

Brown Bag looks at Zumwalt Prairie & THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S TAG DONATION PROGRAM

JOSEPH — The next Joseph Center Brown Bag will feature Chad Dotson of the Nature Conservancy explaining the organization's tag donation program, of which the Joseph Center is a current beneficiary.

Dotson will explain the Nature Conservancy's program that helps local schools, nonprofits and charities by donating Zumwalt Prairie hunting tags. The Zoom meeting begins at noon Tuesday, Feb. 2.

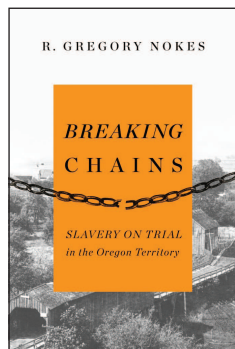
The Joseph Center is a recent recipient of a buck tag that quickly sold 200 tickets for a drawing that will take place March 16 for a 2022 hunt. After guide fees and advertising, the arts center will realize more than \$7,500 for its capital campaign, aimed at buying the Joseph Center building on Joseph's Main Street.

Wallowa Resources, Lions and Rotary clubs, Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation, Wallowa Valley Soccer Association, Wallowa County Search and Rescue, Friends of Wallowa School Foundation and many other local service agencies have benefited from this program. More than \$300,000 has been raised in the Zumwalt deer and elk tag program to date.

Bring your questions about the tag program, and general questions about the Zumwalt, to Tuesday's meeting. Access the Zoom link for the Brown Bag program at www.josephy.org/event/brown-bag-nature-conservancy-buck-tag.

Join the Brown Bag Book Club

JOSEPH — The Feb. 23 Brown Bag hosted by the Joseph Center will be a gathering of the Black History Month Book Group. Beginning at noon, the virtual book group will discuss "Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory" by R. Gregory Nokes.



In "Breaking Chains," Nokes tells the story of the only slavery case adjudicated in Oregon's pre-Civil War courts: *Holmes v. Ford*. Through the lens of this landmark case, Nokes explores the historical context of racism in Oregon

and the West, reminding readers that there actually were slaves in Oregon.

Drawing on the court record, Nokes offers an intimate account of the relationship between a slave and his master from the slave's point of view. He also explores the experiences of other slaves in early Oregon, examining attitudes toward race and revealing contradictions in the state's history.

Oregon was the only free state admitted to the union with a voter-approved constitutional clause banning African Americans and, despite the prohibi-

tion of slavery in the state, many in Oregon tolerated it and supported politicians who advocated for slavery, including Oregon's first territorial governor.

ABOUT CHAD DOTSON

For more information call 541-432-0505 or email rich.wandschneider@gmail.com.

Chad Dotson is a fifth-generation Wallowa Countian; a new son, Max, named after Chad's grandpa Max Gorsline, will make it six generations.

After growing up in land and wildlife management, Chad acted as the hunting guide on the Zumwalt Prairie Preserve for five years before becoming a full-time preserve steward for the Nature Conservancy. He's been in that position for three years, managing the tags and an antler shed collection program that also helps local groups while exposing more of us to the grand Zumwalt landscape.

BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES

The Joseph Center Brown Bag lecture series is free and open to the public. Typically held on Tuesdays, the series prior to the pandemic was held at the Joseph Center for Arts & Culture, 403 N. Main St., Joseph.

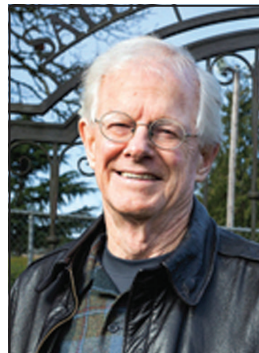
In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as much as possible, the gatherings will for the time being be virtual. Previous Brown Bags are archived on the center's website and may be watched at any time: go to www.josephy.org and choose Events then Past Events.

Copies of the book are on sale at the Joseph Center, (\$19.95 less a 20% book group discount, so \$14 for a book you will want in your library). Buy the book online at www.josephy.org/product/breaking-chains-slavery-on-trial-in-the-oregon-territory.

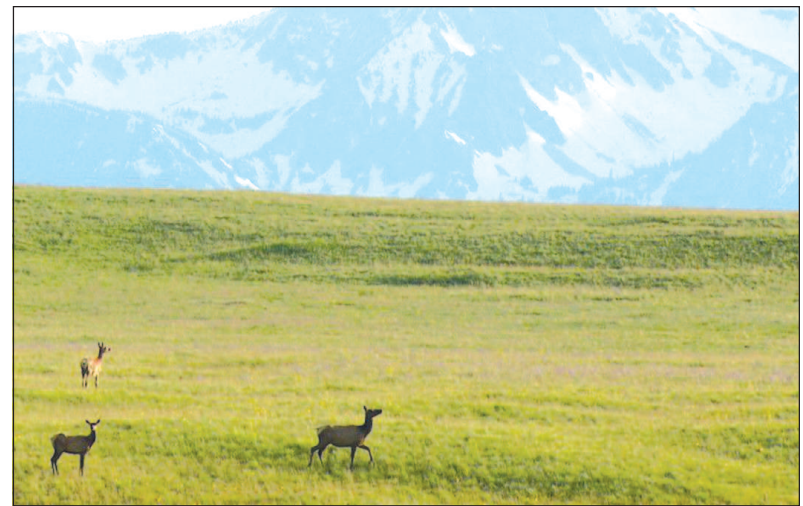
Join the discussion via the Zoom link at www.josephy.org/event/black-history-month-book-group-brown-bag.

Nokes traveled the world as a reporter and editor for The Associated Press and The Oregonian. He is a graduate of Willamette University and attended Harvard University as a Nieman Fellow. He and his wife, Candise, live in West Linn, Oregon.

He also is the author of "Massacred for Gold: The Chinese in Hells Canyon" and his latest work, "The Troubled Life of Peter Burnett."



Nokes



Brandon Swanson, OPB/Contributed Photo

The Zumwalt Prairie, tucked between the Wallowa Mountains and Hells Canyon, is the last remaining, largest undisturbed plateau grassland and bunchgrass ecosystem in the Pacific Northwest. On Feb. 2, the Joseph Center's virtual Brown Bag will feature the Zumwalt's preserve steward for the Nature Conservancy.

Be safe, wear masks, stay distanced: we will get through this. Thank you. Mae

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