



**BEFORE THEY WERE VILLAGERS | C5**  
Paula Pryer owned a bridal shop and flower shop in Pennsylvania for more than 40 years.

5 a.m. 8 a.m. 11 a.m. 2 p.m. 5 p.m. 8 p.m.  
61° 60° 79° 86° 87° 80°

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



**WORLD NEWS | A10**

**PAKISTANI ARMY CHIEF IN TEHRAN AMID BID TO RESTART U.S. TALKS**

Field Marshal Asim Munir met Wednesday in Tehran with Iran's foreign minister in the latest diplomatic move to ease tensions in the Middle East and arrange a second round of negotiations between the United States and Iran after almost seven weeks of war.

**WORLD NEWS | A21**

**POPE DEMANDS 'CHAINS OF CORRUPTION' BE BROKEN IN CAMEROON**

Pope Leo XIV did not hold back in addressing the country's authoritarian leader with a message about corruption.

**ONLY IN THE VILLAGES**

By Andrea Davis

What started out as a simple item in a care package to a friend is now a traveling "good luck" charm of sorts. A gold coin with the phrase "My Hand in Yours" has now been held by six women while they were undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

In 2026, according to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, an estimated 321,910 women will be diagnosed with new invasive cases of breast cancer, along with 60,730 additional non-invasive cases. That's about 1 in 8 women developing it in their lifetime.

Please See **COIN, A8**

**Top of the News**

## Athletes Ready for Senior Games Kickoff



Daily Sun file photo

Pete Clanton, left, of the Village of St. Catherine, throws his disc and Brad Jackson, of the Village of LaBelle, watches as they compete in the 2025 The Villages Senior Games disc golf competition.



Rachel Govola | Daily Sun

Tracey Flynn, left, of the Village of Lake Denham, and Sandy Civitaresse, of the Village of Lynnhaven, compete in the 2025 The Villages Senior Games doubles pickleball at Everglades Recreation.



Daily Sun file photo

Lisa Vokey, behind, of the Village of Sanibel, and Beverly Bibikan-Koenig, of the Village of Lake Deaton, play in the 2025 The Villages Senior Games tennis competition.



Daily Sun file photo

Steve Shears, of the Village of Springdale, hits the ball in the championship match for the 65-69 age group during the 2025 The Villages Senior Games water volleyball competition.

With record participation expected in 2026, athletes are gearing up for a festival of sports, spirit and friendly rivalry.

By **JAMMEL CUTLER** | Daily Sun Senior Writer

It doesn't matter if it's with the splash of a pool, playing on one of the many tennis or bocce courts or an outing to a golf course or the billiards rooms, any athletic excursion in The Villages could bring someone in contact with some of the best senior athletes in Central Florida. And once a year, those athletes join in competition for The Villages Senior Games — now counting down the days to the 2026 edition, for which the Celebration of Athletes on Friday launches 10 days of competition and community spirit. Now in its 23rd year, the annual sports festival is a staple of local athletics. Promoting a healthy lifestyle in the spirit of friendly competition, the games offer competition across the many sports at venues across Florida's Friendliest Hometown. Age divisions begin with the 50-54 bracket, but some events see competitors in their 90s.

Please See **SENIOR GAMES, A7**

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Sumter Declines New Studies For Morse Boulevard**

By **KEITH PEARLMAN**  
Daily Sun Managing Editor

When Sumter County commissioners went to the Amenity Authority Committee with a proposal to fund an updated study on golf cart traffic on Morse Boulevard north of County Road 466, it was presented as a "last look."

Commissioners backed up that assertion at their meeting Tuesday night in response to the AAC taking no action on the proposal.

Commissioner Deb Butterfield attended the March meeting of the AAC with an offer from the county to pay about \$50,000 to ask engineering consultant Kimley-Horn to determine what improvements could be made with a \$7 million budget — the amount remaining in an AAC fund from a settlement with The Villages Developer.

Butterfield returned to the AAC at a budget workshop April 1 when

Please See **MORSE, A6**

**SPORTS NEWS | B1**

**CONCESSION GOLF CLUB EXPECTS TO PLAY TOUGH FOR SENIOR PGA**

The top golfers on the PGA Champions Tour will face a daunting challenge when the Senior PGA Championship hits Bradenton.

**LOCAL NEWS | C1**

**VOLUNTEERS IN THE VILLAGES MEET NEEDS AT HOME AND ABROAD**

Local groups deliver food to seniors, sort eyeglasses for global missions and support children in underserved communities.

**HEADLINES & DATELINES**

**STATE NEWS**

**FLORIDA TO ALLOW 'WINTER GAS' TO GO ON SALE IN SUMMER TO EASE PRICES AT PUMP**

Florida is following the federal government's move to allow winter gas to be sold in the summer.

There might not be much relief at the pump for Sunshine State drivers, though, because very little winter gas, known as E15 gasoline, is sold in the state.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services issued an emergency rule Tuesday to extend the period for retailers to sell E15 gas. Starting May 1, gas stations can sell the gas for 90 days.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency issued its emergency order March 25 giving states the option of selling the E15 gas in the summer months.

"EPA is working with our federal partners to reduce unnecessary costs and uncertainty and ensure that gas prices remain affordable for all Americans through the summer," EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said in a statement when the rule was announced. — News Service of Florida



**WHY IS THE GAS BLEND RESTRICTED TO USE IN WINTER?**

According to the EPA, E15 is gas blended with 10.5% to 15% ethanol. It's not typically used during the summer months because of concerns the higher ethanol concentration can worsen smog. According to the FDACS emergency rule, it will "help to ensure a consistent supply of fuel in the state."

**GAS PRICES ON THE RISE DUE TO IRAN WAR**

Gas prices have spiked since the attacks by U.S. and Israeli forces on Iran, aiming to disrupt the Islamic republic's missile program. The Iranian government responded by blocking the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint for the global oil trade. In Florida, the average gallon of gas rose from less than \$3 to more than \$4 since the attacks began. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told reporters that he believes U.S. gasoline prices will be closer to \$3 gallon this summer.

**ALSO FEATURED INSIDE TODAY**

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Coast to Coast	A6
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Local News	C1
Weather	C2-3
Recreation	C8-10
Lifestyle	D1
On The Squares	D3
Comics & Puzzles	D4-6



**TODAY'S TOP PICK: HEAD TO EUSTIS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY FAIR**

Enjoy traditional carnival rides, live music, fair food and a variety of events at the fair running through Sunday.