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Holiday Open House at Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Trail Tenders will open doors at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon for their 16th annual "Holiday Open House" on Friday, December 7 from 5:00-8:00 pm.

The event includes music, family activities, door prizes, Father Christmas, and seasonal decorations based on the historic and natural themes of the Interpretive Center. Held on the first Friday of each December, it is presented as a way of thanking the local community for all the support they provide the Trail Tenders and Bureau of Land Management staff in operating the Interpretive Center.

There will be free admission all day at the Interpretive Center, located at 22267 Highway 86 five miles east of Baker City. Festivities start at 5:00 with a presentation by Brooklyn Elementary School Choir, followed by a presentation from the South Baker Elementary School 1st Grade Class at 5:30. At 6:00 pm the Baker High School Bel Canto Choir will perform in the Leo Adler Theater, followed by some informal caroling throughout the exhibit area.

Trail Tenders will offer refreshments in the Flagstaff Gallery, and will be holding an ongoing drawing for door prizes as well as a silent auction style sale of special items suitable for holiday gift giving. The Oregon Trail Shop will be offering a 10% discount on all sales throughout the day. All annual proceeds from the Oregon Trail Shop go towards educational and interpretive programs at the site.

The popular cake walk at this event will once again offer visitors the opportunity to re-enact this historic form of entertainment familiar to early settlers. Father Christmas will be on hand to visit with youngsters and to help the Trail Tenders distribute special historic style goody bags to all the younger visitors. John Brown will do readings of "The Night Before Christmas" throughout the evening.

Trail Tenders is a non-profit volunteer organization key to helping operate the Interpretive Center, which welcomes thousands of visitors each year. Their volunteer contributions and fund raising efforts support the many interpretive and educational programs and special events offered to the public each year. For more information about Trail Tenders, call 541-523-1843.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is 5 miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. For more information call (541) 523-1843 or visit the web at oregontrail.blm.gov. The Interpretive Center is operated by the Bureau of Land Management and is a federal fee site. Admission for adults is $5and seniors are $3.50. Free fee days are offered monthly. Federal passes are accepted.

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