

NEWS RELEASE
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The Roots of American Music

Oregon Trail Music Festival to be held at Interpretive Center

BAKER CITY, Oregon – On Saturday, the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center will host the 5th annual Oregon Trail Music Festival. “Music of our Pioneer Roots” begins with folk dancing in the lobby. A sing along and open microphone is the musical kickoff in the Leo Adler Theater at noon followed by Bern Youngblood and Ruth Laurance who will enlighten the audience about the difference between the violin and the fiddle. High energy Strings Attached from Idaho, then rich, deep-voiced Hank Cramer from Winthrop Washington will keep your toes a tappin’. The final performance of the day features the Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers playing traditional foot stomping music. In addition to the music, there will be a bake sale sponsored by the Trail Tenders and children’s activities in the afternoon.

Oregon Trail Music Festival Schedule of performers:

- 9 a.m. - Center Opens
- 10 a.m. - Folk Dancing (audience participation)
- 12 p.m. - Sing Along and Open Microphone
- 1 p.m. - Bern Youngblood and Ruth Laurance, Violin Vs. Fiddle
- 2 p.m. - Strings Attached
- 3 p.m. - Hank Cramer and the Rounders
- 4 p.m. - Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers
- 6 p.m. - Center Closes

There were challenges and hardships on the Oregon Trail, but there was also camaraderie and celebration. “A fiddler comes down from the other camp to see if a dance of the turf cannot be started. ... Mr. Upton got down his melodeon and played some – we danced a while and went to bed... Three nights later there was violin music and Dora and Mary danced the polka.” **Helen E. Clark, 1860.** Along with the work and trail travails there was time for fun. Young people courted, music was played, and songs were sung. Join us in celebrating the music that has its roots in the pioneer era at the Oregon Trail Music Festival.

The Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is 5 miles east of Baker City on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For more information call (541) 523-1843 or visit oregontrail.blm.gov. The Interpretive Center is operated by the Bureau of Land Management and is a federal fee site.

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