

# The Inter-Mountain

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## ERCC, Old Brick Playhouse keep residents engaged



Submitted photo Old Brick Playhouse recently returned from hiatus to provide enjoyable entertainment weekly for residents and staff at ERCC. Pictured from left are: Melisa Armentrout McCollam, executive director, Katie Varchetto, and Phil Smith, assistant director, perform for ERCC residents dressed as hippies.

ELKINS — Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center residents and staff welcomed the members of Old Brick Playhouse back to the facility after a month-long hiatus.

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Old Brick Playhouse is a non-profit theater established in Elkins in 1991. The theater group performs at ERCC on a weekly basis and has continued to support the residents and staff throughout the pandemic.

ERCC has worked hard to keep a safe record during the pandemic, which included suspending group activities and in-person visitation.

The recent return by Old Brick Playhouse shows residents that activities are returning to normal.

*“Our employees have gone above and beyond to keep our residents safe and happy during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Tara Shaver, ERCC administrator. “We are so happy to be able to provide our residents and staff with some much-needed community entertainment and interaction.”*

ERCC opened its facility to the Old Brick Playhouse beginning in 2017, and it has always been a rewarding experience for residents, staff, and the actors. To keep residents safe, the Old Brick Playhouse actors are masked and remain socially distanced from residents and staff.

*“We have always had a great relationship with Old Brick Playhouse, and everyone was excited about their return,”* noted Shaver. *“We have all worked so hard to keep everyone safe and to keep spirits high.”*

Shaver went on to say that ERCC’s employees have been able to keep safety a number one priority during the pandemic due to their hard work and continued dedication to the residents.

*“We provide complete compassionate care,”* said Shaver. *“Whether that is caring for our residents’ health and safety, assisting our employees, or providing fun entertainment for all to enjoy.”*

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