



BEFORE THEY WERE VILLAGERS | D5
Jean Colamarino worked as a corrections officer in a men's maximum security prison.

6 a.m. 9 a.m. 12 p.m. 3 p.m. 6 p.m. 9 p.m.
53° 59° 72° 79° 77° 68°

HINTS FROM HELOISE | E11
A reader offers a helpful tip on a quick and easy way to shred pork for sandwiches.



IN SPORTS | B1

VHS senior Maleek Williams captures a state championship in weightlifting in the Olympic discipline and also wins a silver. The Buffalo's Tanner Ostrom wins 2 bronzes.



IN LOCAL | D1

Sixty-eight veterans traveled to the nation's capital to see war memorials and monuments as The Villages Honor Flight kicked off its 2025 season.

Upon their return home to American Legion Post 347, the veterans of Mission 65 were greeted by a patriotic crowd of friends, family and a water salute by The Villages Public Safety Department.

Buffalo Stroll Raises Awareness for Autism



Sophia Lucente | Daily Sun

Jessica Principe, of Ocala, holds hands with her 5-year-old son, Caleb, as they cross the finish line during the Buffalo Stroll Autism Awareness 5K on Saturday at The Villages Charter Middle School.

By MADDIE CUTLER | Daily Sun Senior Writer

Community members came out Saturday to show their support for the inaugural Buffalo Stroll Autism Awareness 5K and Family Fun Event.

Members of the community took part in the race, while others cheered them on and enjoyed the variety of activities. The event was a fundraiser for The Villages Charter School Autism Center, which opened in January.

Liz Worrell, an Instructional Lead ESE teacher at the

Autism Center and a board certified behavior analyst, was a volunteer at the event.

She said awareness events are important to the autism community.

"Seeing people come out in support, it's definitely impactful," she said. "I'm also a mom whose child is on the spectrum, so

Please See **WALK, A7**

IN NATIONAL NEWS | A5

WHAT'S NEXT AS BILL REQUIRING PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP TO VOTE HEADS TO SENATE

Voting rights groups warn legislation passed Thursday by the House requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship for anyone registering to vote could disenfranchise millions of Americans here legally.

IN NATIONAL NEWS

SOME ELECTRONICS WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM RECIPROCAL TARIFFS

Consumer electronics like smartphones and laptops will be excluded, the administration said late Friday. **A3**

IN NATIONAL NEWS

SHARK ATTACK SURVIVOR PRESSES FOR ALERT SYSTEM

Sixteen-year-old Lulu Gribbin was one of three people bitten by a shark on a single day last summer in Alabama. **A17**

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Anne Moser

Laurel Manor Recreation was buzzing with excitement Friday as people browsed table after table of various media goods. From shadow boxes that light up to quilts and handcrafted jewelry, members of the I Can Do That Craft club eagerly showed off their creative sides.

Please See **CRAFTS, A6**



Daily Sun file photo

Popular Villages entertainer Heather Ard will perform as one of the singing servers at Significant Productions upcoming fundraising gala "Celebrating a Decade on Stage" at 5:30 p.m. April 26 at The Sharon.

The Sharon to Celebrate a Decade On Stage With Gala

By TAYLOR STRICKLAND | Daily Sun Senior Writer

Significant Productions, the creative force behind The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center and The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol, announced plans earlier this year to host a fundraising gala in honor of The Sharon's 10th anniversary.

Now the theater production company is revealing

new perks for those who attend the gala, titled "Celebrating a Decade on Stage."

"We cannot reveal the exact details of the announcements just yet, but I can say there will be some truly spectacular shows coming to The Sharon in 2026, and

Please See **GALA, A6**

INSIDE TODAY'S DAILY SUN

TEST YOUR NEWS IQ

A RESILIENT AMISH COMMUNITY, PET EMERGENCIES AND THE LATEST LEGO FACTORY

1 When a _____ struck in Michigan, repair work was underway in an Amish community even before officials could assess the damage. **Page A17**

- a) Earthquake c) Tornado
b) Ice Storm d) Wild fire

2 Seeing a family pet in distress can be heart-wrenching but you can step in to help. What life-saving procedure can dog or cat owners administer? **Page A9**

- a) Tracheotomy
b) CPR
c) Blood transfusion



3 Popular Danish toy company Lego has opened a \$1 billion factory in Vietnam that operates entirely on clean energy to reduce emissions. **Page A19**



Make it a Great Day!

Weather	D2
Recreation Listings	D10
Recipes	E1
Books	E6
Puzzles	E7
Horoscopes	E9
TV Tonight	E10

BY THE NUMBERS

700K

The number of veterans who worked in various federal departments and agencies as of September 2024 according to a Pew Research Center analysis of the Office of Personnel Management's FedScope data portal. Veterans make up nearly a quarter of the federal government's entire civilian workforce. By comparison, veterans account for just 5% of all employed Americans. These figures don't include the roughly 1.3 million active-duty military personnel, who aren't typically considered "employees."



from the front page

CRAFTS

Continued from A1

“We make all kinds of crafts,” club member Grace Cresciullo said. “People are really passionate about what they do. They put a lot of love into their work.”

Guests were filing in as soon as the craft show started. They made their way from table to table in the Lincoln Room at Laurel Manor, stopping to admire the displays or buy something to take home with them. Artists sold everything from hanging prisms for car mirrors to Easter decorations — just in time for the upcoming holiday.

Marylou Horanzy, a member of the Quilting Guild of The Villages, stood next to her table of handmade Samba mats.

