

Harvest Festival highlights region's bounty

By Tammy Malgesini
Go! Magazine

BOARDMAN — Organizers are gearing up to sow some family fun as the Morrow County Harvest Festival returns. The free event is Saturday, Oct. 2, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the SAGE Center's grounds, 101 Olson Road.

With all major SAGE Center events canceled in 2020 except the annual Christmas Light Show, Torrie Griggs, executive director of the center and Boardman Chamber of Commerce, is looking forward to the Harvest Festival. The exclusively outdoor festival, Griggs said, celebrates the end of the harvest season.

In its eighth year, the event features nearly two dozen booths offering regionally produced agricultural goods and handmade artisan crafts. Renee Ortiz, the chamber's communications specialist, said visitors will be able to find such items as jewelry, home decor, clothing, handmade soaps and woodwork. Also, a handful of

food and beverage vendors will be on site.

In addition, Ortiz said Kid's Corner activities include pumpkin decorating, face painting, a bounce house, an obstacle course and a petting zoo.

New to the festival this year is a Pinewood Derby. There's still time to get in gear for the races, which includes three divisions from kids to adults. Kits are available at the SAGE Center's museum store. Sponsored by Amazon Web Services, prizes will surely bring smiles to the faces of winners.

Another popular activity is the mule-drawn wagon rides with Brian and Karli Cook of Equine Elegance. And the event also features live music by Dallin Puzey, a Hermiston native, who writes and performs his own music and also covers a variety of familiar folk, country, rock and pop songs.

"Dallin is a great performer who was well-received in the past," Ortiz said. "His music is also family-friendly."



Tammy Malgesini/EO Media Group, File

T & C Flowers & Produce of Boardman offered a variety of goods during the 2018 Morrow County Harvest Festival at the SAGE Center in Boardman. Nearly two dozen vendors will be on hand for the Oct. 2 event.

In conjunction with Threemile Canyon Farms, the "Harvest Bounty for Youth in Agriculture" is returning. In exchange for a small donation to local 4-H and FFA programs, festival attendees can "fill-a-bag" with locally grown produce. Ortiz said people often donate anywhere from \$3 to \$10 or more.

"This is a great partnership because it not only raises awareness of our local agriculture

industry but it also allows people to enjoy local produce grown by their friends and neighbors," Ortiz said. "Plus, it is a fundraiser."

Developed by the Port of Morrow, the SAGE Center — Sustainable Agriculture & Energy — won't be open for tours during the event. However, its restroom facilities and museum store will be available. Be sure to check out the inventory, which showcases many local

products and the creations of local artisans.

The SAGE Center's regular hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call 541-481-7243, search Facebook or visit www.visitsage.com.

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