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**Musical comedy opens tomorrow in Chiefland**  
*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is set to run March 2-18



**This still shot and video show one very tiny part of a musical comedy that starts tomorrow night (Friday, March 2) in Chiefland with performances Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through March 18.**

## **Story, Photo and Video**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © March 1, 2018 at 11:08 a.m.**

**CHIEFLAND** -- The Suwannee Valley Players' performance of the musical comedy - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* -- starts tomorrow evening (March 2) at The Chief Theater and is scheduled to run for three weekends.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$13 for others. This is another SVP must-see play for people who enjoy live performances of musical comedies.

The show starts Friday, March 2 and ends March 18.

Friday and Saturday nights the show is at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Audience members are asked to arrive 30 minutes before the show to become seated before the play begins.

Patrons of the performing arts are reminded that there are delicious treats served at the concession in the front lobby of The Chief Theater, located across the street from the Chiefland Police Department on Park Avenue, east of Main Street (U.S. Highway 19).

This play is a Tony Award-winning Broadway musical.

What is *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* about? It's a show where the kids are played by adults!

Here's a bit of a spoiler alert. Members of the audience can be called upon to be volunteer spellers in this performance of a spelling bee. Fear not, though, only willing participants will have that opportunity.

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* by Rachel Sheinkin portrays the story of an eclectic group of six tweens vying for the spelling championship while candidly

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disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives.

It is a musical comedy with a fresh and vibrant score by William Finn, and it is a delightful den of comedic genius.

For any person who ever competed in a spelling bee or for parent who has had children that competed, or for students or parents that are currently involved with a spelling bee, and whether a person is a good speller or even a bad speller, then everyone of them is asked to consider this as an invitation to come out to the Chief Theater and support the local thespian community.

The actors under the director's guidance portray their characters to a level beyond simple community theater. The singing and comedy are spot-on. This really is a must-see for folks who did not make it to New York City to see this play on Broadway.

M. Lanette Six is directing this play in Chiefland.

A dress rehearsal on Monday night, which was open for the media to review, shows this play is packed with local talent.

The cast includes Logan Acevedo as Leaf Coneybear; Matthew Lunsford as William Barféé (pronounced "Bar-Fay", not "Barfy"); Evi Wright as Marcy Park; Zachary Vance as Chip Tolentino; Stephanie Crawford as Logaine Schwartzandgrubenierre (who goes by Schwartzy); Robyn Shepard as Olive Ostrovsky; Valdeen Fletcher as Mitch Mahoney - comfort counselor as his court-ordered community service (and Fletcher acts as Olive Ostrovsky's Dad); Sasha Bohan as Rona Perretti (the moderator); and Jacob Claypool as Vice Principal Douglas Panch.

Beyond the director and the stars of this show, the final product shows other behind-the-scenes folks who make the lighting, sound, special effects, costumes and every other aspect of the play come together with what promises to be an outstanding event every night and for the matinees.

Call Becky Gill at 352-443-9096 to reserve tickets. While it is highly recommended to reserve tickets, every seat is a good seat in the theater and walk-up ticket-buyers are welcome, although if it's a sold-out show there will be no tickets available.