



BEFORE THEY WERE VILLAGERS | C5
Craig Langrell spent many years volunteering and working at several fire departments.

6 a.m. 73°
9 a.m. 81°
12 p.m. 90°
3 p.m. 92°
6 p.m. 92°
9 p.m. 85°

SYLAISHA TAYLOR ON NATURE | C1
Kayak tours are available throughout June, July and August at Lake Griffin State Park.



TOP WORLD AND NATION NEWS

SEVERE WEATHER HITS SOUTH OVER WEEKEND, A5

Across the Nation: Hush money lawyers deliver closing arguments. **A3**

Around the World: Thai town is set to catch, ship away monkeys. **A29**

In Business: Retailers offer summer deals to entice shoppers. **C10**

ARTS & CULTURE

VHS GRADUATE TO MAKE VIENNA OPERA DEBUT

Devin Eatmon, a graduate of The Villages High School and music scholarship winner, will perform at the Vienna State Opera. **A16**

SPORTS NEWS

PANTHERS BEAT RANGERS 3-2 IN OVERTIME

The Panthers topped the Rangers 3-2 to even the Eastern Conference Final at two games apiece. It was the third straight OT game in the series. **B1**

LOCAL NEWS

AREA CLUB HELPS RESIDENTS LEARN FISHING SKILLS

The Villages Freshwater Fishing Club is always seeking new members and organizes events to help others learn to fish in local waters. **C1**

COMING UP

VBS, CHURCH CAMPS SET TO ENTERTAIN YOUTH THIS SUMMER

There will be no shortage of camps and vacation Bible schools available for children and grandchildren to attend in and around The Villages community this summer. To find out more about what activities are on offer, see Wednesday's Daily Sun.

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Sylaisha Taylor

A collection of cherished photographs, a South Carolina state flag, a painted rock resembling a road sign and a framed letter from former President Donald J. Trump decorate the entry way of Jodi Rubino Walton's home.

They serve as a reminder of an earlier time, and sit next to a collection of painted rocks packaged and ready for travel.

Every rock she paints Walton gives away free of charge in an effort to spread love and kindness

Please See **WALTON, A9**

OUR TOWN | ENTERTAINMENT IN THE VILLAGES



Submitted photo

The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center's Broadway series begins with the Tony Award-winning musical "Dear Evan Hansen" on Nov. 6 and 7. The Sharon's 2024-25 season will feature another exciting year of entertainment with both new and returning acts.

Exciting New Season Ahead At The Sharon

By TAYLOR STRICKLAND | Daily Sun Senior Writer

It's said that all the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. For the past nine years, The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center has been one of Central Florida's premier stages, bringing top entertainers from every corner of the performing arts world to The Villages.

Significant Productions recently unveiled the lineup for The Sharon's ninth season, and SigPro staff can't

wait for patrons to see what they have in store.

"I am very excited for the season at The Sharon," said Whitney Morse, artistic director for Significant Productions and granddaughter of The Sharon's namesake. "We have a very full season this year and I can't wait to share it with all of you."

The 2024-25 season includes

Please See **THE SHARON, A8**

EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

OUT & ABOUT IN THE VILLAGES

Try This Today: Hop in a Pool in The Villages for a Game of Water Volleyball

Remove a little air from a volleyball, and you have the main piece needed to play Splish Splash Water Volleyball, a modified version of the game. By making the ball softer, players don't have to worry as much when it comes to impact on their hands. Anyone interested is welcome to play, such as Jeff Hamilton, of the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens. The activity is offered at La Hacienda, Savannah, Ezell and Spanish Moss pools. Check the weekly Recreation & Parks publication to learn more about days and times.

—Greg Hughes, Daily Sun



Daily Sun file photo

IN ENTERTAINMENT

Visit the Lady Lake Library for A Story Time
Find out more, **D1**

Plus: Find the lineup of entertainment at the town squares, theaters and beyond, **A15**

AT RECREATION CENTERS

Happening near you: From aqua aerobics to Zumba and everything in between, there's fun for everyone, **C6-7**

LOVIN' THE LIFESTYLE

Plan your perfect day in The Villages, **D1**

Recipes	D1
Advice	D3
Poetry	D4-5
Comics	D6
Puzzles	D7-8
Horoscope	D9

from the front page

THE SHARON

Continued from A1

new and returning acts, with shows ranging from country music singers to '80s new wave and throwback bands, contemporary ballet, international groups, Broadway shows and the theater's own The Villages Philharmonic Orchestra.

