



Photo submitted

Thirteen Oregon High School students will perform in the Verona Area Community Theater's production of "Newsies" from April 25-28.

# 16 Oregon students act, produce VACT show 'Newsies'

Make sure you're all read up on your weekly hometown newspaper, and then settle in for a show featuring the "newsies" who make it possible – including 16 from Oregon High School.

From April 25-28, the Verona Area Community Theater will perform "Newsies," a 1992 Disney movie-turned-Broadway musical. The show will run five times, at 7 p.m. April 25-27 and 2 p.m. April 27-28.

The production will be held at the Verona Area Performing Arts Center, 300 Richard St., Verona, and features 68 high school-age teenagers from 13 schools.

General admission is \$17, and senior citizens 65 and older and children are \$12.

Sixteen of VACT's "newsies" are from Oregon High School, with 13 of them acting and three helping as members of the stage crew.

The musical features Jack Kelly, played by Jamal Stone of Sun Prairie High School, who leads a band of newsboys who deliver papers in New York City at the start of the 20th century, according to a VACT news release. Kelly's influence over the newsies prompts them to go on strike when the publishers raise the price on distribution.

The cast includes Edgewood High School student Corinna Smith as Katherine Plumber, Verona Area High School student Brady Wagner portraying Davey, Matthew Powell as Les, Oregon High School student Arik Zintel as Crutchie and VAHS student Derek Argall playing media mogul

### If You Go

**What:** Verona Area Community Theater's production of "Newsies"

**When:** 7:30 p.m. April 25-27; 2 p.m. April 27-28

**Where:** Verona Area Performing Arts Center, 300 Richard St.

**Cost:** \$17 for adults, \$12 for children and seniors

**Info:** vact.org

Joseph Pulitzer.

Additional OHS students in the musical are Evelyn Becker, Selma Somazet, Katie Kisely and Katie Krenke as Bowery Beauties, Megan Fahey as an office employee, Trinity Gardner as a camerawoman, Elyse Harvancik as Darcy, Kyle Kapusta as Spot Conlin, Kenneth Kritsch as Henry the Newsie, Caleb Matthias as Gov. Roosevelt and Miranda Moore and Brendan Moore as Newsies.

Ava Zyhowski and Grace and Claire Michels are members of the stage crew.

The musical is directed and co-choreographed by Alyssa Dvorak. Helping her are Lynn Vilker as producer and costume designer, Kelsey Odorizzi as music director, Marsha Heuer as co-choreographer and Jonathan Wollums as stage manager.

For information, visit vact.org.

Email reporter Kimberly Wethal at kimberly.wethal@wcinet.com and follow her on Twitter @kimberly\_wethal.



Photo submitted

Tracy Schmidt poses with her mustang horse, California Queen.

# From wild to domesticated

## Oregon resident takes 12th in Midwest Horse Fair Mustang Challenge

EMILIE HEIDEMANN  
Unified Newspaper Group

Oregon resident Tracy Schmidt maneuvered her mustang, California Queen – walking her, trotting her and brushing her to show Midwest Horse Fair Mustang Challenge judges just how domesticated the horse has become.

The pair finished in 12th place of 56 trainers in the overall challenge during the 40th annual Midwest Horse Fair, which took place from Friday, April 12, through Sunday, April 14.

According to a horse fair press release, the Mustang Challenge is a new addition to this year's event. Fifty-six trainers, many from around the United States and Canada, were matched with wild mustangs and have been working with them since January "to allow the animal's natural abilities to shine through," the release states.

### About the Midwest Horse Fair

The Midwest Horse Fair is the largest three-day horse fair in the country, a Midwest Horse Fair news release states. "Since 1979, in its goal of serving as America's epicenter for the equine community, the fair strives to provide the ultimate experience for equine enthusiasts and the public through exposition, education and entertainment," the release states.

Though Cali wasn't a top-10 finalist, Schmidt told the Observer she still did well.

Cali showed her stuff in a handling and conditioning, patterns and trails challenge, which all contributed to her ranking in the competition. The horse placed 22nd for the handling and conditioning competition, eighth for patterns and seventh for trails, she said.

Schmidt said handling and conditioning involved day-to-day activities like brushing the horse, leading her into a trailer, walking – the "simple things."

The patterns challenge involved trotting the mustang, more walking, pivots and side-passing, which is the horse crossing its legs over to move

sideways – "showmanship patterns" as Schmidt called them.

The trails challenge involved maneuvering the horse through paths made by obstacles, Schmidt said. One involved backing the horse up in an L-shaped trail made of poles the horse couldn't hit.

Schmidt, who has been training mustangs since 2010, said the activity takes a lot of "time and patience."

She said Cali was "flighty" at first. When the horse didn't want to complete a task, she would run

away from Schmidt.

And Schmidt said she thinks the number of people at the Midwest Horse Fair worried Cali. She attributed Cali's placement in the handling and conditioning challenge to that fear.

The process of domestication is good for the mustangs, Schmidt said, and keeps the population down, since the horses have no natural predators in the wild.

Cali was captured in Wyoming in October 2017 as a 3-year-old mustang. But it's to her benefit, Schmidt said, as Cali will soon be living with Schmidt's cousin.

"More than 50 wild mustangs have found the fortune of a promising future in a qualified and caring home," the horse fair release states.

Email Emilie Heidemann at emilie.heidemann@wcinet.com and follow her on Twitter at @HeidemEmilie.



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SUNDAY SERVICES // APRIL 21

**EASTER**

BLACKHAWK BRADER WAY | MIDDLETON  
9620 Brader Way | 7:45, 9:30 & 11:15 am; 4:30 & 6 pm

BLACKHAWK DOWNTOWN  
Upper House | 8:30, 10, 11:30 am

BLACKHAWK FITCHBURG  
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BLACKHAWK CHURCH | blackhawkchurch.org | 608.828.4200