



Star Spangled!

Revisit Fourth of July Celebrations throughout the county's history. See p. 2

Meet the DCHS Ambassador

Board member Greg Fulton (and Tuck). See p. 4



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—JULY 2023

Happy Birthday, Deschutes Historical Museum!
Celebrate at our Annual Free Day on July 4



On July 4, 1980, former Oregon governor Victor Atiyeh stood on the front lawn of the newly dedicated county historical museum and declared, “*It [Deschutes Historical Museum] will be here, as a reminder of the past, after many of us are gone.*” Forty-three years later, we welcome visitors looking to discover the history of the Deschutes Valley and those who came here to live.

The Deschutes County Historical Society once again invites everyone to join in wishing the museum a very happy birthday at its annual **Free Day, Tuesday, July 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Stop by after the Bend Pet Parade to explore two floors of exhibit rooms, thumb through old *Bulletins*, watch the documentary “Let There Be Light: Bend’s Water Pageant”, and participate in family friendly games on the lawn. No birthday party is complete without Eberhard’s ice cream and Otter Pops, which will be served while supplies last.

Celebrating the Fourth of July, Central Oregon Style

By Lily Alexander

People across the United States will celebrate the country's 247th birthday this month. As a birthday present, I compiled some of the historic events from across the county and across the last century stretching as far back as the early 1920s and as far north as Terrebonne to commemorate the patriotic spirit felt across Deschutes County this time of year. There are also a few nods to contemporary and ongoing Fourth of July celebrations, as well as details on where and when to join in on the fun!

Starting in the middle of Deschutes county with Redmond's Bicentennial celebration on July 4th, 1976, as detailed by the July 7th edition of the *Redmond Spokesman*, the celebration kicked off with its annual parade, consisting of 37 floats and lasting a full half hour on its tour of the downtown area. The festivities were attended by none other than Governor Bob Straub who flew in from Salem that morning. His first stop was the library, where a handful of organizations hosted a craft fair. Straub then made some brief—but patriotic—remarks from the back of a flatbed truck-turned-stage, after which he headed over to Elkhorn Avenue to enjoy the barbeque hosted by the Kiwanis club. He finished up his day back in front of the library for the Redmond High School Band's performance. Redmond's Bicentennial celebrations kicked back up for a second weekend with a bicycle and pet parade arranged by the Bicentennial Committee. This year Redmond will again be hosting a parade and they will be launching an aerial fireworks show from the Deschutes County Fair and Expo center, a tradition that began in 1999 with the inauguration of the new fairgrounds.

Speaking of fireworks, this article began as I mused on Bend's first fireworks display from Pilot Butte, and consequently wondered when Bend first began setting the Butte on fire annually. After spending a good long while with the July editions of *The Bend Bulletin*, I was able to glean a few crucial insights. In 1933, in accordance with the first Bend Water Pageant, Bend began setting off fireworks from Pageant Park over Mirror Pond to close out the festivities. The next year, the planning committee became more ambitious and launched the fireworks from rafts on the water, a tradition which continued even in the years after the pageant ended, until Bend's Bicentennial celebration. The July 4th, 1976 *Bend Bulletin* stated that over 6,000 people turned out for the fireworks that



"Fireworks illuminate spectators at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds Expo Center Sunday. The grounds at the new facility were filled for the Fourth of July event that included an all-day program of entertainment, games and food."
Redmond Spokesman July 5, 1999



1955 Bend Water Pageant Court 1955

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**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:

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Heidi Kennedy, Erik King, Susie Penhollow, Liz
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Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of
Directors are on file with the
Museum office.



www.deschuteshistory.org
info@deschuteshistory.org



year during which people in the park set off illegal fireworks, littered, and became drunk, rowdy, and belligerent. Facing complaints, the next year Bend set its fireworks off from the top of Pilot Butte for the first time in recent history.

Looking back further, though, we see that the July 2nd, 1921 edition of the *Bulletin* states that the fireworks will be set off from the top of “Awbrey Heights”. However, the July 5th edition from the same year remarks on the beautiful fireworks display, beginning at 10 o’ clock, which was set off from the top of Pilot Butte. Thus, while the Pilot Butte fireworks display as we know it began in 1977, the first time that the fireworks were set off from the Butte could be as early as 1921.

