

Daily Herald

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# Gary's back!

*ise and the Lt. Dan Band  
 o rock to support our troops*

ESSICA SABBAH  
 @dailyherald.com

or Gary Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band will  
 1 to Cantigny Park Saturday evening to  
 inate a daylong 'Rockin' For the Troops'  
 it celebration to assist Operation Sup-  
 Our Troops-Illinois.

ceeds from the event at 15151 Winfield  
 Road, near Wheaton,  
 go toward compiling  
 and sending care pack-  
 ages to our troops serv-  
 ing overseas.

The Daily Herald  
 recently caught up  
 with the "CSI: NY" star  
 to talk about his pas-  
 sion for the cause,  
 experiences on past  
 USO tours and current

ou go  
 t: Illinois  
 ation Support  
 troops' annual  
 mer benefit  
 ert "Rockin'  
 he Troops"  
 n: Gates  
 at noon and

**BORN LOSER** | SEE COMICS | ON PAGE 3  
 BY ART & CHIP SANSON

HELLO?  
 HELLO? I AM  
 EITHER AWAY  
 OR UNABLE TO  
 ANSWER THE  
 PHONE. LEAVE  
 A MESSAGE  
 AFTER THE BEEP.

HELLO?  
 LEAVE WHAT MESSAGE?  
 YOU CALLED ME!

F34

# Neighbor



Leads Tyler Vaughn, left, and Bianca Minniti, right, practice the opening scene at a recent rehearsal.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN SHERMAN/ksherman@dailyherald.com

# Stage school

## Youth ensemble to present 'High School Musical 2' at Pheasant Run

BY DAVID TEEGHMAN  
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Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens won't be at the Pheasant Run Resort, but "High School Musical 2" will be performed there for the next few weekends.

The Noble Fool Theatricals youth ensemble has spent six weeks rehearsing for the series of performances, the first of which will be Saturday, July 18.

"This was a show the kids came to us asking us to do because they already knew all the words and the dance moves," Noble Fool Theatricals marketing manager Audra Sybert said.

This youth ensemble is an audition-only program for talented performers from the West and Northwest suburbs who have been working with theater professionals to improve their acting skills.

More than 75 people auditioned back in



Director Shelley Frazee, from left, parent volunteer Missy Donatelli and stage manager Natalie Bayard look over their notes during rehearsal.

it's good for those kids to perform with the group.

"For many home-schooled kids in our youth ensemble, this is most of the contact they have with kids their own age," Sybert said.

Darien resident and Glenbard West High School senior Bianca Minniti, 18, will play the lead female, Gabriella, the same role she played in the first "High School Musical."

Gabriella's male counterpart, the athletic and popular Troy, will be played by Geneva resident Tyler Vaughn. He's been performing with the youth ensemble regularly since it was founded three years ago as a branch of the professional Noble Fool Theatricals.

Chicago resident Shelley Frazee is directing and choreographing the show, her first experience with the group.

The hall housing the main stage has 310 seats, all of which have been sold out for the first performance, and tickets for the other performances are selling at a rapid clip.

The show will be presented Saturdays, July 18 and Aug. 8, at 10:30 a.m. and July 25 at 1 p.m.; and Sundays, July 19 and 26, at 7 p.m. on the Pheasant Run Resort Mainstage.

For details, call the Noble Fool Theatricals box office at (630) 584-6342 or visit noblefool.org.

## 'HSM 2' cast

The leading character, Gabriella, will be played by Darien resident Bianca Minniti, the same young actress who played her three years ago.

Her opposite, Troy, is played by Geneva resident Tyler Vaughn.

Other "High School Musical 2" cast members are:

**St. Charles:** Alex Adams, Chase Buntrock, Kevin Chlapecka,

Allison Cook, Michael Fairbanks, Amelia Kuhlman, Kat Macdonald, Gabriella Marzetta

**Geneva:** Molly Carberry, Natalie Carberry, Ally Carrino, Connor Colbert, Brandon Damore, Krystina DiCristofano, Maddy Donatelli, Jordan Graber, Allison Grischow, Becca Grischow, Josh Harper, Jill Nigh, Becca Olear, Rachael Olear, Alice Paul, Rebecca Roy, Bianca Shaw,

Jenna Soldati, Cassidy Van Cleve and Caroline Whittaker

**Batavia:** Alison Cruz and Jackie Scheer

**Elgin:** Arianna Nutile

**West Chicago:** Maegan Daniels and Sara Monteleone

**Palatine:** Kelly O'Brien

**Naperville:** Hannah Krusinger and Karisa Zdanly

**Wheaton:** Mallory Houser

**Winfield:** Nadia Pelletier

**Lake Villa:** Teaghan Callaway

**Carol Stream:** Katie Brazier

**Woodstock:** Joey Javan

**Sugar Grove:** Leah Richards

**Elburn:** Nicole DiSandro and McKenzie McMullan.

The director is Chicago resident, Shelley Frazee.

Musical director is Wayne resident Ken Jones.

— David Teeghman

projects. This is an edited version of the conversation.

**Q.** A lot of people talk about supporting our troops but you've taken it to heart. How did you get involved and why is it so important to you?

**A.** When we were attacked on Sept. 11 and we started deploying our troops to Afghanistan and Iraq, I just wanted to do something. So I started going on USO tours to show the troops they were supported and let them know we care

them. I have been with Vietnam veterans groups over

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COURTESY OPERATION SUPPORT OUR TROOPS-ILLINOIS

ays he became active in support-troops after the attacks of Sept. 11, I just wanted to do something, so I went on USO tours to show the troops they were supported and let them know we care about them," he said.