

from the front page



Submitted photo

Dance group BODYTRAFFIC performed Friday night at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

## BODYTRAFFIC Reminds Audience That Dance Is Art

Since it was established in 2007, the internationally acclaimed dance group has performed all over the world.

By KRISTEN FIORE  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

The dancers of BODYTRAFFIC leapt, flaunted and glided across the stage, their movements weightless and graceful.

The group returned to the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center for another show Friday night.

Co-artistic director and founder of BODYTRAFFIC Tina Berkett said that forming the group was the dream she never knew she had.

Since it was established in 2007, BODYTRAFFIC has performed all over the world.

"The dancers are really interested in sharing what we've worked on, and we hope you'll see that tonight," Berkett said before the show.

The show was split into four sections, each with different costumes, music and styles of dance.

In the first portion, inspired by the music of Peggy Lee, the dancers wore vintage-style costumes and their numbers were creative, fluid and humorous.

The following portion had a darker feel to it and consisted of one long dance.

In the third part of the show, the dancers wore flowing white costumes and danced gracefully to eerie music.

Gerri Avazian, of Sarasota, was impressed by how soft the dancer's steps were.

"It's so synchronized, so beautiful," said Avazian. "Their movements are so fluid. I've never seen anything

like it."

The final part of the show was an ode to jazz. The dancers were flapper-like and snapped their fingers as they danced.

The audience gave an enthusiastic applause after each number, and sometimes during the dances after particularly impressive leaps and lifts.

Bette Sistie, of Coventry, Colorado, said she hadn't been sure what to expect, but was pleased with the outcome.

"It's a little different than I thought it would be, but it's very enjoyable and they're very talented," Sistie said.

While the audience was impressed by the talented dancers, some people wished they knew more about the backstory behind the numbers so that they could better understand the dancing.

"The show is incredible, but we don't know what the story is supposed to be," said Vincent D'Esposito, of the Village of Hemingway. "Other than that, it was very good."

BODYTRAFFIC expertly made use of the set as well as the music and dancing. Each portion of the show was paired with a different backdrop and lighting.

Whether the stage was bright, colorful and clear or foggy, yellowed and dark, it was pleasing to the eye and accompanied the theme of its respective dance well.

BODYTRAFFIC served as a good reminder to the audience that dancing is more than just flashy moves and pretty costumes.

With beautiful music, and the right music, and incredibly strong and poised dancers, it is truly a form of art.

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

## STORM

Continued from A1

### How the Nor'easter Affects Florida

The nor'easter was expected to deluge coastal New England and New Jersey with heavy rain Friday and deliver hurricane-strength winds to Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, according to a weather service forecast.

Early Friday morning, it already had brought more than 1 foot of snow to parts of New York, the weather service stated.

By the afternoon, a drop in the storm's barometric pressure caused the nor'easter to undergo a rapid intensification known as "bombogenesis."

Despite the devastating impact up North, the storm's effect on Florida won't be as troublesome.

"There's no extreme cold air coming from behind the system," Kottowski said. "The real cold air is bottled up in central and eastern Canada. There's no way for that air to get here."

And even though the Sunshine State will feel brisk air that came from the storm, it won't be as chilly.

### COASTAL STORM WREAKS HAVOC

A nor'easter pounded the Atlantic coast with hurricane-force winds and sideways rain and snow Friday, flooding streets, grounding flights, stopping trains and leaving 1.6 million customers without power from North Carolina to Maine. At least five people were killed by falling trees or branches.

The storm submerged cars and toppled tractor-trailers, sent waves higher than a two-story house crashing into the Massachusetts coast, forced schools and businesses to close early and caused a rough ride for passengers aboard a flight that landed at Dulles Airport outside Washington.

The Eastern Seaboard was hammered by gusts exceeding 50 mph, with winds of 80 to 90 mph on Cape Cod. Ohio and upstate New York got a foot or more of snow. Boston and Rhode Island were expected to get 2 to 5 inches.

—The Associated Press

That's because the cold air warms up when it interacts with warmer temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean as it flows south, Towle said.

"We're very lucky by the fact that between New England and the Florida coast, we have 900 miles of open ocean," he said. "And that ocean is much warmer than the air up in New England."

By the time the cold air reaches Bermuda, more than 1,000 miles northeast of Florida, it warms up by about 10 to 12 degrees, Towle said.

But those who live along Florida's east coast may notice extremely rough surf and some coastal erosion, Towle said.

Surf zone forecasts for the National Weather Service's Jacksonville and Melbourne offices predicted a moderate risk of rip currents because of tidal effects from the storm on the Atlantic coast.

Tides also may affect fishing, said Randy DiSanto, president of The Villages Freshwater Fishing Club. Bassmaster.com's lunar fishing calendars show today through March 15 are rated "fair" or "poor" fishing days.

"I don't know if it's the pending cold front, but the weather affects the lunar tables," said DiSanto, of the

Village of Summerhill.

### Relief From Record February Heat

Central Florida's cooldown comes following a month of record warmth.

The year 2018 marked the hottest February on record for most of the region, which also was drier than normal, the National Weather Service stated Thursday.

Towle doesn't expect record heat in March.

"We started a little cooler, so you'd really have to have way high temperatures at the end of the month to balance things out again," he said.

That outlook doesn't change one reality that defines Florida.

When summer temperatures disappear, they resurface sooner than elsewhere in the country.

Villagers may expect hot weather in the high 70s and low 80s to return in as few as 10 days, Towle said.

"We will warm up like a regular spring should," he said.

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