

Guild announces open house and free show

The Illinois Valley will be alive with two exciting performing arts events, a rich offering of creative gift shopping, a couple gift-making opportunities, and lots of warm hospitality this weekend.

On Friday evening, December 8, Blue Lake, California's Dell'Arte Company brings its popular traditional holiday appearance to Cave Junction with an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen" at Lorna Byrne Middle School. This is Dell'Arte's only Oregon performance of their adaptation of the timeless tale of a child's spirit triumphing over impending darkness.

The 7 p.m. performance is free thanks to the internationally renowned company's generous donors. The

audience is asked to contribute non-perishable food items, which the cast collects and donates to local food banks in collaboration with nonprofit, Food for People.

"The Snow Queen" is an enthralling holiday spectacle for the whole family and features an assortment of magical characters, which include a trio of bumbling trolls, a talking tree and a flying reindeer. It begins when a magical mirror shatters and two pieces fall into the heart and eye of young Kai. His friend Gerda must then embark on a journey of a lifetime to set things right and eventually embrace the power within her.

The Dell'Arte Company's production of "The Snow Queen" is directed by Dell'Arte's Producing Artistic Director Michael Fields. It is a bold re-telling of the classic

holiday tale that includes original music and robust physical storytelling.

The production is created and performed by this year's international cast featuring Matilda Lindström from Finland, Gaia Mencagli from Denmark and Gaby Haught, Eric Jones, Natasha Marshall, Chase Perkins, Fay Steddum and Jacob Timmons from the U.S.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, hot mulled cider and sweet treats will warm guests and holiday shoppers at the Southern Oregon Guild's Gallery and Art Center during their Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can also make their own snowflake ornaments.

Located on the RCC Kerby Campus in Kerby, the Gallery offers a wide selection of creative gifts from books for both children and adults and

frame-worthy cards to delightful and unusual jewelry, sculpture, paintings and more. There are elegant hand-felted hats, gorgeous pottery and glass work, and a special treat for the chess-lover.

You can also shop the Guild's Holiday Silent Auction for things like hand knits, a historic map, a portable easel, a stay at the Oregon Caves Chateau, and much more. The auction closes Dec. 23, but you can either buy an item now or call in on the 23rd to check on your bid.

You may want to purchase raffle tickets when you see the beautiful large copper piece that is the Guild's 2017 Raffle Grand Prize. That drawing will also happen on Dec. 23.

Guild artists will welcome you and enjoy sharing the season's warm greetings.

Illinois Valley Conservation District and Watershed Council move

Cave Junction, OR –After decades of being housed in the Josephine County Cave Junction County Building, which is now owned by the Senior Thrift Store, the Illinois Valley Conservation District (IVCD) and Watershed Council (WSC) have moved their office locations a few doors down, settling in next to the Illinois Valley News office at 219 S. Redwood Highway.

The move for both organizations, who work closely together as partners in conservation work, came after the sale of the County Building earlier this year. Board members for both organizations stepped up to assist in the transition that took about a week to conclude.

District Board member, Jim Gurley was generous enough to donate his time, energy and money to making the new offices habitable to IVCD and WSC staff members by constructing two walls, installing two doors and applying a fresh coat of paint to the interior of the offices.

WSC board member, Gene Merrill graciously coordinated a group of strapping young high schoolers from Illinois Valley High School who selflessly volunteered to move most of the office contents to the new building. Merrill also made his own vehicle available to staff throughout the moving week to transport large boxes and bulky furniture.

Due to the recent move, the monthly IVCD and WSC board meetings will be held elsewhere in the Valley. The December board meeting, Dec. 21, 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. will take place at the I.V. Family Coalition building and all 2018 board meeting locations will be decided at the December meeting.

For more information on the IVCD visit their website at ivswcd.org or like them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ivswcd. For more information on the WSC, like them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ivstreamteam.

'SuperReal: Our Town', Onstage!

RiverStars Performing Arts, a program of the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization, presents their fourth holiday show, "SuperReal", Saturday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10, 5 p.m. in the Lorna Byrne Cafeteria. Tickets are Pay-What-You-Can and there will be a talkback with the artists after the show. Don't miss your chance to see our town, onstage in this hilarious holiday romp about Scroogia, the Texas carpetbagger who has come to put our local economy asunder. Fortunately, Scroogia meets her match in Tom and Jerry, the local cartoon and comics shop owners. Now if they can just get her to laugh, they will free Cavetown from a villainous takeover.

"SuperReal" brings Cavetown's own superheroes and villains under the lights in a delightful comic book format. You'll meet RiverRock, HotJock, MoneyMaxer, G.A.S.

(Generic Attractive Superhero) and the Guacamole Man. Most powerful of all...Sparkwoman ends up saving the day! The performers get real as they dance through Act 2. A mysterious grandpa intervenes in excessive texting binges and introduces the philosophies of folk hero Utah Phillips. The performers ultimately end their powerful journey of self-realization that lands them in the dance "I," by Kendrick Lamar.

The process to create this show began in April 2017, when RiverStars performers began drawing comic strips about their town from their own imaginations. Throughout the summer, they gathered comics from visitors at the Cave Junction Farmers' Market. Using these as research, the group then participated in two expansive weekend development sessions workshopping the comics, re-writing and editing. Finally, this work was crafted into an original

script by RiverStars performers and teachers, influenced by their town, for the stage show of SuperReal.

Arts educator, Lindsey Gillette commented, "The work of the program participants and community members has been impressively detailed. The inside jokes and winks to the audience are all locally sourced. If there's one thing the residents of the Illinois Valley can agree on, it's that we value our autonomy and the sense of belonging in this place. This show brings that to the stage." Lead educator, Gina Angelique added, "What is most awesome is to see how the RiverStars performers have grown, and become their own source for heroic potential. There is something magical and powerful about witnessing their hard work culminate in a solid and moving theatrical product. Watching them dance and act brings deep pride and confidence that the future is in good hands."

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