



Rebecca Bunch/Chowan Herald

Darryl Stallings (center) portraying Raphael, a Mexican cowboy attracts surprise and quizzical looks from fellow cast members (from left) Mariah Schierer, Holly Emmerich, Gloria Emmerich, Jeff Emmerich and Nathan Schierer during a rehearsal for a new musical, "Carolina Jamboree," that will open Friday night.

Carolina Jamboree will have you laughing, crying

By **Rebecca Bunch**
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A zany cast of characters that double as the hired help for Clover Lake Resort owners Louise and Lynn Parker (portrayed by Gloria and Jeff Emmerich) will provide comedy and musical entertainment in the upcoming production of Carolina Jamboree.

The Rocky Hock Playhouse production opens Friday at noon with a lunch buffet and show to follow at Leon Nixon Catering on Virginia Road.

"This is a very jazzed up and fun show," said Gloria Emmerich, who wrote the story and music.

The finale is the cast's rendition of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" performed against an American flag backdrop in brightly hued red, white and blue.

"It's just spectacular," said Jeff Emmerich, who directs and produces the show.

The production tells the story of the resort and its owners whose hired

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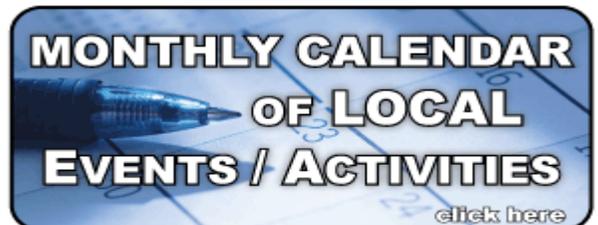
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“help” includes Ruby and Rufus Bunch, portrayed by Holly Emmerich and Darryl Stallings, who claim that they are “identical twins, born on the very same day.”

Over the years, Lynn and Rufus have engaged in a game of one-upping each other with practical jokes, and this year won’t be any exception. To help add some extra oomph to the resort’s traditional summer concert, Rufus decides to make a surprise appearance as a Mexican cowboy, Raphael, riding his faithful donkey, Max, to the dismay of the Parkers.

Left to sort out the situation is new resort hires Jake and Annie Jones, played by Nathan and Mariah Schierer.

In the end, though, the group pulls together a concert filled with gospel and patriotic songs that some say is the highlight of the show.

Both Emmerichs said that they felt the patriotic aspect of the show was of particular importance.

“We’ve just passed the 11th anniversary of 9/11,” Jeff Emmerich said, “and people are remembering that time and how the country all pulled together in a renewed sense of patriotism.”

“We’re proud to be Americans,” Gloria Emmerich added, “and this show represents our love of country.”

The Emmerichs said that this show, as is the case with others they produce, would be family-oriented and suitable for all ages. The story line itself takes the audience from moments of hilarity to a finish that Jeff Emmerich said, “will have them crying their hearts out at the end.”

After the play’s opening day four additional shows (and lunch buffets) are scheduled on Oct. 2, Oct. 6, Oct. 9 and Oct. 13 at noon.

Ticket prices will be \$28.95 for adults, \$27.95 for senior citizens (age 62 and up), \$21.95 for children ages 6-12. Group tickets are \$26.95 for groups of 10-24 and \$25.95 for groups of 25 and up.

Prices do not include tax and gratuity. To reserve yours, call the Rocky Hock Playhouse box office at (252) 482-4621.



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