

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- WHEREAS:** Oregon's Black history is Oregon's history, and Oregon's logging history includes Oregon's Black loggers; and
- WHEREAS:** The logging town of Maxville was established in Wallowa County in 1923 at a time when Oregon's Constitution excluded Blacks; and
- WHEREAS:** Maxville, a town of approximately 400 residents, brought approximately 60 Black loggers and their families in boxcars from the American South and Midwest, to the Maxville operation, housed them in segregated housing, schooled the children in segregated schools, and segregated the men's jobs. Maxville loggers nevertheless worked in integrated teams and the families formed valuable multi-racial friendships; and
- WHEREAS:** The townsite of Maxville and the logging operations ceased during The Great Depression, and the unique history of the town was nearly forgotten, until the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center, located in Joseph, Oregon, was established in 2008 to collect, preserve, and interpret that unique and important history; and
- WHEREAS:** The Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center continues the Maxville loggers' tradition of valuable friendships by creating ties to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Smithsonian Institution, and other local, state, and national entities and learning institutions to further the message that Black History is American History; and
- WHEREAS:** Today, 100 years after the founding of Maxville, the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center furthers its mission to move forward in our collective history by offering the original townsite as a safe place for new generations to study multi-racial history, timberland stewardship, wilderness and leadership skills, archaeology, and the inestimable value of multi-racial partnerships across our state and our nation.
- NOW,
THEREFORE:** I, Tina Kotek, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **June 3, 2023** to be

MAXVILLE HERITAGE DAY

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, May 31, 2023.



Tina Kotek, Governor

Cheryl Myers, Acting Secretary of State