant asked President Pence if he could start a music, art, and poetry society that would meet on campus and be open to all members of the community. Dr. Pence approved the idea on October 21, 1964, and the Parnassus Society started meeting on Monday nights in Building C (now the upper part of Ochoco Hall).

Early meetings of the Parnassus Society included readings of poetry by Wilde, Coleridge, Thomas, Arnold, Swinburne, and Chesterton. Local poets also read their work. Folk music was

- Continued on page 3



**Deschutes
Historical Museum**

129 NW Idaho Avenue
Bend, OR 97703
Open Tuesdays-Saturdays
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
541.389.1813

Museum Staff:

Kelly Cannon-Miller, Executive Director
Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager
Rebekah Averette, Collections Manager
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer
Michelle Patrick, Visitor Services



2023 DCHS Board of Directors:

Adrian Bennett, President
Jane Williamson, Vice President
Dan Ellingson, Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members:

Mike Berry, Paul Claeysens, Tony DeBone,
Terry Foley, Greg Fulton, Karen Green,
Heidi Kennedy, Erik King, Susie Penhollow, Liz
Rink, and Scott Stuemke.



Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are on file with the Museum office.



www.deschuteshistory.org
info@deschuteshistory.org

Continued from P. 2— Acceptable Speech at COC

played and Polaroid slides were shown. During the first six Parnassus meetings (from October 26 through November 30), Dr. Brilliant recited "Marriage" by Gregory Corso and some single-line "Unpoemed Titles" of his own. Dean Pinckney had attended a few of the Parnassus meetings, and on December 7, 1964, he told Professor Brilliant that some of the words in the Corso and Brilliant poems had been objectionable. Dr. Brilliant reacted to this by writing a "free speech" letter to the editor on December 12, which appeared in the December 16 *Bend Bulletin* newspaper. The conversation with Dean Pinckney also caused Professor Brilliant to devote the eighth Parnassus Society meeting (December 14) to a panel discussion on "Standards of Good Taste and Question of Obscenity." The panel consisted of Ashleigh Brilliant, Reverend John Bright of the Bend Episcopal Church, Dean Orde Pinckney, and three COC English professors, Eli "Buck" Jenkins, M. Keith Browning, and Harold Ogden. Don Pence also attended – he wasn't part of the panel, but he reluctantly made a statement at the end of the meeting. Dr. Pence said "we are governed by the majority..." "the body politic of this area who support this institution..." He added that he "wouldn't put clamps on academic freedom or freedom of speech." Dr. Pence finished with a warning "...there are limits beyond which you dare not go...". COC did not have a tenure system in 1964-65. So, even veteran teachers placed their careers at risk if their idea of academic freedom differed from the "majority's" or the "body politic's" idea of academic freedom.

Over winter break, Dr. Brilliant hitch-hiked to Los Angeles and stayed with his parents. When he returned to Bend in early January 1965, a pipe had burst in his rental house, so he moved from 1464 Galveston Avenue (4 houses west of the Victorian Café) to 406 Wall Street, Apartment 10 (right next to the Deschutes Historical Museum).

On January 6, 1965, Professor Brilliant announced that he planned to read Allen Ginsberg's poem *Howl* at the next Parnassus meeting on January 11. *Howl* contained far more controversial words and concepts than anything Professor Brilliant had previously read at Parnassus, but *Howl* had been deemed not obscene in a famous 1957 San Francisco trial. On the afternoon of January 11, a special session of the college Executive Council was called and it voted unanimously to suspend the Parnassus Society if an unedited version of *Howl* was read. (English Professors Jenkins, Ogden, and Browning were invited to this executive session, but Professor Brilliant was not.) Professor Brilliant was not informed of the Executive Council's decision. A few hours later, Ashleigh Brilliant played a recording of Allen Ginsberg reading *Howl*. Dr. Pinckney and Dr. Browning attended this Parnassus meeting. On January 13, Doctors Pence and Pinckney presented the Parnassus issue to the Board of Directors. Owen Panner wanted to remove Professor Brilliant from his job immediately, and the other directors except for Rupert Park concurred, but Dr. Pence hadn't made up his mind what to do yet. The directors said they would back any decision that he made. The next day, President Pence met with Dr. Brilliant, suggested that he resign, and told him that his contract probably wouldn't be

renewed for the next school year. On January 15, Dr. Pence sent a registered letter to Dr. Brilliant telling him the Parnassus Society had been dissolved. On January 18, Dr. Brilliant distributed a statement called "Parnassus the Facts." That night, Brilliant held the tenth and final Parnassus Society meeting in his home to discuss the issues at hand. 18 people attended this meeting.

