

# NEWSRelease

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Vale District Office

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## Explore the sky along the Oregon Trail at “Starry Night” event

Baker City, Oregon- Explore the sky along the Oregon Trail at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Starry Night is a free event focusing on celestial gazing both during the day and at night and learning more about the skies in historic and modern times.

Local astronomy buff Ryc Rienks will present a special solar viewing and educational discussion about the sun at 3:00 pm at the amphitheater. At 7:00 pm, telescopes will be set up along the main walkway, and visitors will be oriented with celestial bodies in the night sky. All astronomers are invited to bring their own equipment and set up on the darker side of Flagstaff Hill. Shielded from ambient lights of Baker Valley, star viewing is great. The event is a good introduction for youngsters and star gazing novices to learn to use a telescope and star charts. Local astronomers will share their knowledge of current celestial events. Starry Night is for both the casual star gazer and experienced astronomy enthusiasts, and concludes at 10:00 pm

The entrance gate will be closed at 7:30 to prevent glaring headlights from disrupting the viewing, so visitors are asked to arrive ahead of that time. Night time temperatures are dropping, so visitors are advised to dress warmly or bring a blanket. Hot drinks and light refreshments will be provided, as well as an information packet on how to learn more about astronomy.

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](http://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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