

'Wizard of Oz' returns to stage next weekend

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Don't assume everyone has seen "The Wizard of Oz."

Gothenburg High School music teacher and musical director Ernie Blecha was surprised when he surveyed classes and discovered that a fourth of high school and elementary students had not seen the legendary production.

"I believe it was an important part of all of our childhoods to watch it on TV when it was aired every year," Blecha said.

As a result, the music director chose "The Wizard of Oz" as this year's high school musical.

The public can revisit Dorothy's adventure to the magical land of Oz on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Oct. 19, 20 and 21, in the performing arts center.

Blecha said the last time the play had been performed on the local stage was the first year of the new high school in April of 2004 under the direction of Leah Purdy.

Former music teacher Lyman Anderson also directed performances of Oz in 1987 and 1995.

Another reason for choosing the musical, he said, was wanting to produce a larger-scale musical than the "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" in February of 2013 that had a smaller cast.

"This musical has more than 40 students—all singing and dancing their hearts out for any audience that chooses to attend," he said.

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Tickets for Oz are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door and are available at First State Bank, Gothenburg State Bank, at the high school office or at the door on the day of the performance.

Performances will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19, and Monday, Oct. 21, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20.

Blecha noted that there are scenes in the show that may be scary for young children and babies.

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OZ CAST MEMBERS		
Dorothy.....Abbie Mazour	Oz Evillman.....Chewyepfeher	Loustron.....Emily Keiser
Aunt Em.....Rachel RiceShaylee Scott	Kyann LeViner, Jenny Malina,
Uncle Henry.....Cody Cooper	Oz Man #1.....Eric Linnemeyer	Jessica Rudolph, Courtney
Hunk/Scarecrow.....Brett Mann	Oz Man #2.....Dominic Long	Mohr, Baiter Richardson,
Hickory/Tin Man.....	Nikko.....Trevor Mazour	Ashley Wilkerson, Jessica
.....Rhett Lindholm	Winkie General.....Cape Troler	Bonnie Kevly Lecher,
Zeke Lion.....Drake Langley	Winkies.....Tyler Baker,	Holly McPhatters, Holly
Miss Gulch.....Satos Potter	Roman Schmidt, Dominic	Hudson, Madeline Good, Blayr
Wicked Witch.....Kayla Trevino	Long, Mylas Mendell, Chad	McMichael, Taylor Rosell,
Professor Marvel/Wizard of Oz.....	Schmitt, Jayden Mills,	Alyssa Johnson, Kasey
Dylan France	Patrick Messersmith, Eric	Wallman, Sydney Gruber,
Ginafa, the Good Witch.....	Linnemeyer, Joe Darling, Jett	Kyrtene Russell, Makyla
Alagna Collins	Seimer, Marcus Fritton, Alex	Linnemeyer
Crows.....Joseph Darfino,	Jorgenson, Cole Orsman	
Jett Seimer, Marcus Fritton	Spooks.....Kyrtene Russell,
Trees.....Halley Ding, ShelbyShaylee Scott, Betty Potter,	Bailey Rickertson, Martina
Loustron, Lauren Andros	Rachel Rice, Haley Giv,	Mayers, Ally Johnson,
Toto....."Snuggles" Volkman	Lauren Andros, Shelby	Courtney Mevin, Jett Seimer