

Bonds

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residents,” Burns said. Riordan said the suit shouldn’t affect the bond transition. And without the restructuring, GHS wouldn’t be able to do a number of things to save \$1.5 billion over 30 years from the estimated increased earnings on its cash reserves and efficiencies from being partnering with other facilities, Riordan said, adding that the restructuring is effective Oct. 1. Burns added that taxpayers have been losing millions already because GHS has purchased many medical practices which used to be private tax-paying businesses that are now tax-exempt under GHS’s governmental, nonprofit status. The legislators have asked the Department of Revenue to investigate that. “Greenville County is having to pick up slack where they’re not paying taxes on buildings where they used to be paying taxes just because GHS owns the property but they’re doing the same thing in there,” he said. “That’s where the rub is.” GHS got about \$82 million in county tax funds during the 1960s and 1970s to build parts of Greenville Memorial, Hillcrest Memorial, North Greenville Hospital and Allen Bennett Memorial. Burns and the others criticized the restructuring, saying it takes public assets out of public oversight since GHS trustees, who are approved by the delegation, would no longer be responsible for strategic decisions.

THEATER

‘Birthday Party’ celebration turns into a nightmare

PAUL HYDE  
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Furman University’s Rhett Bryson has one main criterion for choosing a drama or comedy to direct on stage. He’d love to play all the parts himself. “By that I mean that I want meaty roles for our undergraduate students to do,” said Bryson, a longtime theater professor at Furman. Fittingly, the Furman Playhouse’s production of Harold Pinter’s “The Birthday Party” offers “great challenges for six actors.” Bryson is staging the 1958 play about a former piano player visited on his birthday by two people who turn the celebration into a nightmare. This tale of terror in everyday life explores identity and defiance to social convention. “This is not just a domestic drama but a metaphor for searching for an identity and resisting conformity to what society thinks you should be,” Bryson said. It’s also a gripping piece of theater, he said. “A good play should constantly be asking the question, ‘What happens next?’” Bryson said. “This play certainly does that because we don’t know where it’s going.” “The Birthday Party” has been recognized as a modern classic and become one of the English playwright Pinter’s most-produced plays. Theater-goers should note: The play is for mature audiences.




JEREMY FLEMING

Furman Playhouse’s production of Harold Pinter’s “The Birthday Party” continues through Oct. 9.

“The Birthday Party” features Furman students Alan Smith, Claire Ruble, Derek Leonard, Kenzie Wynne and Sal Donzella. The play includes Furman grad Sam Nelson as well. Bryson, in addition to directing, designed the sound. Lauren Girouard is lighting and scenic designer. Dakota Adams serves as costume designer. Director and playwright

Jayce Tromsness, of the S.C. Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities, worked with the students on English and Irish dialects. Performances are 8 p.m. Sept. 28-Oct. 1 and Oct. 6-8; and 3 p.m. on Oct. 2 and 9. For tickets, call 864-294-2125. For the latest in local arts news and reviews, follow Paul Hyde on Facebook and Twitter: @PaulHyde7.

**YOU CAN GO**  
**What:** “The Birthday Party,” by Harold Pinter  
**When:** 8 p.m. Sept. 28-Oct. 1, also 8 p.m. Oct. 6-8; 3 p.m. on Oct. 2 and 9  
**Where:** Furman University Playhouse  
**Tickets:** \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$10 students  
**Information:** 864-294-2125



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