



The Homesteader

Inside: They're Back.
They're Creepy.
They want votes...
They're dolls.

October 2026 — Vol. 52, Issue 10

IT'S BACK: ESCAPE THE MUSEUM

Fridays and Saturdays
throughout October at the
Deschutes Historical Museum

The Deschutes Historical Museum is pleased to announce the return of Escape the Museum: The Curse of the Curate's Collection. This unique escape room experience, based on a real local history mystery, kicks off October 2 & 3. With the popularity of the program last year, the museum has increased its number of bookings, offering the fundraiser over five weekends, October 2-31, 2026.

What is an escape room? It's an interactive puzzle-based experience. Each team explores a story-themed room, uncovering clues and solving a series of puzzles leading to the solution and escape! The catch? Teams are given only 60 minutes to solve the mystery, so every second counts.

A fundraiser and membership drive, Escape the Museum is sold as an immersive adventure for teams of up to six people. The adventure costs \$180 plus fees for a one-hour booking for non-members. For Museum members, \$150 plus fees for a one-hour booking.



As of September 30, limited bookings are still available. Check the DCHS website for available openings. Teams may cancel and open up time slots.

Top: A team from the Bend Chamber tries to solve the Escape the Museum puzzle in 2025. Below: A team from Wild Birds Unlimited escaped the Museum.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

'Weeny Witches' celebrated Halloween and the humble hot dog

The October "recipe of the month" isn't so much a recipe as it is an invitation to celebrate Halloween like it's 1945!

During World War II, strict rationing protocols meant that foods and ingredients such as meat, butter, eggs, and sugar were scarce. By the time the war ended, households across the country had learned to make do with less of everything, including meat. However, a booming postwar economy meant that people had more disposable income than ever but needed to be convinced how to spend it.

The war years saw improvements in mass production, packaging, refrigeration, and preservation techniques which meant that producing and distributing mass quantities of foods, such as hot dogs, became faster and easier. Meat and livestock industries launched massive advertising campaigns to lure people back into the habit of consuming meat regularly. Advertising focused on meat as a cornerstone of a healthy American diet and a symbol of prosperity.

Entertaining on a grand scale was also encouraged and hot dog companies such as the Visking Corporation (pioneer of the "skinless wiener"), Berks, and Swift's Premium turned to gimmicks such as "Weeny Witch" parties to promote their products.

What IS a Weeny Witch party? Exactly like it sounds, this Halloween-themed fête features



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DESCHUTES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

129 NW Idaho Ave.
Bend, OR, 97703
Open Tuesday-Saturday
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
541-389-1813
info@deschuteshistory.org
www.deschuteshistory.org



Museum staff

Kelly Cannon-Miller	Executive Director
Vanessa Ivey	Museum Manager
Rebekah Averette-Zaback	Collections Manager
Donna Burklo	Development Director
Tracy Alexander	Membership Officer
Rashelle Maplethorpe	Support Staff

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Deb Zitella

Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are on file with the Museum office. Tax ID# 51-0186079

hot dogs decorated as witches as the centerpiece of edible decor. Weeny Witch parties were promoted as a safer alternative to nighttime trick-or-treating and some companies published recipe books and pamphlets to help hosts plan decor, games, and other spooky nibbles, such as Red Hot Goblins and Weeny Ghosts, because obviously even Weeny Witches need friends.

Did you hold or attend a Weeny Witch party? If so, we'd love to hear about it! Send your stories to info@deschuteshistory.org





I'M A "WEENY WITCH"
AND HERE'S HOW I'M MADE

Cut brim and crown of hat from stiff black paper. Weeny Witch costume is cut from black crepe paper, doubled for stiffness. Fashion nose from carrot tip; eyes and teeth from cloves. Arms are pipe cleaners dyed black. Broom made from pipe cleaner and bits of colored paper.



I'M A RED HOT GOBLIN!
AND HERE'S HOW I'M MADE

Cut out little masks from white paper. Fasten them around frankfurters or wieners with little pieces of adhesive or transparent tape. Make skirt of orange or green crepe paper, arms of dyed pipe cleaners.



I'M A "WEENY GHOST"
AND HERE'S HOW I'M MADE

Pull paper napkin down over wiener or frankfurter and tie below center. Cut off extra napkin in scallops. Put in eyes and teeth for ghost face and place in apple with core bored out to serve as base.

