

Backstage Pass

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

Len Savery and The Moonlighters Perform April 29

By FRANK ROSS | Daily Sun Staff Writer



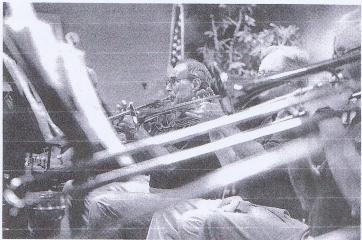
Tom Scheponik, of the Village Santiago, plays the saxophone during practice with the Moonlighters.

If you're a fan of big band music and dancing cheek to cheek, then you'll want to make sure you are in the audience when Len Savery and the Moonlighters take the stage April 29. The event, a fundraiser for Villagers for Veterans, is scheduled from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Eisenhower Recreation Center, 3560 Buena Vista Blvd.

Members of the Moonlighters are donating their considerable musical talents to benefit the Villages Honor Flight, which takes veterans on trips to see national monuments in Washington. In addition to Savery, seven of the band's members are veterans who are enthusiastic supporters of those who have served.

The band, featuring vocalists Zanna Duckett and Marge Phillips, performs music by Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw and Harry James, as well as popular songs from the 1950s and '60s.

Savery said the band has been working hard on new numbers, including a new arrangement of "Do you Know What it Means



Photos by Hannah Ridings | Daily Sun

Don Brannon, of the Village of Hillsborough, plays the trumpet during practice with the Moonlighters at La Hacienda Recreation Center. The Moonlighters are preparing for two upcoming events that will benefit veterans.

to Miss New Orleans." Other special arrangements include Tom Scheponik on Benny Goodman's "Amapola." In addition to great music and dancing for a good cause, there's a veteran guest of honor for the evening: 94-year-old Stewart Banks Jr., who served in the South Pacific on the aircraft carrier USS Bennington from 1943 to 1946 and received three battle stars. Banks served again during the Korean "emergency," as he calls it.

This performance is open to the public, and a Villages ID is not required. Music fans are invited to bring their own drinks and snacks.

Advance tickets are \$10, plus a 75-cent service fee, available online at tickettailor.com/events/moonlightersbigband. If the show isn't sold out, tickets will be available when doors open at 5:10 p.m. for \$10 each (cash only).

For additional information, contact Len Savery at Isavery@comcast.net.

Frank Ross is a staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. He can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5367, or frank.ross@ thevillagesmedia.com.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

Correction: In an article about the Moonlighters on page A12 of the April 15 edition of the Daily Sun, the group's April 29 performance was incorrectly identified as a fundraiser for Villages Honor Flight. The show is to honor all veterans. The group's Honor Flight fundraiser is scheduled for May 19.