



HINTS FROM HELOISE | D5
A reader offers a reminder that skin care starts with basics — like drinking water.

6 a.m. 9 a.m. 12 p.m. 3 p.m. 6 p.m. 9 p.m.
55° 62° 73° 79° 74° 69°

ABBY BITTNER ON COMMUNITY | C1
Enjoy the last couple of days of the annual light show at Florida Citrus Tower in Clermont.



TOP WORLD AND NATION NEWS

STATE BUDGETS BENEFIT FROM INFLATION FIGHT, A5

Around the World:
Massive fire in Cambodia hotel kills at least 19. **A3**

Across the Nation:
California closing out the year with storms. **A2**

In Florida: Youngsters compete in holiday-themed games. **C5**

SPORTS NEWS

GUTTY EFFORT GIVES BUFFALO 3RD AT BATTLE

The Villages High denies Miami Northwestern in the final seconds and wins the Battle at the Villages third-place game 57-56. **B1**

LOCAL NEWS

LADY LAKE CHAMBER PLANS SLEW OF EVENTS

The Lady Lake Chamber is offering a variety of events in the coming new year, from a community yard sale to networking lunches. **C3**

LOCAL NEWS

ORANGE BLOSSOM OPRY TO HOLD SINGING CONTEST

The music venue is hosting its first-ever Showcase Superstar Contest, where the winner gets to record a demo. **C12**

OUR TOWN | A YEAR IN REVIEW



India Pantin | Daily Sun

Spencer and Diane Lampert, residents of the Village of DeLuna, shop at The Villages Grown at The Market at Sawgrass Grove.



George Horsford | Daily Sun

Members of the Canoe and Kayak Club paddle next to the boardwalk behind Lake Okahumpka Recreation during the grand opening.



Bill Mitchell | Daily Sun

Joan McKenna, left, and Laura Kasman, both of the Village of Calumet Grove, look at artwork hanging at First Responders Recreation.

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period Begins Sunday

HEALTH CARE CHOICES

The period allows those who recently chose a Medicare Advantage plan, and aren't satisfied with it, to swap it.

By LEAH SCHWARTING | Daily Sun Specialty Editor

If you're feeling some buyer's remorse over your choices during the recent Medicare Annual Enrollment Period, it may not be too late.

Starting Sunday, anyone in a Medicare Advantage plan can select a different plan or choose to join traditional Medicare. The new period, which runs through March 31, is known as the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period.

"It's three months that really gives them the opportunity to assess if there's any disruption, any changes they need to revert



For more information about traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage, visit [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

Please See **MEDICARE, A8**

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Leah Shewmaker

Once again, The Studio Theatre Tierra Del Sol earned numerous nominations for the BroadwayWorld Orlando Awards, and now is the time for patrons to vote.

The theater was nominated 36 times for various categories in direction, costume, lighting and more.

To win, The Studio Theatre needs the votes of its patrons who enjoyed the 2021-22 season.

"The Studio Theatre patrons are very enthusiastic, thoughtful and kind people," said Whitney Morse, artistic director at The Sharon and The Studio Theatre Tierra Del Sol. "Having their support means the world. As an artist, you strive

Please See **AWARDS, A8**

A Look Back at 2022's Community Debuts

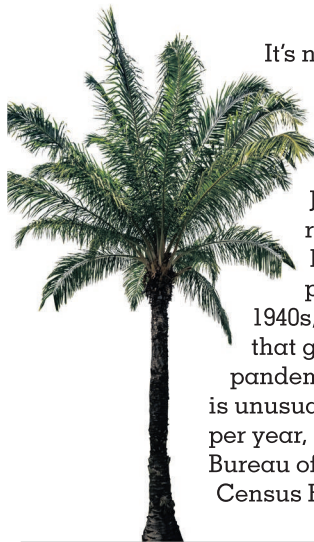
By GARRETT SHIFLET | Daily Sun Staff Writer

