


NATIONAL NEWS

TRUMP PUSHES OUT CONTROVERSIAL AIDE STEVE BANNON

Steve Bannon, the blunt-spoken and divisive strategist who rose from Donald Trump's conservative campaign to a top White House post, was pushed out by the president Friday, capping a turbulent seven months that now has seen the departure of much of his senior staff.



Alex Brandon | The Associated Press

The former leader of conservative Breitbart News and a favorite in the farther-right portions of the Republican Party served his last day Friday.

INSIDE



Make your home cabin chic.

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THAT'S AMAZING

OLDEST AMERICAN TURNS 114 IN PENNSYLVANIA

The oldest known living person in the United States is celebrating her 114th birthday in Pennsylvania. The state Aging Department says Delphine Gibson hit the milestone Thursday, getting a personal greeting from the governor. Gibson was born in South Carolina in 1903 and moved to Pennsylvania after marrying Taylor Gibson in 1928. Gibson's status as the nation's oldest person is according to the Gerontology Research Group, which tracks people older than 110 worldwide.

— The Associated Press

Top of the News

INSIDE THE ISSUES SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

Behind the Scenes, Team Brings Big Shows to Life



Allyssa Yost, playing Woman No. 1, applies makeup to prepare for a performance.



Mike Petix, a percussionist, warms up on drums before a performance of "Songs for a New World."

The actors are front and center, but the team at the Studio Theatre keeps things running smoothly.

By MICHAEL FORTUNA
Daily Sun Staff Writer

At the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol, a small, behind-the-scenes crew joins forces to make sure each show goes off without a hitch. And if they do their jobs right, the audience doesn't even know they're there.

Before Tuesday's performance of "Songs for a New World," the production team trickled into the black box theater.

They have been working on this production for two weeks at the small theater, an extension of the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. The show opened Sunday and returns for performances Sunday through Tuesday and again Aug. 27-29.

"Our staff is so incredible," house manager Grace Petty said. "Whether we are hosting a production at The Sharon with a team of 30-plus or producing shows at The Studio with a team of three, we all run a well-oiled machine and share a common goal — to provide quality entertainment to The Villages and the surrounding community."

Stage manager Abby Bobb and production assistant Amber Sacks were among the first to arrive around 5 p.m. Tuesday to set things in motion for the 7 p.m. raising of the curtain.

Bobb, who is in charge of everything that happens on stage, began by sweeping and mopping the mostly bare stage floor, maneuvering around the only props that were out — four stools and two large trunks. For "Songs for a New World,"



Abby Bobb, stage manager, sweeps the stage Tuesday to prepare for the next performance.



Amber Sacks, sound board operator, checks the levels on the sound board at The Studio Theatre.



Grace Petty, house manager, center, helps the ushers check in an audience member.



Whitney Morse, as Woman No. 2, center, warms up by singing at The Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol.

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COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS

Only in The Villages

LIFE IN FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

Celebrity Chef Fieri's Namesake Restaurant Preparing To Open

By CURT HILLS
Daily Sun Managing Editor

Drive-by golf cart traffic could increase on Old Mill Run and Old Camp Road as residents pass by to see if the doors have opened at Guy Fieri's American Kitchen & Bar.

The anticipation has been building since the restaurant bearing the name of restaurateur and national TV celebrity chef Guy Fieri announced it was opening its first Florida location, and only the eighth in the world, at Lake Sumter Landing.

However, finding out exactly when it opens may take a good old-fashioned stakeout, because restaurant officials won't disclose that date with intentions of

Please See RESTAURANT, A6



Erin Williams | Daily Sun

The eighth location of celebrity chef Guy Fieri's restaurant will open soon in Lake Sumter Landing. The new space seats 170 inside and another 45 outside.

THE DIGIT

9

Saves

The number of cardiac arrest saves reported by the District Public Safety Department so far in 2017. This means the patients were discharged from the hospital, the department stated. When a cardiac arrest is reported, emergency responders arrive in less than five minutes, which is lower than the national average of eight to 12 minutes.

— Lurvin Fernandez, Daily Sun

TONIGHT'S EVENTS ON THE SQUARES

Entertainment runs from 5 to 9 p.m.

Spanish Springs Town Square
the 45s
Happy hour, 5-7 p.m.

Lake Sumter Landing Market Square
Johnny Wild & the Delights
Happy hour, 5-6 p.m.

Brownwood Paddock Square
Dance Express
Happy hour, 5-6 p.m.

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from the front page



Erin Williams | Daily Sun

Guy Fieri's American Kitchen & Bar is located at 1045 Old Camp Road at Lake Sumter Landing.

RESTAURANT

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easing into serving the nation's fastest-growing population base.

But they are letting residents know that a staff of more than 90 has been hired and currently is training to serve future hungry customers at the 1045 Old Camp Road location that most recently housed Honest John's restaurant.

New signage went up this week on the 6,000-square-foot restaurant capable of seating 170 inside and another 45 outside, overlooking the slow roll of Wilkerson's Creek toward the lock and dam approaching Lake Sumter.

These indicators all are signs that the restaurant is approaching its opening date, according to Gregory Pranzo, restaurant developer.

"We are excited to bring the Guy Fieri brand to The Villages," Pranzo said. "The name will bring guests in and the food will bring them back."

Fieri is a household name, known for traveling the country for his "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives" Food Network series. His travels inspired him to create a menu of American comfort food he has unveiled at locations such as his Times Square hot spot in the heart of New York City.

Other Fieri locations exist in Atlantic City, New Jersey; Las Vegas; Baltimore; Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania; and Cancun, Mexico.

