

# Pioneer Day returns to Heritage Museum

## Visitors can dip beeswax candles, pan for gold, make butter

By Lisa Britton  
Go! Magazine

**P**ENDLETON — Fresh butter and pancakes are just one of the treats awaiting visitors to the Heritage Station Museum's Pioneer Day on Saturday, Aug. 7.

It's been awhile since the museum had a Pioneer Day, said Shannon Gruenhagen, marketing and tour coordinator.

"We're bringing it back and reimagining it," she said.

The one-day event also falls on Free First Saturday, with free admission for everyone. From noon to 3 p.m., visitors can pan for gold, try candle dipping with beeswax, learn how to clean clothes on a washboard, and shake cream into butter.

"And we'll make pancakes," Gruenhagen said.

The pancakes tie into the new wheat exhibit, "Umatilla Gold: History of Wheat in Umatilla County." The display features



Courtesy of Shannon Gruenhagen  
Heritage Station is located in an old train station in Pendleton.

photographs, drone footage of local wheat farms and interactive elements.

"You can even smell what a wheat field smells like," Gruenhagen said.

Pioneer Day is supported by a grant from the Umatilla County Cultural Coalition.

Aug. 7 also brings back Artisan Alley, with vendors located both inside and outside the museum.

Gruenhagen has planned a monthly special event since the museum reopened in June. The first gathering focused on old-fashioned games. In July, visitors

in downtown Pendleton, at 108 SW Frazer Ave. In addition to the wheat exhibit, the Depot Gallery display celebrates the county's history. Other elements include a railroad display, a newspaper printing press, and signs from local businesses. Outside exhibits include the Byrd Schoolhouse relocated from near Pilot Rock, and the Fix family cabin and barn.

"It looks like an old home-  
stead," Gruenhagen said.

The museum's regular hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. With the exception of Free First Saturday, admission is \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 students, or \$10 for a family.

Updates are regularly posted on Facebook and Instagram.

Heritage Station is a Umatilla County Historical Society museum. It opened in the old train depot in 1988, and underwent an expansion in 2003.



Courtesy of Shannon Gruenhagen  
A new Heritage Station exhibit explores the history of wheat in Umatilla County.

celebrated the Fourth of July with pie and hot dogs.

An event for Sept. 25 will feature fall crafts and apple butter, and the "Heritage Haunt" is planned for Oct. 30. For the holiday season, "Heritage Lights" will happen on the first three Fridays and Saturdays in December.

"Our programming is really ramping back up," Gruenhagen said. "We're happy to have people coming through again."

Heritage Station Museum is located in the 1909 train station

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See how wheat helped shape Umatilla County

Step inside a Union Pacific caboose, the Byrd School and spend time on the Pioneer Homestead

**HERITAGE STATION**  
The Umatilla County Historical Society Museum

Open Tues-Sat  
10am-4pm