

HAVE YOUR SAY

A CIVIL DISCOURSE

Our goal is to maintain a civil tone. With that in mind, when writing letters, discourse should be cordial and people should be referred to in a respectful manner.

FOCUS ON THE ISSUE

Letters in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the writer by name, should refer to the headline and date the letter was published. Letters on news stories should also note the headline and publication date.

LETTER REQUIREMENTS

Letters for publication should be no longer than 300 words and must include the writer's address and daytime telephone number. Only the writer's name and hometown will be published. For mailed submissions, writers must sign the letter.

SENDING LETTERS

Mail or email letters to ...

Letters to the Editor

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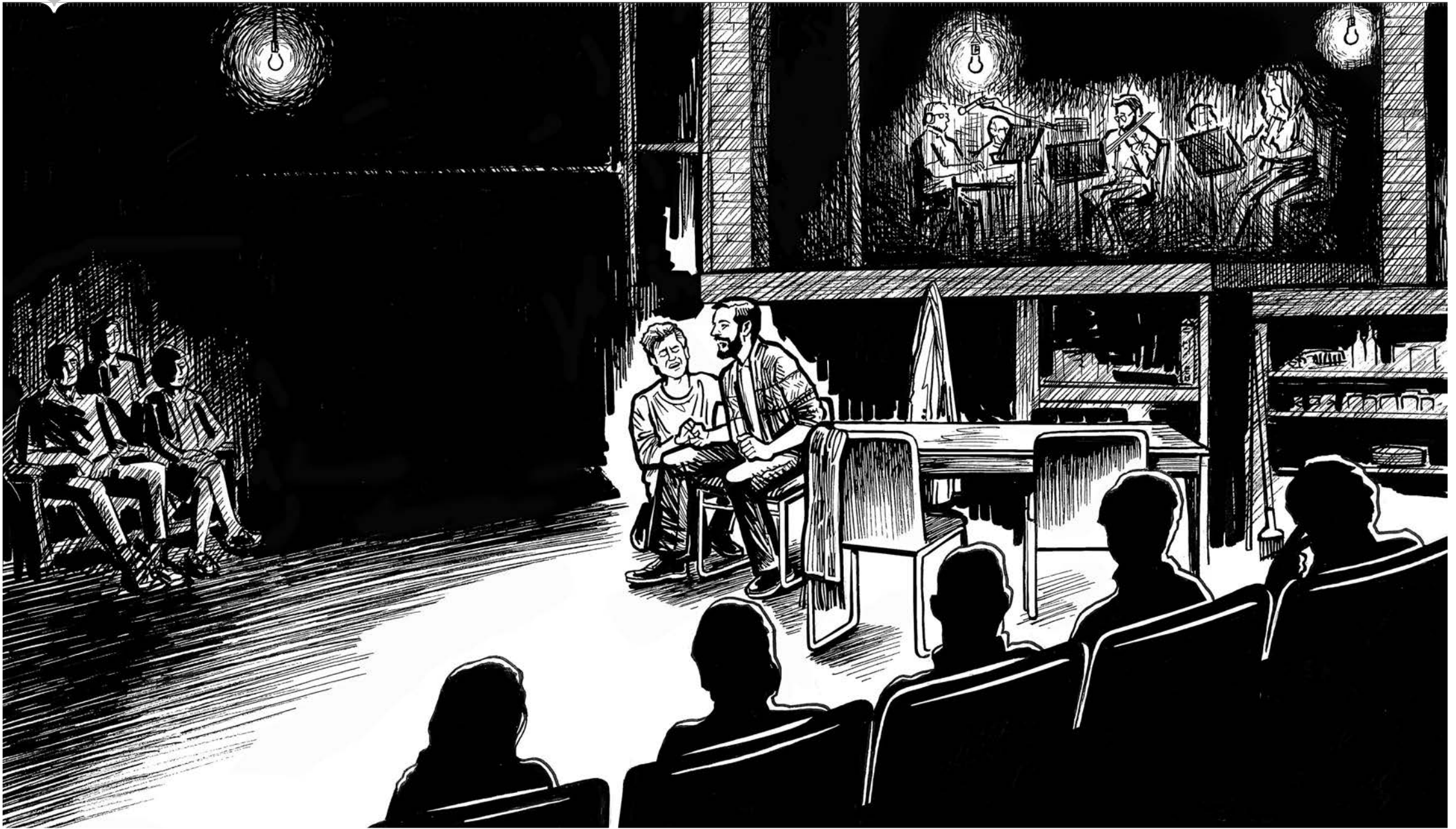
Reader Ombudsman

Larry is the newsroom's primary liaison to the community and welcomes your comments.

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✦ A LOOK AT WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE LOVE

sunday sketchbook



Have You Ever ... Played a Part In Theater History?

The grand opening this week of a dramatically different theater space in the former Tierra Del Sol Country Club is being applauded by theatergoers who appreciate the intimacy — and the creative promise — of The Villages' newest venue. Performers and audience members have been celebrating the big moment as the Studio Theatre mounted its first production, the rock musical "Next to Normal," a moving examination of a suburban family in crisis. The play, which in 2010 received the Pulitzer Prize for drama, is brought to life in the single-level, 99-seat performance space by a troupe that serves as an extension of the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. Dates for this inaugural show will continue through Dec. 17.

VIEWS FROM THE VENUE'S FIRST AUDIENCE



"We see a lot of shows at the Dennis playhouse in Cape Cod, and this was just as good. The acoustics were unbelievable."

RICHARD CONNON
Haciendas of Mission Hills



"It was excellent. The acting, the singing — they were perfect. And the intimate seating. You're right there with all the actors."

