

KeizerCommunity

KEIZERTIMES.COM

Whiteaker choirs prep for annual cabaret bonanza

By MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

Ken Collins Theatre at McNary High School has been the host of numerous great local productions by students in the Keizer community.

They'll have one more to add to the list next week.

The Whiteaker Middle School choir program will be performing their annual cabaret concert on Thursday, Feb. 21 and Friday, Feb. 22 with each show beginning at 7 p.m.

The concert will feature more than 200 singers and five different choirs.

"We plan to put on a highly entertaining, high energy show that will keep the audience entertained throughout the night," said co-director Andy Thomas. "People will be blown away with the quality of our production."

Thomas has been the director of the Whiteaker cabaret for



Whiteaker Middle School choir students sing a medley from *Annie* during the 2017 cabaret performances.

each of the last 12 years. But since he has also taken a choir teaching job at McNary High School this year, he will be receiving some assistance in the form of Rebecca Hollen, the show's other co-director.

"It's been a little bit of an adjustment for Andy and I to work together to make this program go, but it has been so great being here so far," Hollen said. "The kids are so excited and it's fun to work with excited kids. This is one of their favorite parts of the year."

Hollen, who is in her first year as a choir teacher at Whiteaker, spent the last eight years teaching at Walker Middle School and even won a Crystal Apple Award in 2015.

"It's been absolutely amazing to have her," Thomas said of Hollen. "She is a phenomenal director and a phenomenal per-

son. She is just great to have in our program."

The concert will feature musical numbers from four Broadway shows.

Whiteaker's boys and girls sixth-grade choirs, otherwise known as Wolverine and Bella Voce, will be performing songs from *Oliver*. The seventh and eighth-grade girls group, which is an intermediate group called Audacity, will be singing numbers from *Motown*.

The seventh and eighth-grade advanced concert choir (viva voce) get the opportunity to sing songs from *Mamma Mia!* K-Town, which is the choir's most advanced group, will be performing the melodies of *Hairspray*.

"This is my first year in the viva voce choir, so I'm just really excited for our first really big performance," seventh-grader

Angelina Fajer said.

A lot of middle school choirs might just stand on the risers and sing in their robes that match school colors. But Whiteaker's performances not only involve 70's themed neon costumes, but rehearsed choreography as well.

"The choreography is very fun and active," said Whiteaker seventh-grader Logan James.

Eighth-grader Cristian Garcia also added: "The audience should expect a lot of lights and a lot of dance moves."

While everyone involved hopes audience members are thoroughly entertained by the show, they also encourage the crowd to get involved with the music.

"We really want our audience to be pumped up," eighth-grader Maddie Kurz said. "We're going to want them to dance and we're going to want them to sing along. It's going to be one awesome party."

Tickets will be \$10 at the door, but can also be purchased online at McNary-Theatre.Ticketleap.com or at the Whiteaker Middle School main office. Dessert will be served after the show.

The money will be used as a fundraiser for the Whiteaker choir program.



MHS students show off at Keizer art gallery

The Keizer Art Association presented awards for its current student show at a ceremony the first weekend in February. The show features work by McNary High School's budding artists.

Laura Gillespie took home the Best of Show Award for her piece *Do Titles Really Matter?*

In photography, Alexa Cepeda took first for *Thicket*; Marisa Ortiz took second for *Ferris Wheel*; and Tamalynn Harris took third for *On the Lookout*. Juror's awards were presented to Bailey Treu, Amy Cox and Sofia Zielinski. Honorable mentions were Tyler Covalt, Elena Villegas and Elizabeth Fischer.

In two-dimensional art, Katie Beebe was first for *Hydrate*; Sydney Snapp was second for *Nike*; and Veronica Johnson was third for *St. Basil's Cathedral*. Serena Marino, Naia Faulkner and Karla Santa took home honorable mentions. A Juror's Award were presented to Katie Simons.

First place for three-dimensional art went to Emma John for *Parthenon*; second place



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
TOP: *Hydrate* by Katie Beebe won first place for two-dimensional art. ABOVE: Alexa Cepeda won first place in photography for *Thicket*.

went to Faith Danner for *Woodland Fairy Home*; and Makayla Gates took third place for *Alice*.

Honorable mentions went to: McKinsey Jarnagin, Ashley Doerfler, Marlinda Domnick, Elizabeth Shore, Tamalynn Postma, Trinity Kampstra and Michael Flores. Destiny Blacklock and Veronica Johnson were presented Juror's Awards.

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