

Take a stroll through history

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — Friday brings a chance to learn some of the local lore and history thanks to a new program by the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

"This is a project I've wanted to do for about eight months," said Casey Taylor, a ranger at the center.

Taylor will lead a walking history talk at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3, starting at the Oregon Trail Shop, 2015 Main St. This coincides with the First Friday art walk, when new art shows open at local galleries.

The Interpretive Center, which is located 5 miles east of Baker City, is closed for more than two years to receive an en-



Lisa Britton/Go! Magazine

Casey Taylor, a ranger at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, will talk about how the history of Baker City and the who built downtown buildings during a talk on Dec. 3.

ergy-efficient upgrade. During the closure, the center will open a temporary exhibit in March 2022 inside the Baker Heritage

Museum. The Oregon Trail Shop moved downtown this summer and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

THE WALK

Taylor's talk will center on the setting: Baker City.

"I'll talk about how Baker

HISTORY WALK

Casey Taylor, a ranger at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, will lead a history walk in downtown Baker City on Friday, Dec. 3. The tour starts at 6 p.m. at the Oregon Trail Shop, 2015 Main St.

became Baker," he said.

This includes a lesson about the Blue Bucket Mine, the fabled gold discovery that drew Henry Griffin to Eastern Oregon and the founding of Auburn. By October 1862, Taylor recounts, Auburn had a population of 5,000.

There's nothing left of that town, and Taylor can tell you the reasons why Baker became the county seat instead.

Gold was instrumental in building Baker City, and Taylor will talk about how that precious metal helped shape the town.

Another part of Taylor's talk will be "What's in a name?" For instance, the "Geiser" behind both the Geiser Grand Hotel and Geiser Pollman Park. Also, why is Alfred Block's name on a building along Main Street?

Taylor will cover "some of the more prominent buildings we see downtown," he said.

He'll also talk about the development of Baker City and how it transitioned from wooden structures to the volcanic tuff we see today. (Hint: Fire and floods were involved.)

M. CROW

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Walk-In Wednesday: 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$20, December 1 & 8

Registration open: Intro to Collage with Janis Carper December 4, 1-4pm.

Registration open: Wool Crafts with Jan Hohmann December 11, 1-4pm.

Registration open: Ceramics Foundations for Beginners

Registration open: Intermediate Ceramics

More upcoming classes and workshops at josephy.org under the learn tab.

Submissions Open: Women's Exhibit deadline January 16