

Center for the Arts hosts book launch for Hermiston author

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COMMUNITY EDITOR

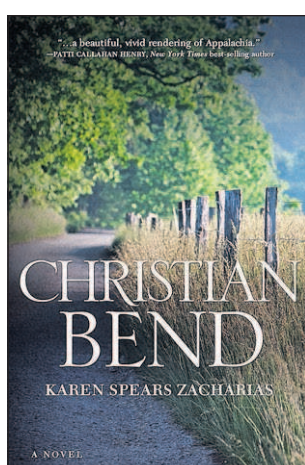
Combining storytelling and art, a book launch event for Hermiston author Karen Spears Zacharias' latest novel also includes artist Susie Stuvland.

Inspired: How Art Influences Storytelling is Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. The event is free and open to the public. Copies of "Christian Bend" will be available for purchase.

Described as "a contemporary murder story, which resonates with a vintage love of place while exploring the changing landscape of drugs, addiction and violence," it's Zacharias' third book in the Appalachian series. "Mother of Rain" (2013) and "Burdy" (2015), also were published by Mercer University Press.

The first book in the series garnered Zacharias a Weatherford Award for Best in Appalachian Fiction. The 2013 novel also was adapted as a stage play by Paul Pierce, opening during the 2015-2016 season at the Springer Opera House in Columbus, Georgia.

With Southern roots — Zacharias graduated from Columbus High School in Georgia — the author utilizes Appala-



CONTRIBUTED BOOK COVER

Hermiston author Karen Zacharias is featured in a book launch event Wednesday, Aug. 30 at Pendleton Center for the Arts. "Christian Bend," published by Mercer University Press, is the author's third novel in an Appalachian series.



Zacharias

chia dialect in the novel series. After tonight's event, Zacharias is headed to Georgia, where she will embark on a two-

month book tour and other related events in the Southern states.

Growing up in a military family, her father was killed in action in 1966. Zacharias said that was a catalyst for her eventual career in journalism. She has worked in newspapers across the country, including stints at the *East Oregonian* and the *Tri-City Herald*. Also, she has written eight books, including "Karly Sheehan: True Crime Story Behind Karly's Law."

At the urging of true crime writer Ann Rule, Zacharias wrote the book about the 2005 death of the young girl at the hands of her mother's boyfriend. In addition to an investigative reporter's approach, Zacharias had personal connections to the story. Karly's mother, Sarah Brill, lived with Zacharias and her husband for a short time. The case led to legislative mandates that are designed to further protect children suspected of being victims of child abuse.

In addition to writing, Zacharias enjoys leading workshops. She has spoken at the Library of Congress and has appeared on "Good Morning America."

For more about Zacharias and her books, visit www.karenzach.com.

IN BRIEF

Kayak trip features moonlight fun

A unique opportunity to enjoy the Columbia River via kayak as the sun sets is being coordinated by Hermiston Parks & Recreation.

The Harvest Moonlight Paddle is Friday, Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Hat Rock State Park. Participants will meet at the main boat ramp parking lot. Afterwards, a bonfire will feature harvest themed treats.

The cost is \$30 for Hermiston residents or \$38 for non-residents. In addition, there is a \$10 kayak rental, if needed. The activity is open to ages 14 and up (youths must be accompanied by an adult). Those planning to attend need to register by Friday, Sept. 1.

Sponsored by Hat Rock State Park and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, paddlers will enjoy an evening along the river under the enchanting night sky. Participants are encouraged to bring a headlamp and glow sticks.

For more information, visit www.hermistonrecreation.com. To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

East Moraine work party seeks volunteers

A work party to help restore habitat for mule deer, elk and other animals is planned on the East Moraine at Wallowa Lake.

The public is invited to assist with removal of barbed-wire fencing and other tasks to help make the landscape more accessible for animals who live and roam in the area.

Coordinated by the Wallowa Land Trust, the Habitat Restoration on the East Moraine is Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. To RSVP and for directions to the gathering place, contact info@wallowalandtrust.org or 541-426-2042.

Nazarene church collects school supplies

Spiral notebooks, pencils, paper and other school supplies are being

collected by the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene.

The congregation adopted West Park Elementary School and invites others to donate supplies. The final collection date is Sunday. The items will be presented to the school counselor, who will distribute supplies to students who need them.

Items can be dropped off at the church, 1520 W. Orchard Ave. For more information, call 541-567-3677.

Hermiston church shares vision

The Hermiston Assembly of God Church has designated September as Vision Month.

