

# Hermiston Herald

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## Harvest Fest Fun



STAFF PHOTOS BY JADE McDOWELL

(TOP) Volunteer Isaiah Luna, left, and Edy Pablo Calmo toss bean bags outside the SAGE Center during the Morrow County Harvest Festival Saturday. (RIGHT) Nathan and Keri Heideman of Crappy View Farm and Stuff show off their wares at the SAGE Center during the Morrow County Harvest Festival Saturday.



### SAGE Center hosts Morrow County event

By JADE McDOWELL  
STAFF WRITER

More locally grown and locally made products than usual were on display at Boardman's SAGE Center Saturday during the annual Morrow County Harvest Festival.

The event drew families from all over the area to shop for produce and participate in free mule rides, games and crafts. Activities were spread between the outside of the building and indoors, where attendees could also check out the SAGE Center attractions.

Anita Meinke, from Umatilla, brought her

son, 6, to the event for their first time at the SAGE Center.

"I really enjoyed the inside," she said. "It was our first time and I was really impressed with what they have in there. It's very educational."

She said they also had fun riding the mule-drawn wagon, and she was glad her son had somewhere to run around outside.

"It's a fun family event," she said.

In addition to offering residents a family-friendly activity, the Harvest Festival was an opportunity for vendors to show off their wares and gain new customers. Nathan and Keri Heideman of Crappy View Farm and Stuff near Ione said it was their first time participating in the event. They had a table upstairs with jewelry, crafts and other items made from things found on their farm.

"It's a good event," Keri said. "I like that it really shows our community off and what we're about. I think a lot of people don't understand agriculture. It's nice for people to see where their food comes from."

Jolene O'Neal of Boardman has a small business selling items she crochets, paintings of her husband's and crafts made by a friend. She goes to a few bazaars a year and last year sold more than 100 crocheted hats with a hole at the top for a ponytail or messy bun. At her booth Saturday she said she wished she had more time to go look around at other vendors' displays.

"I like being involved in local stuff," she said. "I know a lot of people, so it's nice to see some familiar faces."

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## Boardman to get new apartments

Ground will be broken next week on what will become Boardman's largest apartment complex.

At 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 17, BC Contracting and PROffutt Limited Partnership will break ground on a 240-unit apartment complex at 220 NE Columbia Ave. in Boardman.

Full construction on the project is expected to begin by the end of October.

Boardman's rental units are almost at capacity and, according to a statement from PROffutt, the facility will nearly triple the number of rental units in the city.

PROffutt is an offshoot of the R.D. Offutt company, which owns RDO Equipment Co. John Deere dealerships in Hermiston, Pendleton and Pasco, Washing-

ton, as well as Threemile Canyon Farms in Boardman.

"We saw a need and an opportunity for a new, more modern place for the residents of Boardman to live and we took it," said Scott Neal, president of PROffutt Limited Partnership, the Real Estate division of R.D. Offutt Company. "This project has been in the works for some time and we are looking forward to bringing this new addition to a growing city."

PROffutt, headquartered in Fargo, North Dakota, owns, operates and manages real estate across the country including commercial, agricultural, industrial, single-family and multi-family properties.

The company said a sales and

marketing office will open several months before the project is completed to assist prospective future tenants. More information about the project, its amenities and floor plans of the apartments, will be available in 2018.

Boardman has faced a housing shortage as the Port of Morrow has grown, adding hundreds of jobs quickly. In 2015 the *East Oregonian* reported that 68 percent of workers at the port commuted from out of town, outnumbering the total population of Boardman. Rentals are in particularly short supply, causing the Boardman Community Development Association to start offering \$5,000 grants to homebuyers in 2015. Boardman has an estimated 3,383 residents.

### INSIDE

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MEET GLENN PURCELL, WHO HAS A UNIQUE PROFESSIONAL HOBBY, AND WE'RE NOT BLOWING SMOKE.

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BULLDOGS, VIKINGS, TIGERS AND COUGARS RECORD WINS.

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### BY THE WAY

#### Do you have a license to be doing that?

Hermiston Police Department used its Facebook page this week to recognize the anniversary of the death of a fallen officer from the city's past. Officer **Ronald Kilby** was killed in the line of duty 58 years ago, on Oct. 8, 1959. "In honor of Officer Kilby's service and ultimate sacrifice, today, we remember," HPD said in its post.

Hermiston Police also used Facebook to warn the public about people who may be soliciting door-to-door illegally and without a solicitor's license. The latest incident involves reports of people going from house to house offering to paint address numbers on the curb for a fee. The department advises people how to obtain a license and makes it clear that the effort is not sponsored, endorsed or authorized by the city of Hermiston.

With **Veterans Day** just around the corner, the **Hermiston Chamber of Commerce** is gearing up to salute those who have served our country. As a way to thank and honor current military personnel, veterans and their families for their courage, dedication and sacrifices, the event will feature a free breakfast and program. **Debbie Pedro**, chamber executive director, said they are seeking photos of local veterans/military personnel in uniform to include in the slide show that will play during the Friday, Nov. 10 event. **Kelly Schwirser** will be gathering those photos from those who haven't previously submitted one. People can send them via [kelly@hermistonchamber.com](mailto:kelly@hermistonchamber.com) or drop it off at the chamber office, 415 S. Highway 395. Photos must be submitted by Monday, Nov. 6.

More than six dozen athletes from **Hermiston/Pendleton Special Olympics Local Program #510** recently raised more than \$6,000 during the annual Bowlathon, held Oct. 7 at Desert Lanes in Hermiston.

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