


NATIONAL NEWS

WHITE HOUSE ASKS FOR \$44 BILLION IN DISASTER AID BILL


The White House on Friday sent Congress a \$44 billion disaster aid request. The request, President Donald Trump's third since hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria slammed the Gulf Coast and Caribbean, would bring the total appropriated for disaster relief close to \$100 billion. **National News, A5**



Ramon Espinosa | The Associated Press

A boy accompanied by his dog watches the repairs of Guajataca Dam, which cracked during the passage of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

INSIDE



Go from drab to fab with accents. **E1**

THAT'S AMAZING

'CONE WEED' GETS XMAS MAKEOVER IN N.C. TOWN

At first, it was a traffic cone with a weed growing out of it. Now, the roadside attraction, dubbed "Cone Weed," is something of a Christmas miracle. WBTV reports someone decorated the "Cone Weed" with tinsel and ornaments last week. The weed has been growing across from the Huntersville Fire Station for a year and has amassed a cult following. A graphic designer even created a line of Christmas clothes with proceeds helping local families through HopeMatch.org. — The Associated Press

Advice	D14
Classifieds	F1
Comics	D8
Lottery	A4
Movie Listings	D3
Obituaries	C4
Home & Garden	E1
Television	D12

We support our men and women in uniform.



Top of the News

INSIDE THE ISSUES SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

Studio Theatre Rings in One Year of Productions



Erin Williams | Daily Sun

The stage is set and audience members await the opening act of "Bad Jews" on Nov. 7 at the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol. The 99-seat black box theatre, which opened its doors one year ago today, has witnessed four sold-out shows.

The intimate, 99-seat black box theater at Tierra Del Sol opened its doors one year ago for its inaugural season.

By MICHAEL FORTUNA
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Trevin Cooper remembers the first time he walked into what would become the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol. More than a year ago, the building was still a restaurant. Cooper, along with several others, got a table in a corner, surveying the space. "I thought, 'Would this be a theater?'" said Cooper, who is now the theater's resident director. "It was a pipe dream." A year ago today, the dream transformed into reality when the 99-seat black box theater opened its doors for its inaugural season. Four sold-out plays — "Next to Normal," "Private Lives," "The Last Five Years" and "Proof" — made an impression on patrons. The Studio Theatre received 47 nominations for the BroadwayWorld Orlando Awards in the professional category. "That feels awesome," artistic director Whitney Morse said. "We're all overwhelmed by that. I wasn't expecting that many." Everyone can vote for their favorites at broadwayworld.com/orlando/ from now until Dec. 31. Please See **ANNIVERSARY, A13**



Submitted Photo

Jill Jones and Lon Abrams act out a scene from the final play of the inaugural season, "Proof," at the Studio Theatre.

COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS

Only in The Villages

LIFE IN FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

Machande Defends His Winner's Belt At Villages Pro Shootout Championship

By MATT COTE
Daily Sun Staff Writer

The Villages Pro Shootout Trophy won't have to travel very far to get to its new home. In fact, it won't have to move at all. The WWF-style belt will stay firmly in the confines of Mallory Hill Country Club as Dan Machande became the first player in the tournament's history to successfully defend the championship. "It was crazy today," Machande said. "I didn't see it happening, but the holes just kept going and the players kept falling away and all of a sudden I'm standing on nine again with Mark (Verkey)." The 10th edition of the annual event that pits the head professionals from each



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Mallory Hill Country Club golf pro Dan Machande raises the Villages Pro Shootout championship belt on the final hole of the Amelia nine at his home course.

THE DIGIT

\$152

Amount raised

A 50-50 drawing is held each month at The Villages Classic Car Cruise In to benefit Shared Harvest Community Garden, and \$150 was raised Oct. 21. The cruise in lines the streets of the Spanish Springs Town Square the third Saturday of each month and the November show happens today. — Amber Hair, Daily Sun

TONIGHT'S EVENTS ON THE SQUARES

Entertainment runs from 5 to 9 p.m.

Spanish Springs Town Square
Johnny Wild & the Delights
Happy hour, 5-7 p.m.

Lake Sumter Landing Market Square
Earthbeat
Happy hour, 5-6 p.m.

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

COPYRIGHT © 2017, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

6 90548 00001 5

VOLUME 20 | ISSUE 322

ANNIVERSARY

Continued from A1

The idea for the Studio Theatre came about when the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center was coming to life more than three years ago.

“(A black box theater) wasn’t here in The Villages,” Morse said. “I thought it would be nice to have that. I like the flexibility of the black box theater. You don’t have permanent seating. You can move the seats around however the production dictates.”

“Theater is about changing perceptions,” Cooper added. “When you’re in an intimate space, you can’t help but enter the world of the play and the characters. It really feels like living a slice of life.”

To get the people needed to bring these plays to life, the staff saw about 300 actors through auditions with the Florida Professional Theatres Association; they also held auditions locally.