Sawgrass Grove came alive throughout 2022, quickly becoming a new hot spot in The Villages. The area is a new kind of gathering spot, bringing together live entertainment, a bustling market and restaurant, and recreation and golf amenities in one location and its opening was one of the highlights of the year. Plenty of opening celebrations — from recreation centers to restaurants — took place in all corners of the community. Villagers could enjoy new recreation amenities, such as astronomy pads at Homestead Recreation and kayaking at Lake Okahumpka Recreation. Also new were amenities planned and constructed by resident committees, such as First Responders Recreation and the Blake Lake Walking Path. Here is a snapshot

Please See **COMMUNITY, A10**

HEADLINES & DATELINE

Flocking to Florida



It's not your imagination: People really are flocking to the Sunshine State. Florida had the fastest-growing population in the country last year — the first time the state has taken the top spot since 1957, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates released last week. The nation's third-largest state grew by 1.9% from July 2021 to July 2022 — netting over 400,000 new residents to reach an estimated population of 22,244,823. That's the second-largest numeric gain behind Texas, which has a larger overall population. Florida's population has grown every year since the 1940s, often outpacing the U.S. average. But, like the rest of the U.S., that growth rate slowed to historic lows during the first years of the pandemic before bouncing back last year. This year's jump in population is unusual for a state that typically sees 300,000 to 360,000 new residents per year, said Christopher McCarty, director of the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research, which contributes to the Census Bureau's population estimates. — The Associated Press

WHY FLORIDA?

Florida's population growth is typically driven by more people moving to the state than leaving it, rather than birth rates. But there's no one reason why so many people are moving to Florida. McCarty pointed to Florida's lack of income tax and business-friendly politics, as well as that this is "just a really nice place to live."

A CONTINUING TREND

The last time Florida had the fastest population growth in the country was in 1957, when it grew by 8%. The Sunshine State's population growth took off in the 1950s, likely in part because air conditioning became more prevalent in southern states. Since then, the state has consistently ranked near the top in population growth.



World News	A2
Coast to Coast	A4
Lottery	A4
Big Issue	A5
Sports	B1
Local News	C1
Weather	C2
Recreation Centers	C8-9
Lifestyle	D1
On The Squares	D3
Comics & Puzzles	D6-8



from the front page

MEDICARE

Continued from A1

back to,” said Emilio Noble, Villages Health vice president of sales and marketing.

For the last three months, many seniors were faced with the choice of signing up for, or switching to, traditional Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan.

The difference between the two is traditional Medicare is hospital and medical insurance, which people can add to with supplemental insurance like prescription drug coverage. Medicare Advantage plans, however, often include drug coverage, vision and dental, and there are a lot of them out there.

During those past few months, the trained volunteers of Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE) were kept busy dispensing advice. The free program, which is offered through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, provides health insurance counseling on topics such as Medicare.

There were a lot of people who had questions about Medicare Advantage plans, said John Krier, area coordinator for SHINE of Lake and Sumter counties. Many wanted to understand the new benefits they would get.

“Traditionally, people would come in and want to talk about drug plans,” said Krier, of the Village of Pinellas. “Not this year.”

In the months ahead, he expects to see an increased amount of buyer's remorse after people start getting some experience with their new plans. When people see their doctors, they may find they aren't covered anymore.

It's something The Villages Health has run into before.

“So often that's an issue that causes a lot of concern: they've made a switch to a plan that's not accepted by TVH and then they go to make an appointment with us and they say ‘Oh, what do you mean I can't come to my appointment?’” said Sophie Ferenz, Villages Health manager of sales and marketing.

With the exception of its specialty care division, which also accepts traditional Medicare, The Villages Health only accepts Medicare Advantage plans from Humana, Florida Blue and UnitedHealthcare.

