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FEATURED

Bailey Theatre Company holds first public event

An evening of dinner, drinks and live theatre

By Walter L. Newton Editor

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Bailey Theatre Company held its first fundraising event at Aspen Peak Cellars. The theatre did four scenes from various plays, which the theatre is considering for future full-evening productions. The crowd welcomed this new theatre. (Left to right) actors Rhianna DeVries and Erik Fellenstein read from a script. (Photo by Bill Bruner)

The Bailey Theatre Company held its first fundraiser, Feb. 22, at the Aspen Peak Cellars winery in Bailey. The goal of the group is to eventually open a live theatre, with an emphasis on professional-quality plays and other live events.

Over 50 people gathered for the three-hour event, sipping wine, enjoying food and listening to readings by actors Erik Fellenstein and Rhianna DeVries. The two accomplished actors read from “Sea Marks,” “Three Days of Rain,” “Taking Steps” and “Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music.”

Board President Bill Bruner told The Flume that he felt the fundraiser was a big success.

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“I think the response from the community and local businesses has made this theatre possible,” Bruner said. “Because of this response, we plan to do another project in the next few months.”

Over \$3000 was collected at the fundraiser, and all monies will go toward the organization’s treasury. The group hopes to eventually find a performance space where regular entertainment can be offered.

Matt Dombrowski at Chimney Doctors donated \$1,500 to pay for the actors and other expenses needed to hold the event. Bruner said the BTC is looking for a patron to help defray the cost of its next evening of theatre.

The Bailey Theatre Company was formed last spring when Bailey resident Bill Bruner met former theatre manager Ina Marlowe. Marlowe has a long resume of successfully running theatres in Chicago before moving to Conifer.

Marlowe’s background includes being Artistic Director and cofounder of the Library Theatre, producing artistic director of the Organic Theatre, and founder and artistic director of the Touchstone Theatre. Bruner has wanted to bring a professional theatre to the area for years to bring quality entertainment to the Bailey area.

The theatre’s first meeting was last May at Mad Jack’s Mountain Brewery in Bailey. In that meeting, the theatre found there was community support to move forward with the project.