Country music singer Terri Clark kicks off The Sharon's ninth season at 7 p.m. Aug. 23. Clark, who is a native of Canada, is a multi-JUNO Award winner and a CMA Female Vocalist of the Year award nominee. She is best known for her 2004 single "Girls Lie Too," which reached No. 1 on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart, and is currently the only Canadian woman who holds a Grand Ole Opry membership.

Overall, there are 23 entertainment acts scheduled for this season, not counting the VPO's concerts. Some of the shows will have multiple performances. Of particular note is the upcoming Broadway series, which includes a number of critically acclaimed musicals such as "Dear Evan Hansen," "Tina: A Tina Turner Musical" and "Hadestown."

"I know the Broadway series is going to excite some folks, and me too," Morse said.

"Dear Evan Hansen," a Tony and Grammy award-winning musical about connection in the digital age, follows a high school senior with social anxiety who, according to playwright Steven Levenson, "invents an important role for himself in a tragedy that he did not earn." The musical comes to The Sharon on Nov. 6 and 7.

Coming December is "Tina: The Tina Turner Musical," which chronicles the life of Anna Mae Bullock from relative obscurity to her meteoric rise as Tina Turner, the Queen of Rock 'n' Roll.



Submitted photos

Canadian country music singer Terri Clark, who is best known for her 2004 single "Girls Lie Too," will begin the 2024-2025 season at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center with an Aug. 23 concert.

The last installment of this season's Broadway series is "Hadestown," an eight Tony Award-winning musical retelling of Orpheus and Eurydice. "Hadestown" comes to The Sharon in March 2025.

Tickets for all musicals in the Broadway series can be purchased individually or as part of The Sharon's subscription package. A separate subscription package also is available for the international series, which includes Cirque Kalabante's "Afrique en Cirque," the Czech National Philharmonic Orchestra, the Peking Acrobats and Velocity Irish Dance.

"Purchasing a subscription to either the Broadway or international series offers significant benefits compared to buying individual show tickets," said Taylor Adkins, director of marketing for SigPro.

Broadway subscribers receive a 12% discount on seats and international subscribers receive a 20% discount. Both also get first access to premium seating, Adkins said, ensuring that subscribers have the best possible seats for their chosen performances.

"Tickets are exclusively available to Broadway subscribers until July 2024, and for international subscribers until June 2024, providing an early opportunity to secure perfect seats for a night out at The Sharon," Adkins said.

Patrons can purchase yearly subscriptions for the Broadway and international series at thevillagesentertainment.com.

The VPO offers its own season subscription, which includes the "Labor Day Pops Orchestra Celebration" and



The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center's Broadway series is set to end in March 2025, with "Hadestown," Anaïs Mitchell's Tony Award-winning musical retelling of the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice.

"Italian American Celebration," the "Messiah," as well as holiday and classical concert series.

"We have concluded a great concert season at the beautiful Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center, and we are about to begin the 2024-2025 season with enthusiasm and above all, lots of beautiful music with extraordinary guest artists," said maestro Pasquale Valerio, music director of the VPO.

Having recently finished its 20th season, the VPO is older than The Sharon itself. Its founders, Valerio and the late Oscar Feliu, started toying with the idea of starting an orchestra in The Villages during the late 1990s, but it wasn't until 2003 that the

group gave its first Christmas performance. As the community and the orchestra grew over the years, Valerio and Feliu gradually put on more concerts until 2009, when the orchestra performed its first full season.

Now, the orchestra averages around 13 to 15 concerts per year, performing pieces that range from classical to modern and collaborating with musicians from around the world, like violinist Gennaro Desiderio, who is expected at this season's Valentine's Day concert, "American Music Celebration of Love."

Valerio currently is on tour in Europe with the Beijing Opera Choir, the Beijing Opera Singers and an Italian

orchestra, but when he gets back to The Villages, he will be gearing up for the annual "Labor Day Pops Orchestra Celebration," which opens the VPO season Sept. 1.

Single tickets for the VPO's subscription can also be purchased at thevillagesentertainment.com or at the orchestra's main website, thevillagesphilharmonic.org.

"To all the audiences of The Sharon L. Morse and The Villages Philharmonic — come to the theater and support your orchestra in this extraordinary musical program," Valerio said.

Senior writer Taylor Strickland can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5334, or taylor.strickland@thevillagesmedia.com



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