Although the Water Pageant was the hub of Fourth of July activities for much of the 20th century, for folks who wanted a rodeo, La Pine was a Central Oregonian’s preferred location. The event took place on the 4th of July weekend and was given especially detailed coverage in *The Bend Bulletin* on years when Bend did not have its own program. Advertisements placed in *The Bulletin* boasted a “Regular Old Time Rodeo” (1923) and “All Good Riders” (1925). The last advertised rodeo in *The Bulletin* occurred in 1925, however *Visit Central Oregon’s* “2023 Central Oregon Rodeo Roundup”, dates it back to the 1940s. The La Pine Rodeo’s website itself explains how a dedicated group of volunteers sought to expand the rodeo’s programming in the early 2000s and the rodeo has been growing in attendance since 2002. All told this suggests the rodeo may have struggled through the middle of the 20th century and possibly fallen out of favor as a relic of the past, akin to the downfall of the Water Pageant. Regardless the Rodeo has made a full recovery and will be held July 1st and 2nd this year.



In other recent events, Sisters hosts their 10th annual Fourth of July “Rumble on the Runway.” Their airport-based Fourth of July tradition began in 2013 to celebrate the reopening and remodeling of the Sisters’ Eagle Airport. The festivities begin with a pancake breakfast, hosted by the Rotary Club, and include a classic car show and a 5k run.

The award for most unique Fourth of July tradition must go to Sisters for their “Great Rubber Chicken Drop,” begun in 2013. In the rubber chicken fundraiser, attendees purchase a 2-by-2-



Annual Fourth of July Fly-in at the Eagle Airport in Sisters
Sisters Nugget, July 10, 2019

foot chalked square on the runway for \$5 onto which an aviator flings rubber chickens. The lucky patrons whose chalk squares are graced by the flying chickens will win a variety of prizes ranging in value based on which chicken lands in their claimed square. There are often other raffles and fundraisers which have raised money for a variety of charities and causes over the years. This year the rumble begins with the Rotary Club’s pancake breakfast at 7:00 a.m. (with a suggested \$10 donation) and proceeds benefit the Sisters High School cross-country team.



Fourth of July 5K Fun Run
Sisters Nugget, July 10, 2019

Situated just southeast of Sisters lies Tumalo, which has not hosted a Fourth of July celebration in a number of years. However, despite being nearly 20 miles apart and situated on two completely different highways, Terrebonne and Tumalo once hosted remarkably similar events. From the mid 1920s to the mid 1930s, both towns intermittently hosted Fourth of July dances at their respective Grange Halls. Terrebonne hosted in 1929 and Tumalo in 1925, 1930, and 1934. Later, in the 1940s, Tumalo would begin hosting an “annual” Fourth of July Granger’s Picnic, which were reported to have taken place in 1945 and 1946.

Even farther south, folks in Sunriver, too, spent its Fourth of Julys at picnics. For over 40 years the Sunriver fire department hosted the annual “Sunriver Firemen’s Fourth of July Picnic.” The event faced major funding and planning difficulties in 2010 and 2011, according to the 2012 *Sunriver Scene*, Sunriver’s monthly newsletter. These difficulties led the fire department to partner with New Generations, a nonprofit childcare organization, to combine the firemen’s picnic with New Generations’ other major fundraiser, the “Kids’ Day in May.” Thus 2012 was the first year of the annual “Sunriver Fourth of July Festival.” This first iteration of the festival featured bouncy houses, face painting, three-legged races, and watermelon eating contests as well as the Red White and Blue Bike Parade, which continues to be a staple of the annual celebrations. This year’s festival commences at 11:00 a.m. in the Sunriver Village.

Here at the Deschutes Historical Society, we continue our Fourth of July tradition with our ice cream social. We look forward to celebrating with you!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Greg

Fulton

By Vanessa Ivey

On almost any day of the week you will find Greg Fulton with his dog Tuck strolling along the streets of downtown Bend. Greg loves this community and it shows both in his storytelling and his commitment to keeping the county's history alive. As he tells it, "Deschutes is in my blood."

Born at Saint Charles Hospital on the hill (where Doubletree Hotel is today) in 1952, Greg has lived his entire life in Bend. His father, George Fulton, moved from Joseph, Oregon to Bend as a boy in the early 1900s. His mom, Miriam, a Wyoming girl, moved here in the forties.

As a fourth grader at Kenwood Elementary (Highland Elementary), he became part of a Fulton family tradition, and is proud that three generations of his family attended the oldest operating school in Bend. His dad went to the original Kenwood school when it was just 2 small wooden buildings, before the new school was built in 1919. Greg and his brother Clark attended Kenwood, and later his daughter Michelle attended the school as well.

