

WORLD NEWS

ITALY EARTHQUAKE KILLS 159, REDUCES TOWNS TO RUBBLE

Awakened to an “apocalyptic scene,” rescue crews used bulldozers and their bare hands to dig out survivors even as the number of dead and missing remained uncertain given the huge number of vacationers still in the area for summer’s final days.

World News, A6



The Associated Press

Rescuers search a crumbled building Wednesday in Arcuata del Tronto, central Italy, where a 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MARKS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

As it celebrates its 100th birthday Thursday, the agency is facing challenges ahead, among them is reaching out to minorities and getting them to visit.

National News, A8

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We support our men and women in uniform.



THAT'S AMAZING

CANINE CANDIDATE RE-ELECTED TOWN MAYOR

The four-legged mayor of a Minnesota village greets voters like a true politician. Duke, a 9-year-old Great Pyrenees, won a third one-year term as honorary mayor of Cormorant Township on Saturday. The big, shaggy white dog was overwhelmingly re-elected at the sixth annual Cormorant Daze Festival. Anyone could pay a dollar and cast a vote. Nelson says the canine mayor also is popular with children. She says Duke “can have 10 kids on him, and he don’t care.” Duke was first elected in a write-in vote in 2014.

COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS

Only in The Villages

LIFE IN FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

Club Collects Shoes to Raise Money For Puppy That Needs Surgery

Now is the time to clean out your closet for a good cause.

The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Dog Club of The Villages is collecting 2,500 pairs of new and gently used shoes as part of a fundraiser for Cavalier Rescue of Florida Inc.

The efforts are to help pay for the surgery of an 18-month-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel puppy named Hamilton, who was born with a grade six — out of six — heart murmur, and to raise money for other dogs at the rescue, based out of Enterprise.

“We have gathered 400 pairs of shoes

Please See SHOES, A14



Erin Williams | Daily Sun

Kimberly Foreman, left, with her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Lucy, sits with Martha Bryant and her dogs, Willow and Fiona. Foreman and Bryant have collected more than 400 pairs of shoes to donate to the Cavalier Rescue of Florida.

THE DIGIT

117

solar installations

The number of Sumter Electric Cooperative customers in The Villages who have rooftop solar panels. Overall, SECO has 425 residential and commercial customers with solar energy installations, up from 270 last year and outperforming Florida's other rural electric cooperatives, company spokeswoman Kathryn Gloria said.

— *Michael Salerno, Daily Sun*

TONIGHT'S EVENTS ON THE SQUARES

Entertainment runs from 5 to 9 p.m.

Spanish Springs Town Square
Steve Hogie Band
Happy hour, 5-7 p.m.

Lake Sumter Landing Market Square
Sugarbear Band
Happy hour, 5-6 p.m.

Brownwood Paddock Square
Liam Duncan Trio
Happy hour, 5-6 p.m.

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VOLUME 19 | ISSUE 238

from the front page



Erin Williams | Daily Sun

Lucy, left, and Willow, both Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, stand in a pile of shoes their owners have collected. The shoes are to be donated to the Cavalier Rescue of Florida. The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of The Villages will have its next meeting at 10 a.m. Sept. 17 at Burnsed Recreation Center, 4019 Deskin Lane.

SHOES

Continued from A1

so far from people in The Villages,” said Kimberly Foreman, president of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Dog Club of The Villages, who is working with Martha Bryant, the vice president of the club, on the project. “People have been dropping shoes off at our houses. We each have a box on our front porch. I even had a woman send me three boxes of shoes from Rhode Island.”

Donated shoes will be sent to Wooftrax — a company that creates fundraising opportunities for shelters and rescues while urging dogs and their humans to exercise together regularly.

The program, Woof-Trax Shoes for Shelters and Rescues, encourages shelters to collect shoes that will help humans across the globe with financial struggles. When the drive is done, Wooftrax picks up the shoes from the shelter and ships them to micro-enterprise organizations in developing countries.

The shoes are given to communities in need of a financial boost for them to sell at a small cost, to make a profit and help improve their lives and local economy.

In return, Wooftrax donates money to participating shelters across the country, including Cavalier Rescue of Florida Inc.

“The goal was to raise \$3,000 for Hamilton’s surgery, but there are so many other dogs that can use our help,” said Bryant, of the Village of Buttonwood. “The remaining money we raise could cover the spay and neuter bills and surgeries for other dogs. The Cavalier Rescue of Florida does everything (for the dogs).”

The cause is close to the two women’s hearts.

Foreman, of the Village of La Belle, has a 9-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Lucy.

Bryant has a 9-year-old Cavalier named Fiona and an 11-year-old foster named Willow.