If someone intentionally or unintentionally chooses

a plan that doesn't partner with The Villages Health, Noble suggests setting up an appointment. Test how long it takes to get that appointment, how long you have to wait in the waiting area, and how much time is dedicated to you when you get in.

Krier also recommends giving new plans a test run. Contact your provider and see if you have to change any of your specialists. If you have a new primary doctor, schedule an appointment and see if you want to entrust your healthcare to them.

Make sure everyone you want is still covered.

“The big thing is that people need to talk to their new providers and make sure that they are satisfied with the providers that they're going to have under this new plan,” Krier said.

After the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period ends, Noble said, patients get locked in until the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period begins again in October.

If people are considering switching back to The Villages Health, they can reach out to TVH's new patient specialists. People can also get information at the Health Insurance Resource Centers, which are adjacent to the care centers.

Walk-ins are accepted at both, but making an appointment is encouraged. To make an appointment with a new patient specialist, call 352-205-4032. To find out the contact information for an individual resource center, see tinyurl.com/yhdwaddr.

Residents can also seek one-on-one help from SHINE. Starting in January, SHINE will meet from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on first and third Wednesdays at Eisenhower Recreation, 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. first and third Fridays at Chula Vista, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. second and fourth Tuesdays at Lake Miona Recreation and 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. second and fourth Wednesdays at the Lady Lake Public Library.

Specialty Editor Leah Schwarting can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5375, or leah.schwarting@thevillagesmedia.com.



Raleigh Mosely II performs as Benny in “Broadbend, Arkansas,” one of the shows nominated for the BroadwayWorld Orlando Awards.

Submitted photo

AWARDS

Continued from A1

to be proud of your work, but when people like it, that's the icing on the cake.”

Patrons can vote through Saturday by visiting broadwayworld.com/orlando/voteregion.cfm and entering their email address next to the “Start Voting!” box.

Voters must vote in all 20 categories, but there is an option to choose “no nominee.”

The Studio Theatre was nominated for every category except “Best New Play or Musical,” “Best Dance Production” and “Best Theatre for Young Audiences Production.”

“Vote for what you were excited about and what you want to see more of,” said Nathaniel Niemi, resident director at The Studio Theatre.

Niemi's direction and choreography for “Urinetown,” and his direction for “The Cake” was nominated for the BroadwayWorld Awards.

“We are thankful for everyone who supports The Studio,” he said.

Niemi said he hopes that with these nominations and a potential award, more people will learn about The Studio Theatre.

“I hear people say they didn't know this was here in The Villages,” he said. “So I hope it will bring more awareness that we're here, making exciting art that is saying something.”

He said it would be great to see community engagement increase even more, whether it is with audiences or more artists auditioning for shows.

“I want to say thank you to all the people who nominated us,” Morse said. “It's always an honor to be nominated, especially considering all of the talent in the area. The Orlando theater community

is very vibrant.”

Niemi agreed that it's exciting to see the work The Studio Theatre team is doing is being recognized.

“It's amazing to be on a collaborative, hardworking and creative team,” he said. “We worked together to perform some incredible shows this year.”

He said he first saw the BroadwayWorld Awards on Facebook and couldn't believe how many nominations there were for The Studio Theatre.

Morse said the team at The Studio Theatre continues to look forward to the future to improve.

“We've done that for a while, and I think were seeing the fruit of those labors,” she said.

The theater won it's first BroadwayWorld Award, Best Supporting Actress in a Play (Professional), in 2017 for Morse's performance in “Proof.”

Then, in 2021, Troy Elan Richardson won Best Supporting Performer In A Play in the theater's production of “Pipeline.”

In addition, The Studio Theatre won Most Anticipated Upcoming Production of a Musical in 2021 for its selection of “Urinetown,” which received many nominations for 2022.

“I love that our community is excited about what we're doing,” Niemi said. “It feels special and affirming that they are excited and keep coming out to see our performances. We love our community and patrons.”

