



FILE PHOTO

Linda Mackey of Natural Maximum Alpacas demonstrates the use of a loom during the 2017 Morrow County Harvest Festival. This year's event is Saturday at the SAGE Center.

SAGE Center harvests free family fun Saturday

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Fun is cropping up in Boardman as the SAGE Center hosts the fifth annual Morrow County Harvest Festival.

The event showcases the region's produce, local artisans, regionally-produced agricultural goods and other local food products, said Stefanie Swindler, SAGE Center education coordinator. It kicks off Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 101 Olson Road, Boardman. In addition to the free festival, there is no admission charge to the museum that day.

Festival highlights include artisan vendors, mule-drawn wagon rides from Equine Elegance, kids' activities and a photo booth. Ordinance Brewing will offer beer tasting, and wine tasting is provided by Sno Road Winery and Echo Ridge Cellars. Over the years, the event has grown in popularity, Swindler said.

"It provides a sense of community pride and a lot of people want to come and support it," she said.

The Kids Corner features such activities as face painting, carnival games, pumpkin painting, an animal corral and a 53-foot inflatable obstacle course. Also, kids and parents alike will want to visit with Ima Blueberry, a representative from the Oregon Blueberry Commission.

"She gives information about Oregon blueberries and some wonderful recipes," Swindler said.

In addition, food trucks will be on hand offering a variety of fare. The vendors include fiber artisans, packaged foods, home décor items and jewelry.

"Everything is hand-crafted," said Keri Heide-man, Boardman Chamber of Commerce executive director.

Also returning is the Fall Harvest Bounty For Youth In Agriculture. Threemile Canyon Farms provides people a chance to "fill-a-bag" with locally grown potatoes, onions and sweet corn. A small donation is requested, which will go to support 4-H and FFA in Morrow County.

Although the festival is free, Swindler encourages people to bring money to purchase items from vendors, food trucks and the museum store. There is no ATM at the SAGE Center.

The Morrow County Harvest Festival is presented by the Boardman, Heppner and Irrigon chambers of commerce and the SAGE Center. For more information, visit www.visitsage.com or call the SAGE Center at 541-481-7243, the Boardman chamber at 541-481-3014, Heppner at 541-676-5536 or Irrigon at 541-922-3857.

Open house set Sunday to celebrate Hardin retirement

HERMISTON HERALD

After 38 years of service to Hermiston Christian Center & School, Rod and Sheila Hardin are retiring.

The Hermiston couple, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year, will be honored during an open house event Sunday from 2-4 p.m. in the church's Hardin Event Center at 1825 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. The public is invited to attend.

The gathering is being held in the event center that bears their name. The building was dedicated in September 2017.

The couple met at the Union County Extension Office two days after Sheila's 19th birthday during Rod's first day working in the office. Sheila was a secretary and Rod was part of a work study program through Eastern Oregon University, where he was studying to be a teacher.

After graduating, Rod and Sheila moved to the Oregon coast, where Rod started his teaching career. They moved several times as Rod changed jobs and their family expanded. Longing to return to the "dry side," the couple heard about the opening of the Hermiston Christian School. In 1980, Rod was hired as principal and the Hardins packed up their family and moved once



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sheila and Rod Hardin are retiring after 38 years of service to the Hermiston Christian Center & School. An open house celebration in their honor is Sunday from 2-4 p.m.

again.

While Rod took the reins at the school, Sheila served many roles over the years, including school secretary, substitute teacher, bus driver, janitor, and teaching typing and keyboarding. They have four grown children, Steph-

anie Anne, Douglas Allen, Gregory James and Rachel Elizabeth.

For information about the open house, contact Stephanie Evans at sevans@mach-media.net, 541-567-3480 or search Facebook for "Hermiston Christian School."

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