The next day, January 19, 1965, Dr. Pence sent Ashleigh another registered letter telling him to stop facilitating anything like the Parnassus Society, even in his own apartment. At this point, Ashleigh wrote a letter to Oregon U.S. Senator Wayne Morse asking for assistance. (Senator Morse replied on January 27, saying he couldn't provide help since the case was outside of his jurisdiction.) On January 20, the COC Executive Council and about 20 staff members met to discuss the situation – the entire faculty had been invited. Overall, the meeting was a rehashing of previous events and an impasse on the clash between academic freedom and censorship. On January 21, Professor Brilliant wrote a letter that appeared in the January 26 edition of the COC student newspaper *Broadside*. In it, he was critical of student apathy in the situation. The *Broadside* was edited by Bonnita Thomas, the 1963 Bend High School Salutatorian. Bonnita had published pro-Brilliant editorials, but other than that, there wasn't much pro-Brilliant grass-roots student protest occurring. On January 21, the Faculty Forum met and decided to create a 5-person fact finding committee to investigate Dr. Brilliant's situation. The Forum would select 2 members and Professor Brilliant would select 3 members. The Forum elected Education professor/librarian Howard Balderstone and Art professor Ruth Burgderfer. Four days later, Dr. Brilliant picked Botany professor Gerald Bogar, Chemistry professor Lawrence Gossar, and English professor Louise Jones. Professor Gossar was eventually named chairman. On January 26, 1965, Robert Chandler resigned from the Education Board – he cited conflicts between his duties as *Bulletin* editor and his duties on the board – he did not cite the Brilliant situation. But, Chandler did write an editorial on the same day stating Dr. Pence acted wrongly in dissolving the Parnassus Society. Also on January 26, Dr. Brilliant received a letter from Carolyn Robertson, a Secondary Education major at COC. She and others (that preferred to remain anonymous), were on Brilliant's side and were worried about the same situation happening to them in their future teaching careers. Dr. Brilliant asked Carolyn to start a student petition – it received



Dr. Ashleigh Brilliant, from the 1965 Central Oregon College year book

- Continued on page 5

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Brad

Lemmon

By Mike Berry



This month's Volunteer Corner introduces electrical engineer Brad Lemmon to our membership. Brad first became involved with the museum after seeing a request for photo scanning volunteers. He worked on scanning projects at the museum prior to COVID and then when the shutdown lifted he returned to resume this work and also began transcribing some of the Vandever family letters. To bide his time during the lockdown he taught himself how to play the harmonica.

The museum staff soon recognized his talent for doing extremely thorough and accurate research and sought his assistance on various day to day research projects. These included chasing down the origins of a uniform from the White Star Line with possible ties to the Titanic, unraveling the origins of a circa 1930s silent home-movie travelogue of Bend and environs, writing Homesteader newsletter articles and researching family histories.

The research for the White Star Line uniform involved searching through census records, old ships' logs, passenger lists and other obscure documents. The origins of the silent 1930s home movie are unknown. However, a placard at one point reads "Uncle Clay's 7,000 Acre Ranch". Other footage indicated that the filming for this portion of the movie was done in the Ochocos, which led Brad on a detailed search of land records in both Crook and Wheeler Counties for a landowner of considerable acreage with the given name of "Clay". He found a landowner with the middle name of "Clay" who most likely fit the bill of being "Uncle Clay". Brad also mapped the locations where he believes the wide ranging travelogue was filmed.

With his background in genealogy research (he is a member of the Bend Genealogy Society, for which he has served as secretary for the past 2 years), Brad is one of the go-to volunteers for tracking down the obscure lineages of local historical figures.

Having collaborated with Brad on a couple of local historical mysteries I asked him to what he attributes his exacting and detailed research skills. He credits his engineering education and work experience along with untold hours of performing genealogy research, noting that there is a lot of incorrect genealogy information on-line and sorting through imprecise data teaches one to be very careful about research logic.