“I love all animals,” Bryant said. “Birds, cats, dogs — I love them all. I saw a Cavalier when I was in Scotland and I looked for a Cavalier when I returned

DELIVERING DONATIONS

Donations can be delivered to 2112 Shady Hill Court, in the Village of Buttonwood, or 3362 Boardroom Trail, in the Village of La Belle, through the end of September. Tax-deduction forms are available.

Monetary donations can be made directly to Cavalier Rescue of Florida at cavrescuefl.com.

For information, call Kimberly Foreman at 461-0030 or Martha Bryant at 205-960-2763.

to the states and they weren’t that popular. My husband and I finally found one outside North Carolina. We adopted it and it found its way into my heart. I would do anything for this breed. They are just the sweetest little dogs. They are great companions.”

Bryant and Foreman hope that their love of Cavaliers will be contagious and that people

will open up their hearts and their closets.

“We’re encouraging people to go through their closets and clean out their new and gently used shoes,” Bryant said. “These shoes are a way to help people who don’t have all the luxuries many of us do and to help Cavalier Rescue of Florida, which needs the funds desperately.”

THEATRE

Continued from A1

comes “Private Lives” Jan. 16-19 and Jan. 20-Feb. 12, followed by “The Last Five Years” Feb. 20-23 and Feb. 24-March 19, and closing with “Proof” April 3-6 and April 7-30.

In addition to bringing the Studio Theatre to life, Whitney Morse will exercise her acting muscles by performing in three of the plays.

“The learning curve is steep, but it’s a fun one,” Morse said. “It’s a big deal. It’s kind of my baby, working on it for the last two years. It’s about to come to fruition. It’s going to be fun and challenging.”

Morse, who is the artistic director at The Sharon, has helped curate the shows and hire all of the directors and production managers for the Studio Theatre. A committee comprised of Morse, Jason Goedken, Trevin Cooper and Gary Powell selected the quartet of plays.

“Now I sit back and watch all these amazing people do this work,” Morse said.

Morse cast a wide net, holding auditions during the Florida Professional Theatres Association’s conference along with an open call audition at The Sharon. Cast members come from as near as Orlando and as far away as California.

Out of some 500 actors, Cooper had to fill eight parts for his two plays, the comedy “Private Lives” and the drama “Proof.”

“When you direct, you have a strong idea of what you’re looking for,” Cooper

said. “Once I heard them read (a script), I thought. ‘These people will be the right choices.’”

Savannah Center

Over at Savannah Center, things will be rockin’ this fall.

Brian Russo, director of The Villages Entertainment, is bringing in more rock and doo-wop acts from the 1950s and 1960s.

“The Sharon is doing well with the Broadway theatrical shows,” Russo said. “There’s a little hole with rock. With seasonal residents of the baby boomer age, there was a stronger demand for that than maybe five years ago.”

Chubby Checker, the man who had everyone doing the Twist, will return to The Villages on Oct. 25, while the Box Tops, known for the hit song “The Letter,” will perform Nov. 5.

October also will bring several tribute bands, including one for Bob Seger on Oct. 19, as well as others performing the music of the Carpenters, Chicago, and Blood, Sweat & Tears.

Other shows on the horizon include comedian Rich Little on Sept. 1, Alan Safer playing George Burns in “Say Good-night Gracie” on Sept. 12; rock ‘n’ rollin’ pianist Jason D. Williams on Sept. 19; and the sounds of Hawaii from the Makaha Sons on Oct. 8.

Several Villages resident groups will bring their shows to the Scarlett O’Hara Theater stage, including Divas vs. Divos on Sept. 17, KC Productions’ presenting “Forever

Plaid” Sept. 26-27, Jack Kolinski presenting “Singing for Second Base” on Oct. 1, and The Villages Concert Band’s fall concert on Oct. 13.

“We’re working hard together (with the other venues) to make sure that any given night you don’t have the same genre performing at multiple venues,” Russo said. “We will build a nice, cohesive schedule so (residents) can go to all venues, and not pick one over the other.”

The Sharon

The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center’s second season is already underway. The Villages Philharmonic is moving to The Sharon for its 2016-17 season, with its first show taking place Sept. 5.

Soprano saxophonist Kenny G will bring his smooth soprano sax sound on Sept. 3. Four Divo, featuring Fernando Varela, Brandon James, Craig Irving and Sunbong Choi, will perform the music of Forte, Il Divo and Frankie Valli Oct. 4-7.

Vocalist Linda Eder, who also played Lucy in “Jekyll and Hyde,” will perform Nov. 1, then give a master class Nov. 2.

For those in need of a good chuckle, the audience can check out Capitol Steps on Nov. 6 and the Southern Fried Chicks on Nov. 17.

Along with holiday-themed performances, a couple of big-name entertainers will close out 2016, including the Oak Ridge Boys on Dec. 9 and the Beach Boys on Dec. 17-18.

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