

# QUICK TAKES

## Free presentation on history of elk offered in Baker County

BAKER CITY — The Baker County Historical Society presents a free program on the history of elk in the county March 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave., Baker City.

The guest speaker will be George Keister, retired wildlife biologist from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Keister was the district biologist for Baker County from 1995 to 2006.

Refreshments will be served. Attendees should use the door to the basement at Crossroads.

## Oregon Trail Center seeking volunteer actors

BAKER CITY — The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is seeking volunteers to portray pioneers during the

annual Memorial Day wagon encampment.

Costumes, base character roles and coaching in historic interpretation will be provided.

For information, contact Casey Taylor at 541-523-1830.

## Dance features live music, homemade ice cream and snacks

LA GRANDE — An end-of-the-month community dance will be held Feb. 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande.

All ages are welcome. The evening will include live music by the Blue Mountaineers.

There will also be door prizes, a finger-food potluck (bring your favorite dish to share if you're able) and George Neer's "famous homemade ice cream."

Admission is \$3, and age 12 and younger get in free.

## BROWN BAG LUNCHEON

# 'How do we deal with difference?'

JOSEPH — The Joseph Center will present the monthly Brown Bag program at noon March 3 at the center on Main Street in Joseph.

Part of the ongoing Big Read, organized by Fishtrap, the program will be a discussion of differences and how we deal with them. This year's Big Read features Julie Otsuka's "When the Emperor Was Divine." The novel chronicles a Japanese-American family's journey from normalcy in Berkeley, California, to life in a World War II internment camp and their return to a changed world.

According to a press release, the discussion on March 3 will address the more general concept of difference or, as some describe it, as making some people "the other" in our everyday world.

Pastor David Bruce, who has his own interesting history with Japanese culture, will begin the discussion. Bruce has done extensive work on the issues of differences and civil rights and what it means for communities that seem



David Bruce will lead the discussion at the March 3 Brown Bag lunch at the Joseph Center.

— at least on the surface — to be without divisions and differences.

Bruce emphasized, though, that this is a discussion for everyone, asking: Have you experienced the feeling of difference based on your religion, education, race, wealth or gender? Have you reached out — or wanted to reach out — to a foreign exchange student from Africa or Palestine, and not known quite how to do so? Have you had a child bullied for being too short, too tall, too uncoordinated or just "different"?

A program addressing the same topic will be held March 10 at 7 p.m. in the Wallowa City Hall. These events are free and open to the public.

## MORE BIG READ EVENTS

Union County is also participating in the Big Read. Community

book discussions will be held at JaxDog Cafe and Books, 1305 Adams Ave., La Grande, from 4-6 p.m. Feb. 29, March 7 and March 14.

Also in La Grande, a Big Read Art Day is set for 2-4 p.m. March 7 at Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave. There will be Big Read activities for K-12 readers inspired by the companion titles "So Far From the Sea," "Write to Me" and "Paper Wishes," featured in La Grande school library curriculum during the Big Read.

This free event will give participants the chance to create art inspired by the books' illustrations, see their names written in Japanese characters and try their hands at making onigiri, a popular Japanese snack food. Art Day is organized by Mountain Valleys Reading Council and hosted by Art Center East.

March 15 brings Tea in the Gallery from 1-3 p.m. at Art Center East. Taste a selection of Japanese teas and learn what makes the Japanese tea tradition so distinctive. Space is limited; register at [www.artcentereast.org](http://www.artcentereast.org). Cost is \$20 for ACE members or \$25 for nonmembers.

A class titled "Snow Dye Shibori & Sake" is set for March 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Participants will create a unique scarf using this traditional Japanese dyeing technique. Space is limited; register at [www.artcentereast.org](http://www.artcentereast.org). Cost is \$35 for ACE members or \$45 for nonmembers.

Welcome Lads, Lasses  
& ALL KILTS!  
MARCH 17, 2020

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