Erin Gulash is 'Annie' at PACP

"Annie," the award-winning Broadway musical, opened Friday at the Port Austin Community Players' (PACP) black box with Erin Gulash of Caseville receiving rave reviews in the title role.

The show will continue this weekend and next weekend, Nov. 6-7 and 13-14-15 with curtain times of 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday night and 2 p.m. matinees on Sunday.

The show is based on the cartoon character, "Little Orphan Annie," and follows Annie's life from the orphanage to "living the life of luxury" in the Warbucks mansion as the daughter of Oliver Warbucks, portrayed by Matthew Arneson of Sand Point.

Annie's friends at the orphanage are played by Jessica Welshman of Caseville, Maril Paganini, Emily Knoblock and Brittani Meyer, all of Port Austin; Jess Leeceh of Kinde and Tonnille Peyer of Bad Axe.

The orphanage is run by cruel Miss Hannigan, played by Kris Kuziel of Port Austin in a magnificent repeat of the role. She joins in with her conniving brother, Rooster Hannigan, portrayed by Rodney Terwilliger of Bad Axe, and her boyfriend, Lily St. Regis, played by Penny Pearson of Port Austin, to swindle Oliver Warbucks of $50,000.

Johnson's Kinde plays President Franklin Roosevelt, while Mary Jo Lovelly of Harbor Beach, as Grace Farrell. Warbucks' private secretary and Steve Naunof of Port Austin is Officer Ward.

The back streets of New York hide the Hooveville Ape, who blinks the Depression and their state of poverty on ex-presidents Herbert Hoover.

Members of the cast who play either Hooveville people, the staff at Warbucks' mansion or radio personalities are: Danielle Danien of Elkton; Renee Scepaniak, Bob Gulash and Andy Nowak, all of Caseville; Margaret Sturmu and Melissa Hogan, Port Austin; Dobby Peyer, Dow DaFord and Jeff Riegle, all of Bad Axe and Toby Romzek of Harbor Beach. Painters are Melissa Hogan and Andy Nowak.

"Annie" is being directed by Rodney Terwilliger, assisted by Marie Nicholl and is under the musical direction of Kris Kuziel. For ticket information, call the theater at 738-5217.
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EXCEPTIONAL VOLUNTEER: Elise DeSimpelare, 85 years young on left, receives a special citation from Jenny Martens for exceptional volunteer service to the local American Red Cross effort. DeSimpelare, of Unionville, has been a Red Cross volunteer for more than 20 years.

MARY DIERER PHOTO

No criminal charges to be filed against former teacher

Following the resignation of former Laker band instructor Vincent Aiello, 27, of Pigeon, last week, Huron County Prosecutor Leslie Hagen says no criminal charges would be brought against Aiello.

Aiello resigned his position as a special school board meeting after being accused of engaging in "sexually inappropriate conduct with at least two female students," Hagen said a full investigation was conducted and several Lakeland students were interviewed.

After reviewing the complaints, the prosecutor said charges could have been brought on at least one of the complaints, but that after discussing the case with one of the victims and her family, the decision was made to ask for Aiello’s resignation and to have him seek counseling.

Aiello was suspended with pay from the school on Sept. 18 after charges were filed against him with the school board by Lakeland High School Principal Lisa DiCamillo. In a prepared statement, Hagen gave credit to the Lakeland administration for its handling of the case and to DiCamillo for her prompt action in calling authorities.

It's a girl!

A special delivery came to the home of Dennis and Cindy Engelhard of Unionville on Saturday at 10:02 a.m. A daughter, Kayla Marie, weighing 10 lbs. 13 oz. and measuring 20 inches long, was born and greeted by big sister Marissa and big brother Nathan. Also welcoming her were her maternal grandparents Gerald and Ruth Eisen and paternal grandparents Laverne and Betty Engelhard, all of Unionville. Godparents are Elea Baur of Unionville and Beth Englehard of Frankenmuth.

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The Newsweekly...

Dining Guide
A selection of great dining and entertainment ideas that are guaranteed to please!

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