## **BEHIND THE SCENES**

# 'Fan-favorite' designation energizes SAGE Center



Tammy Malgesini/EO Media Group, File A variety of locally grown produce was available by donation through the Harvest Bounty for Youth in Agriculture during the 2019 Morrow County Harvest Festival at the SAGE Center, Boardman. This year's outdoor event is Oct. 2.

#### **By Tammy Malgesini** Go! Magazine

BOARDMAN — The SAGE Center, which has been in existence for less than a decade, has lots to boast about these days.

Developed by the Port of Morrow, the SAGE Center -Sustainable AGriculture & Energy — gives visitors a unique opportunity to learn about technology utilized throughout the region. It features interactive displays, including a corn planting simulator, a processing sculpture that shows how potatoes go from farm to table, and a virtual hot air balloon ride, which is being updated, that showcases all of Morrow County. It also houses a theater and museum store.

And the word is getting out about the facility. Each year since 2018, the SAGE Center has been included in Oregon Business magazine's top 100 fan-favorite destinations in Oregon — No. 28 in 2020, 86th in 2019 and 53rd in 2018. Torrie Griggs, the center's manager, said she's hoping to break into

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the top 20 when the 2021 rankings are announced in December.

"This is a wonderful achievement for the SAGE Center. It means our guests continue to enjoy their experience," she said. "It is a great opportunity to gain valuable exposure across the state of Oregon and beyond."

After a 13-month closure because of the global pandemic, the SAGE Center is fully open to the public again — all visitors and staff are required to wear masks regardless of vaccination status. Griggs looks forward to resuming activities and hosting special events. The annual Christmas Light Show was the only event held in 2020.

The next major event is the Morrow County Harvest Festival, which is Saturday, Oct. 2, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Held exclusively outdoors, it will feature a variety of vendors offering regionally produced agricultural goods and handmade artisan crafts, live music, mule-drawn wagon rides and a Kid's Corner.

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### Enjoy Classes at Crossroads this September

g Classes at Crossroads		Fall Children's Ballet Begins in September	
ay	<b>Getting Grounded - Feeling Better</b> 4:30-5:30pm	Tuesday	
esday	Learn to Love Watercolor and Pastels 3:00-5:00pm and 5:00-7:00pm		
	<b>Young Artists' Studio</b> 1:45-3:45pm	Wednesday	JednesdayBallet II - Ages 6-8September 22-November 104:00-5:00pmPrior training necessary
lay	Adult Open Studio 1:00-3:00pm	Thursday	
ber Class	1.00-5.00pm		<b>Ballet III - Ages 9+</b> September 23-November 11 4:00-5:00pm <i>No prior experience necessary</i>
mber 16	Intro to Celtic Knotwork 6:00-8:00pm		
Createrands is an an Manday through Saturday from 10,000m to 5,000m			

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> Crossroads is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00am to 5:00pm Crossroads in accordance with the Oregon Health Authority requires masks for everyone age 5 and above.

