ENTERTAINMENT

Crooked Tree ballet dancer headed to Miami City Ballet

The Crooked Tree Arts Center and its School of Ballet recently announced that 15-yearold Petoskey native Taylor Naturkas has recently moved to Miami, Florida, and accepted a place in the highest level division of Miami City Ballet's Pre-Professional 2 program.

Naturkas danced with the school of ballet for 11 years, and leaves the program at the standing of preprofessional dancer, the school's highest level of study. Since the age of 4, Naturkas has passionately pursued her dream of becoming a professional ballerina and this move to Miami brings her one step closer to her goal.

During her time with the School of Ballet, Naturkas studied yearround and also participated in the following summer intensive programs: Suzanne Farrell



Ballet

Taylor Naturkas

(2017);and Miami City Ballet (2018). She has performed notable roles on stage, including Toto in "The Wizard of Oz"; Sammy in "Trumpet of the Swan"; Red Radish in "Cipollino"; Fairy Godmother in "Cinderella"; Rose and Fox in "Le Petit Prince"; and Clara, Arabian and the Sugar Plum Fairy in productions of "The Nutcracker."

For the past two years, Naturkas was also the full-time, personal teaching assistant for the school of ballet artistic director, Heather Raue.

"Taylor always went above and beyond, without the intention of recognition, to guide, inspire, comfort, and appreciate those around her," Raue said.

Now, Naturkas dances six days a week and is working to complete her sophomore year of high school during evenings and weekends.

"This is a tremendous challenge," Naturkas said, "... but also an amazing opportunity."

For more information on the Crooked Tree Arts Center School of Ballet or Crooked Tree Dance Scholarship Fund, contact the arts center at (231) 347-4337 or visit www.crookedtree. org. The Crooked Tree Arts Center is located at 461 E. Mitchell St. in Petoskey.



In partnership with the Charlevoix Public Library , Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce, and Charlevoix Courier for more information go to charlevoix.org or call 231-547-2101



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Meet Steve.

Steve Zucker has worked as a journalist for Northern Michigan Review since 1997. For most of this time he as worked as a reporter for the Petoskey News-Review, but for more than three of those years he served as the editor of the News-Review's sister publication, the Charlevoix Courier. He has covered a wide array of topics and communities around Northern Michigan including extensive coverage of fire, police and court activity. He has won many awards for his writing and photography.

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