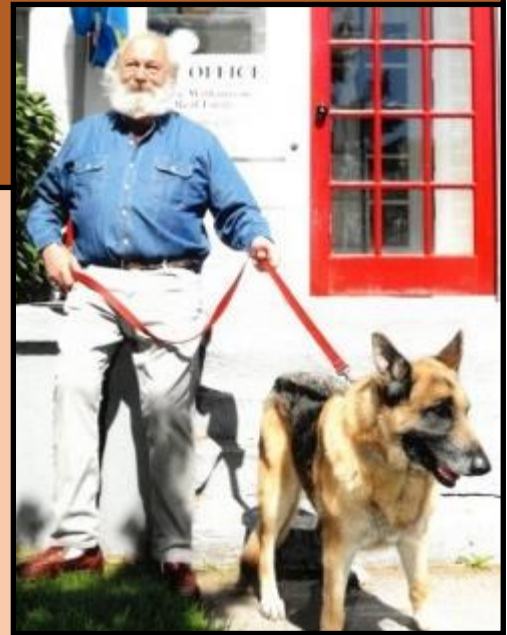
A Bend High School class of 1970 alumnus, Greg admitted he was at ease with all the kids at school, never conforming to one particular group. While he wasn't one to join clubs, he enjoyed playing a rather dangerous version of soccer (his words). No rules, no refs; you showed up and played.

As a young man, Greg recognized that his parents were part of what made this town tick. Miriam Fulton was the first president and an original founder of what is today the Humane Society of Central Oregon. Greg recalls the many stray animals that came through their home and the phone's constant ringing, "Hey mom, another cat call." He remembers the first real shelter was off Skyline Road and before that at the pound, located at the "old dump" near OSU-Cascades campus off Chandler Avenue. Greg's father George Fulton was a radio repairman at a time when you bought radios and stereos in furniture shops, and was the store manager for Healy's Furniture Company. He was later elected as director of Bend's school board.

Like his parents Greg too has carved his own niche in the community he loves so much. He owns Fulton Fine Woodworking off Boyd Acres Road, where he and his partner primarily remodel motorhomes and build cabinets. His sense of place drew him to become more than just a member of the Deschutes Historical Museum. Involved with the Deschutes Pioneer Association, Greg believed the organization needed more crossover with the Deschutes County Historical Society (DCHS). In 2014 he joined the museum's board hoping to be that bridge.

During the planning of the county's centennial in 2016, it was Greg who thought fixing up the museum's 1907 Holsman autobuggy would be a great addition to the festivities and bring attention to the museum. He recruited Wade Bryant, owner of a local auto mechanic shop. "Wade was a good guy and knew what had to be done. We were both from old-time families and during the process got to be good friends." Greg describes the restoration process as, "four crazy guys taking the body and wheels off the chassis, carrying it down the museum stairs and reassembling it at the shop." Nothing needed to be replaced, just oiling, cleaning and a tune-up. For Greg, the process of working on the car was extra special knowing that the former owner of the car, Homer Smith, and his dad were best friends.

Greg will tell you he still sits on the DCHS board because he believes in what they do and believes they do it well. "I'm proud to be a part of it and I get to get my hands dirty for a worthy cause." Greg's hands created the modern display cases used in exhibits, and he crafted this year's Antique Fair raffle prize, a walnut and cherry blanket chest. His knowledge of the people and places of our county's past and present are invaluable, as is his commitment to spread the word of the museum to everyone he comes across.



SMILES AT FULTON HOME—Members of the George Fulton family had big smiles this morning: He was winner in Monday's school election in Bend, and Mrs. Fulton is observing her birthday today. At left is their son Gregory, and at right is Clark, Fulton was elected director for a five-year term.

First Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

By Vanessa Ivey

Last month, on a perfect summer afternoon, the Deschutes Historical Museum's volunteers gathered in person for their first Volunteer Appreciation party since 2019. Unlike past years, when the staff of the museum hosted the celebration in the research library at the end of December, this year's event took place on the museum's lawn at the end of June. The changes, both location and time of year, were winners all around.

Picnic was the theme with grilled fare, root beer floats, and cupcakes for desert, enjoyed under canopies on the grass. This year the picnic was extra special as the staff won a \$250 Volunteer Appreciation Grant from the Oregon Heritage, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department while attending a spring seminar, which funded the event.

