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localnews

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352-753-1119, Ext. 5397

CONSUMER NEWS

BROWNWOOD HOTEL & SPA INSTALLS DECOR ON ALL FLOORS

Furniture and wall art installation is underway on all floors of the Brownwood Hotel & Spa adjacent to the Center for Advanced Health-care to the west of Brownwood Paddock Square. **C10**

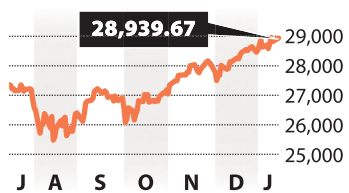
SPANISH SPRINGS FITNESS CLUB EVACUATED

An employee at MVP Athletic Club smelled smoke Tuesday afternoon and the club was evacuated, but firefighters didn't find a fire. **C4**

THE DAY ON WALL STREET

Daily Stocks, **C11**

Dow Jones Industrial Avg.



Dow
+32.62
Close: 28,939.67

Nasdaq
-22.60
Close: 9,251.33

S&P 500
-4.98
Close: 3,283.15

INSIDE

- Weather **C2**
- Public Safety **C4**
- Obituaries **C4**
- Club Notes **C5**

Paradise In Pictures Enter now!

Gather your best photos and enter the Daily Sun's photography competition.

Contest Rules, C6-7



Our Town

WHERE WE LIVE AND WHO WE ARE

Local Support Helps Arts Activities Thrive

MUSIC, THEATER GROUPS HOLD EVENTS, SEEK DONATIONS



Rachel Stuart | Daily Sun

Adrianna Perez, a 13-year-old seventh-grade student, plays the clarinet while practicing with the concert band during class on Jan. 8, at Wildwood Middle High School. Most of the instruments in the band were donated by local residents.

By **KRISTEN FIORE** | Daily Sun Senior Writer

Local arts thrive on community support, and community support comes in many forms. People can boost local live entertainment, theater and music education by building sets or painting backdrops, donating instruments no longer being used or attending events and shows that not only support artists, but raise money for music scholarships. Many opportunities to support the arts in The Villages area are coming up. The Jazz More Jazz club and Jazz Lovers' Club both hold monthly live entertainment featuring high-caliber jazz artists from all over the world. Proceeds from both clubs' events benefit the Bob Washington Jazz Scholarship, which is open to Florida

Please See **LOCAL ARTS, C18**

LOCAL NEWS

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE AT CHURCH

"Donation Station" comes to Community United Methodist Church.

OneBlood's Mobile Donation Station bus will be parked and will welcome blood donors from 2 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the church, located at 309 College Ave. in Fruitland Park. The drive is open to the public, and anyone who is able and qualified to donate is encouraged to drop by.
— James Dinan, Daily Sun

29,456

Items

Operation Shoebox shipped 29,456 items in 2019 to troops overseas. The number included 9,350 Christmas stockings and 19,141 goody bags.
— Laura Sikes, Daily Sun

LOCAL NEWS

HOPE LUTHERAN WELCOMES SPEAKERS

Lutheran World Relief members to speak during services.

Theresa Haenn and Jon Diefenthaler of Lutheran World Relief will lead worship at 4 and 6 p.m. Saturday and 8, 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday at Hope Lutheran Church's Central Campus, 250 Avenida Los Angeles, The Villages. The two will also discuss how Lutheran missions are changing and saving lives worldwide.
— James Dinan, Daily Sun

THIS & THAT

Siberian State Symphony, Featuring Vladimir Lande, to Perform at The Sharon

The Siberian State Symphony Orchestra, featuring music director Vladimir Lande, will perform at 7 p.m. Jan. 22 The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center as part of the venue's international series. The Siberian State Symphony Orchestra has a reputation for being one of the best orchestras from Russia and has numerous recordings with Naxos Records, according to the group's bio. Tickets range from \$25 to \$70 and can be purchased online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location. Other upcoming international performances include Flamenco Vivo and George Hinchliffe's Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain.



Kristen Fiore

352-753-1119, ext. 5270
kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com

CELEBRATE CINEMA DAY AT VILLAGES THEATERS

As part of a partnership with the Independent Cinema Alliance, The Villages Movie Theaters will host the first annual Independent Cinema Day on Saturday at Old Mill Playhouse and Barnstorm Theater. Those who come to a movie on Independent Cinema Day will receive a snack-sized popcorn. To learn more, visit cinemaalliance.org.



Richard H Gnaedinger | Village of Freedom Pointe

Moment of Zen

Email your photo to photos@thevillagesmedia.com with "Moment of Zen" as the subject. Include your name and village/city. Photos should be from our community.

NEW MUSIC NIGHT AT EVERGLADES REC CENTER

Villager Richie Lanna will perform "Sounds of the Legends Come Alive" from 6:30 p.m. to 8:20 p.m. Saturday at Everglades Recreation Center. Lanna can sing the songs of more than 65 male artists and welcomes guests to sing and dance along. Lanna will perform a music night on the third Saturday of every other month. Attendees should bring their Villages ID or guest pass.

local news

LOCAL ARTS

Continued from C1

jazz instrumentalists and vocalists who are seniors in high school or freshmen or sophomores in college hoping to pursue a career in jazz.