Morse and Cooper picked out the four plays and assembled a team of 12 on the production staff. This season, a panel of 10 people read various plays and chose which ones to bring to life.

Morse had roles in "Next to Normal," "The Last Five Years" and "Proof."

"I like the intimacy of black box theater," she said. "Acting is scary no matter where you do it. I'm more at ease in a small space. It takes time to get used to the audience being so close to you."

Cooper, who directed all of the plays except "Next to Normal," spent about 151 days of the year in rehearsal.

“That’s about every actor’s greatest dream,” he said.

Once the play reached opening night, Cooper's job was done, and he handed the creation off to the cast and stage manager for its multiple performances. Then it was on to the next play.

“The transition is jarring, yet exciting,” Cooper said. “It’s a new set of challenges.”

As for his favorite of the plays he directed, “every play is like a child,” Cooper said.



Submitted Photos

Emily Miraglia and Tyler Beauregard act out a scene in the second play of the inaugural season, "Private Lives," at the Studio Theatre at Tierra del Sol.



Brian Zealand and Whitney Morse act out a scene from "The Last Five Years," at the Studio Theatre.



The cast of the first play of the season, "Next to Normal," performs at the Studio Theatre at Tierra del Sol.

“Each was meaningful to me.”

As for what the future holds for the Studio Theatre, it boils down to this: "Keep doing what we're doing — bringing thought-provoking theater to The Villages,"

Morse said.

Michael Fortuna is a staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. He can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5273, or michael.fortuna@thevillagesmedia.com.

SHOOTOUT

Continued from A1

of The Villages championship golf courses against each other in an elimination event that ends with two men playing the ninth hole for all the marbles came down to a familiar pairing. Verkey, head pro at Palmer Legends, took on Machande in a rematch of last year's final.

But Machande wouldn't let Verkey become the first three-time winner of the tournament, and won in a chip off on the ninth and final hole. The chip set both players up with an uphill shot with the pin positioned on a downhill slope once the ball reached the green.

Machande went first, and to the surprise of the crowd circling the green, he decided to use his putter.

"You know, when the nerves kick in the putter gives a little more margin for error than a wedge," he said. "I figured I can get it up and down from anywhere with a putter, so I gave it a go. It was an almost impossible shot."

His putt was solid, and

the ball finished as close as anyone could have hoped for — around 15 feet past the hole.

Verkey then took the opposite approach and went for a chip. Unfortunately it landed and rolled well past Machande's ball.

"It was an impossible shot," Verkey said. "I could hit a bucket of balls from that location and not get any closer than I did."

The chip off was the third of the round for Machande, and the third in a row. He had to survive a chip off on the seventh hole against Havana pro Tyler Krager, and then a putt off with Bonifay pro Brady Godfrey. He was able to win both, before ending with another clutch shot for the championship.

The closest Machande came to being eliminated came on the eighth hole, when a poor tee shot landed over the green and then a chip came up short of the green. He fought back to save bogey — something that saved his round. Verkey came in with a par that he made look easy, and Godfrey had about a three foot putt to advance with a par of his own.

But Godfrey just missed the putt, and the ensuing putt off saw Machande beat Godfrey by barely six inches.

"I did not expect anyone to miss," Machande said. "I went over and shook Mark's hand and told him it had been a great run. But things work out sometimes. I thought it was over for me. It caught me off guard."

Machande was thrilled he was able to defend his championship, and is looking forward to hosting again next year. But even though he was the first person to ever win The Villages Pro Shootout on his home course, that wasn't Machande's favorite thing about the tournament. His favorite thing was the fact his two sons were able to make it in time to see their father win.

"It was pretty special out here today," he said. "Thank you to my sons for making it all the way out here from school today. They finally know their dad can play golf."

Matt Cote is a staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. He can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5243, or matt.cote@thevillagesmedia.com.

CARPET

TILE



Ted's

DISTINCTIVE

FLOORING, LLC

OWNED & OPERATED
BY A RESIDENT OF
THE VILLAGES®
COMMUNITY

Competitive & Honest Pricing

NO FINE PRINT. NO PRESSURE. FREE ESTIMATES.

We're here to help you & provide outstanding customer service. 40 Years Experience.

ALL JOBS MEASURED AND QUOTED BY OWNER, TED.

*Limitations
Apply

FALL SAVINGS

5% DISCOUNT

ACROSS FROM BROWNWOOD™ ENTRANCE ON SR 44, BEHIND SPARR (look for Gulf Oil sign)

4521-B MONACO WAY, WILDWOOD

352-748-6700

www.tedsdistinctiveflooring.com

MONDAY thru
FRIDAY 9-5

SATURDAY
9-2

LAMINATE



BUILT AROUND
Family

UF Health Heart & Vascular Hospital
UF Health Neuromedicine Hospital
Opening December 2017