



News Release

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The Tale of Tacoma's Tragic Streetcar Disaster

Local author's book chronicles one of the worst trolley accidents in U. S. history.

On July 4, 1900, Tacoma held a grand Independence Day celebration to welcome the new century. Transportation systems were woefully inadequate to move the expected 50,000 people - including visitors from around the state - to the downtown parade site. The accident killed 43 people and injured many more.

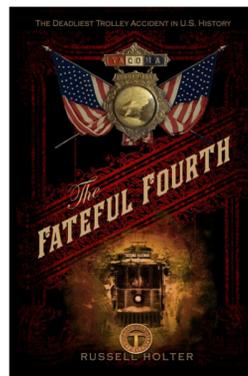
Local author Russell Holter will talk about his book, "The Fateful Fourth: The Story of America's Worst Trolley Disaster" at the Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library, Saturday, Mar. 4 from 2-3 p.m.

Holter spent 17 years researching the story. He portrays the region's social and economic conditions at the turn of the century, and gives voice to the Tacoma decision-makers who planned the extravagant event.

Holter is a historian for the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. In 2016, he received the Tacoma Historical Society's Murray Morgan Award for history.

Copies of "The Fateful Fourth" will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

All Timberland programs are free and open to the public. The **Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library** is located at 400 N. Market Blvd. For more information, contact the library at (360) 748-3301 or visit www.TRL.org.



Check out Russell Holter's book from TRL.

Timberland Regional Library provides for the information, reading and lifelong learning needs of the Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston county public at 27 community public libraries and six library service partner locations. The library system is funded mainly by local property taxes. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library's programs may contact the library one week in advance.

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