entertainment news

Weezer Is a Big Fan Of Damon and Jones' 'Saturday Night Live' Skit

Thanks to a sketch on "Saturday Night Live," it has become clear that the band Weezer is "ride or die" for ... themselves? During Saturday's show, a skit about a holiday party gone wrong featured host Matt Damon getting into a spat with Leslie Jones about the legacy of the aforementioned band. And members of the band couldn't be happier. On Saturday night, former bassist Matt Sharp tweeted that the sketch was "priceless."

- The Associated Press



NBCUniversal via YouTube

NEW YORK

Chelsea Clinton Writes Book About Endangered Animals

Chelsea Clinton's career as a children's author continues with a picture book about endangered animals. Penguin Young Readers announced Monday that the daughter of Bill and Hillary Clinton is collaborating with illustrator Gianna Marino on "Don't Let Them Disappear." Scheduled for April 2, the book will celebrate whales, tigers and other animals and provide advice on how to help preserve them.

- The Associated Press

Gorgeous Set, Large Cast Brings 'A Christmas Carol' to Life

Kristen

Fiore

Jan

Commentary

a realistic 1800s London

street to Scrooge's office, to

his bedroom and to all of the

various places of the past,

present and future that he finds

himself in throughout the show.

bedroom with the appearance

of his old business partner,

Jacob Marley, but the Ghost

of Christmas Past brings an

The production was an

authentic adaptation of Dickens' original play, and all

of the actors were not only

believable, but enticing in the

"The acting is very good,

delivery of their lines.

enchanting starry backdrop.

A gray fog engulfs Scrooge's

It's a classic Christmas story. The greedy and crotchety Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by four spirits that give him a new perspective on his past, present and future, leading him to change his life for the better.

I read the Charles Dickens play in school and have seen several of the film versionsincluding The Muppets and the Mickey Mouse adaptations. But there's nothing quite

like seeing "A Christmas Carol" come to life on stage, which I learned Monday night at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Put on by the Nebraska Theatre Caravan, this stage version of "A Christmas Carol," includes a gorgeous set, authentic costumes and a lively performance.

The show is packed with Christmas music like "The Holly and the Ivy," "Away in a Manger," and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen."

The cast is large, but the stage isn't crowded - the choreography is fluid and entertaining.

But I think what impressed me the most was the set.

The scenes flow from

of the Village of Chatham. "The voices of some of the singers are very good. I think they're acting it out as close to the story as possible."

Linda Schiavone, of the Village Santiago, enjoyed the singing as well as the costuming.

and we can hear everything

clearly," said Lorraine Gaulin,

"It's bright, it's cheerful and it represents the time period well," Schiavone said.

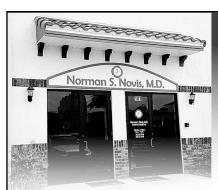
I'm guessing that what drew a lot of the packed audience to the show was the familiarity of

"I just like the moral lessons that Dickens does in his works," Schiavone said. "He does a lot with rich versus poor and the value systems.'

Those themes are, of course, strongly evident in "A Christmas Carol," but I think

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Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" opened at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center on Monday.

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entertainment news

The Close, Unlikely Relationship Between Charles Barkley and An Iowa Cat Litter Scientist

A chance meeting in a hotel lobby sparked an unlikely friendship between former NBA star Charles Barkley and a cat litter scientist in Iowa. The story has been shared widely since it was told last week by the scientist's daughter on "Only A Game," an NPR sports show. Lin Wang, who immigrated from China, approached Barkley when they both happened to be staying at the same hotel. The two began talking, got dinner and exchanged numbers. Over the next couple of years, they would meet up to watch basketball games or hang out.

- The Associated Press



LONDON

Father Urges Meghan Markle to Call Home **After She Ignores Him**

Thomas Markle appealed to his daughter Meghan to call home, saying Monday they hadn't spoken since her wedding to Prince Harry in May. The former actress, now known as the Duchess of Sussex, has ignored his attempts to get in touch, Thomas Markle told ITV. "I love my daughter very much and she has to know that, and I would really appreciate if she would call me," Markle said from San Diego. - The Associated Press

NEW YORK

Toni Braxton Is in The Holiday Spirit With Lifetime Movie

Toni Braxton has been nominated for Grammys again for her latest album, but these days the singer also is focusing on acting — and flexing her producing muscles. "I find that I really love everything about film and filmmaking," the multiplatinum-singer said in a recent interview. "I just really love movies, whether TV or anything that's dealing

- The Associated Press





"A Christmas Carol" will be performed one more time

at 7 p.m. today at The Sharon. Tickets, which range in price from \$20 to \$60, can be purchased online at the villages entertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office



Continued from Previous Page

the bottom line of the story is that it doesn't take a lot to simply be kind.

Even though it's a story about a character, I think the show

was a good reminder to the audience to check the metaphorical chains they might be forging in life and get free of them by doing some good.

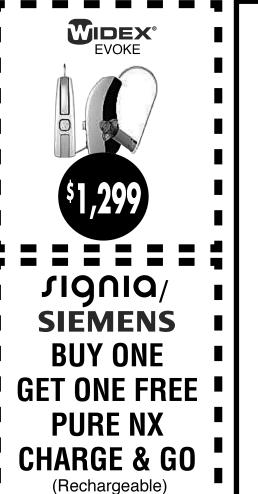
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Kristen Fiore is a senior staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.

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