His self-named "flavor-town" is making its way to The Villages with a menu that features dishes like "Trash Can Nachos," Apricot-Jalapeno Glazed Salmon and Mussels Frites. There's also Steak Diane and classic meatloaf with a twist — with six-cheese Mac 'n' Cheese.

Dessert options will include New York Marbled Cheesecake and Caramel Apple Bread Pudding with whiskey crème anglaise.

The restaurant plans to serve lunch and dinner and offer a Sunday brunch. The average ticket price will range from \$9 to \$25, operators said.

The restaurant's commitment to The Villages was first announced in April.

Having a celebrity-branded property in The Villages is a new twist to the community's growing national reputation, said Scott Renick, The Villages director of

commercial development, at the time.

"It's not something we've seen yet," he said. "So it's going to be interesting to see it come to fruition."

However, it wasn't the only future eatery with a big name behind it for long.

A month later, Villagers were told by Tracy Mathews, who serves as vice president of The Villages Design Division, that another celebrity chef would have his name affixed to a Brownwood venture. A Wolfgang Puck-licensed restaurant will be built with a 150-room resort hotel next to Grand Traverse Plaza. Its opening will be announced later.

As for Guy Fieri's American Kitchen & Bar, Renick, having visited the Las Vegas Fieri-branded restaurant, believes Villagers will become fans of the Old Mill Run spot.

"It's a fun vibe, and certainly our residents will enjoy it," Renick said.

Pranzo previously told the Daily Sun they selected The Villages for its first Florida location because of its booming and active population.

With word that staff training is taking place, the date that booming population can slide up to the tables and sample the new menu is approaching quickly.

Curt Hills is a managing editor with The Villages Daily Sun. He can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 9319, or curt.hills@thevillagesmedia.com.

THEATRE

Continued from A1

Bobb operates the stage lights as well.

For each production, she keeps a notebook, detailing everything that happens during the show, including lighting and sound cues as well as where the actors position themselves. Although it can be tedious, the details make it easier for a backup to take Bobb's place.

"If I blacked out and couldn't do the show, Amber could go up and do it," Bobb said.

Sacks controls what the audience hears. She toured the building with her portable soundboard — thanks to an app on her iPad — stopping at various points in the theater to check the sound levels for the band and the four actors.

She usually handles the props for the productions, but she said "Songs for a New World" doesn't require a lot of extra elements on stage.

Sacks started out at The Sharon as a stagehand intern because she wanted to focus on her love of music. At the Studio Theatre, she has worked on previous plays "The Last Five Years" and "Proof."

"It's an all-new learning experience," Sacks said.

Mike Petix, the band's percussionist, arrived early to make sure his electronic instrument was working properly. He tapped on various pads and listened to the results that boomed from the speakers.

About 15 minutes before 6 p.m., Gary Powell, the music director at the Studio Theatre and The Sharon, got his sound equipment ready to go.

He and the other musicians — Sean Pollack on piano, John Gaffney on bass and Jerry Bruno on drums — had rehearsed the music on two occasions prior to the first performances.

"They come prepared," Powell said.

As they wait for the show to get underway, the pressure and the nerves increase. Powell plays the keyboards and also conducts or cues the actors and musicians.

"Every part is ridiculously hard," Powell said.

Actors Whitney Morse, Fernando Varela, Allyssa Yost and Josh Kimball arrive next



Photos by Erin Williams | Daily Sun

Whitney Morse, as Woman No. 2, tapes her microphone to the side of her face Tuesday for a performance of "Songs for a New World" at The Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol.

SEE THE SHOW LIVE

"Songs for a New World" returns for performances 7 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday and Aug. 27-29 at the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol, 806 San Marino Drive. General admission tickets, which are \$20, still are available for the Aug. 28 performance at any Villages Box Office location or online at thesharonstudio.com.



Gary Powell, music director, plays the piano for the actors to warm up prior to a performance of "Songs for a New World."

and head for the stage to run through vocal warmups and a few songs with Powell.

As the clock ticked closer to show time, house manager Petty called out how many minutes remained before 6:30 p.m., when the doors would open and the crowd would flow in.

Greeting the waiting audience were four ushers, split between the lobby and the theater. While two checked tickets with a scanner, the others handed out programs.

Although he was stationed near the front entrance with his scanner, Stan Ackerman doesn't just check tickets. He may end up inside, helping people to their seats. He has been a part of the team at The Sharon for about two years

and an usher at the Studio Theatre for a few months.

"We change positions all the time," said Ackerman, of the Village of Sanibel. "I try to go as much as possible. There are over 200 ushers on call, and only 32 get (picked)."

Prior to coming to The Villages, Ackerman enjoyed going to plays and musicals on Broadway. He said he enjoys his job not only because he gets to take in the occasional play but because he loves the atmosphere.

"It's a good feeling to help out," Ackerman said.

About 10 minutes before 7 p.m., the patrons were seated inside the theater. The

musicians took their positions to the right of the stage.

At the top of the hour, the heavy curtain separating the lobby from the theater was pulled away. It was show time.

After the musical rang out its last note and the audience headed home, Bobb and Petty were the last to leave the Studio Theatre, some time around 10:30 p.m.

They'll be back to do it all again Sunday night.

Michael Fortuna is a staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. He can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 9299, or michael.fortuna@thevillagesmedia.com.

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Lunch Club

You're invited to join us at the next meeting of our lunch club.

We'll have a brief presentation on current events in the market and economy followed by an informal discussion.

Lunch will be served.

Your family and friends are welcome to join us. Please call Linda Reese at 352-750-6285 or email linda.reese@edwardjones.com by Aug. 21.



Dave Merrick
Financial Advisor
715 Kristine Way
The Villages, FL 32163
352-750-6285

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