

HHS graduate takes helm of Boardman chamber

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Eastern Oregon native Keri Heideman was recently hired as the new Boardman Chamber of Commerce executive director.

A 2004 Hermiston High School graduate, Heideman worked in operations support and law enforcement during a four-year career with the United States Coast Guard. She now lives on a farm outside of Ione with her husband, Nathan, and two daughters.

Heideman said she likes the Boardman community and the direction it's going. In addition, she's enthusiastic about its growth and possibilities.

"There are so many things coming to Boardman and I'm excited being a part of helping that happen," she said. "I have a lot of energy."

The chamber, Heideman said, assists with the growth of the community. In addition to attracting new businesses, it provides support for current businesses.

Also, she said, an important aspect of the chamber is to highlight existing programs and other resources in the area.

"There are a lot of educational opportunities with Blue Mountain Community College," Heideman said. "Also, there are a ton of jobs at the port."

There are numerous agriculture-related classes and educational support that focuses on technology and industry that are specific to the area, she said. Part of the chamber's role, Heideman said, is to shine a spotlight



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Keri Heideman, a 2004 Hermiston High School graduate, was recently hired as the executive director of the Boardman Chamber of Commerce.

on those resources.

Heideman most recently worked as co-compliance officer with the city of Boardman. In addition, she worked part-time as a life-guard at the Boardman Pool and Recreation Center.

Also, she's a reserve sergeant with the Boardman Police Department. She has served as a law enforcement reserve for 10 years with several agencies, including in Boardman, Umatilla and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

For a chance to meet Heideman, as well as local first responders, attend the Boardman Chamber Night Out. The free event is Wednesday, Aug. 29 from 5-8 p.m. at Boardman City Park, between Boardman Avenue and Park Place.

For more information, contact Heideman at 541-481-3014 or keri@boardmanchamber.org.

BRIEFS

Inland Musicians cash in with U.S. Bank grant

The U.S. Bank Foundation recently presented Inland Northwest Musicians with a \$2,500 grant.

The foundation has provided support to the nonprofit musicians' group since 2008, said Salli Ketchersid, INWM publicity coordinator. Over the years, Ketchersid said the total support has added up to \$30,500.

Founded in 1999, Inland Northwest Musicians is committed to providing live musical performances to rural audiences. It fosters an atmosphere of encouragement and assists musicians in developing their talent. Participants are not required to audition. In October, Inland Northwest Musicians will return for its 20th season.

The INWM office is based in Hermiston and serves musicians from throughout the region. For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Inland Northwest Musicians recently received \$2,500 from the U.S. Bank Foundation. Pictured (from left) are Salli Ketchersid, INWM publicity coordinator; Kara Taylor, Hermiston U.S. Bank manager; Brian Young, U.S. Bank district manager; Brandi Carlson, Hermiston U.S. Bank employee; RaNiel Dunn, INWM program administrator; and R. Lee Friese, INWM director and conductor.

Town halls to discuss Irrigon facilities

Morrow County commissioners are holding several town hall meetings to discuss plans for constructing a new county building in Irrigon.

According to a press release, the current Irrigon facility has reached its capacity and is in need of a great deal of repair. Based on the size and condition of the current building, the commissioners determined that it's best to tear down the current facility and replace it with a new structure. The board of commissioners is seeking public input at several upcoming hour-long meetings, each beginning at 5:30 p.m.:

•Monday, Aug. 27 at Heppner City Hall, 111 N. Main St.

•Thursday, Aug. 30 at Irrigon City Hall, 500 N.E. Main Ave.

For more information, call 541-676-5613. In addition, people can contact individual commissioners: Don Russell at 541-377-2389, drussell@co.morrow.or.us; Jim Doherty at 571-0584, jdoeherty@co.morrow.or.us; or Melissa Lindsay at 561-0234, mlindsay@co.morrow.or.us.

Travel Club offers three destinations

Whether you're looking for a vacation in a tropical haven or a chance to mix history and adventure with fun, the Hermiston Travel Club will discuss upcoming trips during an Aug. 23 meeting.

A last call has been issued for an Oct. 30 departure for Croatia. The trip includes 12 meals, hotel accommodations, a professional tour director, comprehensive sightseeing and admission to all sites on the itinerary.

Next up is Adventures to Costa Rica, which features everything from jungles and hanging bridges to volcanoes and the Sarchi Artisan Village. The Feb. 13, 2019, trip includes 16 meals and optional adventures.

Also, a French Riviera itinerary includes seven nights in Nice, France. The Nov. 5, 2019, tour package includes 10 meals, visits to Cannes, St. Tropez, Italy, Monaco and optional trips.

All tours include round-trip airfare from Portland. The Travel Club meets Thursday, August 23 at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, 1055 S.

Highway 395, Suite 111. The agenda includes Costa Rica at noon, the French Riviera at 1 p.m. and a Croatia preview for new passengers joining the group at 2 p.m. For tour brochures, visit www.hermistonchamber.com. For questions or to RSVP for the informational meeting, contact Debbie Pedro at 541-567-6151 or debbie@hermistonchamber.com.

Library program sparks creativity with kids

A program designed to support early literacy development with babies and toddlers is offered at the Hermiston Public Library.

Baby & Me Learn & Play is Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Those attending need to enter through the library's back door, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. The free program is for newborns to age 4. Utilizing music, the goal is to spark creativity and assist participants in further development of fine and gross motor skills through movement. For more information, call 541-567-2882 or visit www.hermistonlibrary.us.

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