

'The Odd Couple' auditions in Yachats

YACHATS — One of Us Productions will be holding auditions for its April show, "The Odd Couple - Female Version," a contemporary comedy by Neil Simon.

Open calls are Thursday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 10, at 2 p.m. at the Yachats Commons, Room 3, 441 Highway 101 N.

The cast of characters includes six women and two men.

Unger and Madison are at it again — Florence Unger and Olive Madison, that is, in the hilarious female version of "The Odd Couple."

Instead of the poker party that begins the original version, Madison has invited the girls over for an evening of Trivial Pursuit. The Pidgeon

sisters have been replaced by the two Costazuela brothers — handsome, emotional and Spanish with a Castilian accent — but the hilarity remains the same.

Additional characters are Florence and Olive's friends Sylvie, Renee, Vera and Mickey.

Rehearsals begin Thursday, Jan. 14, and performances will run weekends from April 8 through 24.

Contact director Johnni Prince for more information by email at jlpdmc@gmail.com, call 541-547-5195, or visit www.fb.com/One.of.Us.Productions.

One of Us Productions is a nonprofit community theatre, which presents at least two productions a year at Yachats Commons.

CROW brings holiday spirit to Shorewood, Spruce Point



COURTESY PHOTO

A few days before Santa Claus made his annual trek to Florence, vocal students from local nonprofit youth theater group Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) volunteered at The Shorewood and Spruce Point by singing Christmas songs and passing out candy canes to residents. Above, CROW student Siarra Rain sings her solo to a captive audience. Both holiday caroling events culminated in an invitation for everyone present to sing along to "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." CROW is dedicated to community service. For more information about CROW, including audition requirements, upcoming productions and special events, visit the website www.crowkids.com.

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New financial, insurance consumer laws in effect

SALEM — The 2015 Legislature passed many new consumer protection bills that went into effect Friday, Jan. 1.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is implementing the following bills that will provide valuable benefits or rights to consumers.

- Protection from unlicensed lenders: Senate Bill 278 makes it illegal for unlicensed payday and title lenders to deposit a consumer's check, withhold money or collect interest, fees or charges on loans. The bill also clarifies that illegal loan agreements made by an unlicensed lender are void if made on or after Jan. 1, 2016.

- Guaranteed 90-day prescription drug supply: Senate Bill 93 allows consumers to receive up to a 90-day supply of most prescription medicines under their insurance plans when consumers have a sufficient number of authorized refills available.

- Expanding access to

telemedicine: Senate Bill 144 requires health insurance plans to provide coverage for telemedicine services.

All health benefit plans, including any self-insured or public employee health plans, must cover health care services delivered by videoconference. These provisions apply to health plans issued or renewed on or after Jan. 1, 2016.

- Expanding access to birth control: House Bill 2879 and House Bill 3343 HB 2879 allows pharmacists to prescribe birth control, reducing the need for women to visit a doctor for their contraceptive prescriptions. HB 3343 requires insurers to cover a full year of birth control, reducing gaps in coverage and access.

- Expanding personal injury protection: Senate Bill 411 allows auto insurance consumers to receive up to the full amount of underinsured coverage if they are injured by an at-fault, underinsured driver, in addition to any claims payments they receive from the insurance policy of the at-fault driver.

Also, personal injury protection (PIP) medical benefits are extended to two years; insurance companies are limited in seeking reimbursement of PIP benefits from claim settlements.

These provisions apply to auto insurance policies issued or renewed on or after Jan. 1, 2016.

- Patient's right to privacy: House Bill 2758 guarantees patients the right to have protected health information sent directly to them instead of to the person who pays for their health insurance plan (the primary account holder). These provisions apply to health plans issued or renewed on or after Jan. 1, 2016.

- Long-term care insurance coverage protection: House Bill 2850 requires an insurer to get the name and contact information for an alternate person to receive premium bills before issuing a long-term care insurance policy. It also requires that in order for a lapse in coverage to be effective, an insurance company must provide written notice — including why the policy will lapse — at least 30 days before the policy lapses.

WORD ON THE STREET

What is your New Year's resolution?



"Be nicer to my family."
—SKYELA, 6TH GRADE



"My New Year's resolution is to be better at bowling and basketball."
—KARNUNN, 9TH GRADE



"My resolution is to be more friendly to others."
—ATHEN, 6TH GRADE

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