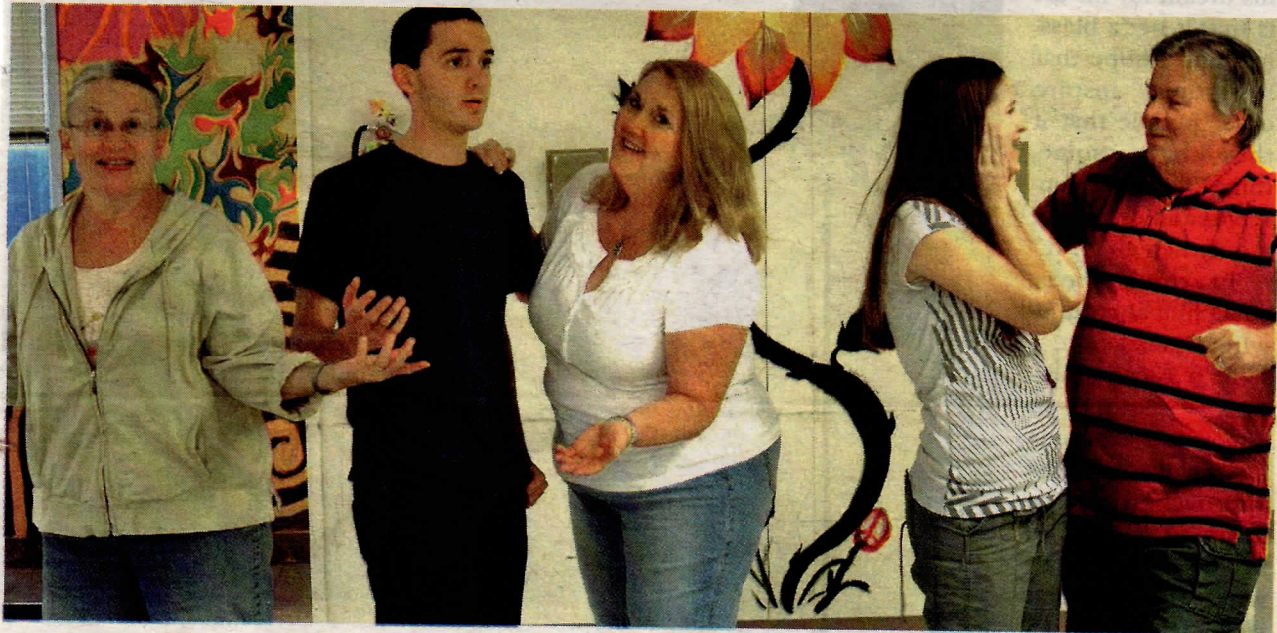


Halloween-themed musical murder mystery opens East Mtn. Centre for Theatre season



Sharon Sprague, Matt Fogarty, Cheryl Atkins, Madi Mateski and Tim Reardon rehearsing for *Dead End Killington Drive*. Courtesy photo.

By G. Demarest

East Mountain Centre for Theatre is kicking off its 10th season with an original musical-murder-mystery dinner theater production titled, "Dead End Killington Drive, The Jack-O-Lantern Murders."

The show opens Oct. 7 and runs for three consecutive weekends at Vista Grande Community Center.

Written and directed by EMCT president Richard Atkins, the story takes place just before Halloween on the aptly-named Killington Drive—a fictitious dead-end street in Sedona, Arizona—where the residents are getting bumped-off by a copy-cat killer wearing a jack-o-lantern head mimicking the murders from a John Carpenter film.

"It's a real fun show," said Atkins. "It's Halloween-themed, with fun characters, fun songs, a little comedy and a little bit of scariness for Halloween but nothing

that'll freak anyone out too much."

This marks the sixth year in a row the EMCT season has launched with an Atkins-penned murder mystery and the playwright admitted, "It's not easy."

But Atkins feels he gets better at playwriting "each time around" and often tailors his scripts to fit the talents of the resident actors who regularly perform in many of EMCT's shows.

Those who've seen EMCT's shows in the past will no doubt recognize some of Killington Drive's familiar veteran actors like East Mountain residents Tim Reardon, Sharon Sprague and Madi Mateski.

The dinner theater will once again be catered by Cedar Crest restaurant Greenside Café and will offer four options: beef, chicken, vegetarian and a gluten-free plate.

Show times for *Dead End Killington Drive* are 6:30 p. m. on Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22; and 2 p.m. for the non-dinner Sunday matinee performances on Oct. 9, 16 and 23.

Prices for the Friday and Saturday dinner-theater shows are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and students, and \$15 for children.

The non-dinner Sunday performances are priced at \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, and \$10 for children.

Vista Grande Community Center is located at 15 La Madera Road in Sandia Park.

Tickets can be purchased online at emct.org. For more information call 286-1950.