Staff writer Leah Shewmaker can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5228, or leah.shewmaker@thevillagesmedia.com.

 **Special for Residents of The Villages® Community**
\$20 per person - 2-hour eco-tour
386-873-4843
www.BlueHeronRiverTours.com

PLAZA JEWELERS
HOLIDAY SALE!!!
Rings • Earrings
20%-60% OFF!!
(Across 466 from Walmart)
352-399-6043

LEGACY Be Happy Happy Hour All Day Everyday!
PLUS! Trivia Mondays 5:00-6:30
Bar & Grill **352-753-0822** 17155 BUENA VISTA BLVD., THE VILLAGES, FL
LIVE POOLSIDE ENTERTAINMENT
Now 5:00-8:00pm TUESDAY-SATURDAY!!

Friday BOGO 1/2 OFF Fish n' Chips With the purchase of two beverages	Saturday HALF PRICE WINGS Now All Day Long!	Sunday BOGO Burgers and Hot Dogs With the purchase of two beverages
--	---	---

GET \$20 BACK!
WITH EVERY \$100 GIFT CARD PURCHASE
*Voucher has no cash value. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Voucher cannot be redeemed same day as issued. Voucher cannot be used on Holidays. Voucher must be redeemed within 30 days of original purchase of gift certificate. Valid in-store or online.

Available at Legacy Pool Bar Only. Not valid with any other offers. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (no pool membership required for the bar)

~ Breaking News ~
~ Photo Galleries ~
~ Videos ~



Like Us on Facebook
facebook.com/vdailysun

Ultrasonic Blind Cleaning December Sale!
\$40 OFF DECEMBER SPECIAL
“Your blinds so clean they'll look new”
Testerman's Home Services
Serving Central Florida 15 Years With Over 6000 Customers in The Villages® Community
Call 352-242-0181 Expires 1/2/23 Offer Code WB1

YEAR-END SALE
Give your home a new look for the new year!
SAVE 10% on Everything in the Store!*

VINYL from \$5.69 Sq. Ft. Installed	WOOD from \$8.89 Sq. Ft. Installed	LAMINATE from \$5.09 Sq. Ft. Installed
---	--	--

Floors of Distinction
FLOORS • KITCHEN • BATH
In-House Installer • Licensed & Insured
Ask About Our Military Discount!
411 N. 14th St. (Hwy. 27), Leesburg | 352-787-7909 | www.floorsofdistinctionfl.com

*Product only. Now through Dec. 31, 2022. Some restrictions may apply. Cannot be combined with any other discount.

• Vinyl • Carpet • Hardwood
• Tile • Stone • Laminate
0% FINANCING AVAILABLE

BEAT THE PRICE INCREASE JAN. 1st

ARE DARK ROOMS A PROBLEM?

 **SOLATUBE** Tubular Skylights

HOLIDAY SAVINGS!
Buy 1 SAVE \$100
Buy 2 SAVE \$240
Buy 3 SAVE \$420
Ends December 31, 2022. Not valid with other offers.

Tubular Skylights are NOT created equal. Ask for SOLATUBE® by name!

- Highest Performance Guarantee - Energy Star Eliminates Heat/UV - Florida Hurricane Approved
- Local Showroom Since 2001
- 600+ Five Star Google Reviews
- Factory Trained Technicians (No Subs)

THE SOLARGUYS
SOLATUBE Premier Dealer

Did you know our family of companies includes Roofing and Seamless Gutters?

THE ROOF GUYS **THE GUTTER GUYS**

CALL FOR FREE IN-HOME CONSULTATION
1-866-639-4871
www.TheSolarGuys.com

INDUSTRY AFFILIATIONS & LICENSING
Building Contractor License #CBC1260615
Roofing License #CCC1330841
Solar License #CVC57042

SHOWROOM LOCATION
120 S.E. Hwy. 484
Ocala, FL 34480
1 Mile East of Don Garlits Museum