

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Contact: Sarah LeCompte
(541) 523-1843

Historic Medicine Show to be presented at Trail Center

BAKER CITY, Ore. – Living history interpreter Mike Follin brings a re-created traveling frontier medicine show to the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center August 14-17. Presentations of “Dr. Balthasar” are scheduled daily at 10:30 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. in the Leo Adler Theater located inside the Center.

Follin is with the Ohio Historical Society in Cincinnati, and created the character of a 19th century frontier patent medicine salesman to help modern Americans understand frontier history and early day health care.

The Dr. Balthasar character uses the rapid fire patter and entertaining techniques that attracted early American country folk to attend a sales talk and purchase mostly useless tonics. Follin opens and closes his forty minute programs with modern viewpoints and facts about this early industry and frontier life, but when he assumes his character, audiences find themselves transported back in time, and often become part of the good doctor’s sales spiel.

The Trail Center is located five miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is currently open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission for adults is \$8.00; for seniors it’s \$4.50; children 15 and under are admitted for free. Federal passes are accepted. Call (541) 523-1843 for updates on programs and events. For more information about the Trail Center visit www.oregontrail.blm.gov.

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