The focus is to dream bigger, believe in greater things and to love people even more. The congregation and its leaders invite the public to join them as they launch into a series called #ThereIsMore! Each Sunday features something special and fun:

- Sept. 3: Back To School Sunday provides free donuts in the lobby.
- Sept. 10: Taco Truck Sunday offers taco truck food available in the yard after the service
- Sept. 17: NextGen Sunday features a service highlighting Elevate Kids & Tribe Youth
- Sept. 24: I Love My City, a community outreach event

The services begin at 10:30 a.m. at 730 E. Hurlburt Ave., Hermiston. For more information, call 541-567-5831 or visit www.facebook.com/hermistonassembly.

Library encourages kids to turn pages

With school back in session, the Hermiston Public Library is encouraging children to increase their reading.

The Children's Back to School Reading Challenge runs Sept. 4-30. Kids up to second grade are asked to read or have someone read to them 12 books. Third through fifth graders are challenged to read four books during the month.

Those accepting the challenge should pick up a reading sheet at the library and return it by the end of

the promotion for a chance to win prizes.

For more information, call 541-567-2882 or stop by the library at 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

Portland group offers easy-going musical vibe

A group of musicians with Will West leading the crew create a signature blend of modern folk, bluegrass, pop and groove elements — some have called it psychedelic bluegrass, folk and groove fusion.

Whatever you call it, Eastern Oregon audiences will have an opportunity to experience Will West & The Friendly Strangers. The Portland-based group will perform a free all-ages show Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. at Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 401 S. Main St., Pendleton.

Known for their easy-going vibes and fun audience participation, each performance offers a unique show with special guests and various instrument combinations — from cello & mandolin to trumpet and harmonica, throwing in some funky percussion system featuring xylophone, typewriter and more.

For more information, visit www.willwestmusic.com.

Tai Chi provides fun, improved health

Older adults interested in having fun while reducing the risk of falling are invited to register for a free class in Hermiston.

A 24-class series, Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance starts Monday, Sept. 25 from 9-9:45 a.m. at the Good Shepherd Wellness Center, 610 N.W. 11th St. The popular health promotion program improves balance, increases flexibility and strengthens core muscles.

No experience is required to participate. In addition, the gentle movements can be performed while standing or seated.

With enrollment capped at 15 participants, those interested in attending should register as soon as possible. For more information, call Lynda Carraher at 541-922-4203.

After Harvest party features dinner, music in Heppner

With the hard work of harvest just on the horizon, the community is invited to help celebrate during an upcoming event in Heppner.

The After Harvest party is Saturday, Sept. 16, at 6 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Lodge, 142 N. Main St. The gathering starts with a no-host social time, followed by a steak dinner at 6:30 p.m. Live music begins at 8 p.m. The cost is

\$15 per person.

The event also serves as a fun way to bring the community together and to give thanks to those who work to make Eastern Oregon a better place, said Justin Hoeft, Elks exalted ruler.

"This includes all individuals who volunteer, organizations that contribute to this effort, businesses that are here for us and struggle to bring the com-

munity the necessities of life," he said.

In addition, Hoeft said the event provides an opportunity to introduce people to the services and activities of the Elks. Prospective members, he said, are invited to learn more about the organization and pick up an application.

For more information, contact Hoeft at 541-379-1530 or jc_hoeft@hotmail.com.



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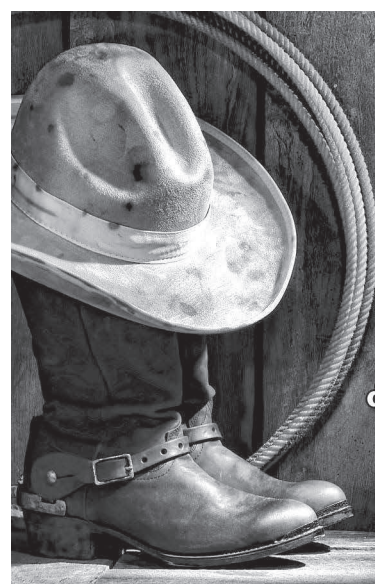
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Elmer's Irrigation tips the hat to the UMATILLA COUNTY FAIR & FARM CITY PRO RODEO

We congratulate the boards of directors and all staff and volunteers for an outstanding 2017 event!

A JOB WELL DONE!

It was a real kick in the pants!



Kids Club Back To School SUMMER LUAU!

Held at **Hermiston Christian Center**
1825 W. Highland Ave, Hermiston

Bouncy House Water & Outside Games Prizes, Hot Dogs, Chips and More!

September 6th 6:30-8:00pm



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* Study conducted at the University of Northern Colorado, 2015, examined the effectiveness of primax by collecting and analyzing ongoing EEG data while subjects performed speech testing. For both primax features SpeechMaster and EchoShield, the objective brain behavior measures revealed a significant reduction in listening effort when the feature was activated.
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