SUE CONNON
Haciendas of Mission Hills



"The whole play delves into a family situation. It was multidimensional. It felt like you were sitting right there, part of the whole thing."

ED CARBONE
Village of Belvedere



"It was refreshing, professional, the sound was fantastic. I felt like I was part of the entire play, part of the family. I'm looking forward to future productions."

MARY CARBONE
Village of Belvedere



"The venue was amazing, a black-box, a small venue. It's intimate. The actors are within 3 feet of the crowd. They were really well cast."

LANA MARCINE
Village of Country Club Hills



"Oh! I have seen many Broadway plays, and this was better. It was, absolutely. ... I'm still crying, half an hour later."

MARGARET BARTON
Village of Charlotte



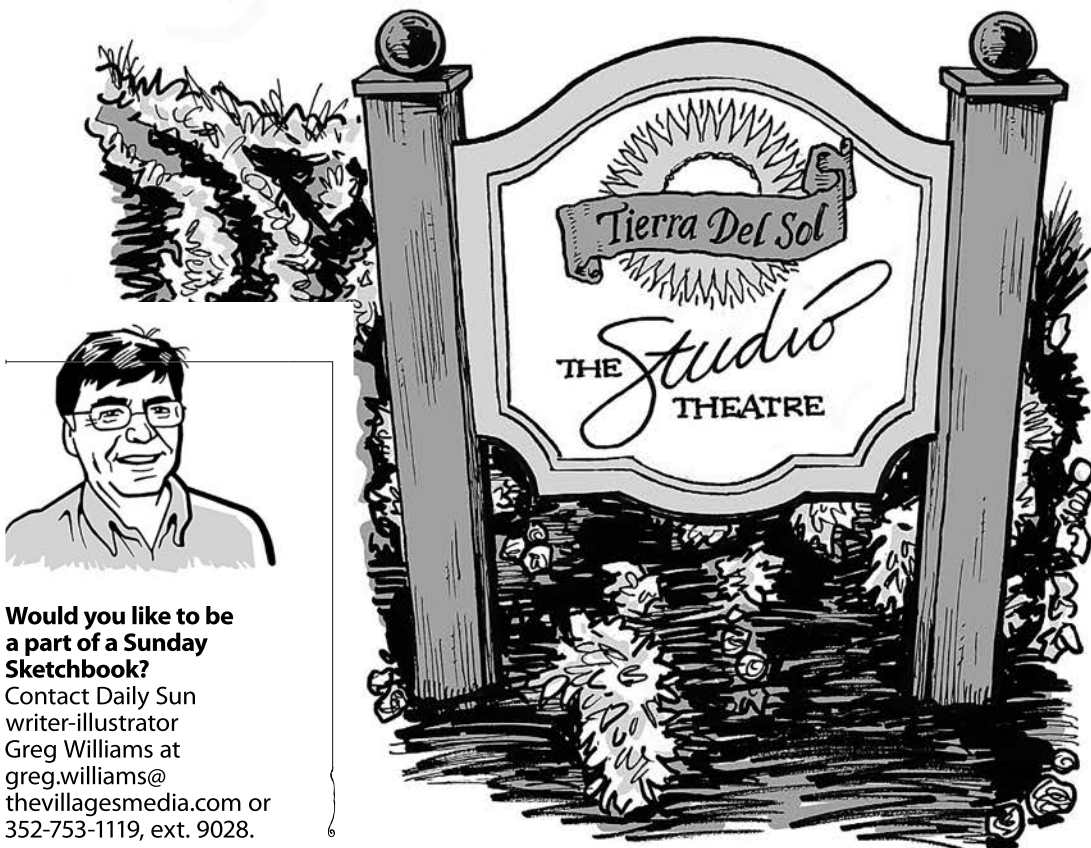
"All the actors were just absolutely spot on. ... And the venue is so small, you could see the emotions, you could feel it. You're right there!"

MARSHALL BUHL
Village of Hillsborough



"I thought the casting was great, the story line was beautifully written and the singing was great."

TRISH FITZGERALD
Village of Pine Hills



Would you like to be a part of a Sunday Sketchbook?
Contact Daily Sun writer-illustrator Greg Williams at greg.williams@thevillagesmedia.com or 352-753-1119, ext. 9028.

CAST COMMENTS FROM 'NEXT TO NORMAL'

"I am so excited to share this type of theater with The Villages residents. The coolest part to me is having our patrons see the same actors play multiple parts across many seasons. ... To me, that is just magical. The audience will have the opportunity to follow certain actors' careers in their hometown regional theater. They will almost be like local celebrities. And that is very cool for the actors as well."

WHITNEY MORSE
"Diana Goodman,"
wife/mother

"The Sharon provides large events and concerts, they usually last for about five days max. The Studio brings an opportunity for a regional theater experience, in that it will run full-scale productions for weeks at a time, six nights a week. This gives everyone ample time in their busy schedules to actually make it to the theater."

BRIAN ZEALAND
"Dan Goodman,"
husband/dad

"It is a very intimate space. ... Similar to The Villages squares, it is a concentrated area, yet full of life and beauty. I believe bringing 'Next to Normal' to The Villages is very important. This is a show about a family that has many struggles, both seen and unseen. Sometimes it is easier to not talk about our struggles in life, but through this show I hope people become more aware and open about difficulties."

EMILY CHELSEA
"Natalie Goodman,"
sister/daughter

"The Studio Theatre Tierra Del Sol is a wonderful venue that brings regional theater to a smaller scale. It is an incredible opportunity to perform in a show that usually wouldn't tour through bigger theaters like The Sharon. ... And having a longer run, there are more opportunities for The Villages to come enjoy this breathtaking story."

TYLER BEAUREGARD
"Gabe Goodman,"
brother/son