Over the years the staff have honored volunteers for their outstanding contributions and this year was no different. Lily Alexander, Janet Alexander, Deedee Garnett, Melanie Nelson, Robin Roemer, Stephanie Swierkos, and Marge Trayser were recognized for their excellence in reaching 5 years with the museum. All seven have been with the museum since 2018 working as tour guides, in education outreach, collections' care and research, fundraising events, and front desk-visitor services.

Addy Schappacher received the outstanding teen award. Addy joined the museum team last October as a wrangler-guide for the annual Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend tours and works on Fridays helping out in a variety of ways including scanning the Vandeventer letters into the museum's collection.

Doug Hildebrand has been volunteering at the museum since 2010 and this year was awarded for his thirteen years as museum guide for the Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend walking tours. In fact, Doug is one of three original guides and helped with its development when the event began in 2010. In 2020, when the tour was to celebrate its 10th anniversary, he assisted with the production of a virtual version of the tour so the show could still go on virtually.

Vanessa Ivey, museum manager, expressed her gratitude when she said, "Without you (volunteers) the museum couldn't do what it does. You are our foundation, the walls, the roof, and all the things inside that make this place happen. Thank you."



Left: Volunteer Greg Fulton receives his door prize from Museum Manager Vanessa Ivey. Greg won a Water Pageant photo and copy of "Let There Be Light" along with his own inflatable swan.



Top: Picnic on the lawn; Above: Volunteers tuck into lunch prepared by DCHS staff; Right: Door Prizes for lucky attendees

Memorials

Earl Roarig

Cheryl Lovre

Tributes

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter

The Indigenous Peoples of Oregon

James Brown

The Marr Family

Christopher Branch

Second Annual Antique Fair August 12, 2023



Mark your calendar for August 12 to partake in another wonderful day on the grounds of the Museum, wandering the vendor booths with their prizes from the past (pre-1970). Besides antique dealers, the Museum will also have its own booth with contributions from the community, all proceeds benefit the Museum. DCHS members, as well as others, are encouraged to investigate their garages, attics, and closets for items no longer needed or wanted. Jane Williamson has volunteered her garage as a collection point. Call her at 541-390-4351 or email at jwilliamson@bendbroadband.com to set up a delivery time. We welcome back Bend's own Rastovich Century Farm who will provide its Barley Beef for sandwiches, and Madison will have fresh baked goods (which sold out by mid-morning last year). There will also be a raffle (tickets for sale now!) for the custom-made Hope Chest by Bendite craftsman as well as this month's featured volunteer, Greg Fulton. The event is from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A registered appraiser will be available from 1-3:00 p.m. to appraise one of your antique items. A \$5 contribution will be appreciated for an appraisal. New this year is a booth by the Central Oregon Genealogy Society, offering tips, on an individual basis, for those seeking help in pursuing their family lines.



Mark Your Calendars

JULY

- 1, 15, 29 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 4 FOURTH OF JULY OPEN HOUSE**
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 7, 14, 28 BEND NIGHT MARKET**
5-9:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 7-9 "YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT" AN ORIGINAL PLAY BY JIM CROWELL**
Tower Theatre [Tickets Required: Towertheatre.org](https://www.towertheatre.org)
- 8, 22 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 20, 21 GUERRILLA SHAKESPEARE PRESENTS: QUEEN LEAR**
7:30 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
[Tickets Required: BendTicket.com](https://www.bendticket.com)

WORTHY HISTORY PUB will be on hiatus until Fall 2023



Fireworks at the Redmond Bicentennial celebration
Redmond Spokesman, July 5, 1976



SAVE THE DATE!



August 12: Antique Fair September 1-2: The Little Woody



Local *at the* TOWER

TICKETS & INFORMATION:
541-317-0700 or TowerTheatre.org

"YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT"

