



Photo submitted

Members of the cast rehearse for the upcoming Verona Area Community Theater show "A Christmas Story." The musical will run for five shows from Nov. 29 through Dec. 2 at the Verona Area Performing Arts Center, 300 Richard St.

VACT to present 'A Christmas Story'

Ralphie Parker will have five chances to convince his parents to get him a Red Ryder Carbine-Action BB gun for Christmas next weekend during the Verona Area Community Theater's production of "A Christmas Story."

Running from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2, "A Christmas Story," a musical based off the 1983 movie by the same moniker, features a cast of over 80 actors from the Madison area, according to a news release from VACT.

The show will take place at

7:30 p.m. on Nov. 29 and 30, and Dec. 1, with 2 p.m. performances on Dec. 1 and 2.

Tickets are \$17 for general admission, and \$12 for seniors older than 65 and students in grades K-12, and can be purchased in advance at vact.org or at the door.

The cast includes Matthew Powell as Ralphie, Michael Spvacek as Jean Shepherd, John Beard as The Old Man, Marie Kyle as Mother, Dominic Jacobson as Randy Parker, Shannon Payette as Miss Shields and Sara Ward-Cassady as the Mother

understudy.

The production is directed by Terry Dvorak, with Dee Baldock as producer, Brett Wagner as the music director, Alyssa Dvorak choreographing, Lynn Vilker as costume designer, Julie Murphy as the stage manager and Kyle taking on a second role as the props manager.

For more information, visit vact.org.

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

If You Go

What: VACT's production of "A Christmas Story"

When: 7:30 p.m. Nov. 29-Dec. 1; 2 p.m. Dec. 1-2

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

Tickets: \$17, \$12 for seniors 65+ and K-12 students

Info: vact.org

VACT receives American Girl children's grant

For the second year in a row, Verona Area Community Theater has received a grant from the American Girl's Fund For Children.

The grant of \$8,100 will fund the upcoming Aristocats show for children grades 2-4 that will run from April 11-13, 2019.

"The American Girl Fund For Children's grants has given VACT the funding flexibility to add a 4th spring show to serve more children in the Dane County Area," Alyssa Dvorak, vice president of the VACT Board of Directors, wrote in an email to the Press.

VACT is among 33 organizations in the Madison area was awarded nearly \$500,000 in grant money for arts, cultural and environmental programs, according to a news release from the Fund for Children. Awards were announced in September.

Since 1988, the Fund for Children, a part of the Madison Community Foundation, has donated \$11 million to Dane County organizations. The grants are funded by the Madison Children's Museum's Annual American Girl Benefit sale, which sells overstock products and returned merchandise.

Dvorak said it was "amazing" to receive a grant for their children's programming by the American Girl's Fund for Children.

"It is wonderful to have an outstanding group like American Girl Fund for Children recognize VACT as a leader in the local area for providing affordable theater arts for children," she said.

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

Send it in!

We like to send reporters to shoot photos, but we can't be everywhere. And we know you all have cameras.

So if you have a photo of an event or just a slice of life you think the community might be interested in, send it to us and we'll use it if we can. Please include contact information, what's happening in the photo and the names of people

pictured.

You can submit it on our website at ConnectVerona.com, email to editor Jim Ferolie at veronapress@wcinet.com or drop off electronic media at our office at 133 Enterprise Drive. Questions? Call 845-9559.

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Verona Area School District

'Helping Hands' gift campaign begins

SCOTT GIRARD
 Unified Newspaper Group

The Verona Area School District's annual holiday gift campaign is accepting donations between now and Dec. 7.

The "Verona Area Helping Hands" campaign, in which families in need can register to receive gifts, is a partnership between the Verona Area High School Future Farmers of America club, district social workers and Joining Forces for Families.

Families hoping to receive gifts can register online or by talking to their school's social worker by 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2. Parents will be notified via mail of the pickup date and time for the gifts and are asked to bring the Helping Hands letter they receive in the mail with them.

To donate gifts, stop by a VASD school office and ask for a "Helping Hand," which will have the age and gender of a child written on it.

"If you are unable to stop by the office, you can donate any new gift to the school office and the School Social Worker will add it to the toy collection," a post on the district's website states. "Note that older elementary

Social workers

High School: Andrea Bonaparte (845-4517), Cory Zimmerman (845-4433)

Badger Ridge, Core Knowledge Charter School, or New Century School: Stacie Wagner (845-4141)

Savanna Oaks Middle School, Stoner Prairie, Verona Area International School: Kathy Garity (421-4936)

Country View, EC, Pre-K-K: Knou Xiong (416-9536)

Sugar Creek, Glacier Edge: Trista Olson (225-3033)

Spanish: Nancy Carranza (354-9480), Sandra Kurzbuch (381-8593)

through high school-age gifts are often overlooked."

Gifts are suggested to cost \$15-25. Those donating a gift are asked to bring it unwrapped to a VASD school by 2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, with the "Helping Hand" taped to the gift.

Verona Area School District

CV teacher wins statewide award

SCOTT GIRARD
 Unified Newspaper Group

Country View Elementary School physical education teacher John Walesewicz received a statewide recognition last month.

The Wisconsin Health and Physical Education Association gave Walesewicz the Association

Future Professional Leadership Award, which requires the recipient to be active in the association as an officer, presenter or in another capacity for at least two years.

Walesewicz "recently completed his term" as the Future Professional vice president, according to a WHPE news release.

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