



BEFORE THEY WERE VILLAGERS | D5
Joyce Kruppa worked as an American Red Cross station manager in Guantanamo Bay.

6 a.m. 9 a.m. 12 p.m. 3 p.m. 6 p.m. 9 p.m.
60° 68° 78° 80° 74° 67°

OUT & ABOUT IN THE VILLAGES | A4
Senior Writer Veronica Wernicke shares observations from a day in The Villages.



IN SPORTS | B1

A bye week leaves the NFC South-leading Buccaneers rested and refreshed as they prepare to get some injured players back for the home stretch.



IN LIFESTYLE | E1

The Goofy Villagers club gathered Monday at Rohan Recreation for fun, photos and treasured moments at its 9th Pirate Night.

Staff writer Sylaisa Taylor gives readers an inside look into the vibrant social scene in The Villages. Learn more about the event that allowed members to tap into their creative side.

IN NATIONAL NEWS | A2

BIPARTISAN TALKS TO END SHUTDOWN INTENSIFY BUT REACH NO RESOLUTION

Lawmakers in both parties felt increased urgency Thursday to alleviate a growing airport crisis, pay government workers and restore delayed food aid, but resolution still appeared far off amid internal disagreements.

IN WORLD NEWS

ISRAELI JETS STRIKE SOUTHERN LEBANON, TARGETING HEZBOLLAH

The Israeli military said it targeted military infrastructure for Hezbollah after urging residents in those areas to leave. **A11**

IN CONSUMER NEWS

IRS DIRECT FILE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR FILING SEASON 2026

The electronic system for filing tax returns for free will not be offered next year, the Trump administration confirmed. **D14**

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Maddie Cutler

Anyone curious about the newest cars on the market can visit the 2026 New Car Auto Showcase, which features more than 100 new vehicles all in one place. The 23rd annual showcase will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Lake Sumter Landing, with cars parked around Market Square.

Please See **AUTO, A9**

SPECIAL ELECTION FACTS

52

Florida House District 52 is poised for a Jan. 13 special primary election and a March 24 special general election for approximately 164,000 registered voters in Sumter County and parts of Hernando County to fill the seat formerly held by John Temple. Gov. Ron DeSantis ordered the special election Wednesday.



Submitted Photo

Samantha Scott is the only candidate at this time for the Florida House of Representatives District 52 seat.

Gov. DeSantis Sets Special Election for State House Seat

By KEITH PEARLMAN | Daily Sun Managing Editor

The Villages and Sumter County will have a new state representative in early 2026.

Gov. Ron DeSantis issued an executive order Wednesday to set a special election to fill the Florida House of Representatives District 52 seat formerly held by John Temple.

A primary election is scheduled for Jan. 13, 2026,

with the general election to be held March 24, 2026. District 52 encompasses all of Sumter County and part of Hernando County.

Registered Republican Samantha Scott is the only announced candidate for the seat at this time.

Please See **ELECTION, A6**

NEWS, NOTES & HAPPENINGS

NATIONAL NEWS

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN DISRUPTIONS WILL IMPACT FLORIDA AIRPORTS BEGINNING TODAY

Flights at 40 major U.S. airports, including three in Florida, will see their service reduced because of the record-breaking federal government shutdown — now in its 38th day.

Orlando International, Tampa International and Miami International airports all will see disruptions. Anchors Away Cruises and Tours, which has an office in The Villages, already is receiving plenty of calls, texts and emails from concerned travelers getting ready to board a flight.

"If you plan to travel soon, make sure to have your airline's app on your phone," said Monique Ross, Anchors' business development director. "They are fast, up-to-date and likely quicker to give us the latest on a flight delay or cancellation than the airline's website."

Ross also encouraged residents to use a travel advisor if possible to help in case of unexpected delays, cancellations or movements to other flights.

— James Dinan, Daily Sun



WHY IS THIS HAPPENING NOW?

The flight reductions are because of air traffic controller staffing shortages delaying flights nationwide. Many air traffic controllers, as well as those who work as air marshals, baggage screeners and immigration officers, are essential federal employees who are not being paid during the shutdown. Federal employees missed their first paycheck last month.

HOW ARE AIRLINES RESPONDING?

Delta and American expect to operate a vast majority of scheduled flights and minimize customer impact. Frontier Airlines CEO Barry Biffle urged passengers to consider booking a backup ticket on another carrier if they are flying in the next nine days. Many U.S.-based carriers are pledging to be flexible when it comes to refunds.



Make it a Great Day!

Weather	D2
Recreation Listings	D8-10
Recipes	E1
Comics	E4
Puzzles	E5-6
Horoscopes	E7
Advice	E8

BY THE NUMBERS

30-40%

Being consistently physically active in adulthood is linked to an extended lifespan and a 30% to 40% lower risk of death from any cause in later life, according to a new analysis published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine. Upping levels from below those recommended for health is also associated with a 20% to 25% lower risk of death. Currently, it's recommended that adults should aim for 150 to 300 weekly minutes of moderate intensity physical activity, or 75 to 150 weekly minutes of vigorous intensity physical activity, or a combination of the two.