


NATIONAL NEWS

TORNADOES DAMAGE DOZENS OF HOMES IN SAN ANTONIO AREA

A National Weather Service survey team confirmed that at least six tornadoes touched down near San Antonio, but not all in populated areas. The storm damaged more than 150 structures across the city and knocked out electricity to thousands.

**National News, A7**



John Davenport | The San Antonio Express-News

Greg Goza stands in the doorway of his mother-in-law's home Monday after severe weather swept through the San Antonio area.

MCMASTER TAPPED AS NEXT SECURITY ADVISER

Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster has been selected as President Donald Trump's new national security adviser who will replace the ousted Michael Flynn.

**Political News, A6**

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THAT'S AMAZING

KOREAN WAR VETERAN HONORED 6 DECADES LATER

An Indiana veteran of the Korean War has received an honor for his service more than six decades after his service. The Indiana National Guard says that Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, the adjutant general, presented the Republican of Korea's Ambassador of Peace medal to 87-year-old Marion M. "Bud" Mason on Friday. The veteran was an Army paratrooper and served with the 7th Infantry Division. He retired as a corporal in January 1954. Mason said "I love this country, and I always will."

— The Associated Press

Top of the News

INSIDE THE ISSUES SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

Church Ministries Take to the Open Road



Erin Williams | Daily Sun

Laura Jones, a member of the Oxford Assembly of God Motorcycle Ministry, front, helped organize the ministry which is targeted at people who enjoy riding and spreading God's word.

Motorcycle ministry is just one unique way congregations are combining their hobbies with doing God's work.

By RACHEL STUART  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

THE VILLAGES

A motorcycle group might not fit the conventional image of a church ministry. But the riders of Oxford Assembly of God are out on the road, sharing their faith with others as they enjoy the sights they encounter on their travels.

"The main purpose is Luke 14:23, to go into the highways and byways and reach people for Jesus," said Steve Jones, who has served

as elder of the ministry for a decade. "We also provide a friendly motorcycle-riding atmosphere."

The ministry meets at the church at 7 p.m. every third Friday, but its members also meet for outreach projects and go for rides around the state at least once each month.

"Our sole purpose is to reach people that traditional ministries don't reach," Jones said. "Jesus ministered in a lot of different ways and to a lot of different people. I believe there is a soul for every ministry and a ministry for every lost soul."

Oxford Assembly is far from the only church exploring niche activities in search of saving souls. In The Villages alone, First Baptist of Lady Lake has its race car ministry and Open Bible Lutheran has a gun group.

Please See **MINISTRIES, A16**

OTHER UNUSUAL MINISTRIES

- St. Timothy Roman Catholic Bingo ministry:** provides a friendly environment to not only play bingo, but also to meet others.
- Clown ministry:** clowns and helpers provide smiles and fun with balloons, giving out stickers and handing out simple musical instruments so others can participate when music is played.
- First Baptist Church of Lady Lake Gospel and Guns Self Defense club:** provides support and information for gun enthusiasts.

COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS

Only in The Villages

LIFE IN FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

Studio Theatre Selling Out All Shows So Far in The Season

In October, Brian Zealand left the Windy City to take part in something new: The Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol's inaugural season.

The Chicago-based actor has had roles in the theater's first two plays, "Next to Normal" and "Private Lives," and he's about to star in the third, "The Last 5 Years."

"I've done a lot of shows around the country, and nothing can hold a candle to what's happening here," Zealand said. "It's going to become a major repertory theater."

If the response to this four-play opening season at the black box theater is any indication, Zealand might be onto something.

By MICHAEL FORTUNA  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Please See **THEATRE, A16**



Submitted photo

Brian Zealand and Whitney Morse will star in "The Last 5 Years," which begins Friday and runs through March 19 at the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol.

THE DIGIT

200 children

Jim Waymire, of the Village of Pennecamp and president of The Villages Aviation Club, has been recognized for taking 200 children between the ages of 8 and 17 on flights as part of the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program. The free program is designed to inspire a career in flight.

— Frank Ross, Daily Sun

TONIGHT'S EVENTS ON THE SQUARES

Entertainment runs from 5 to 9 p.m.

**Spanish Springs Town Square**  
Tat2  
Happy hour, 5-7 p.m.

**Lake Sumter Landing Market Square**  
Rick Melvern Trio  
Happy hour, 5-6 p.m.

**Brownwood Paddock Square**  
Plus 1 Duo  
Happy hour, 5-6 p.m.

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from the front page



Submitted photo  
Brian Zealand, from left, Tyler Beauregard and Whitney Morse act in a scene from the play “Next to Normal.”

THEATRE

Continued from A1

“Next to Normal” and “Private Lives” were sold out, with extra performances added to their runs. “The response has been overwhelmingly positive,” said Whitney Morse, artistic director of the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. “For a brand new theater, it’s done very well.”

Zealand’s favorite from the season so far has been working in “Private Lives.” “This group of people brought out a performance I didn’t know I had,” Zealand said. “To continue to grow is the mark of an artist. I’m still on the right track.” As for Morse, she had a hand in picking the four plays. She was one of the actors in “Next to Normal” and served as a dialect coach in “Private Lives.” Morse wasn’t able to attend opening night of “Private Lives,” but she caught a later performance. “I was watching other people enjoy the things we do,” Morse said. The previews for “The Last 5 Years,” which are sold out, began Monday, while the play’s run begins Friday and runs through March 19. A few matinee performances and nights have seats available. In this play, the actors sing the majority of the dialogue through songs written by Jason Robert Brown. “It’s as close as you can get to an opera,” Zealand said. The only people on stage are Jamie, a novelist on the rise, and Cathy, a struggling actress who is determined to get her career off the ground.

TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING SHOW

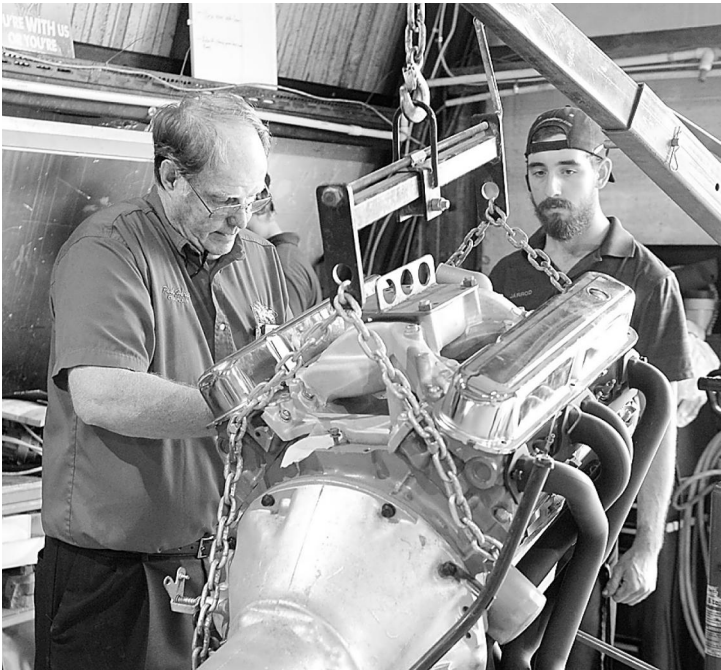
“The Last 5 Years” will be presented at 2 and 7 p.m. select days Friday through March 19 at the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol. Tickets are \$30 and are available at any Villages Box Office location or online at thesharonstudio.com.

“He has a lot of pressure with his career,” Zealand said. “She’s very sweet, and kind of a weirdo, but she’s come a long way,” Morse said. They also are in different timelines, with Cathy starting at the end of the relationship and going backward in time, and Jamie starting at the beginning, while the two meet in the middle. “It struck me personally,” Brian said. “It’s the emotion (Brown) pulls out with the lyrics. (The music is) a whole character.” “It’s how honest it is,” Morse said. “He doesn’t sugarcoat anything. In musical theater, you see relationships that are perfect jewels. This play subverts that.”

MINISTRIES

Continued from A1

National ministries also have formed to embrace popular hobbies and pastimes. At Raceway Ministries, more than 5,500 volunteers are trained to demonstrate God’s love and build relationships at every NASCAR race in about 23 states, said Elliott Yancey, the executive director of the organization. “It’s a little slice of America that shows up,” Yancey said. “If the church has a passion for influencing our culture, then a great place to start is the speedway.” Hobby-oriented outreaches have become the norm for many churches, said David Hackett, professor of American religious history with the University of Florida Department of Religion in Gainesville. They serve a need for churches to connect with their members, Hackett said. He worries, however, that the message could get lost in their effort to increase participation and grow the congregation. “These kinds of outreaches strike me as an effort on the part of churches to really be responsive to the needs of their members that goes beyond what has been done in the past,” Hackett said. “If churches are constantly responding to what their members want, the church tends to be defined by what their members want and less by what Christianity teaches. It’s a good thing and potentially a bad thing.” At Oxford Assembly of God, Jones and his wife, Laura, say they keep the focus on spreading the word of God. The couple took up motorcycle riding as a hobby about 12 years ago and found the OAG Motorcycle Ministry two years later when they decided to become a part of something in which they could use their interest to make an impact.



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun  
The Rev. Paul Harsh II, left, adjusts a bolt on an engine block as Jarrod Winkler, right, and Kevin Moore Jr., not pictured, plan to install into a 1974 Dodge Dart in the garage behind the First Baptist Church of Lady Lake.

“This ministry has been something, if you would have asked me all my life up to when I did it, there was no way. I won’t even own a small car,” said Laura, the church’s business administrator. “But when my husband wanted to do it, it’s something that I felt like we could try to do together, and I love it.” Between 10 to 30 members plan rides to places like Key West or Weeki Wachee, their destination a few weeks ago. During Daytona Bike Week,

which starts the second week of March, members give out water or coffee, along with bags of gifts and Bibles. Laura sees the role of the ministry as bringing together passionate people with a common interest to reach out to a different crowd. Wayne King, of Lady Lake, does not attend church, but he has been involved with the motorcycle ministry for 10 years. “The first president came up to me at Outback and asked me if I’d like to ride with the group,” he said. “That next weekend, I ended up riding with them and I have been riding with them ever since.” King said he feels at home with the Oxford Assembly group. “I enjoy the camaraderie, I enjoy what they do,” he said. “This is the only group I ride with. They’re very nice people.” Whether it’s people like King or members of the larger community, Laura said, “there are people who you can’t reach any other way than being on a bike.” “You’re just out there reaching people. If your common ground is to tell people about Jesus, then there shouldn’t be one set way to do that,” she said.

SMIRNOFF NEUROLOGY

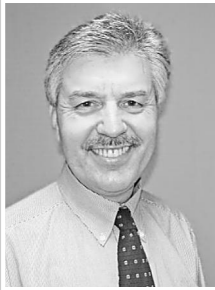
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