



BEFORE THEY WERE VILLAGERS | D5
Barbara Hegenbarth was named Miss Wisconsin in 1984 and later competed for Miss America.

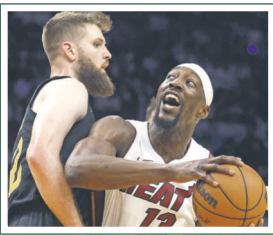
6 a.m. 9 a.m. 12 p.m. 3 p.m. 6 p.m. 9 p.m.
69° 73° 81° 84° 82° 74°

ANNE MOSER ON SENIOR LIVING | D1
Freedom Pointe at The Villages will host an event for prospective residents May 15.



IN SPORTS | B1

Cleveland moved into Round 2 with the most lopsided series win in NBA playoff history, beating the Miami Heat 138-83 to sweep their series.



IN LIFESTYLE | E1

Bring an appetite for learning to The Legacy Restaurant today from noon to 2:30 p.m. for a cooking lesson with an executive chef.

The cooking lessons offer participants a step-by-step demonstration on how to cook a four-course meal. A different menu is taught each Tuesday. Bottomless house cocktails or wine also are offered.

IN WORLD NEWS | A5

CATHOLIC CARDINALS TO GATHER MAY 7 FOR CONCLAVE TO SELECT NEW POPE

The cardinals on Monday set the date to give two extra days for informal speaking sessions that would help them get to know each other better before sequestering to vote on Pope Francis' successor.

IN STATE NEWS

CLEARWATER BOAT CRASH DECLARED A 'MASS CASUALTY'

Officials said one person was killed and at least a dozen were injured Sunday when a yacht hit the Clearwater Ferry. **A2**

IN WORLD NEWS

MAJOR OUTAGE BRINGS SPAIN AND PORTUGAL TO A STANDSTILL

Millions of people across the Iberian Peninsula lost power in the second major European blackout in six weeks. **A11**

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Chasity Boatman

Although known for cruising in style, The Villages BMW Z Club owes much of its classy image to the meaningful impact it makes on the community. Members of the social and driving club share two passions — the BMW Z and giving back.

Please See **BMW, A7**

SigPro Gala a Success For Arts Community



Rachel Govola | Daily Sun

Significant Productions founders Whitney Morse, left, artistic director, and her husband Jason Goedken, executive director, address the crowd during Significant Productions' inaugural fundraising gala, "Celebrating a Decade on Stage," on Saturday at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

By TAYLOR STRICKLAND | Daily Sun Senior Writer

The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center turns 10 years old today, but the celebration started last weekend.

Much like they did a decade ago at The Sharon's opening night, a crowd of well-dressed patrons streamed into the theater Saturday evening to attend Significant Productions' inaugural fundraising gala, "Celebrating a Decade on Stage." The gala, which was sold out, featured live entertainment,

on-stage dining and both a live and silent auction. More than \$150,000 was raised.

Guests were ushered into the theater's historic Lobby Lounge, where they were welcomed by SigPro's founders, artistic director Whitney Morse and executive director Jason Goedken.

Please See **SIGNIFICANT, A6**



George Horsford | Daily Sun

Julie Pulkcrabek, a Village of Osceola Hills resident and volunteer at the Humane Society of Sumter County in Lake Panasoffkee, spends a moment with Ally on Jan. 3.

Adopt a Shelter Pet Day Encourages Finding a Companion

By MADDIE CUTLER | Daily Sun Senior Writer

April 30 is National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day, and the area is home to several county animal services programs, animal shelters and rescue operations filled with animals looking for homes.

The goal of Adopt a Shelter Pet Day is to encourage adoption and raise awareness about the millions

of animals available. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals estimates around 6.3 million dogs and cats are brought into shelters each year.

In 2024, Marion County Animal Services took in

Please See **SHELTER, A7**

INSIDE TODAY'S DAILY SUN

TEST YOUR NEWS IQ

COAL COUNTRY HEATS UP, A NUTRIENT PROBLEM AND A TRENDY NEW WAY TO GET FIT

1. West Virginians have expressed enthusiasm for a plan by President Donald Trump to revive the state's coal industry. The industry was once a major source of jobs in West Virginia, employing _____ in the 1950s. **Page A10**

- a) 90,000 residents c) 130,000 residents
b) 110,000 residents d) 200,000 residents

2. U.S. health officials want companies to phase out artificial dyes. How many foods contain some type of added color? **Page C6**

- a) 1 in 5
b) 1 in 3
c) 1 in 2
d) 2 in 3

TRUE OR FALSE

3. Kale can be a good alternative to spinach for people who seek to limit their oxalate consumption. **Page C8**



4. A new exercise trend, called the Lagree Method, has several gyms in which U.S. city? **Page C7**

- a) St. Louis
b) Los Angeles
c) Philadelphia
d) Chicago

5. A recent study indicated that which popular artificial sweetener increases an eater's appetite? **Page C10**

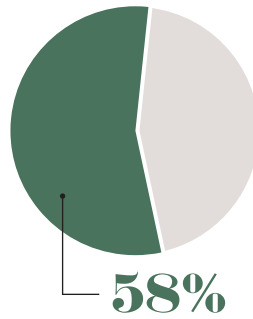
- a) Monk fruit extract
b) Stevia
c) Aspartame
d) Sucralose



Make it a Great Day!

