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Playhouse offerings run gamut

New season at Brush Creek plans something for everyone

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

The 2017 season at Brush Creek Playhouse is presenting material ranging from rollicking children's fairytales to a Deep South comedy about women of "a certain age."

First on the theater calendar is open auditions at 2 p.m. on Feb. 4 and 5 for "Hallelujah Girls," a comedy written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten. Director Kimberly Strong is seeking a cast of six women and two men for the play, which will open April 14, Easter weekend.

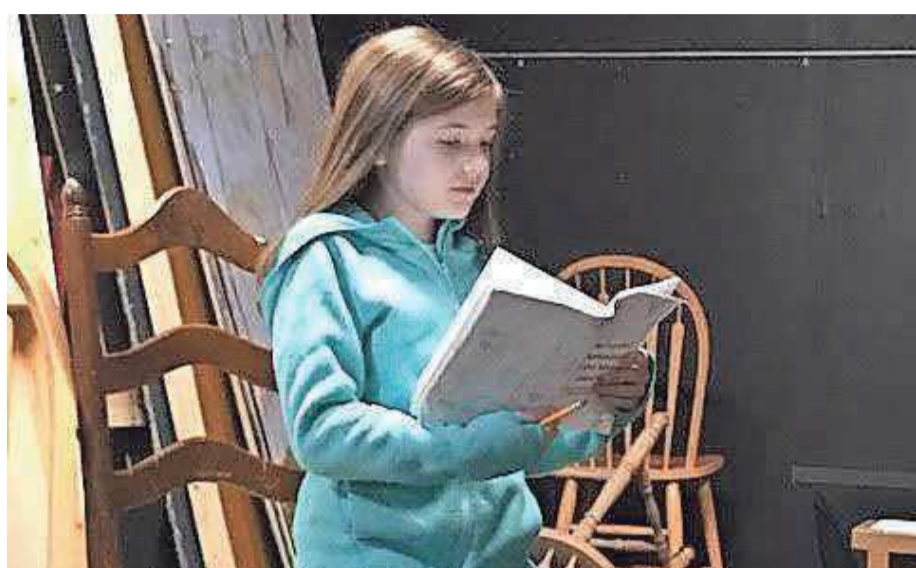
"It's a Golden-Girls-meets-Steel-Magnolias production," Strong said. "I read

the script two years ago and absolutely fell in love with it."

The chemistry in "Hallelujah Girls" may be familiar to audiences because playwright Jamie Wooten produced and wrote for the classic show TV "Golden Girls." Co-author Jessie Jones penned the script for the movie "Kingdom Come" starring Whoopi Goldberg and the off-Broadway play that inspired it.

The play follows the story of five close friends in a small town in Georgia. The death of a comrade startles them out of their ho-hum lives and convinces them to chase their dreams – no simple thing for ladies of a their age. A conniv-

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LINDA ZELLNER/SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Izzy Nardin plays Henry in "The MISadventures of the Seven Dwarfs."

CREEKSIDE CHAT

School safety has public's attention



JUSTIN MUCH/APPEAL TRIBUNE

View from the loft: Silver Creek Coffee House has recently remodeled and equipped its versatile upstairs loft, which could be used for group meetings or as individual work stations.



JUSTIN MUCH

When **George Yonekura** read about Stayton High School undergoing a "lock-out" on Tuesday, Jan. 17, it reinforced his reasoning for working on the project he's developed over the past four years.

George stopped into Silver Creek Coffee House the next day to discuss that project during the Creekside Chat.

A Stayton resident who owns and operates Research Machine Development, Inc., in Silverton, George

shared his thoughts and exhibited an example of his work, a supplemental safety device aimed at fortifying student safety during a threatening situation, such as the deplorably frequent reports of school shootings.

His project is succinctly called "Save Our Students" (S.O.S.) and it's designed to make it impossible for a rifle wielding assailant to shoot out locks and attack people in a classroom.

A machinist who primarily works in medical research and development, George's impetus for S.O.S. derived closer to home.

"I have six grandkids, and with all the shootings going on in schools, I

designed this and developed it," said George, who turns 60 next month. "I'm looking at it as a grandparent."

"We need to do something because the gun laws are not going to change. (When school shootings erupt) We need to keep the gunman from entering the classroom."

That's exactly what S.O.S. does.

George explained that the device locks down the classroom from inside. It cannot be seen by an aggressive gunman from the outside, and tests show it holds pat even if a high-powered rifle is fired directly upon it.

"I did a lot of research on this, and

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Trump inauguration draws folks from Valley

Students among those witnessing historic event

NATALIE PATE
STATESMAN JOURNAL

There were plenty of people from the Willamette Valley in Washington D.C. for the inauguration of Donald Trump as 45th President of the United States of America.

Kirsten Barnes, a history and personal finance teacher at Silverton High School, flew with 15 students and four other chaperones to D.C. on Saturday to give the students nearly a week of experiences leading up to the inauguration.

"It's important for the kids to see our country and how it works, to see not just 'book life,' but 'real life,'" she said.

The adventure to D.C. began a year ago when her class was learning about the constitution and the class was given the assignment to write letters to Oregon Senator Ron Wyden.

Over the year, students saved and raised enough money to pay for their plane tickets and other travel expenses; Wyden ended up giving them tickets to the inauguration.

Barnes said while the nation is divided, it is still important for students to witness a peaceful transition of power and see how the American government works.

Not only did the group tour all the historic landmarks one could ask for in a week, they also got the chance to meet with Wyden while in America's capital.

It's all led to Friday, which started early: In order to get through security for the inauguration, Barnes said the group had to get to the Capitol at 5:15 a.m. Once they are through and in their seats, they waited until the ceremony began at 11:30 a.m. (EST).

Barnes took another group of students to D.C. for Barack Obama's second inauguration in 2013 and had a similar experience.

"It takes a lot of time to get that many people in securely," she said.

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Women's march unites thousands

LAUREN E HERNANDEZ
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Thousands of people squeezed onto the Capitol Mall as part of the international Women's March on Washington on Saturday morning.

Marchers joined an estimated 2 million people at more than 600 demonstrations throughout the world to demand women's rights and equality on the heels of President Donald Trump's inauguration.

"I, like so many of you, woke two

months ago to a changed nation," said Cara Kaser, Salem City councilor for Ward 1. "A changed national narrative that talks of building walls instead of bridges, a narrative that fears and reviles refugees instead of offering comfort, a narrative that talks of denying women the right to control their body, and a narrative that doesn't believe that love wins."

Women, men and children

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Oregon Gov. Kate Brown speaks during the Salem Women's March on Saturday.

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