



**HINTS FROM HELOISE | E2**

Drying off your toothbrush after use can help stop bacteria from growing in the bristles.

5 a.m.	8 a.m.	11 a.m.	2 p.m.	5 p.m.	8 p.m.
75°	76°	87°	92°	92°	83°

**OUT & ABOUT IN THE VILLAGES | A4**

Senior writer Summer Jarro shares observations from a day in The Villages.



**NATIONAL NEWS | A11**

**SENATE PUSHES HEGSETH FOR ACTION ON UKRAINIAN AID**

A bipartisan group of senators pushed back on delays by the Department of Defense in spending \$600 million in security aid to Ukraine and Eastern Europe as friction grows over updates on what has happened with the money allocated by Congress.

**SPORTS NEWS | B1**

**VILLAGER IS WORLD'S BEST TRIATHLETE IN THEIR AGE BRACKET**

Village of Hawkins resident Keith Tufte claimed the sprint distance triathlon world title for the 65-69 age division.

**ONLY IN THE VILLAGES**

By Andrea Davis

A handful of residents recently went on a trip they described as a trip of a lifetime. The trip in question — watching the Merrie Monarch Hula Competition and Festival in Hilo, Hawaii — a competition known as the “Olympics” of hula.

“We didn’t go to dance in the competition; we went to watch and learn,” said Hula Ohana group leader Carrie Wood. “We were blessed to even be able to go because there are limited tickets that are distributed in a lottery fashion. There are only like 3,000 available to

Please See **OHANA, A9**

# Friends, Family Salute 2026 VHS Graduates



Above: Seniors toss their caps into the air as the graduation ceremony ends Friday at The Villages High School.

Right: Valedictorian Alexis Farkus receives a hug as she walks off the stage during Friday’s graduation ceremony.

Photos by Rita Jimenez, Daily Sun



The graduating class saw 266 members make their mark academically and athletically in the school’s history.

By GARRETT SHIFLET | Daily Sun Staff Writer

A sea of green-cloaked seniors stood before their graduation stage with bated breath, clutching their caps for Principal Rob Grant’s closing remarks.

“Class of 2026, congratulations on your incredible achievements. Let the journey begin and go buffalo!” Grant said.

Hundreds of caps flew in the air as friends and family rejoiced Friday evening during The Villages High School’s graduation ceremony inside the Buffalo Sports Complex in Middleton.

Please See **GRADUATES, A6**

HEADLINES & DATELINES

**SPACE NEWS**

**SPACEX LAUNCHES ITS BIGGEST, MOST BEEFED-UP STARSHIP YET ON TEST FLIGHT**

SpaceX launched its biggest, most powerful Starship yet on a test flight Friday, an upgraded version that NASA is counting on to land astronauts on the moon.

The redesigned mega rocket made its debut two days after SpaceX CEO Elon Musk announced he’s taking the company public. It blasted off from the southern tip of Texas, carrying 20 mock Starlink satellites for release halfway around the world.

It’s the 12th test flight of the rocket that Musk is building to get people to Mars one day. But first comes the moon and NASA’s Artemis program.

The last of the old space-skimming Starships lifted off in October. SpaceX’s third-generation Starship — a souped-up version dubbed V3 — soared from a brand-new launch pad at Starbase, near the Mexican border. Last-minute pad issues thwarted Thursday evening’s launch attempt.

— The Associated Press



The Associated Press

**SPACECRAFT BOASTS NEW FEATURES**

At 407 feet, the latest model eclipses the older Starship lines by several feet and packs more engine thrust. The revamped booster sports fewer but bigger and stronger grid fins for steering it back to Earth following liftoff, and a larger and more robust fuel transfer line to feed the 33 main engines. The retro-looking, stainless steel spacecraft also has more cameras, navigation and computer power — as well as docking cones for future rendezvous and moon missions.

**ALSO FEATURED INSIDE TODAY**

World News	A2
Lottery	A2
Public Safety News	A5
Sports	B1
Auto Extra	C1
Local News	D1
Weather	D2-3
Recreation	D9
Lifestyle	E1
On The Squares	E3
Comics & Puzzles	E4-6



**TODAY'S TOP PICK: FRIENDS OF LAKE GRIFFIN ECO-TOUR**

Explore Lake Griffin’s Dead River Marsh by kayak with certified paddle guides from 9 to 10:30 a.m. today.