

LOCAL, C1
Guardian ad Litem program is looking for more volunteers.

SPORTS, B1
Virginia Wins Title in OT

LIFESTYLE, D5
Runner sees herself as relentless.

WORLD NEWS



The Associated Press

U.S. LABELS ELITE IRAN FORCE A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the designation is intended to increase pressure on Iran, isolating it further and diverting some of the financial resources it uses to fund terrorism and militant activity in the Middle East and beyond. **A10**

NATION & WORLD REPORT

Health: A new study finds that stimulating the brain of someone older than 60 with a mild electrical current can improve the memory enough that they can perform like someone in their 20s. **A7**

World: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and challenger Benny Gantz made their last pitches Monday on the eve of elections that will determine whether the longtime Israeli leader stays in power. **A12**

INSIDE

- Florida News A5
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Faces in The News Felicity Huffman

The "Desperate Housewives" star and a dozen other parents have agreed to plead guilty in a college admissions bribery scam.

National News, A11

Top of the News

INSIDE THE ISSUES SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

Studio Theatre Tackles Growing Political Split

SEASON 4 LINEUP AIMS TO REACH ACROSS THE DIVIDE



Submitted posters for the upcoming season

By **KRISTEN FIORE**
Daily Sun Senior Writer

P

Politics. You probably don't want to bring it up during Thanksgiving dinner, but what about in the theater?

After a successful third season focused on the theme of celebrating individuality, The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol announced its season four theme and lineup today.

The blackbox theater will keep its 2019-20 season poignant and relevant once again. The theme is "We the people reach across the divide," and the season is built with four shows that look at political divide from different angles.

"In the last 20 years or so, our country has become more and more politically divided," said Whitney Morse, artistic director at The Studio Theatre. "We wanted to look a little more closely at what happens to relationships when those political divides interfere."

Please See **STUDIO, A6**

BUY YOUR TICKETS

May 7: Subscription renewals go on sale at 8:30 a.m.

June 10: Deadline to renew subscriptions

June 11: New subscriptions go on sale at 8:30 a.m.

June 25: Individual tickets go on sale at 8:30 a.m.

Tickets and subscriptions can be purchased online at thesharonstudio.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

LOCAL

MARION CO. SETS DRUG TAKE BACK PROGRAM

The event is part of a national effort to dispose of unneeded prescriptions.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office is taking part in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 27. Marion County residents can bring unused or unwanted medications for safe disposal. The closest drop-off is the South Marion District Office at 8230 SE 165th Mulberry Lane.

— Amber Hair, Daily Sun

THAT'S AMAZING!

RARE BIBLES TO BE EXHIBITED AT N.Y. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

First editions of some of the earliest Bibles and other religious texts to be printed in North America will be on display in an upcoming exhibit. "In God We Trust" runs from April 17 to June 23 at the New-York Historical Society. Announced Monday, the exhibit includes the first book of any kind printed in British North America. The so-called "Bay Psalm Book" was published in 1640, and only 11 copies of the first edition are known to exist.

The society also will feature what is believed to be the first complete English-language Bible translated by a woman, and the Bible used by President Ulysses S. Grant during his first inauguration, in 1869.

— The Associated Press

EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

Tapping Into Dance

Two classes at Saddlebrook Recreation Center help residents learn, and sometimes reconnect, with tap dancing. The classes offer a way for people to return to an art form they enjoyed when they were younger.

By **AMBER HAIR** | Daily Sun Staff Writer

The sounds of tap dancing drifted out of the meeting room and into the lobby as more than a dozen women picked up their feet to the tune of "Sunday In New York."

In the back of the room, a few women waited for the next class, watching as more advanced students practiced the routine again and again.

The same scene happens every Monday at Saddlebrook Recreation Center, where two tap-dancing classes take place back to back.

The intermediate class practices first, and then the beginner class takes its turn. Patti Weir leads both classes, and a third, a two-hour advanced class, on Fridays.

Please See **TAP DANCE, A6**

Life In Our Town

What's Happening In The Villages Lifting spirits

Resident plays guitar and sings folk songs for hospital's "Who Needs a Boost" program.

Local News, D5

Plus

Entertainment: Spit out your gum! "Sister's Easter Catechism" will be at Savannah Center. **A8**

Consumer Corner: Winn-Dixie participates in community's effort to cut back on plastics. **C6**

LOVIN' THE LIFESTYLE

Make a splash with the Waterski Club. **D1**



from the front page

STUDIO

Continued from A1

Each year, a committee of script readers at The Studio Theatre starts with 100 to 150 scripts and narrows them down based on relevance.

Morse said the political extremism on both sides is what seemed to be most relevant this time around.

"Everything is getting more us versus them, no matter what side you're on," Morse said.

