

## SVRA now offering ‘Food Share Fridays’

South Valley Resource Alliance (SVRA) has announced Friday Food Share, serving South Lane County residents who experience hunger or food insecurity. The non-profit organization offers free food distribution on the first and third Fridays of each month at the Community Center in Cottage Grove, 700 Gibbs Ave., starting at 3:30 p.m.

The next Friday Food Share is scheduled for this Friday, Aug. 16.

SVRA has been serving South Lane County residents since July 2018 through this supplemental food program. Over the last few months, the number of food-insecure families and individuals served has increased — averaging 60 families (160 individuals). Individuals and families with incomes up to 200% of the poverty level are eligible to join in.

On the first and third Fridays of each month, SVRA transports pallets of donated produce and other perishables from Food for Lane County’s Eugene warehouse to the Cottage Grove Community Center.

A team of volunteers and participants work cooperatively so Friday Food Share runs smoothly.

Food for Lane County estimates that nearly 42 percent of Lane County households experience food insecurity. In partnership, Food for Lane County and SVRA supply additional food resources to help residents meet nutritional needs.

To make sure SVRA can regularly transport the many pallets of perishable food from Food for Lane County, the group has embarked on a “buck for the truck” fundraising campaign. It costs \$300 a month in truck fees and operating expenses to make this program work.

The organization accepts donations to its “buck for the truck” fundraising effort.

Anyone interested can visit [www.southvalleyresourcealliance.org](http://www.southvalleyresourcealliance.org) and can donate there as well.

The public can also visit SVRA’s booth at the Concerts-in-the-Park series at Bohemia Park in Cottage Grove every Wednesday evening through Sept. 4.

Opal *from A1*

The younger campers’ final performance was a short skit on July 26, with the older campers’ final performance consisting of a monologue showcase Aug. 9.

There’s a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes in theater, from lighting to costuming to stage organization and management. The camp sought to address it all, along with the traditional skill associated with theater: Acting.

“We tried to present a broad spectrum of things that happen in theater,” said Holbrook in a speech before the showcase, “Because a lot goes on in producing a show.”

The older kids presented their monologues, acting them out along the way. They were taught how to use not only their words to convey the message, but their movement as well. Other aspects of the final performance included props and where to put them.

“What they had to do was come together with each of their monologues and work as a group and build a set that would work with all of their mono-



SOPHIA EDELBLUTE/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

**Participants in the Opal theater youth camp take the stage during one of the workshop’s final showcases.**

logues, so that was a fun challenge,” said Dowell in her speech before the showcase.

They also learned how to make a great set on a budget which, according to Dowell, can sometimes be an aspect of theater. But she said making a very appropriate set out of a minimal set is doable.

The kids also seemed to enjoy the camp and all the skills they were learning.

One camper, Elizabeth Eller, said she liked how “it covers a bit of writing, it covers posture, it covers how you talk, it covers emotions — it covers ev-

erything.”

Another camper, Anja Bartlog, expressed her enjoyment with practicing monologues, and also the progress she’d made at the camp.

“I think it’s been kind of challenging to play characters I’m not entirely familiar with. In one of the monologues I was doing in the first week, it was a character that wasn’t really anything like me — and it was sort of hard to get down the physicality and the voice of that. But I think I got a lot better at it,” she said.

Most of the campers

in the older kids’ camp showed an interest in continuing to pursue the theater arts in one way or another, which was one of the goals of the Young Performers camp, according to Rose.

She also spoke about her hope that the theater camp will continue to happen, and perhaps even year-round classes.

From speaking with the campers, it seems they would be excited for an opportunity like that.

“It’s a very good camp and I recommend it to everybody,” said Eller.

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