"SKINLESS" FRANKFURTERS AND WIENERS HAVE NO SKINS

Wow your crowd with a "Weeny Witch" Halloween Party

Easy for Mother with Skinless FRANKFURTERS or WIENERS

MOTHERS! Those rascals will settle down fast for their favorite food—SKINLESS frankfurters. Here's digestible, nourishing party fare. Delicious, tender—with no skins, no waste. Quick and easy to prepare. Ask for your favorite brand made the modern SKINLESS way—the youngsters will make away with every bite!

more meat for your money with

"Sure to be Tender"
BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO SKINS!

THE VISKING CORPORATION, CHICAGO 28, ILLINOIS
Manufacturers of VISKING® sausage, VISKING® frankfurters and VISKING® wieners.
Sales: Plants at Chicago, Illinois; Terre Haute, Indiana; North Little Rock, Arkansas; St. Louis, Missouri; and Toronto, Ontario. "I M THE VISKING CORPORATION"

This book tells how **FREE!**
at your meat counter or write The Visking Corporation, Chicago 28, Illinois.
Scary masks! Halloween games and decorative cutouts — free! Get your copy today!

HALLOWEEN "WEENY WITCH" PARTY MENU

Skinless Frankfurters or Wieners with "Weeny Witch" Jack O' Lantern Carrots
(Tops of carrots, slices for eyes and nose, slice green pepper for mouth)
Doughnuts • Hot Weeny Buns
Apples • Mustard • Ice Cream
Cake • Milk




43rd Annual Chili Feed and Raffle Recap



The 43rd Annual Chili Feed and Raffle was held September 25th and, despite the weather, was a wonderful success!



At last year's Chili Feed in November of 2025, it became clear that we outgrew our indoor space as the popularity of this event has grown. A poll of our membership resulted in a new plan: hold the event earlier in the year and provide indoor and outdoor seating. We think this change will stick!



We look forward to continuing Millie's tradition, likely with a few more adjustments to optimize attendance. It is an event we look forward to all year, knowing that we will see so many community members enjoying the museum grounds and chatting with one another.



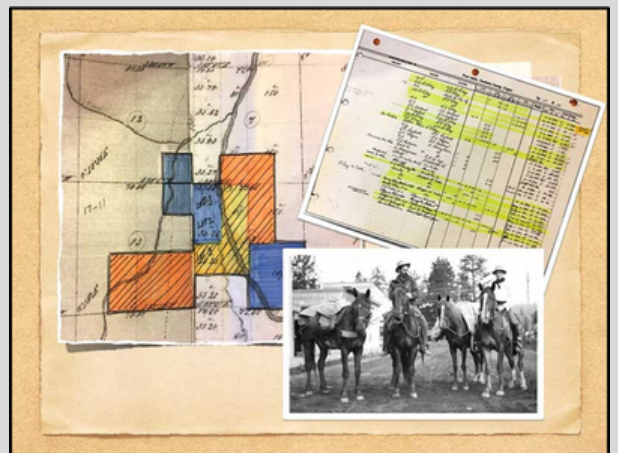
Thank you to all who attended, volunteered, and who provided raffle gifts, pies, music, and sponsorships.

From the Museum Archives

Map and Document of the Quarter

The October through December Map of the Quarter shows a 1911 Proposed Water System for Bend. The map was drawn by Robert Gould and depicts pipelines from Tumalo Creek and the Deschutes River. Someone also penciled in the location of the Bend Brickyard on present-day Shevlin Park Road.

The Documents of the Quarter are restaurant menus from The Ranch Room and Allen's Cafe.



Memorial Donations

Margaret Moore

Katherine Holden

They're Baaaaaack..... Creepy Doll Contest has Returned

They're Back. They're Creepy. They Want Votes.

And this year, they have come out to play. Visit the museum's creepy dolls in all their splendor, then visit deschuteshistory.org to vote for Creepiest of All. Voting will be open October 9- 31.



THANK YOU CHILI FEED VOLUNTEERS

The Board and Staff of the Deschutes County Historical Society would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made the 43rd Annual Chili Feed and Raffle a successful event! The joy in seeing so many returning friends and new ones make this a truly beloved event. To the pie donors, servers, bussers, dishwashers, cooks, raffle donors, piano player, accordion players, and all the volunteers, THANK YOU!