Weather	D2
Recreation Listings	D8-9
Recipes	E1
Comics	E4
Puzzles	E5
Horoscopes	E6
TV Tonight	E8

BY THE NUMBERS



Most Americans remain skeptical of driverless cars, according to a recent YouGov survey. Despite this, increasing shares of Americans are viewing the technology more warmly. Compared to September 2023, more Americans are enthusiastic about autonomous vehicles now.

from the front page

SIGNIFICANT

Continued from A1

Morse, who is the granddaughter of The Sharon's namesake, said she was truly honored and grateful for the number of people who came to support The Sharon and its sister venue, The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol, which she referred to as her and Goedken's dream.

"It's a dream my husband and I built over the last 10 years, but really it's a dream we had the moment we met," Morse said. "I'm so grateful we get to bring art to my hometown, and the fact that you're all here tonight means you feel that way too."

Among the patrons milling about the lobby were Bernadine Sikorski and her husband, Tim Reeht. The Village of Calumet Grove residents are longtime patrons of The Sharon and The Studio and were excited to show their support for both venues at the gala.

"We're theater buffs," Sikorski said. "We love the theater."

After hors d'oeuvres and a flutes of champagne, patrons gathered on The Sharon's main stage, which was transformed into an elegant dinner theater space replete with black tablecloths and fine dining.

For entertainment, The Fabulous Equinox Orchestra provided a backdrop of jazzy melodies throughout the night while silk aerialist Cheryl Cox performed a graceful acrobatic display.

Other forms of entertainment included singing servers Alec Speers, Heather Ard and maestro Bill Doherty, who dished out tasteful performances during dinner-time, and soul singer Autumn Gold, who entertained with



Aerialist Cheryl Cox, with Aerial Cheryl Entertainment, performs for attendees during Significant Productions' inaugural fundraising gala "Celebrate a Decade on Stage" on Saturday at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

her bubbly personality and dance moves at the gala's after-party.

Perhaps the liveliest part of the evening was the auction, which opened with a message from Leslie Becker, SigPro's director of people, culture and projects, who emphasized SigPro's mission to 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."

"We really care about the well-being of the people we work with," Becker said. "We reject that ideology that you must suffer for your art. We want the artists to enjoy making the art just as much as you, the audience, so thank you for your contributions on behalf of all the staff of Significant Productions."

Hosted by Norman Lee Schaffer, executive pastor of The Garden Worship Center, the auction included a variety of prizes, from diamond necklaces to luxury vacations and unforgettable experiences.

The vacations were courtesy of Morse and Goedken, who offered their private homes and family residences for four-day trips to Chicago, New York City and a Rainbow River staycation. There even was a five-day getaway to the Morse family's hometown in Torch Lake, Michigan.

There also was a Broadway package, valued at \$9,000, that allowed buyers to enjoy the Broadway shows featured in The Sharon's 2025-26 season from the privacy of the theater's exclusive lounge and VIP box.

At the close of the evening, Morse once again reiterated her appreciation for all of those in attendance and

emphasized the importance of supporting the arts.

"I really do truly believe that the arts can heal you, that the arts can change you and the arts can bring us all together," Morse said. "And I really do think that is something we need now more than ever — to look at each other with love and kindness and share stories together."

Before patrons left the dining room stage to attend the after-party in the Lobby Lounge, Morse and Goedken announced the gala already exceeded their initial fundraising goal of \$125,000 by the end of dinner, reaching more than \$132,200. She and Goedken then raised the goal to \$150,000 by the end of the night, which they also exceeded.

"Thank you all so much for taking the time tonight to help us raise money for this organization to keep the arts alive here in The Villages, and thank you for being part of our new journey here as we are launching Significant Productions," Morse said.

Although the gala may be over, patrons can donate to SigPro at any time.

SigPro accepts online donations, which go toward expenses like costumes, sound, props and set designs. To donate online, go to significantproductions.org/donate. For those who prefer to give offline, email donate@significantproductions.org or call 352-668-9502.

For more information about upcoming productions at The Sharon or The Studio, go to thevillagesentertainment.com, call 352-753-3229 or visit the nearest The Villages Box Office location.

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

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