



BEFORE THEY WERE VILLAGERS | C5
Gary Bailey worked for multiple electric firms during his 41-year career in electronics.

5 a.m. 8 a.m. 11 a.m. 2 p.m. 5 p.m. 8 p.m.
70° 71° 78° 83° 80° 75°

OUT & ABOUT IN THE VILLAGES | A4
Senior writer Taylor Strickland shares observations from a day in The Villages.



WORLD NEWS | A2

HANTAVIRUS PATIENT CRITICALLY ILL AS TOTAL CASES GROW TO 11

A French woman infected with a severe form of hantavirus in the deadly outbreak on a cruise ship is suffering life-threatening lung and heart problems and is being treated with an artificial lung, a doctor at the Paris hospital caring for the passenger said.

NATIONAL NEWS | A9

HEGSETH FACES QUESTIONS ON IRAN IN SENATE HEARINGS

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth faced tough questions Tuesday from lawmakers on the Iran war and its rising costs.

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES
By Sylaisha Taylor

Like a scene out of the film "The Public Enemy," featuring James Cagney, whispers of "What's the password?" floated around Everglades Recreation on Saturday night. Members of The Villages Craft Beer and Brewing Enthusiasts Club filled the halls fueled by the lure of secrecy for its first Breweasy event.

"I've never seen The Villages look like this before," said member Debbie Mongan, of the Village of Well Point. The speakeasy-themed event marked the club's

Please See **BREWEASY, A7**

Top of the News

Families Receive Homes Built by VHS Students



Rita Jimenez | Daily Sun

Susan and Aubrey Rutz, center, stand in front of their newly dedicated home Tuesday in Bushnell. Habitat for Humanity of Lake-Sumter selects working families that can qualify for a mortgage on a house.

Students from The Villages High School's Construction Management Academy built both homes from start to finish.

By **GARRETT SHIFLET**
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Beneath a freshly-finished roof, students and community members gathered to celebrate two families' dreams come true.

Habitat for Humanity of Lake-Sumter and The Villages High School's Construction Management Academy held its joint home dedication ceremonies Tuesday in Bushnell.

Habitat for Humanity of Lake-Sumter selects working families that can qualify for a mortgage on a house that is built through partnership.

The Rutz and Cummings families were present to be honored by all the builders and partners that helped finish the home.

"It's overwhelming and it's exciting," said Susan Rutz. "It feels like it's been coming for a really long time and it just feels surreal that we're actually going to be moving in here in a couple of weeks."

After months of waiting, the weight is finally off her shoulders.

All Rutz could think about doing first in her new home was thanking God.

"I'm going to every room and just say a prayer," Rutz said. "Just praying that God watches over us the entire time we're in the house, keeps us safe and just thank him for every single room."

Habitat for Humanity Lake-Sumter deals with dozens of

Please See **HABITAT, A8**

LOCAL NEWS

Care for Your Mental Well-Being This Month

May marks Mental Health Awareness Month, a time for reducing stigma and increasing support.

By **BREA JONES**
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Bonnie Hovel, of the Village of Collier, believes Florida is in a mental health crisis and the data backs her up.

In Florida there are 1 in 5 adults who experience mental illness from depression and anxiety to ADHD and PTSD every year, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

With more than 7.8 million adults in the state living in an area without enough mental health professionals, Florida ranks 43 out of 51 in states with access to care, according to the Florida Hospital Association.

Hovel has spent her life helping provide relief to others experiencing crisis as a retired license clinical social worker and still provides assistance today

Please See **AWARENESS, A6**

IN ARTS | A20

RESIDENTS SHOW OFF THEIR TALENTS AT LA GALLERIA ART SHOW

Pieces from The Visual Arts Association's latest art exhibition will be on display at La Hacienda Recreation for the next few months.

LOCAL NEWS | C1

AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 ELECTS NEW COMMANDER

Beth Rowley, who was recently elected for the American Legion Post in Wildwood, is the post's first female commander.

HEADLINES & DATELINES

STATE NEWS

GOV. DESANTIS SIGNS 9 NEW FLORIDA LAWS

An effort to help businesses handle the end of the penny and a trio of education bills were among nine from the 2026 regular session signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis on Monday.

The penny bill (SB 1074) allows businesses to round up or down to the nearest nickel in cash transactions.

"With this framework, Florida is a model for how states can navigate currency changes, ensuring businesses can prosper and consumers are protected," Florida Retail Federation President and CEO Scott Shalley said in a statement following the bill's signing.

The law takes effect immediately. It doesn't alter the sales price, the amount of tax collected or any surcharges, assessments or fees imposed on the sale.

The change was crafted to follow the federal government's decision last year to cease production of the one-cent coin.

— News Service of Florida



EDUCATION BILLS COVER MARCHING BAND, SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Among the education bills, one allows two years of marching band to satisfy physical education and performing arts requirements for a high school diploma. Another measure creates the District School Board Members' Bill of Rights, which gives members the ability to publicly comment on district school board business. A third bill revises educational programs concerning epilepsy and revises requirements for a student's individualized seizure plan.

ALSO FEATURED INSIDE TODAY

World News	A2
Lottery	A3
Public Safety News	A5
Arts Extra	A17
On The Squares	A19
Sports	B1
Local News	C1
Weather	C2-3
Recreation	C8-10
Lifestyle	D1
Comics & Puzzles	D4-6



TODAY'S TOP PICK: BEAT THE HEAT AT THE WILDWOOD SPLASH PAD

The splash pad at 600 Walker Road, Wildwood, is open for children to enjoy as a way to cool off from the heat.