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Labor Day Weekend Wagon Encampment at National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Baker City, Oregon- A Wagon Encampment event September 5th, 6th and 7th at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center will recreate a pioneer rest stop on the Oregon Trail as it might have looked 150 years ago.

In the mid-1800's, scores of pioneers traveled in their wagon trains through the Baker Valley at this time each year, traveling 12-15 miles per day. The occasional stop to rest and recuperate was crucial to conserving energy during hot late summer days.

On Saturday, Sunday, and Monday between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm costumed interpreters will provide Dutch oven cooking demonstrations at the Center's outdoor wagon encampment. Samples are available for visitors. A variety of dishes will be prepared, all using historic recipes and ingredients that were available to overland pioneers. Dishes will include freshly prepared bison, salmon, and lamb stews, cobblers, and biscuits. Traditional pioneer fare of hard tack, dried fruit, and beans will also be on hand.

Sheryl Curtis will appear as "Bullwhackin' Kass" with her team of oxen. Curtis gives brief demonstrations of how the massive draft animals take commands for basic tasks and she will answer questions about frontier teamsters and early freighting. The six foot tall oxen offer visitors an up close and personal look - petting and photographs with the oxen is encouraged.

Featured programs in the Leo Adler Theater include "Color of the Trail" by Cassandra Beers on Saturday, "Equine or Bovine" by Calvin Henshaw on Sunday, and on Monday, Native American storyteller John Bevis from Pendleton.

Historic characters such as miners, merchants, washwomen, and pioneer children will be on hand to tell visitors their stories of life on the Trail. Musicians on fiddle and guitar will be playing traditional pioneer era music.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, operated by the Bureau of Land Management, is located 5 miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission for adults is \$8. Seniors are \$4.50. Children 15 and under are free. Federal passes are accepted. Visit oregontrail.blm.gov for more information about the Center, or call 541-523-1843 for updates on programs and events. For information on this and other events in Baker County, Oregon over Labor Day Weekend, call 1-800-523-1235.

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