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Meet Captain South Africa; She'd Rather Not Punch Criminals

Wonder Woman, Spider-Man and Darth Vader — roamed at Comic Con Africa. A few African characters also were on display: Kwezi, Captain South Africa and Shaka Zulu. The success of Marvel's "Black Panther" film spiked interest in African stories, and creators on the continent hope to capitalize with more comic book characters of their own. The convention was a platform for their efforts.

— The Associated Press

Backstage Pass

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

Villagers Work On the North American Tour Of 'Chicago'

By KRISTEN FIORE | Daily Sun Senior Staff Writer

The professional tour of the iconic Broadway musical "Chicago" will make a stop in The Villages during the last week of September, and residents Jerry Bruno and Bill Neale will be part of the show. The tour travels with a few of its own musicians and a conductor, but asks the venue to hire 10 local musicians to join the orchestra for the show.

Employees from the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center asked Bruno, of the Village of Briar Meadow, if he'd like to be the contractor, and he

Bruno, who plays the drums and saxophone, can often be seen playing in the shows at The Studio Theatre at Tierra

Before retiring, Bruno worked as a booking agent,

contractor and songwriter, so selecting 10 musicians to play in "Chicago" was right up his alley.

"It makes me feel young again to be involved in this kind of thing," Bruno said. "Working with the people at The Studio Theatre and The Sharon kind of changed my life here in The Villages. I found a home and people I could relate to. It feels great to be the person

that they called to assume this responsibility."

Bruno won't be in the show himself, since there already is a drummer. The musicians Bruno chose are mostly from Orlando, but one of them lives in the Village of Piedmont.

And that is Neale, another musician who frequents The

Studio Theatre.

Neale used to play the guitar for The Temptations and then became a studio musician in Los Angeles doing television, film and records.

In "Chicago," Neale will play the parts of the mandolin, ukulele and banjo.

"For me it's really exciting,"

Neale said. "I get to stretch out a little bit and play instruments that I don't get a chance to play that often. And my kids always wanted me to be in a pit orchestra, so this is kind of like saying, 'OK, here it is.' And it's in a show like 'Chicago' that

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arts & entertainment news



CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT



Sean Penn says much of the spirit of the #MeToo movement is to "divide men and women." Penn appeared Monday in an interview with the co-star of the new Hulu show 'The First" on NBC's "Today"



CHRISSY

Chrissy Teigen says people have been mispronouncing her last name for years, and she hasn't corrected them. But the model took to social media Sunday to say it's not Teigen (TEE'-gihn), but Teigen (TY'-gihn).



DIANE NEAL

Actress Diane Neal will be on the November ballot as an independent congressional candidate in a sprawling upstate New York district after winning a court case over her petition signatures.

NEW YORK

Carrie Underwood **Reveals She Had 3 Miscarriages in 2 Years**

Carrie Underwood says she turned to God after experiencing three miscarriages in two years. The 35-year-old country singer told "CBS Sunday Morning" she got pregnant in early 2017 and it "didn't work out." She had a second miscarriage later that year and a third in 2018. Underwood says she was afraid to be angry because she has an incredible husband, hockey player Mike Fisher, and an incredible son. - The Associated Press



Bill Neale, of the Village of Piedmont, and Jerry Bruno, of the Village of Briar Meadow, have the opportunity to work with the

Working with the people at The Studio Theatre and The Sharon kind of changed my life here in The Villages. I found a home and people I could relate to. It feels great to be the person that they called to assume this responsibility."

JERRY BRUNO Village of Briar Meadow

Neale and Bruno said they are thankful for the musical opportunities they've got in The Villages.

"The first time we played a show together here in The Villages, we played 'Next to Normal' at The Studio Theatre and we were having so much fun because we hadn't had a chance to do something like that since we were professionals," Bruno said. "And it was a kick. We had a ball."

For those who want to check them out prior to "Chicago," Neale and Bruno's own band, Out of L.A., will perform at noon today at Savannah Center. "Chicago" will open at The Sharon on Sept. 24 and run until Sept. 26.

Tickets are available online at the villages entertainment. com or at any Villages Box Office location.

Kristen Fiore is a senior staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270.

Continued from Previous Page

everybody knows."

To prepare, Neale first listened to the musical's soundtrack to get the music in his head. Once he got the music book, he started practicing on his own to get a feel for the

There are some pieces in which Neale is required to switch out all three instruments in the same song.

touring production of the Broadway play, "Chicago," during its stop at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

On Broadway, the same people play the same songs for years, whereas Neale and the other nine local musicians get

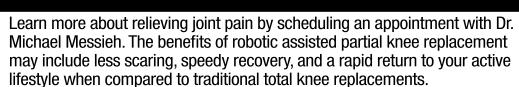
'We have to almost pretend that we've played it a thousand times before the first show because we only have four opportunities," Neale said.

But the challenge is what they like most about playing in musicals.

"Each musical is different," Neale said. "Each one has a certain group of actors and music written by different composers. It's always a challenge and Jerry and I are always open to a challenge. It's great being active in the level of the music we're playing."

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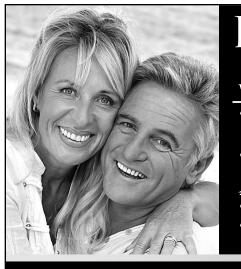
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