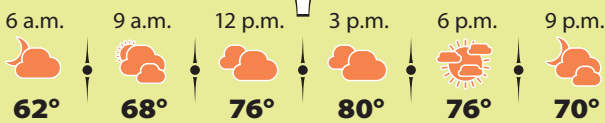




BEFORE THEY WERE VILLAGERS | C5

Chuck Murphy was an instructor in the U.S. Air Force and wrote a book about his life.



LEAH SHEWMAKER ON FLORIDA | C1

Narrated catamaran boat tours are an excellent way to learn more about the area's history.



TOP WORLD AND NATION NEWS

NOVEL CANCER TREATMENT SHOWS PROMISE IN KIDS, A5

Around the World: Biden faces awkward talks after document leak. **A3**

Across the Nation: Police say Louisville shooter targeted co-workers. **A2**

In Florida: Tampa Bay Wine and Food Festival starts this week. **A29**

ARTS & CULTURE NEWS

GLASS FUSION GROUP TO HOST SHOWCASE

The Colony Glass Fusion Club will have many of its handmade creations for sale Sunday at Colony Cottage Recreation. **A21**

SPORTS NEWS

RAYS BREAKING RECORDS WITH UNBEATEN START

The Tampa Bay Rays have been baseball's best team thus far in the 2023 MLB season, starting off with a double-digit winning streak. **B1**

LOCAL NEWS

PUBLIC SPLASH PAD TO OPEN IN WILDWOOD SOON

The Wildwood Parks and Recreation Department plans to open the city's first public splash pad this month in Martin Luther King Jr. Park. **C7**

OUR TOWN | LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT



Submitted photo

The cast of "La Cage aux Folles" performs a sold-out show at The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol. The theater is wrapping up its seventh season this month and preparing for its next season.

The Studio Theatre Announces Season 8

By LEAH SHEWMAKER | Daily Sun Staff Writer

While the last show of The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol's seventh season wraps up this month, patrons can look forward to Season 8, which is themed "Trust Your Instincts." The theater also now offers year-round programming with the addition of two summer shows. "During our main season — fall through spring — you will see the kind of Studio programming you are used to, in which we examine relevant

issues through intimate and innovative storytelling," said Whitney Morse, artistic director of The Studio Theatre. "In the summer, however, we are taking a vacation from our mission to bring exclusively lighter fare. We will now produce one comedy and one musical comedy every summer in our Mini Summer Vacation Season." Season 7, themed "I Am What I Am," saw several standing

Please See **STUDIO, A6**

Sumter County Approves New Process For Naming Facilities

HONORING CITIZENS

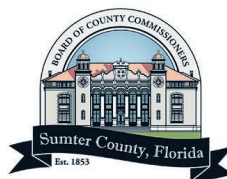
The new policy allows for the naming of public parks and buildings to honor citizens for service.

By KEITH PEARLMAN | Daily Sun Specialty Editor

Sumter County now has a policy in place to provide guidelines on naming county-owned facilities in honor of extraordinary citizens.

Commissioners unanimously approved a new policy at their meeting Tuesday night that will grant the board the right to name public facilities after individuals who provided exemplary service to Sumter County.

The issue was surfaced after it was proposed that a future building for the Sumter County Sheriff's Office be named



The public could possibly initiate a naming of a county facility by petition.

Please See **COMMISSION, A10**

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Leah Shewmaker

Throughout the process of preparing the musical "Little Women," Villages High School students found lasting relationships — on stage and off.

"I think audiences will fall in love with these characters and be drawn into the story," said Mark Lehnowsky, director of choral activities at VHS and director of "Little Women." "The real-life relationships come through on stage, and you can see how important it is to the students."

The students will perform the spring musical at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with an additional show at 2 p.m. Saturday, at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Please See **VHS, A10**

EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

OUT & ABOUT IN THE VILLAGES

Try This Today: Play A Game of Corn Toss At Numerous Locations

Corn toss is one of the fastest-growing activities around Florida's Friendliest Hometown. The game is offered at 31 locations in the community, totaling 74 courts. Players toss a beanbag toward a tilted platform with a 6-inch hole cut near the back, as shown by Steve Holland, right. Players score one point for landing a bag onto the platform, three points for bags that fall through the hole. Corn toss can be played alone or in groups. See the weekly Recreation & Parks guide for all locations where equipment is available for checkout.

—Greg Hughes, Daily Sun



Rachel Stuart | Daily Sun

IN ENTERTAINMENT

Dale Stumbo to Perform at Ednas' On the Green

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, **C8-9**



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

Recipes	D1
Poetry	D3
Advice	D5
Comics	D6
Puzzles	D7
Horoscope	D9



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from the front page

STUDIO

Continued from A1

ovations, full houses and a sold-out run of “La Cage aux Folles.” The current show, “These Shining Lives,” ends its run April 29.

Morse said when a season ends, the theater usually produces a Song Cycle Series, which is a series of songs that focus on a particular theme. Then it rents the space to another producer for the remainder of the summer until the next season of shows begins.

“We decided about a year ago to do away with the Song Cycle Series and the rental in order to move forward with a whole new kind of programming for the summer,” she said.

The first show of the summer, “Unnecessary Farce,” features an embezzling mayor who is supposed to meet with his female accountant, while in the next room, two police officers are supposed to catch the encounter on videotape.

Confusion ensues and the characters are left reeling, trying to figure out who is in which room and why unexpected events continue.

The comedy runs June 9 through July 1.