“The idea is to keep your playing cards more organized during the game,” said Horanzy, of the Village of Belle Aire. “I started making them because Samba has exploded in popularity in The Villages over the years. People like the mats, and I like making them.”

At the neighboring table, Maureen Houston showed off a large collection of shadow boxes she had made. The small frames came in a variety of shapes and displayed three-dimensional artwork, from ocean waves to roses. Some of the shadow boxes lit up, making them even more eye-catching.

Houston, a member of the Polymer Clay Club, started making shadow boxes to try her hand at another medium.

“I’m always looking for a way to keep busy,” said Houston, of the Village of Dunedin. “The light-up shadow boxes are my favorites.”

Mary Deuso, of the Village of Glenbrook, showed off her sewing skills with handmade



Anne Moser | Daily Sun

Maureen Houston, of the Village of Dunedin, holds one of the shadow boxes she was selling at the I Can Do That Craft Fair on Friday at Laurel Manor Recreation.

bowl cozies and catnip blankets.

“Someone approached me with the idea to start making catnip blankets,” she said. “They’re small blankets that you can fill with catnip and put it in your pet’s crate.”

Crafting has been a part of Deuso’s life for years, as she owned a small business for children’s costumes when she lived in Wisconsin.

Some of the artists, such as Detra Lewer, of the Village of Charlotte, sold their creations to support charitable causes.

Guests could purchase handmade wine jackets to help benefit Operation Shoebox, a nonprofit organization that sends care packages to troops overseas.

Guests also could purchase some clothing and accessories at the showcase.

Sally Crawford, a member of the I Can Do That Craft Club, sold fleece scarves in a variety of patterns and colors,

along with stylish denim purses.

“I used to make my own clothes,” said Crawford, of the Village of Bonnybrook. “I’ve loved sewing my whole life, so it’s nice to be able to do more of it with this club.”

Cresciullo, of the Village of Liberty Park, stood next to a table of colorful jewelry. All the pieces were made with a process that includes sealing, painting and glazing pieces of rolled scrapbook paper.

“I learned about paper jewelry and said, ‘I can do that,’” she said. “That’s how it all started.”

She has been leading the I Can Do That Craft Club for about 16 years.

The club, which welcomes crafters of all media, hosts two showcases each year. Members meet weekly to work on projects and meet other artists.

The I Can Do That Craft Club meets from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursdays at Laurel Manor. Its next showcase is scheduled for November.

GALA

Continued from A1

the elegantly clad patrons of the arts who attend the Significant Productions Gala will be the first people in The Villages to know just how excited they should be to get plans on their calendars,” said Sierra Weiss, booking manager for SigPro. “Some of the biggest shows for the (tenth) season at The Sharon will be announced, and as we all know the front row center seats always go to discerning fans who are ready and waiting the second tickets go on sale.”

Hosted by SigPro founders Jason Goedken and Whitney Morse, the event features live entertainment, on-stage dining and both a live and silent auction.

For entertainment, The Fabulous Equinox Orchestra will provide a backdrop of jazzy melodies throughout the night, while singing servers Alec Speers, Heather Ard and Bill Doherty will dish out tasteful performances during dinnertime.

Other forms of entertainment expected at the gala include soul singer Autumn Gold and aerialist Cheryl Cox.

“Guests can expect an elevated and artistic experience,” said Morse, SigPro’s artistic director and the granddaughter of The Sharon’s namesake. “We will have items up for auction, fun games and, of course, the chance to mix and mingle with the SigPro staff. I know I am very much looking forward to this event, and I really hope all our fellow art lovers will join us to toast our accomplishments and look to our future together.”

In addition to live entertainment, Gala guests will get the chance to win exclusive luxury prizes and getaway



Submitted

Aerialist Cheryl Cox will perform her graceful silk dance and acrobatic tricks during the “Celebrating a Decade on Stage” fundraising gala April 26 at The Sharon.

experiences. They also will have exclusive first access to the variety of live and silent auction items donated by SigPro’s business partners.

“We have some very exciting donations like jewelry from Arden’s Jewelers, some fun getaways both near and far — a trip to beautiful Torch Lake, Michigan, getaways to both New York City and Chicago, and even a close weekend getaway at the Rainbow River, just 40 minutes from The Villages,” Morse said.

The event doubles as both a dinner theater show and fundraiser for SigPro and, by extension, The Sharon and The Studio. Every bid, every donation and every sponsorship made during the event will directly support future live performances and artist-driven storytelling at the theaters.

SigPro is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit corporation, meaning that any money

earned is reinvested into the organization’s ongoing mission to, according to the SigPro website, cultivate “a diverse collaborative community with a focus on artists’ well-being that strives to provoke thought and spark conversation through high quality performing arts.”

To achieve that mission, SigPro needs the help of the community.

“Ticket sales only cover 65% of our operating cost, so we are raising money to be able to keep doing what we have been doing at the level our community deserves,” Morse said. “We need to raise money in order to keep going.”

Like all 501(c)(3) organizations, contributions to SigPro are tax deductible.

Patrons can join Morse and the rest of the SigPro staff in “Celebrating a Decade on Stage” at 5:30 p.m. April 26 at The Sharon. Tickets for the inaugural fundraising gala are \$150 per person.

To purchase tickets, go to thevillagesentertainment.com or significantproductions.org/gala.

“By choosing to come and choosing to participate in our fundraising efforts, you are choosing to be a big part of keeping the performing arts alive at The Sharon and The Studio,” Morse said. “We really appreciate every single one of our patrons and donors, and this is a fun way for us all to get to know each other, break bread, and raise money for what I think is a very important and vital part of our community — high quality, world class, professional performing arts right here in The Villages.”

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