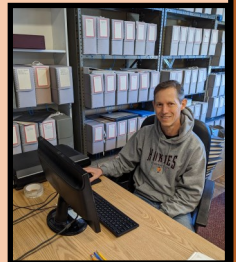
Brad was born in upstate New York and lived there for about 10 years until his family relocated to northern Virginia. He attended Virginia Tech where he received both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering. He also has a M.A. degree in Teaching (Elementary) from OSU-Cascades.

In December 2007 Brad, his wife and their two young daughters hit the road and drove from Virginia across country through ice and snow to settle in Bend. They had friends in Virginia who had spoken glowingly of Bend and earlier in 2007 the Lemmon family visited the Northwest for a month-long reconnoiter of this side of the continent. It was a big decision for a family with deep roots in the Atlantic Seaboard to pull up stakes and tramp out to the Pacific Northwest, but like earlier pioneers to this area they haven't looked back.

Brad's interest in history dates back to his parents' enthusiasm for visiting museums and to living amid many Civil War battlefields. At college he always studied near the Civil War section of the Virginia Tech library and whenever he needed a break from the rigors of studying engineering texts he would select a book from the shelves and read about a general or a battle. At the Deschutes Historical Museum he delights in perusing old maps, studying original documents, examining historical objects and, especially, unraveling historical puzzles. This comes as no surprise, given that he religiously does the Wednesday through Sunday New York Times crossword in the Bulletin.

Brad and his wife enjoy travel and have visited 31 National Parks. The only states he has not set foot in are North Dakota, Iowa and Michigan. The two of them volunteer for Meals on Wheels and Brad also teaches Talented and Gifted 4th and 5th graders on a part time basis. The Central Oregon lifestyle is strong with the Lemmon family... activities include hiking, mountain biking, trail running, cross-country skiing and badminton. They are avid readers and movie buffs. The two of them try to watch all of the Oscar Best Picture nominees each year and Brad has been a Bend Film Festival screener for many years.

It's no wonder that Brad, an avid enthusiast of both puzzles and stories, is such a great addition to the museum's volunteer team.



Continued from P. 3— Acceptable Speech at COC

59 signatures of support within a few days. On January 30, 1965, 22 COC staff members wrote a letter criticizing Dr. Brilliant's actions. This was nearly all of the professors at COC (none of the 5 members of the faculty investigative committee signed, possibly to appear impartial). The 22 staff members claimed he "...violated the confidences of private interviews; he has distributed as 'facts' statements that are not facts; he has sought after, and then ignored, the counsel of his fellow faculty members; ...". On January 31, Professor Brilliant gave a speech titled "Free Speech in Berkeley and Bend" to 70 people at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at the corner of Galveston and Federal streets. Dr. Brilliant wasn't coordinating with anyone at Berkeley, but there were mass free speech and academic freedom protests on the Berkeley campus that were occurring simultaneously with Dr. Brilliant's difficulties in Bend. Dr. Pinckney also spoke at the Unitarian Universalist Church meeting and Dr. Brilliant tape-recorded his remarks. Dean Pinckney said, "I know of no idea that cannot be pursued on Central Oregon College campus – not a single idea." But he then went on to say, "Ideas can be crippled by words of the barnyard, ...which do not carry ideas very far." Dr. Pinckney claimed that certain words were outside of social norms and that Ashleigh's poems and *Howl* contained such words.

On January 31, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) informed Dr. Pence that it was concerned about the situation. On February 2, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) notified Dr. Pence that it was going to investigate the case. President Pence responded by issuing a statement that said in part, "The college administration desires to place no limits on freedom of inquiry or freedom to express ideas or concepts within the college community, but we do believe that concomitant with the principle of free speech is the responsibility to respect the rights of others and that good taste and discretion in the choice of words to express these ideas and concepts is a concern of the College and the people who support it." On February 3, Gary Isham replaced Louise Jones on the COC Faculty Forum Fact-Finding Committee and the five members started their investigation. Dr. Brilliant created two documents for the group. The first was a 5-page "A Statement of Grievances," the second was a 14-page "A Parnassus Chronology," that he kept updating through June 9 as events unfolded. In his grievances, Dr. Brilliant claimed that "...without any advance warning..." and "...no formal warning..." he was told that his contract would probably not be renewed. [It may be true that Dr. Brilliant had not been warned in writing, but Dr. Brilliant had certainly been warned multiple times about the language in his poems, Corso's poems, and Ginsberg's poems (e.g. December 7, by Dean Pinckney; December 14, by President Pence; January 12, by Theodore Gibbons, head of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division)]. On February 4, 1965, in a show of support for Dr. Brilliant, 12 professors at the University of Oregon read *Howl* on the Eugene campus. Attendance estimates ranged from 500 to 2000 people. Newspapers all over Oregon covered the event. On February 10, professors at Portland State College read Kilmer poems in an anti-Brilliant response. On the same day, Dr. Pence published a 12-page document chronicling the events between COC and Dr. Brilliant. Also on February 10, William Oxborrow was named to fill Robert Chandler's old position on the Education Board.