“If you’re interested in seeing li’l ol’ me, come check out ‘Unnecessary Farce’ this summer,” Morse said.

The second show of the summer, a mystery musical, will be announced June 1.

Morse said the show is fun, funny, heartwarming and sweet.

“I am sure our patrons will love it,” she said.

Nathaniel Niemi, resident director at The Studio Theatre, is directing the mystery musical.

“It’s a hilarious, high-energy, crazy, fun time,” he said.

Patrons can catch the show Aug. 4-26.

“Our summer selection is full of joy,” said Leslie Becker,



Submitted photo

Ashleigh Ann Gardner plays Catherine Donohue and Joe Metcalf portrays Tom Donohue in “These Shining Lives,” the last show of The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol’s seventh season. The show continues through April 29.

assistant production manager at The Studio Theatre. “I am looking forward to filling our space with laughter and smiles.”

Season 8 will focus on the timeless battle of listening to or ignoring your instincts, with a lineup of shows that includes “Angel Street,” “Cry it Out,” “Cabaret” and “The Roommate.”

“The theme of our season is evident in every production, even though each story is vastly different than the one before,” Becker said. “I hope audience members get the chance to see every show and find the thread that connects them all.”

Morse said Season 8’s

opening show will be the theater’s first thriller.

“‘Angel Street’ is a classic psychological thriller, so we will get to have a lot of fun with dim lighting and creating the look of gas-powered lamps,” she said. “It should be a bit spooky, and to me, that is very alluring.”

Becker also is looking forward to bringing a thriller to the theater.

“Season 8 is full of highlights — it is difficult to choose just one — but ‘Angel Street’ is a new type of show for us,” she said. “There is a mystery and thrill to the piece that will hopefully

keep the audiences on the edge of their seats.”

The show follows Jack and Bella Manningham, a well-to-do couple in the 1880s living on Angel Street in London.

Jack seems like a charming and attentive husband, but something sinister lies underneath. Bella begins to notice unusual stirrings in the night, and her husband disappears frequently.

He tells her she is crazy, and she begins to believe him.

The show premieres Sept. 29 and runs through Oct. 21, with previews Sept. 26-28.

The next show of the season is “Cry It Out,” which follows two new mothers whose unlikely friendship develops over the trials of new motherhood. Then they are joined by an ultra-wealthy neighbor who is having a hard time.

“I am very excited about all of the shows, but the one I am looking forward to the most is ‘Cry It Out,’” Morse said. “It is a show about the challenges and absurdities of early motherhood. It is a topic I know well and feel it is not explored much in the theater.”

Morse said she first read the script about four years ago, just after giving birth to her daughter.

“The script felt like it was written for me,” she said. “I had never felt so represented in a play. I am so excited to bring this perspective to our audiences.”

The show runs Nov. 17-Dec. 16, with previews Nov. 14-16.

Becker said most audiences will be familiar with the next show of the season, “Cabaret.”

“It is a well-known musical for good reason — its historical references and ever-relevant theme,” she said.

The classic musical has won

several awards, including the Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Revival of a Musical.

It takes place in the early 1930s in Berlin, during the rise of the Third Reich.

Clifford Bradshaw, a struggling American writer, stumbles into the Kit Kat Club, a seedy nightclub.

As tensions rise, entertainers and patrons must decide whether they will flee or continue to escape to the seductive world of the Kit Kat Club.

“Cabaret is a really powerful show about how we respond when the world is scary and harming our neighbors,” said Niemi, who will direct the musical. “It is full of dark but also delightful dance and production numbers. To me, it’s ultimate musical theater.”

He said it is a highly respected musical theater piece, full of dance and music numbers that tell the story in sharp and powerful ways.

“For this production, we want audiences to have a real visceral experience,” Niemi said.

The musical runs Feb. 2-March 2, with previews Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

Becker said the last show of the season, “The Roommate,” is a piece patrons may not have heard of.

“But if I were a betting woman, I would put money on our audiences thoroughly enjoying this story,” she said. “The characters are so relatable you find yourself rooting for them from start to finish.”

“The Roommate” features two women in their mid-50s, Sharon and Robyn. After Sharon’s recent divorce, she posts a listing for a roommate.

Robyn answers the call, needing a space to hide and start over.

As Sharon begins to uncover Robyn’s secrets, she finds a desire for danger and adventure.

Patrons can see the show March 29-April 27, 2024, with previews March 26-28.

When The Studio Theatre team plans a season, they select shows first, then sculpt the theme, Morse said.

“The shows are selected via committee,” she said. “We read, discuss, then vote on each script to whittle the group down.”

“Once we get to about 25 scripts, we start to see what shows have similar themes or ideas in them.”

She said they create roughly 25 seasons, then go through a ranked-choice voting process to narrow it down to just one.

“I’m excited about this season,” Niemi said. “It is moody, visceral, hilarious and stunning. Prepare to enter very exciting, specific worlds with each piece.”

New subscriptions and individual tickets are available now at thevillagesentertainment.com or any Villages Box Office location.

Subscriptions start at about \$139, which includes all four main season shows. Individual tickets start at \$35 and vary per show.

Summer shows can be added to a subscription with a discount, but are not automatically included in the main season subscription.

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Your nose knows.

Did you know smell loss is linked to Parkinson’s disease? A landmark study is exploring this link toward prevention. The Michael J. Fox Foundation is asking everyone age 60 and older without Parkinson’s to take a simple scratch-and-sniff test. Go to mysmeltest.org/villages or scan the QR code to get your free smell test today.



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