

# Two books, one celebration to check out this month

BY ERICKA BRUNSON-ROCHETTE  
Community Librarian

There is a lot of book buzz happening in April. Between visits from the award-winning author of “The Last Cuentista” and a month-long series of programs around “I Can Make This Promise,” ending with an opportunity for students to have a conversation with the author. These are two books, and a whole lot of celebrating, that you definitely don’t want to miss.



submitted photo  
**Ericka Brunson-Rochette**

“The Last Cuentista” by Donna Barba Higuera  
Just like her abuelita, Pe-

tra Peña believes that stories hold more than just the clues to the past — they also have the ability to shape the future. There is nothing that Petra needs more right now than belief that the future will hold the answers, because the present, as she knows it, is about to come to an end.  
“The Last Cuentista” was the 2022 recipient of the Pura Belpré Award and was awarded the 2022 John Newberry Medal.  
Deschutes Public Library is

honored to welcome author Donna Barba Higuera at the end of April for a number of events celebrating El día de los niños/El día de los libros or “day of the child/day of the book.”  
Higuera will be at Hugh Hartman Elementary, 2105 W Antler Ave., from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, April 29.  
“I Can Make This Promise” by Christine Day  
Edie, 12, has very little to question when it comes to her fairly run of the mill family.

She has a doting father and a caring mother, both who adore her. Eddie knows that her Native American mother was adopted by a White family when she was a baby, but there isn’t much more in her family’s history that is all that out of the ordinary. Or is there?  
“I Can Make This Promise” is Deschutes Public Library’s 2022 A Novel Idea Youth title selection. Throughout the month of April and early May, there will be a variety of

events focused on this title, including in-person author events, all of which can be found on DPI’s online events calendar.  
Art with a Dog is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12; 4-5 p.m. with supplies provided. Art kits are available Saturday, April 23. Supplies are designed for ages 6-11, and are limited.  
Author Christine Day in conversation with students is set for Thursday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to noon.

# An easy trek to Steelhead Falls

BY MARK MORICAL  
For the Spokesman

After all my jaunts throughout Central Oregon over the past 20 years, I still occasionally venture to special spots that are new to me — even well-known locations.

Steelhead Falls is one such area. For some reason, I had yet to make the drive to the stunning falls, located near Crooked River Ranch along the Middle Deschutes. It is located about 10 miles north of Redmond.

The area provided the perfect short hike for a quick Sunday getaway with my son, Mason, 14. Lately, I find that hiking is the best outdoor activity for conversation with my kids, including daughter Miley, 12, and to catch up on the details of their middle school lives. Running, mountain biking and skiing are great, but are not always the best for communication.

The relatively easy hike near Steelhead Falls offers a welcoming escape into nature with family or friends.

The falls are just a half-mile trek from the trailhead. The trail follows a short downhill section into the canyon carved by the Deschutes.

The path flattens quickly and follows the river along the canyon to Steelhead Falls. Yellow wildflowers were just beginning to bloom on our trip, and will no doubt be more spectacular later in the spring.

The trail includes several areas to access the river for rainbow and brown trout fishing. This stretch of the river is open to trout fishing year-round, but restricted to artificial flies and lures.

Once the heat of summer descends on the High Desert, the 25-foot cliffs near the falls are popular areas from which to jump into the river for a swim.

From Steelhead Falls, the Deschutes River flows toward the waters of Lake Billy Chinook, where it connects with the Crooked and Metolius rivers.

After enjoying the scenic falls, Mason and I continued hiking farther downstream. We scrambled over some rocks and continued to where the river turned west. Unique, castle-like rock formations lined the river canyon.

The trail transformed from a rocky path to a grassy meadow, and then to narrow, cliffside singletrack.

After about 1½ miles of hiking, we turned around to head back the way we had come. We ended up hiking about 3 miles in 90 minutes. It was just enough time to enjoy our surroundings while reconnecting without the distractions of laptops, phones and iPads.

Those who want to add mileage to a hike in the Steelhead Falls area can take the Foley Waters trail off the south end of the Steelhead Falls parking area. Foley Waters is also a popular fishing area.

Overnight camping is also available near the Steelhead Falls trailhead. Sites are first-come, first-served.

The Steelhead Falls trail is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and maintained by volunteers of the Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes River Canyon, otherwise known as FANs.

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Mark Morical/The Bulletin

ABOVE: Intriguing rock formations line the canyon along the Deschutes River near Steelhead Falls. BELOW: Two hikers make their way downstream from Steelhead Falls.



Steelhead Falls on the Middle Deschutes near Crooked River Ranch.

Mark Morical/The Bulletin

## Steelhead Falls

**Directions:** From Redmond, head north on U.S. Highway 97 to Terrebonne and turn west on N.E. Lower Bridge Way. Go 2 miles and take a right on N.W. 43rd Street. Follow that 1.8 miles to Chinook Drive. Go almost a mile and take a left onto Badger Road. Travel 1 mile and turn right on Quail Road. Follow Quail Road for .5 mile and take a left on River Road. Take River Road downhill to the Steelhead Falls Trailhead and campground.

From Bend, it’s about 35 miles and a 45-minute drive.

**More information:** [www.blm.gov/visit/steelhead-falls-trail](http://www.blm.gov/visit/steelhead-falls-trail)

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