



Members of the cast took part in indoor and outdoor rehearsals to prepare for the play's debut. Submitted photos



STAGE,

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McNary's production of *Midsummer* debuts this weekend with shows Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22. Tickets can be purchased online at mcnary-theatre.ticketleap.com.

The outdoor performance will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the new courtyard at high school.

Audience members are encouraged to bring a chair for the show, but if they can't, chairs will be provided for them. Attendees will be seated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Despite COVID, auditions were held in-person. They were held over four days starting in early March and any student was welcome to sign up. For auditions, students read Shakespeare and participated in improv games Cavanaugh said.

From a student point of view, the auditions were seemingly normal.

"It was pretty straightforward. He pretty much just wanted to see if you could articulate through the mask and project loud enough," said Talia Medlin who is playing Helena in the play.

COVID restrictions caused a few issues in picking a location for the play specific scenes in the play and rehearsals, however, this did not stop the actors from having a good time.

Michael Zwemke, playing Demetrius, noted that one of the best parts of the play was being able to see everyone.

Dylan Lopez, playing Nick Bottom, agreed with Zwemke and mentioned that he was excited to be able to have a live audience.

"We did a couple of other shows this year, but we weren't doing them publicly because of COVID and everything," Lopez said.

"These kids haven't had an audience all year, so it'd be nice to send them out with a nice big audience or at least as big one as we can," Cavanaugh said.

Heritage center celebrates valley wine

The newest changing exhibit at the Willamette Heritage Center - Toasting the Mid-Willamette Valley Winemaking Heritage - explores the history of the region's winemaking industry and its vital role in our agricultural heritage and future.

Learn how the valley's rich abundant fruit harvests have led to over a century of fermenting. The exhibit explores the evolution of the industry from small-scale commercial ventures to the post-prohibition founding of Honeywood Winery - Oregon's oldest continually operating bonded winery.

The 1960s and '70s saw the birth of the modern varietal production, and the talents of local winemakers being recognized at international competitions. Today, the region boasts over 590 wineries, crushing over 66,000 tons of grapes each year.

Willamette Valley Heritage Center is located at 1313 Mill Street S.E. in Salem.

This exhibit is produced in partnership with Honeywood Winery and the Oregon Wine History Archive at Linfield University.

Breaking bread at St. Ed

St. Edward Catholic Church welcomed spring with a food festival last weekend. Local non-profits served up a variety of Oktoberfest type fare to help fill in funding gaps created during the pandemic. Photo by BROOKLYN FLINT of Keizertimes





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