Elizabeth Constant, The Studio Theatre's dramaturge, said the committee was highly conscious of the November 2020 election date that overlaps with the season.

"We chose these four scripts with a very careful and kind eye toward our tumultuous political divide we now have in America," Constant said. "We did not want to be blue or red, but rather a mirror held up to society to reflect on how we can join together in this time of great divide."

The season will open with "John & Jen," a two-person musical about a brother and sister who are coming to terms with their differing ideologies set against the backdrop of a changing political atmosphere in America between 1950 and 1990.

The second show of the season is "Neighbors: A Fair Trade Agreement."

"This will be the South-eastern premiere," Morse said. "It's only been produced a handful of times. It's a comedy about two men who live next door to each other, Joe and José. José discovers oil on his property, and Joe is in the energy business, so they decide to go into business together, and hijinks and conflict ensue."

Next up is Stephen Sondheim's "Assassins," a musical that takes place in a purgatory-like environment as all of the presidential assassins or attempted assassins come together and compare notes.

The show includes everyone from John Wilkes Booth to Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme and everything in between, Morse said.

"The music is hauntingly beautiful, as most Sondheim musicals are," Morse said. "But the important thing to take away from it is looking at what happens when you take your beliefs too far and what happens when extremism is exercised to the hilt."

The season will close with "Other Desert Cities," which is set in the early 2000s and is about a political family.

In the play, the father was in the Reagan administration, and his daughter is a successful novelist who has written a memoir about her upbringing and family, but she doesn't understand what

UPDATES AT THE STUDIO THEATRE

- » No more general admission. Everyone will choose their seats.
- » New handrails.
- » All subscribers will receive decals for their cars.
- » There will be a sign-language interpreter for specific shows.

the memoir is exposing. She comes home to ask for permission to publish it.

"The family is very divided, as is the case generationally," Morse said. "It's about the family dynamic."

Morse said while it will be a thought-provoking season, it also will be a fun one, particularly with "Neighbors."

"People will leave the shows with their gears turning and something to think about, whether it's wholeheartedly confirming what they already believe to be true, or perhaps thinking twice about something they never thought to examine before," Morse said.

Morse's biggest hope for the season is that it will spark a conversation.

"It feels like this is a time where we're only talking to people who agree with us," Morse said. "In those moments, it's really important to seek out those who don't and find out what their opinions are. I hope that this season inspires people to learn from other people who don't have the same opinions as them, no matter what their opinions are."

Kristen Fiore is a senior writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

TAP DANCE

Continued from A1

Weir, of the Village Alhambra, started tap dancing when she was 6 years old. She has danced for the past 81 years, and has taught others how to tap dance for approximately 70 years.

"I've lost count," Weir said. Weir also practiced other styles of dancing, including ballet. But after two knee replacements, ballet was getting too difficult. She doesn't have the same issues with tap, so she intends to keep dancing as long as she can.

At a recent beginners class, students worked on basic steps they could later stitch in to longer routines.

Weir demonstrated what she wanted students to learn, and worked with them until the entire group could step together, creating a sound almost like a march. The students danced so powerfully one resident's left tap heel came off her shoe.

The classes offer a way for people to return to an art they enjoyed when they were younger. Gwen Hunt, of the Village of Hemingway, tap danced when she was a child, but fell away from it after she grew up. She always wanted to return, so when Hunt saw classes available in The Villages, she signed up.

She's been attending lessons for eight years now, and she's in Weir's advanced class. Hunt used to take intermediate and beginner classes as a way to get more exercise and spend more time with fellow dancers, but Hunt decided to focus on finding her place in the intermediate classes after having to take some time off.

She appreciates how many friends she's made since she returned to tap dancing.

"We're like a family," Hunt said.



Cindy Skop | Daily Sun

The intermediate tap class collectively work on their footing at Saddlebrook Recreation Center.

People don't have to have previous tap experience to join the beginner class. Ron McCaskill, who attended his third class Monday, has gone ballroom dancing with his wife,

but he wanted to try something new, which is what led him to tap dancing.

"You have to do that as you get older," said McCaskill, of the Village Santo Domingo.

"You have to push your boundaries."

McCaskill found that, for him, tap dancing is harder than ballroom dancing, especially in regards to forming the muscle memory for the steps. He likes the class he's in, though, and he appreciates how members help him learn.

They offer tips, such as how to practice at home. The trick is not wearing shoes, so your feet get used to the feeling of hitting the ground.

With the help of his classmates, McCaskill started getting the hang of the steps, and left at the end of class with the others encouraging him and his progress. As the next club filtered in, Weir left too, carrying an old portable CD player and the CDs she taught with.

She enjoys the music and steps, but her summary of the genre also applies to the community Weir has helped build in her classes.

"It's peppy," Weir said.

Amber Hair is a staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5284, or amber.hair@thevillagesmedia.com.

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