Jack Alexander	Deedee Garnett	Liz Rink
Janet Alexander	Nunzie Gould	Katie Rixe
Jonathan and Tracy Alexander	Susie Hart	Ken Sandine
Jerrie Allison-Melton	Elaine Huber	Peggy Shaver
Rebekah Averette-Zaback	Carla Hunt	Jon and Nanette Sholes
Ed Barnum	Vanessa Ivey	Lennard and Delane Sholes
Adrian Bennett	Terry Juholo	Tina Spezzaro
Mary Berrigan	Bob and Heidi Kennedy	Jackie Souza
Dee Blakely	Joyce Kesterson	George Starika
Kim Boddie	Sara Langton	Don Stelma
Sophia Boone	Sarah Larson	Zac Stewart
Donna Burklo	Brad Lemmon	Jan Stocker
Karen Caine-Nielson	Rashelle Maplethorpe	Juanita and Tom Thompson
Kelly Cannon-Miller	Greg McCarthy	Marge Trayser
Changing Patterns members	Sky McClain	Glenn Voelz
Susan Cline	Linda O'Donnell	Cher Wagner
Linda Cloudas	Donna Owens	Robin Werdal
Alyce Dudley	Frank Patka	Deb Zitella
Rosemary Etter		

Chili Feed Sponsors: Local Acres Market, Ben and Jerry's, Chef's Store, Strictly Organic, Family Kitchen

Raffle Item Donations: Bellatazza Caffé, Dancing Jalapenos, DCHS Board Members, Deschutes Public Library, Dudley's Bookshop Cafe, Maya Hahn, Dave Howe, The Hudson, Junction Roasters, Lay It Out Events, McMenamins Old St. Francis School, Mt Bachelor Quilt Guild, Mt Bachelor Ski Resort, Newport Avenue Market, Old Mill District, Olive & May, Oregon Feed & Irrigation, Pave Jewelers, Pizza Mondo, Barb Smiley, Steve Stenkamp, Thrown, Blown, & Turned, Tin Pan Theater, Top Hat Spice, The Tower Theatre Foundation, Trader Joe's, Glenn Voelz, Wanderlust Tours, The Westman Hotel, Wild Birds Unlimited

Volunteer Meeting: "The Homesteader" Planning for 2027

Wednesday, October 21
1-2:00 p.m.

If you love what you see in our monthly Homesteader newsletter, please consider joining the volunteer newsletter team! This will be an opportunity to suggest topics, monthly segments, or other content.

Volunteers may enjoy writing articles, creating content, or just proofreading drafts. Sometimes we have volunteers who enjoy doing the research, and others who enjoy writing, and we match them together.

Bring a sack lunch and your ideas for fun, interesting, and engaging content.

Do you have a suggestion for an article? Send comments to: tracy@deschuteshistory.org

October History Pub:

Skyliners: Winter Sports in Central Oregon: 1927-1941

October 27, 2026

Doors: 6:00 p.m.

Presentation: 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$5 required

McMenamins Old St.
Francis School, Father
Lukes Room



Two dollars was all it took to create one of the most enduring legacies in Oregon's ski history. Hear the incredible story of how three Norwegians and a Swede came to influence the creation of the Skyliners - the storied Bend, Oregon, ski club founded in 1927.

Author Torbjörn "Tor" Hanson lived in Bend for more than 30 years. He has carved tracks on the slopes at Mt. Bachelor and was the co-curator for Winter Comes: Oregon's Nordic Ski History exhibit at the Deschutes Historical Museum. Skyliners: Winter Sports in Central Oregon is his fourth book about local history.

Mark Your Calendar: October 2026

- 2-31 ESCAPE THE MUSEUM**
Fridays and Saturdays throughout October
Deschutes Historical Museum
- 9-31 CREEPY DOLL CONTEST**
Vote at deschuteshistory.org
- 21 VOLUNTEER MEETING: Homesteader Planning for 2027**
1-2:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 27 HISTORY PUB: Skyliners: Winter Sports in Central Oregon: 1927-1941**
Presented by Tor Hanson
7-8:00 p.m. McMenamins Old St. Francis School Father Luke Room
Tickets Required

