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APRIL 3,
2020

THE NEWSPAPER OF FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

VILLAGES LIFE

TO OUR READERS: WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE ON CORONAVIRUS?

News about the global pandemic is moving at lightning speed, and we want to keep you updated along the way. Email your questions to AskDailySun@thevillagesmedia.com, call 352-753-1119, ext. 5374, or connect with us through our multimedia channels.

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- Tap your App Store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android) icon and search for "The Villages Daily Sun Mobile." Select Install.
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Top of the News

INSIDE THE ISSUES SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

Entertainment Rises To the Virtual Challenge

Performers on all levels are using the internet to stay connected with their fans and craft during shutdown.

Q Reader from the Village of Fenney: How many cases have been confirmed here?
A The Florida Department of Health reported 9,008 cases as of Thursday night out of 80,356 test results. In the tri-county area, 66 positive cases in Sumter County, 82 in Lake County and 33 in Marion County have been reported. The state also reported 1,167 hospitalizations and 144 deaths, including two deaths in Sumter County and two in Lake County.

Q Reader from the Village of Chatham: Why are the golf courses not closed?
A Gov. Ron DeSantis' executive order, now in effect, advises everyone to stay at home except for essential activities, which includes recreational activities consistent with social-distancing guidelines. The order merely provides examples of activities, but DeSantis reaffirmed Thursday it's not what activity, but how you do it that matters. He's praised golf in The Villages publicly as a good example of social distancing, because golfers remain apart from each other and newly implemented changes prevent common items from being touched.

Q Reader from the Village of Pine Ridge: Are there any restrictions on driving on interstates back to the Midwest? How are gas supplies?
A Some communities may implement curfews, but interstates are open. Some states, including Florida, may operate border checkpoints. Gas demand is low, so supplies are good.



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Local entertainer Clark Barrios has been performing livestreams on his Facebook page, "Clark Barrios, Vocalist/Entertainer." His next livestream is planned for around 4:30 p.m. Saturday and will be available to everyone who likes his Facebook page.



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

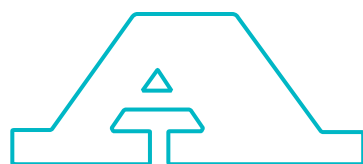
Johnny Wild and the Delights recently performed a livestream show on YouTube after nightly town square entertainment was put on hold. To view the show, visit bit.ly/3bMI5q0.



Max Gersh | Daily Sun

Whitney Morse, artistic director of The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center, has been putting together a livestream version of "Don't Tell Nonnie" set for 7:30 p.m. May 4 on The Sharon's Facebook page.

By KRISTEN FIORE | Daily Sun Senior Writer



An industry that relies on the gathering of large crowds is now finding its footing online. On Sunday, Elton John, the Backstreet Boys, Billie Eilish and other artists appeared in the "iHeart Living Room Concert for America" presented by Fox in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual entertainment is happening on all levels — drive-in movies are making a comeback, new movies are being released digitally and entertainers are performing livestream concerts. "Arts organizations everywhere are doing their best to continue to create as best as possible considering the circumstances," said Grace Zottig, stage manager at The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol. "We are adapting to what is happening around us."

Please See ENTERTAINMENT, A7

How Villages Residents Are Staying Connected

Village of Osceola Hills resident continues to practice yoga even though the coronavirus pandemic has forced recreation centers to close.

Local News, B1

RESOURCES & ASSISTANCE

Coronavirus: What's Being Done to Keep Floridians Safe

The Agency for Health Care Administration launched a website Thursday that shows near real-time data on hospital bed capacity available by county, hospital and statewide. In all, about 40% of hospital beds statewide were available as of Thursday. In intensive care units, 37% of adult beds and 40% of pediatric beds were available. Broward County, hard hit by the virus, had 41.5% of its beds available Thursday, including psychiatric and rehabilitation beds. About 35% of the county's adult ICU beds were not being used. Meanwhile, nearly 38% of all hospital beds in Miami-Dade County remained available, with 32% of adult ICU beds empty. And in Palm Beach County, 43.35% of hospital beds were available and 35% of adult ICU beds were open. AHCA Secretary Mary Mayhew said the data will help state officials and others deal with the public health crisis.

