



THEVILLAGES DAILY SUN. COM

✓ TUESDAY) No

**NOVEMBER 14, 2023** 



BEFORE THEY WERE VILLAGERS | D5 Dale Dreps was renowned for her work in sales, including competing with Microsoft.

**GARRETT SHIFLET ON SCHOOLS | D1** 

Buffalo HERD's annual clay shoot fundraiser will be Dec. 1, and will benefit VCS.



**TOP WORLD AND NATION NEWS** 

# BIDEN, XI AIM TO SMOOTH **U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS, A5**

**Across the Nation: Risk** of a government shutdown still lingers. A3

**Around the World:** Ex-U.K. leader appointed to parliament. A14

In Business: How planning can help avoid the 'widow's penalty.' D8

**SPORTS NEWS** 

### **SLUGGISH JAGS OFFENSE RAISES**

Ten weeks into the season, nothing feels right for Jacksonville, whose quarterback has more turnovers than touchdowns so far. B1

**HEALTH NEWS** 

#### **RESEARCH GIVES HOPE TO STOP** DORMANT CANCER

University of Pennsylvania researchers have made progress in finding and killing dormant breast cancer cells before the cancer can reoccur. C2

**LOCAL NEWS** 

#### **LOCAL SCHOOLS CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY**

Schools across the tri-county area all hosted events for Veterans Day, including educational programming, music and parades. **D1** 

**OUR TOWN** | HONORING AMERICA'S HEROES



Ann Pelle, of the Village of Briar Meadow, performs with The Villages Twirlers and Drum Corps.



Pat Oiler and Navy Veteran Larry Oiler, of the Village of Fernandina, sing the national anthem.



Army Veteran Skip Sattler, of Summerfield, tears up during Monday's Parady's Tribute to Veterans event.



Photos by Caitlyn Jordan | Daily Sun

Navy Veteran Steve Brown, of the Village of Hawkins, bows his head in prayer at the Tribute to Veterans.

# AAC Among the First to See the New **Paradise Recreation**

**AMENITY RENOVATION** 

The community's original recreation center will be rebuilt with construction expected to begin in summer 2024.

By KEITH PEARLMAN | Daily Sun Specialty Editor

Members of the Amenity Authority Committee and audience members at Wednesday's meeting became the first to see final renderings for the upcoming renovation of Paradise Recreation.

The renovation will add 10,000 square feet to the current layout of The Villages' original recreation center that dates back to 1984.

"A lot of hard work has gone into design work over the past six months or so and as you'll see it really looks

fantastic," said Bruce Brown, assistant District manager.

The renderings will be on display inside Paradise Recreation.

A focal point of the design is to maximize views over the lake, Brown said, pointing out large plate-glass overlooks at the rear of the building. Another plate-glass feature at the entrance will bring in a lot of natural light, he said.

A large porch at the rear of the building will provide

Please See PARADISE, A8

# Parady Hosts Tribute To Veterans Event

By SUMMER JARRO | Daily Sun Senior Writer

The Parady's Tribute to Veterans event made U.S. Army veteran Skip Sattler feel a full spectrum of

Sattler did not get a warm welcome home after serving from 1966 to 1969, but events like Parady's remind him how many people appreciate his sacrifice. "No words can describe it," the Del Webb Spruce Creek resident said.

Parady, a Villages-based financial service firm,

hosted its annual event Monday at Brownwood Paddock Square to show support for those who served their country.

The event included entertainment from local groups such as The Villages Twirlers and Drum Corps, The Villages Cheerleaders and Scooter the DJ, a classic car show and food vendors. It is a

**■** Please See TRIBUTE, A9

#### ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Veronica Wernicke

#### The Lake County Sheriff's Office's K-9 team is getting a helping paw from two local beagles.

Gail Sheridan, of the Village Palo Alto, and her beagles Miles, 9, and Higgins, 6, volunteer with the office's bloodhound search and rescue unit as well as its therapy K-9 team.

Higgins and Miles both help find missing people, and Miles also comforts victims and law enforcement.

"I needed something to do with my retired hours, and we were part of the search and rescue group in Wyoming before we moved here and it was a lot of fun," Sheridan said.

Sheridan and her dogs have worked with the bloodhound search and rescue unit for the last three years. They are on

Please See BEAGLES, A9



**OUT & ABOUT IN THE VILLAGES** 

#### Try This Today: Grab Your Cleats and Head to Your Local Softball Fields

No matter your skill level, anyone can play softball in The Villages, like Terry Thomas, left, of the Pink Panthers, and Kim Yost, of the Bat Intentions. It's one of the most popular sports in Florida's Friendliest Hometown, with five facilities hosting men's and women's leagues year-round. New players go through evaluations, placing them in the division that matches their skill level. Games are played at Everglades, Saddlebrook, Soaring Eagle and Knudson fields. For information, email softball@districtgov.org.

