

Local

Youth theater begins

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Eastern Oregon Regional Theater has started a youth theater to welcome a new generation of actors into the theater.

Scot Violette, the Artistic Director, explained that he was contacted by Crossroads Carnegie Art Center last summer.

"They do Missoula Children's Theater three times a year and they said there's a lot of kids that are getting older or a little less enthusiastic about it and they wanted another avenue for them," explained Violette. "So, we thought about that and what we decided to do is to start a youth theater program here at Eastern Oregon Regional Theater. And most of the kids we have are referred to us from Crossroads as they send an email out to all the kids who were in Missoula saying that we have this opportunity here at Eastern if they want to continue their theatrical work. Missoula is just one week a year and here we are doing it year round."

The first production with the youth theater was in the summer, "The Time Machine" by H.G. Wells and their recent production they had this month "The Bestest Christmas Present Ever" was performed by the youth theater members. Leanne Hinkle, an EORT board member and director explained that her goal with the youth theater is to help them learn acting, lights, and sound.

"I ran a youth theater in Brooking, Oregon. I not only had youth acting classes, I had a youth theater, so we had an adult theater and a youth theater but they were two different theaters," explained Hinkle. "And so now most of the adults go to the other one and the youth theater does youth and adult shows, family shows. And



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Students get into costume for the new youth theater.

they started out young but we had them doing costuming, backstage work, props, lights, and sound and also assistant directing and sometimes we had them as a director. But that's the only way you can make a theater grow in the future, is to involve our youth, so that was the goal of EORT, is to start getting our youth involved with the theater."

Among the youth theater members, Isabella Evans will be learning how to run lights and sounds for the play productions and to direct performances from Hinkle.

"That was more or less because, she said the odd couple play that is coming up, and she decided I was just a little too short for the one that she said I would be good for," explained Evans. "And then she calls and she says 'Well, you can do assistant directing and lights with me' and I figured that would be fun to do."

Evans started working with EORT after working with Missoula and plans

to continue working with the theater. Evans isn't the only one who joined EORT after Missoula. Emese Marvin, Lincoln Nemec, and Savannah Brown are a few other members of the youth theater.

"Missoula Children's theater, I started that when I was super young, and I kept doing plays and then I heard about these plays and I've been doing them for a while now," said Nemec.

"He enjoys piano and the theater from a very young age," explained Barry Nemec, Lincoln Nemec's father. "Our other two kids are involved in athletics and he prefers the arts over athletics at this point. He does play soccer, but he loves being here and acting and being around other actors and you can see the twinkle in his eyes. Luckily Scot has opened a children's theater to bridge the gap between Missoula Children's Theater—who's only here once or twice a year—and high school. Lincoln's at that age—sixth grade—where there's

nothing in middle school really play related and there's nothing during the school year at the elementary, so this is great, I'm glad Scot has done this for the community."

"I have always been interested in acting," explained Savannah Brown. "And my mom knew that. And she read about the theater and saw there was a youth theater. I love this place it's awesome because they treat us like real people instead of at school where we're kids, and I like how it's not like a regular school play because we have numerous rehearsals and there's more than one performance and cool costumes."

"It first started when my mom was looking up theaters and things, she wanted me to do a theater," explained Emese Marvin. Her first play with Missoula Children's Theater was "Aladdin."

She plans to continue working with EORT's youth theater.

Grants available for memorials

Oregon Heritage of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is offering grants for the construction or restoration of veterans and war memorials.

Kuri Gill, coordinator for the program, said, "Local governments may apply to build or repair monuments on public land."

New monuments should recognize veterans and wars not already recognized. Grants for restoration could be used for bro-

ken monuments, missing elements of monuments, or the related design elements of monuments for veterans or earlier wars such as World War I. Grants may also fund additions to existing monuments.

Details and the application information are available at www.oregon-heritage.org. The application deadline is February 17, 2017.

For more, contact Kuri Gill at (503) 986-0685.

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Christmas in Huntington

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After the Bazaar on Saturday evening starting at 6 p.m., while families gathered on the sidewalk in their warm coats and hats, was the Christmas Light Parade, whose theme

this year was the "12 Days of Christmas" and is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Of course the highlight of the parade was the final float containing Santa and his sleigh. Santa lit up the town Christmas Tree, donated by Burnt River

Farms, to the delight of all the children watching, before heading into the Howell's Cafe Banquet room to hear what all the good little boys and girls of Huntington want for Christmas.

While waiting in line for their turn to sit on

Santa's lap, young and old alike feasted on cookies and cocoa provided by the Huntington Historical Society.

Another great Christmas season has begun with smiles and good cheer.

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