



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Fodé Ismael Sylla performs Saturday during a welcoming ceremony for the Juneteenth celebration at Ponderosa Park in Bend.

## Juneteenth

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"I think it helps open a conversation for people who have not been involved in this stuff before," she said.

Part of the festivities Saturday was a drum circle led by Foda Sylla, a 33-year-old musician and dancer who was born in Guinea, West Africa.

Sylla, who was dressed head-to-toe in traditional African clothing, could not stop smiling as he led a drum circle. He moved to Bend last year and said he's excited to offer his expertise in his new town.

"I think in a community we need color and we need culture," Sylla said.

Each year, Sylla sees Juneteenth as an outlet to honor his heritage.

"As an African man in this country, Juneteenth is a celebration day," Sylla said. "As a musician, I do my part to offer a drum circle and have a performance."

Several people at the park Saturday came directly from the second-annual Take Back the Butte March at Bend's Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint. The march, hosted by Central Oregon Black Leaders Assembly, was a way for people to honor Juneteenth. It was also meant to rewrite Bend's racist past, when the Ku Klux Klan would march a century ago up to the Pilot Butte summit to hold meetings. Participants in the march wanted to reclaim the butte in the name of equal-

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— Taylor Harden, 26, who teaches archery and horsemanship through her business Darkhorse Warriors

ity and peace, according to organizers.

Those who made their way to the celebration in the park were able to visit with nearly two dozen vendors, in addition to enjoying the live music, speakers and food.

One of the vendors was 26-year-old Taylor Harden, who teaches archery and horsemanship through her business Darkhorse Warriors.

Harden, who is half Black and part Native American, had a booth set up with hand-made arrows, spears and leather cuff bracelets.

When she's teaching lessons, Harden said she tries to create an atmosphere where people can be themselves and not be afraid. And that's how she felt at the Juneteenth celebration.

"This is the first event that I felt completely welcomed to come in and do my thing," Harden said. "None of my antics are going to be too much here, and that's really awesome."

Reporter: 541-617-7820, kspurr@bendbulletin.com

## Fathers

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The group has grown to about 30 members and is led by a board of directors. For the past year, the group worked mostly behind the scenes with the city of Bend and the local school district.

But on Saturday at Ponderosa Park, The Father's Group hosted its first large public gathering to celebrate Juneteenth, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. President Joe Biden signed legislation Thursday that made it a new federal holiday.

"Because of the day and what it represents, I think this will be our biggest event so far," said David Merritt, president of The Father's Group.

At the Juneteenth event, Father's Group members shared their plans for the future. The group is working to establish a youth scholarship program for underserved children and create an after-school program.

Merritt, a 44-year-old musician and music producer, said the after-school program could be a way to teach children about Black history, but also life skills, such as managing money and applying for jobs. Specific plans for the after-school program are still in the works, he said.

"We want to teach them all the things that may not be getting taught," Merritt said.

"I know that I didn't have the



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Visitors mingle around tents and displays Saturday during a Juneteenth celebration at Ponderosa Park in Bend.

advantage of learning certain things. It makes a difference in what you can do when you

get older."

Marcus LeGrand, a board member with The Father's

Group and member of the Bend-La Pine School Board, said the group offers children a variety of mentors to learn from. The board includes a teacher, a retired police officer, a chef and other experienced adults, LeGrand said.

"A lot of us are professionals, so we said 'let's come together and utilize all of our skills to be able to create an organization that supports students, family and the community at large,'" LeGrand said. "There are so many things we can teach them from our professional background. It's going to be phenomenal for them to learn from what we are trying to do."

As a school board member, LeGrand sees The Father's Group as a valuable asset for local schools. Teachers could reach out to members and discuss lived experiences as a Black person, which could benefit a curriculum, LeGrand said.

"We are going to help by being able to say we are a resource that you can use to come and work on the things you need," LeGrand said.

While the group is led by Black fathers, LeGrand said it is open to anyone interested in supporting the goals of promoting diversity and supporting students and minority-owned businesses.

"We embrace everyone who wants to become a part of this," LeGrand said.

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# Ask a Legal Professional

Send your questions to:  
Ask a Legal Professional • Leanna Williams  
By email: lwilliams@bendbulletin.com  
Or mail: P.O. Box 6020, Bend, OR 97708

### ESTATE PLANNING



Will Dennis  
Attorney at Law

**Question:** Am I liable for "Capital Gains Tax" if I sell my home?

**Answer:** With home prices rising as they are here in Central Oregon, many folks may be facing paying a "capital gains tax" when they sell their home. For example, say you purchased your home 30 years ago for \$150,000. It is now worth \$750,000. At sale, your profit is \$600,000. If you are married, you receive a \$500,000 exemption (you can also add monies spent on improvements) making \$100,000 subject to capital gains tax. Using a capital gains tax rate of 20%, your capital gains tax would be \$20,000.00. For a single person, the exemption is reduced to \$250,000 making the profit \$600,000 and the tax \$120,000. If the single person owned the property with a spouse who died the property value gets a 50% "step up in basis" which can reduce or eliminate the capital gains tax. The capital gains on home sales is fast becoming an issue due to rising home prices. If you are considering selling your home, you should address the capital gains tax issue. In estate planning and long-term care planning the capital gains should be addressed. I provide a no-charge consultation for estate planning and long-term care matters.

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**Question:** I understand that Oregon has an inheritance tax that will apply to my estate after my death. Will the value of my vacation home in California be subject to the tax?

**Answer:** If you own real or personal property in Oregon and at your death your gross estate is in excess of \$1 million, then it is likely your estate may owe Oregon estate tax after your death. Oregon has a peculiar way to calculate its estate tax. The tax is calculated on the entire gross estate of the decedent, the value of which includes all of the decedent's assets whether located in Oregon or elsewhere, then a percentage is applied to determine the tax payable to Oregon. The percentage used to determine the tax is the percent of the assets that are "located" in Oregon compared to the percent of the assets "located" outside Oregon. Since your California property is located outside of Oregon, the value of that property will reduce the estate tax owing in Oregon, but its value is still used in the calculation of the tax. \*Assets left to a spouse or a charity receive a deduction against the tax, so you can avoid the tax by leaving your assets to your spouse or a charity.

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### REAL ESTATE



Craig Edwards  
Attorney at Law

**Question:** What is an easement?

**Answer:** An easement is a limited right to use someone else's land, usually for a specific purpose, for an unlimited period of time unless agreed otherwise. Because an easement is an interest in land, it must be created in writing. Once created it should be recorded in the county's real estate records, and then it will "run" with the land, binding future owners of the properties that are burdened or benefited by the easement. The written easement agreement should describe the location of the easement, the use intended, obligations to maintain and repair the easement area, and any limits on its use. Questions about creating, using, enforcing, protecting and terminating easements should be referred to an experienced real estate attorney.

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