— News Service of Florida



FLORIDA COVID-19 CALL CENTER

The Florida Department of Health's COVID-19 call center is available 24/7 at **866-779-6121**. You can also email COVID-19@flhealth.gov

Health Departments

- Sumter:** 352-569-3102
- Marion:** 352-629-0137
- Lake:** 352-589-6424



SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY LOANS

The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program is available to small business owners who experienced economic damage as a result of COVID-19. For application assistance, contact:

- Lake & Sumter:** Florida SBDC at UCF, 407-420-4850
- Marion:** Florida SBDC at UNF, 904-620-2476



HOW TO REPORT SCAMS

Attorney General Ashley Moody is asking Floridians to watch out for scams, and possible price-gouging related to the COVID-19 outbreak. To report a scam or price-gouging:

- Call:** 866-9NO-SCAM
- Visit:** MyFloridaLegal.com
- Download:** Florida's "NO Scam" app

LOVIN' THE LIFESTYLE

Behind the lens of a Daily Sun photojournalist. **C1**



from the front page



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Janice and Jay Doto watch a special YouTube Live concert featuring Johnny Wild and the Delights in their home in the Village of Fernandina.

ENTERTAINMENT

Continued from A1

Entertainment in The Villages is no exception. From local entertainer livestreams and an online “Don’t Tell Nonnie” event at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center to a livestream table reading of a play at The Studio Theatre and monologue coaching sessions offered via Zoom by The Sharon’s performing arts academy program, local artists and venues are doing everything they can to continue connecting with fans and honing their craft.

Johnny Wild and the Delights were one of the first local groups to utilize livestreaming. On March 19, the group performed a show on YouTube in lieu of a canceled entertainment on the stage event in Brownwood. The following day, the group got Central Florida artists together for a telethon-style livestream performance.

Janice Doto, of the Village of Fernandina, tuned in for the band’s first livestream performance.

“Without entertainment on the square, it was the next best thing,” she said. “We especially enjoyed his country songs in the second hour.”

Entertainer Clark Barrios, who also frequents the squares, Katie Belle’s and Savannah Center, has been performing live on his Facebook page, “Clark Barrios, Vocalist/Entertainer.”

Barrios’ next livestream will take place around 4:30 p.m. Saturday and will be available to everyone who likes his Facebook page.

Kurt Frohlich, lead singer and guitar player in The Hooligans, has been doing solo concerts on the group’s Patreon page, patreon.com/ talentwrangler.

Frohlich performs at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays for subscribers of his page. Subscriptions are \$10 a month.

“I think people were reluctant at first,” Frohlich said of his livestreams. “I don’t know if they thought things would be up and running sooner. As the days go by, I think people are realizing the only way they’ll get live music is from their homes.”

As someone who is used to performing in front of large live audiences, the livestreams have been a bit of a learning process for Frohlich.

“I’m getting the hang of it, but it’s definitely different,” Frohlich said. “Not seeing people’s faces is different, because that’s something you feed off of as a musician.”

The pandemic has hit musicians everywhere hard, and Frohlich looks forward to the day when he can play in The Villages again.

“The Villages has been the biggest supporters of The Hooligans, and we can’t wait to get back,” he said. “We made so many friends out there that feel like family.”

People are not only watching entertainment online, but learning it, too.

The Sharon’s performing arts academy program, which offers classes in acting, voice and more, is now utilizing Zoom, a video chat platform.

Participants can sign up for a free 30-minute coaching session on Zoom with The Sharon and The Studio’s artistic director, Whitney

Morse or The Sharon’s director of education, Nathaniel Niemi.

After the first session, additional coaching is \$15 per 30-minute session. Free sessions can be scheduled by emailing education@thesaron.com, and additional sessions can be purchased online at thevillagesentertainment.com.

“We felt that monologue coaching would be a great way to continue artistic collaboration in this time,” Niemi said. “It’s great for us to keep creating and crafting our art.”

Anyone who is working on a monologue — whether it’s memorized or not — is welcome to try this out, Niemi said.

Later this month, The Studio Theatre will hold a live table read of the play “Pygmalion” via Zoom.

The Zoom stream of “Pygmalion” can be accessed at 1 p.m. April 24 from The Studio’s Facebook page, “The Studio Theatre Tierra Del Sol.”

“This livestream is a way to reach our audiences and beyond with the same content you would normally see on our stage,” said Zottig, who will be directing the show.

“Pygmalion” refers to the Greek legend of the King of Cyprus, who sculpted an ivory statue of a woman and fell in love with it.

“George Bernard Shaw’s play personifies the legend and adds a lot of wit to go with it,” Zottig said. “There have been plenty of adaptations of the 1913 play, including ‘My Fair Lady,’ ‘Pretty Woman’ and ‘She’s All That.’”