The Faculty Forum voted to disband the fact-finding committee on February 18. On February 25, after seeing it for the first time, Dr. Brilliant immediately issued a preliminary response to Dr. Pence's February 10 chronology. Dr. Brilliant pointed out many minor inaccuracies, but his main complaint was that none of the problems were ever documented in writing. On March 4, 1965, Dr. Brilliant was expelled from the COC Faculty Forum. Shortly after, the March Faculty Forum meeting was cancelled. On March 9, an American Civil Liberties Union group, led by Dr. Maure Goldschmidt of Reed College, and an American Association of University Professors group, led by Dr. Hart of Portland State College, arrived in Bend to investigate. On March 10, the COC Board unanimously accepted Dr. Pence's recommendation that Dr. Brilliant's contract not be renewed. On March 16, the ACLU issued a report critical of the COC administration. It stated there was no evidence to suggest Dr. Brilliant was incompetent as a teacher and the administration shouldn't have censored his off-campus activities. On April 1, Al Flegel D-Roseburg, and Carrol Howe, R-Klamath Falls, chairmen of the Senate and House Education Committees defended COC's decision to not offer Professor Brilliant another teaching contract (he had requested that they come to his aid). On April 14, Dr. Brilliant was given 8 written reasons for dismissal. They were 1) Poor taste and judgment in programming activities. 2) Failure to comply with directives of the Administration, regulations of the campus and normal protocol. 3) Failure to grow in either his discipline or his teaching. 4) Too little concern for his immediate students. 5) Ineffective teaching. 6) Employed in Geography and Background of Social Science and approval denied by Community College Committee; thus his preparation does not coincide with our immediate needs. We had to make changes in assignment to accommodate. 7) Failed to demonstrate talent as a historian and appears to have a lack of interest in the discipline. 8) Caused disappointment, strife, and frustration within the faculty. Dr. Brilliant was told that letters to substantiate these charges were on file – but they were never shown to him.

On May 4, three school board members, William Oxborrow, Owen Panner, and William Miller, were up for re-election. The COC *Broadside* endorsed the three non-incumbent candidates. The "Brilliant Affair" figured prominently in *Bend Bulletin* campaign advertisements, so the election was largely a community referendum on how the situation was handled. Owen Panner won re-election 889-236, William Miller won re-election 837-285, and William Oxborrow won re-election 304-285.

On June 12, 1965, Ashleigh Brilliant left Bend and didn't return until he gave a speech on the COCC campus in April 2002. He lives in Santa Barbara, California and has written syndicated epigrams or "Pot-Shots" since the mid-1970s.

Tributes

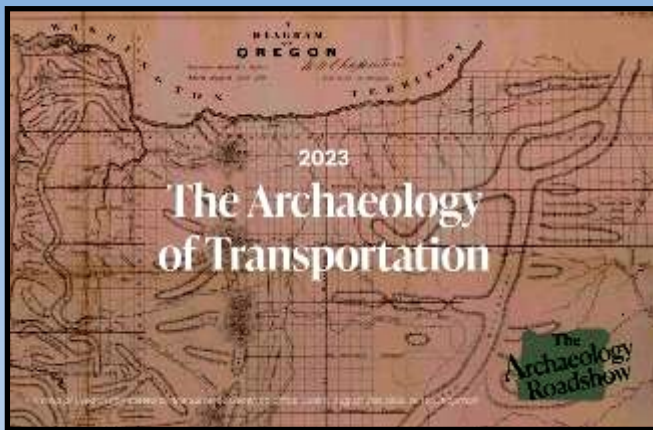
Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

PREVIEW OF 2023 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH EVENTS IN DESCHUTES COUNTY

May is National Historic Preservation Month! To kick things off, the Deschutes Historical Museum is coordinating a scavenger hunt that coincides with Friday Art Walk in Downtown Bend on Friday, May 5. We are also excited to showcase two big family-friendly events that celebrate historic preservation in Deschutes County:



OREGON ARCHAEOLOGY ROAD SHOW IS BACK!