An Original Play by Jim Crowell

July 7-9, 2023

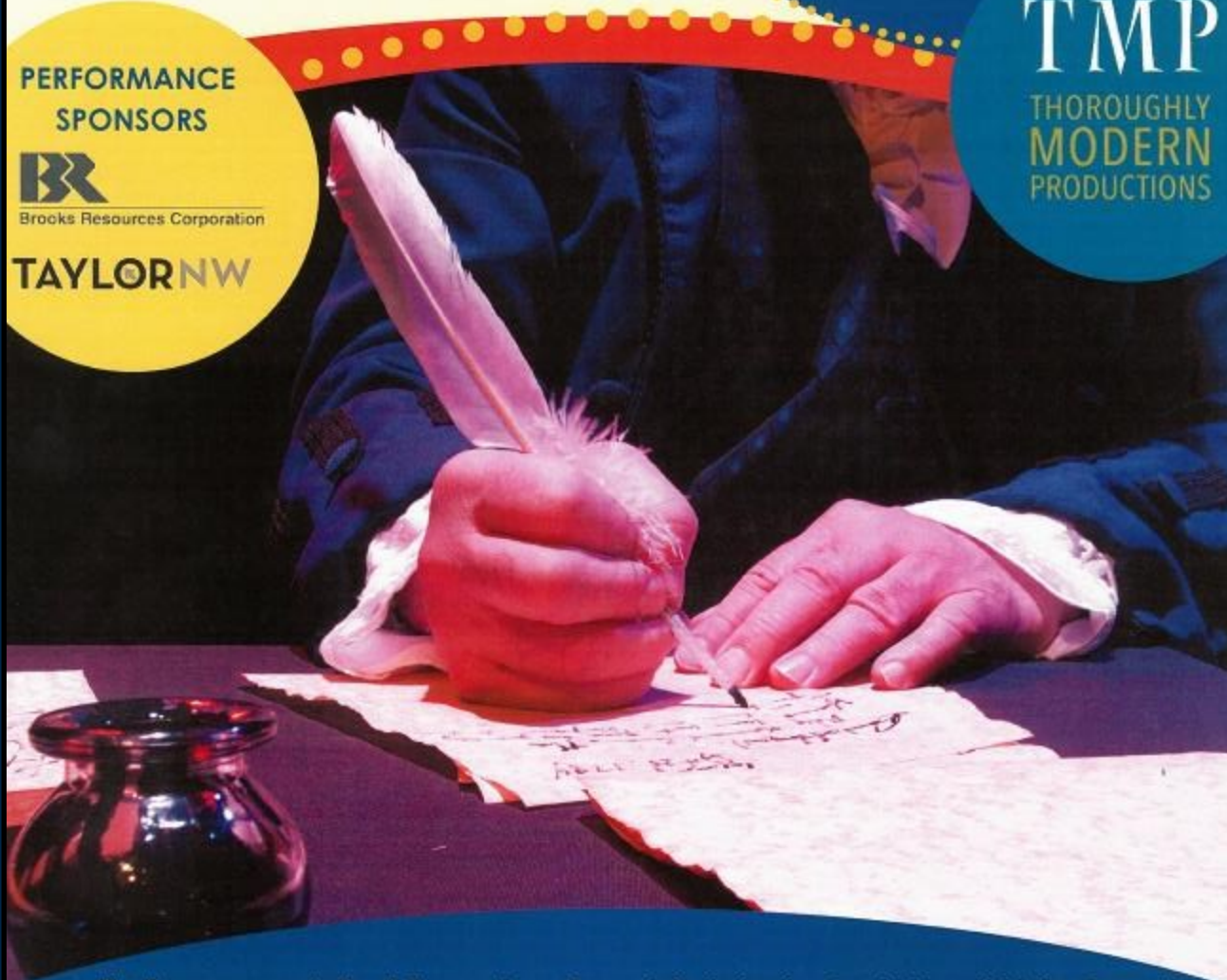
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The Tower presents the U.S. premiere of an original play by Bend playwright Jim Crowell, produced by Thoroughly Modern Productions, directed by and starring David DaCosta. This new drama with music--based on nearly 400 candid letters between John Adams, the nation's second President, Abigail, his wife of 54 years, and Thomas Jefferson, the third U.S. President--goes inside the turbulent triangle of temperaments that shaped America.

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SALLY RUSSELL

SHAKESPEARE ON THE LAWN

Friday and Saturday, July 20 & 21 at 7:30 p.m.

On the front lawn of the
Deschutes Historical Museum

Guerrilla Shakespeare presents...

QUEEN LEAR

By William Shakespeare

DIRECTED BY RAECHEL GILLAND

**JULY 20/21. 730PM. AT DESCHUTES
HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM**

JULY 22. 730PM. ALPENGLOW PARK

JULY 27. 730PM. CROOK COUNTY AMPHITHEATER

JULY 28. 730PM. MARAGAS WINERY

JULY 29. 730PM. FIR STREET PARK.

**JULY 30. 5PM. DUFFY'S
\$20 ADV. \$25 AT THE DOOR**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT BENDTICKET.COM