The cast includes Trevin Cooper, Whitney Morse, Joe Llorens, Bobbie Bell, Heather Currie, Nathaniel Niemi, Rachel Whittington, Alyson Johnson and Monica Titus.

The Studio isn’t the only local venue working on a livestream show. At 7:30 p.m. May 4, The Sharon will host “Don’t Tell Nonnie” via Facebook Live.

The livestream will be on The Sharon’s Facebook page, and it should pop up automatically at 7:30 p.m. If not, you may need to refresh the page.

“Don’t Tell Nonnie,” an open mic night that takes place in the lobby of The Sharon a few times a year, will be a bit different this time around.

“One, we will not be able to have an audience in the space, which means no unplanned singing,” Morse said.

Morse will instead be putting together an evening of offerings performed by friends and staff at The Sharon.

“The second way it will be different is that you all will be watching from home, for free, and of course you will have to make your own Nonnie Sour,” she said. “We will be streaming live on Facebook, so we encourage comments and requests. I am flexible and will always try to accommodate requests as best as I can.”

Morse said that she hopes the event gives viewers a little taste of something normal.

“I think we all miss life as it was before, and in this way I hope we can provide a bit of an escape and relief in this truly challenging time.”

Both the “Pygmalion” and “Don’t Tell Nonnie” livestreams are free, but each will include a link for those who wish to donate to Broadway Cares, an organization that raises funds for

AIDS-related causes.

As an entertainer and a consumer of entertainment, Morse herself has been leaning heavily on livestreams and recorded theatrical productions.

“Going to the theater is such a huge part of my life, and it inspires me,” she said. “I have been spending time watching Hampstead Theatre’s offerings on Instagram, BroadwayHD and artists’ concerts on Facebook.”

Morse said that as a performer, the connection with the audience is what fills her cup, and now social media is the only opportunity to have that.

But entertainment isn’t going anywhere.

“In entertainment, these technologies have allowed for creatives everywhere to continue to share art,” Zottig said. “In a time where people are encouraged to stay home, art has to find a way in, too. Livestreaming has helped us stay connected with folks at home in a time where things are uncertain.”

Music Never Dies: ‘Bolero’ Busts Out of Coronavirus Lockdown

By JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

LE PECQ, France

Look closely: The kettle drum player has a wooden spoon in one hand, a ladle in the other ... and doesn’t even have his drums.

But, hey, cutting a few corners can be forgiven of an orchestra that managed the remarkable feat of performing “Bolero” while its musicians are scattered far and wide under coronavirus lockdowns.

Why? To send this message to music lovers: We are still here for you.

Like building a musical jigsaw puzzle, the National Orchestra of France used the magic of technology to weave together the sight and sounds of its musicians, who filmed themselves playing alone in their homes into a seamless, rousing whole.

Posting a video of their stitched-together performance on YouTube was a way of keeping in touch with each other and with audiences they sorely miss playing for.

“For us, the public is essential. Without the public, we don’t really exist,” said Didier Benetti, the kettle drum player.

The video posted Sunday has quickly racked up hundreds of thousands of views.

The performance starts with three musicians: a cellist, a violinist and a percussionist with “Stay home” written on his red drum.

A flutist joins, haunting, bewitching, seemingly playing in his lounge.

The musical tension and power builds as more and more join, until they are an orchestra of 50.

Benetti rearranged French composer Maurice Ravel’s work, chopping it down from the usual 15 minutes to a more manageable and social media-friendly length of just under four minutes.

The musicians got their scores by email. They also

got an audio track to listen to through headphones as they played. That audio included a previous recording of the music and the ticking sound of a metronome, to help them keep time and stay in perfect unison despite being scattered to the winds.

The musicians filmed themselves over four days in the final week of March. One violinist played outside, with a beautiful seascape as his backdrop. Most of the others filmed themselves inside, making the performance feel particularly intimate. No black tie. The clothes were casual, with open shirts, T-shirts, jeans.

LOCAL NEWS

More Golf Changes Put End to Men’s, Ladies’ Days

Men’s and ladies’ days have been put on hold indefinitely at all golf courses in The Villages, part of more operational changes announced Tuesday.

In addition, practice ranges will only take range card service starting Friday, and both the Sarasota Golf Practice Center’s retail shop and Palmer Legends custom club shop will be closed until further notice. Golfers are also encouraged to purchase golf shop credit as a way to pay their golf fees.

— Jeff Shain, Daily Sun

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