Saturday, May 27, 2023 from 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
The Deschutes Historical Museum



- A celebration of archaeology and heritage
- Hands-on archaeology for all ages
- Local archaeology & history exhibits
- Tool-making demonstrations
- Experts identify your personal objects
- Free admission to the Deschutes Historical Museum

TETHEROW HISTORY DAY

Sunday, May 28, 2023 from 1-3:00 p.m.

**Tetherow Crossing Park:
5810 NW Tetherow Rd. in Redmond**

Redmond Area Park and Recreation District (RAPRD) and the Deschutes Historical Museum are hosting a Tetherow History Day event to celebrate the unique history of Tetherow Crossing Park, and to highlight RAPRD's efforts to preserve the Tetherow Homestead, the oldest structure in Deschutes County, built in 1878.

This homestead was one of the first three crossings of the Deschutes River connecting the Santiam Pass to Central Oregon. The home also served as an inn, general store, blacksmith, and was the site of the first brewery in Deschutes County. In addition to opening the house and displaying historic photographs of the homestead, ranch, and river crossing from the early 1900s, we will offer a model general store with penny candy, and a fun variety of games and handcrafts from the 1800s and 1900s including yarn dolls, rag dolls, nature art, hoop and stick, sack races, whirligigs, whittling, and butter-making. ThinkWild will join us with information about their efforts to restore beaver habitat in the park and a hands-on activity celebrating these industrious, communal animals.

This is a laid-back event, just a chill day in the park with activities for adults and kids to enjoy. The event and all activities are **COMPLETELY FREE**.



Join Us

TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF
KLUNKERS & STUMPJUMPERS
A HISTORY ON TWO WHEELS

EVENT SPONSORS



Deschutes Historical Museum
DESCHUTESHISTORY.ORG

MUSIC BY
JESHUA MARSHALL

SATURDAY APRIL 1ST | 4PM-7PM



The Second Annual Antique Fair Takes Place August 12 and We Need Your Treasures!

Are you spring cleaning? Finding things that are taking up space?

We need your treasures!

One of the most successful booths at our first Antiques Fair was the members' booth. Let's load these tables up again with dishes, lamps, figurines, collectibles... if it predates 1980, we will take it!

Contact Jane Williamson to arrange a pick-up or delivery:

Jwilliamson1375@gmail.com

Thank you to 2022 vendors Apple Pie Antiques and Jewelry by Dolores Potter. Your support and participation helped to make our event shine!

Vendor Applications Now Being Accepted! See Website for details:
www.deschuteshistory.org

Mark Your Calendars

APRIL

- 1 **EXHIBIT OPENING: A NOVEL IDEA CELEBRATION: 20 Years of Community Reading**

OPENING RECEPTION: "KLUNKERS AND STUMPJUMPERS: A History on Two Wheels"

4-7:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum

- 4 **"DIAMONDS IN THE DESERT" PRESENTATION**

6:00 p.m. East Bend Library

- 7 **VOLUNTEER MEETING**

12:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum

- 13 **"DIAMONDS IN THE DESERT" PRESENTATION**

2:30 p.m. Downtown Bend Library

- 25 **WORTHY HISTORY: TBA**

Worthy Brewing, Co. Eastside

495 NE Belleue Dr. Bend

7:00 p.m. doors open at 6:00 p.m.



Save the Date!

- May 5 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH KICK-OFF**

- May 27 ARCHAEOLOGY ROAD SHOW**

11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

The Deschutes Historical Museum

- May 28 TETHEROW HISTORY DAY**

1-3:00 p.m.

Tetherow Crossing Park

5810 NW Tetherow Rd. in Redmond



1917 Bend Baseball Team