The Jazz More Jazz club's January event is at 5:45 p.m. Thursday at Paradise Recreation Center. It features international jazz trio Rossano Sportiello, Nicki Parrott and Eddie Metz, Jr.

Attendance is limited to Villages residents only, and entrance is \$10 for club members and \$15 for nonmembers.

"Rossano, Nicki and Eddie have been together for about 10 years and they're known internationally," said Walter Griffith, who books both clubs' events. "We're very fortunate to have them. They come to support the scholarship, because all three of them really believe in it."

Like the jazz clubs, the Opera Club of The Villages also awards an annual music scholarship, the Harold S. Schwartz Music Scholarship, to music students in Lake, Sumter and Marion counties.

The Opera Club raises money for the scholarship in a few ways, but the main fundraiser is the group's annual Three Tenors Plus One concert at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

This year's shows are at 3 and 7 p.m. Feb. 15 and feature the music of Luciano Pavarotti performed by three award-winning tenors and local favorite Dawn DiNome as the "plus one."

Tickets range from \$15 to \$50 and are available online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

"It's a huge annual event that has helped us give hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships away to young musicians," said Bill Doherty, a member of the Opera Club and the show's longtime accompanist.

Groups like Bands of The Villages and The Villages Blues Society help by collecting instruments for local schools.

Sandy Fuller, of the Village of Glenbrook, has worked with Villages Concert Band director Jean Butler to collect instrument donations for a couple of years. Donations go primarily to schools in the tri-county area.

Interested donors should email Fuller at sabailey51@aol.com with "Instrument Donation" in the subject line. Fuller will call or email back to make arrangements to pick up the instrument or have it dropped off.

The cause is important to Fuller, who is a former school administrator and teacher.

"The children who take on instruments do better in school," she said. "Plus, it gives them a positive connection in the community. It's also a life-long skill."

Music teachers also can apply for grants for assistance buying music and classroom supplies by visiting the "Outreach Programs" tab on bandsofthevillages.com, Fuller added.

The Villages Blues Society started collecting instrument donations for Wildwood Middle High School in December and already has received about 20. On Tuesday, the club presented a \$5,000 check to WMHS band director Sean Wallace pay for a baritone saxophone for the band room.

Those interested in making instrument or monetary donations should email thevillagesblues@gmail.com.

"Music has always been important in our lives, and we think it's important for kids to have that experience, too," club founder Mark Adams said. "Sometimes it can put their lives in a completely different direction."

Additionally, TVBS puts on multiple events a month featuring professional blues artists.

The group's next event, featuring eclectic blues artist Tas Cru & his band of Tortured Souls, is at 6 p.m. Feb. 5 at Mulberry Grove Recreation Center. The event is open to all Villages residents, and tickets are \$15 for club members and \$20 for nonmembers online or \$25 at the door.

To purchase tickets or learn about upcoming events, visit thevillagesblues.com.

While it's important to support budding musicians, established artists need it, too.

The Melon Patch Theatre in Leesburg recently started the Spotlight Series, smaller-scale shows put on to spotlight local artists and raise money for the ongoing renovations, maintenance and upkeep of the theater, a former school.

"We thought if we could do the spotlight series, we could put smaller-scale shows in between the main-stage productions to utilize the theater on a more constant basis," according to Ken Hoffmann, the Spotlight Series chairman and resident of Village of Caroline.

Those involved in the Spotlight Series are now preparing for "Connected: A Broadway Revue" at 8 p.m. Feb. 15 and 2 p.m. Feb. 16.

Tickets for the Spotlight Series and the main stage shows are available online at melonpatchplayers.org. There are no tickets on sale or needed for "Connected," but a donation will be accepted at the door.

The theater's next big production, "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery," opens Jan. 24 and runs until Feb. 9.

Volunteers also are needed to paint backdrops, build sets and more, Hoffmann added.

Anyone interested should call the theater at 352-787-3013.

The fine arts are in need of support, too.

At 5:30 p.m. on March 11, the Villages Philharmonic Orchestra will hold its annual gala at Katie Belle's.

Tickets are \$100 and will soon be available through Katie Belle's. All proceeds will benefit the VPO.

The event will include live music and dance performances, dinner, a live auction and more,

according to Marcella Richardson, president of the VPO board. "Without the patrons, we would not be on stage," said VPO conductor Pasquale Valerio.

If patrons can't attend the gala, it helps to attend the VPO's shows.

The next one is a classical concert featuring Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 in C major Op. 21 and Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor Op. 16 at 7 p.m. Jan. 28 at

The Sharon.

The orchestra will be joined by guest pianist Antonio Pompa-Baldi.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$65 and are available online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

Senior writer Kristen Fiore can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

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