

School page

Students choose classic for fall play

The message from "Our Town" may be more appropriate today than when the play was first produced, said the Sandy High School senior who narrates it.

"The message of stopping to look around at what's going on applies now, just as it did when this was written," said Russell Benton.

Taking the time to reflect upon our lives may be even more important today considering the fast pace of life, he added.

"Our Town," written by Thornton Wilder, won a Pulitzer prize in 1938.

It will be produced by the Sandy High School drama department Nov. 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. in the commons.

Chris Harris, drama instructor, said the three-act play follows people through the stages of their lives in Grover's Corner, N.H.

"There are a lot of loose ends until the third act, when it is all tied together," Harris said.

He thinks a line from the play describes it best. At one point the narrator says, "This is the way we were in our growing up, and in our marrying, and in our living, and in our dying."

Harris said the show is entertaining, with humor common to everyday life, but it also has a message.

"I hope it's a show that, when the audience comes and sees it, they take something home with them."

Harris selected the play, in part, based upon the recommendation of students.

Last spring he asked students to make suggestions of plays they might produce this school year. "Our Town" was on the list.

"It's unusual when kids, on their own, pick out classics," Harris said.

Senior Jesse Berger was one of the students who made the suggestion after he saw the play in Portland. Classmates Benton and Steven Christman agree it was a good suggestion.

Christman said he enjoys the play



Family matters are discussed over breakfast in "Our Town," Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer prize winning play. Justin Jantz, Jennifer Classen and Wendie Callister are pictured.

because of the diversity of his role. He plays the part of a teen-age boy early in the show, and later plays the same character as an adult.

Christman and Wendie Callister play the lead roles, with the play revolving around their families. They grow up next door to each other and eventually marry.

It is Callister's first lead. Christman and Benton are veterans of Sandy's drama program. They teamed up last year to win first place in the Mount Hood Conference duet acting competition.

Benton, who has won a number of lead roles in the past three years, said he likes his part as the stage manager. The stage manager occasionally stops the action and comments on the lives of the people.

The play will be performed on a simple black and grey set. Wooden boxes, painted black, will serve as chairs, a soda fountain and the pulpit at the wedding.

Harris chose the stripped-down set so that the audience would focus on the actions of the actors. Harris said he believes the playwright wanted

people to notice the simple things, such as the families having breakfast together.

The costumes should help set the mood for the play, which is set in the early 1900s.

The lighting for the play will break some ground for Sandy audiences. In the wedding scene, church windows will be superimposed on the back wall. In another scene, the back wall will be lit with sparkling stars.

Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and \$1 for senior citizens and children.

Local actor back on stage at MHCC



Tim Callister

Tim Callister of Sandy is back on the stage, this time at Mt. Hood Community College. He plays one of the three leading characters in the Scottish comedy, "The Slab Boys."

Callister plays the part of a man who "tries to fit in, but doesn't." The play is set in the slab room, where colors are mixed on a marble slab for use in coloring carpet.

The play will show at 8 p.m. each Saturday through Dec. 12 at the Repertory Theater at MHCC.

Although Callister is taking drama class, he said he doesn't plan to major in drama, even though he enjoys it. In addition to taking general studies, he has worked for two years at a local pizza restaurant.

Callister is best known for his role as the Hairy Man in "Wiley and the

Hairy Man," a Southern folk tale.

Callister was named best actor in the Mount Hood Conference's one-act competition last year. The show also finished first in the competition. Denise DeBoer was best supporting actress and all the rest of the cast members received honorable mention awards.

"Wiley and the Hairy Man" had an unusually long run, playing in local grade schools and at the Birdcage Theater during Mountain Festival.

Callister, as a high school senior, also played J.B. Bigley in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

Positions open on committee

The board of directors of the Sandy Elementary District is seeking qualified citizen members to fill two positions on the five-member budget committee.

To be eligible, a candidate must live within the school district, must be a qualified voter and may not be an employee of the district.

The appointments are for three-year terms.

The deadline for applying has been extended to Monday, Nov. 16.

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JoJo's says congratulations Dave, and invites you to come take the challenge!

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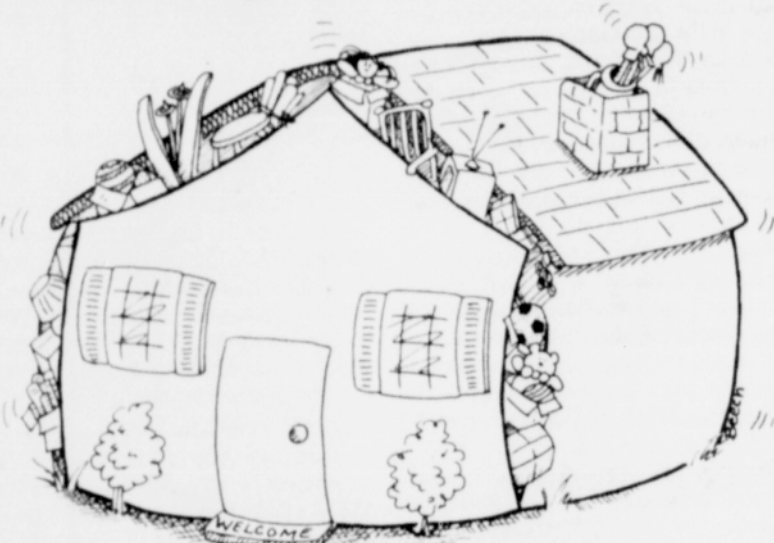
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