

Raton High School musical has a 'Clue' indeed

By Tim Keller
Special to The Chronicle-News

RATON – The Shuler Theater's Kaleidoscope Players are revving up their high school summer musical for three performances during the coming week. "Clue the Musical" is based on the popular board game and the 1985 movie. Written in 1993, the musical ran Off-Broadway in 1997 and continues to be popular with community theater groups throughout the U.S.

It's hard to imagine a more unconventional play. There are six rooms, six weapons, six suspects, a detective and a host. Three volunteer audience members are brought on stage to select three cards from a stack of 216 cards. Unexamined by the selectors, the audience or the cast, the cards are placed in an envelope marked "Confidential." There are 216 possible endings, and no one knows how it's going to turn out until, well, the end.

Audience members receive Clue game cards as they enter the theater and are encouraged to play along. That's optional, but it adds to the fun. Bringing a pen or pencil is a good idea.

Directed by Gail Dixon-Willden, with musical direction by Rebecca Clark, the cast is made up of Raton High School students, augmented by a couple students from Raton Middle School. Many of the young actors are already veterans of the Shuler stage.

Nathan Coleman plays host Mr. Boddy. Ashya Gertler is the detective. Johnny Gentry is Colonel Mustard, Josh Alcorn is Mr. Green and Spenser Willden is Professor Plum. Kate Little plays Mrs. Peacock, Ila Medina plays Miss Scarlet and Clair Willden plays Mrs. White.

Stage manager Tess Ginley says the actors have been working hard on their singing parts, accompanied by pianist



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Cast and crew are mixing work and pleasure in preparation for the Shuler Theater's 2013 High School Summer Musical, "Clue the Musical," to be presented Thursday, Friday and August 1. From left are stage manager Tess Ginley, music director Rebecca Clark, Ashya Gertler, pianist Carol Simmons, Kate Little, Ila Medina, Clair Willden, Collette Village Center, Spenser Willden, Josh Alcorn and Johnny Gentry.

Carol Simmons. "There are six-part harmonies in places," Ginley says. "It's been a tough show for them, but they're getting it."

Shows will be presented at 7:30 p.m. this Thursday and Friday, then again Thursday, August 1. General-admission tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and \$5 for chil-

dren. Special books of 10 tickets are available for \$100. Tickets and information are available at the Shuler Theater, (575) 445-4746.



Photo courtesy of Mark Hanson

North Lake Clean up

The Purgatoire River Anglers, Trout Unlimited Chapter 100, met Saturday at North Lake, west of Trinidad, for their monthly meeting, along with a clean-up session and cookout. Some of the members present were (from left to right) Ben Ward, vice-president of the group Mark Hanson, Tressa Kinnison, Aiden Stephen, Joanie and Jim Muzzulini and Ena Sroat. District Wildlife Officer for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department Bob Holder was also on hand to help with the event. The next meeting will be August 15 and will include a presentation from Jon Kleis on "Fly Fishing for Carp." The public is always welcome to attend any of the meetings or activities.

From the Mayor's Desk...

Dear Citizens of Trinidad and Las Animas County,

We are fortunate that the recent fires on Fisher's Peak did not cause damage to homes or result in loss of life, as tragically occurred with fires in other parts of our state.

As we move forward from this experience, however, let's not forget the need to work on wildfire/brushfire mitigation policies. The city and county should provide ongoing education and information to local citizens about how they can protect their homes against wildfires/brushfires and how to prepare for evacuations, should they become necessary.

Officials of the city, county and our school districts should step up efforts to educate citizens about how to stop preventable wildfires/brushfires from occurring.

In our individual ways, we have all expressed thanks, support and gratitude to the firefighters, volunteers and members of law enforcement for the long, hard hours of work they devoted to help extinguish the fires. Thanks to all of you.

It was particularly encouraging to see the level of productive cooperation exhibited by the county and the city. Let's continue that collaboration.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Baca Gonzalez

Tips to make camping and tailgating season successful

State Point Colorado

Whether you're camping, tailgating or barbecuing, this season the party is outside. And with outdoor fun comes different challenges.

With a few twists on outdoor classic fun, you can make this season the best one yet.

Here are four things to consider while planning your camping weekend or tailgating party.

■ Go Gourmet

In addition to your standard fare of burgers and hot dogs, impress your friends with some gourmet choices. Think shish kabob, grilled fruits and teriyaki chicken wings. For drinks, think outside the beer can and bring your blender. Look for drink recipes that highlight your team's colors.

If you're camping, gussy up your roasted marshmallows with

Nutella or peanut butter. Bake homemade cookies to bring along and use them as your base instead of graham crackers.

■ Stay Safe

Have your fun, but be sure to designate a driver, tasked with getting everyone home safely at the end of the day. When emotions are high during game time, things can get rowdy. So don't forget to be respectful of fellow tailgaters around you, so no issues arise.

Out in the woods, be sure to store food away safely at the end of the night to avoid any encounters with hungry wildlife. And remember to never go camping without a first-aid kit.

■ Power Up

When it comes to power, the generator you choose is important. Look for an inverter generator to keep your cell phones and portable electronics charged and your food cooking. You won't want the power to cut out before halftime or before the weekend is

through.

Look for an inverter generator that features computer-controlled technology, so it continuously adjusts engine speed to save fuel and run longer. For example, the Briggs & Stratton Inverter Generator, a 2000-watt generator, is designed for efficiency and reliability, and is highly portable, as it's 45 percent lighter than traditional camping generators. And if you're going camping, while you're outside under the stars the last thing you want to hear is the rumble of an engine, making this quiet inverter generator a good choice.

More information on generators can be found at www.briggsandstratton.com.

■ Make a List

Nothing spoils a good time like forgetting something important. From batteries to buns, you'll want to make sure you have everything you need for a good time. So make a list and check it twice before you leave home.

Outdoor Colorado offers opportunities for many family adventures.

"Whether you're camping, tailgating or barbecuing this season, the party is outside. And with outdoor fun comes different challenges."



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