— Greg Hughes, Daily Sun



Rachel Stuart | Daily Sun

#### IN ENTERTAINMENT

Go Hula Hooping At Lake Sumter **Landing Square** 

Find out more, El

Plus: Find the lineup of entertainment at the town squares, theaters and beyond, E3

#### AT RECREATION CENTERS

Happening near you: From aqua aerobics to Zumba and everything in between, there's fun for everyone, E9-10



Plan your perfect day in The Villages, **E1** 

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TV Guide	E8



### from the front page



Caitlyn Jordan | Daily Sun

The Villages Twirlers and Drum Corps member Karen Schramm, of the Village of Monarch Grove, walks Navy Veteran Wayne Hembach, of the Village Hacienda, into Monday's Parady's Tribute to Veterans event at Brownwood Paddock Square.

#### TRIBUTE

Continued from A1

well-attended affair each year, as roughly 16% of residents in the community have served in the military compared to 6% nationally, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

||||||

There also was a chance drawing to benefit Villages Honor Flight, an organization that honors local veterans by taking them on free trips to Washington, D.C., to see war memorials and monuments.

In addition to money raised from the chance drawing, Greg Parady, CEO of Parady Financial Group, presented a check for \$25,000 each to Villages Honor Flight and Combat Veterans to Careers, a Wildwood-based nonprofit organization that supports combat veterans and their families through education, employment, housing and wellness.

Parady also pledged to match the amount raised from the chance drawing.

"I don't know how you can be part of a community that's made you as successful as we've been - we've been very fortunate to be successful here - and not invest back in the community. Period," Parady said. "We just want to invest in things that are important to our clients, because if they're important to our clients, they're important to us."

It was the 11th time staff at Parady have put on the event to recognize those who served and are currently serving.

Parady Financial Group has raised about \$250,000 for Villages Honor Flight since

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Vetéran & Village Resident

\$75,000 for Combat Veterans to Careers. Monday's event started

the event began. In the past

three years, it raised about

with a parade where members of The Villages Twirlers and Drum Corps and The Villages Cheerleader escorted about 200 veterans to the center of the square.

Parady then thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the cause and thanked veterans for their

**66** Thank you for your service and your sacrifice, not just to those who serve but of course the families at home that support them," Parady said to the crowd. "It's a very humbling day for us. I'm not usually at a loss for words, but this is the event that gets me a little tongue-tied."

His three children, Bennett, 10, Lilou, 7, and Callen, 5, wrote cards for the veterans and read them out loud thanking them for their service and telling them they are superheroes.

"(It's) just to give back to the veterans, honor them," Linda Bennett, Parady's director of events, said of the evening. 'It's just a community event to come together."

Last year's event did not take place, so everyone felt happy to be back.

We're very excited to be back again and honor those who are still with us," Bennett said.

Sattler felt touched by every moment of the event. "I'm still choking up," he

#### **BEAGLES**

Continued from A1

hand to assist with locating missing people, as long as the case doesn't involve weapons.

She and Miles started working with the therapy K-9 team in December.

Sheridan, Miles and Higgins participate in tracking training with the bloodhound unit every Tuesday.

So far, they haven't made it to any real calls because they've all been resolved before they get there. But they are always ready, Sheridan said.

"That's a good thing and a bad thing," Sheridan said. "It's a good thing because nobody's been lost that needs our help, but it would be fun to put his paws on the ground for real."

When either Miles or Higgins starts a track, they harness up in the back of Sheridan's car and then sniff around to get acclimated to the area and get in the tracking mindset.

Next, they are presented with a scent article such as a piece of clothing, keys, jewelry or anything the missing person has touched.

Then, they get to sniffing. When the dogs find whatever or whoever they are looking for, they sit in front of it

and wait for their reward — in

Miles' and Higgins' case, treats. The strangest scent article they worked with during training was a fishing lure, Sheridan said. They also tracked a scent that was six

Doing this work requires a lot of time and training and both dogs are certified in tracking through True Blue Bloodhounds.

weeks old, Sheridan said.

Additionally, Miles is



Gail Sheridan and her two beagles, Miles, 9, and Mr. Higgins, 6, volunteer with the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

Bill Mitchell, Daily Sun

certified for the therapy K-9 team through the Paws and Stripes College at the Brevard County Sheriff's Office.

For the therapy team, Miles and Sheridan work with Cpl. Robert Bedgood, Community Specialist Erica Stamborski, School Resource Deputy Tabitha Huff, K-9s Mia, Eleanor, Nova, Jetty and Dash, and Sig and his owner, volunteer Sherry Noble.

Miles and Sheridan comfort children and other victims of crimes during the criminal justice process.

With the dogs there, people tend to open up more than they would just speaking with a law enforcement officer. Sheridan has seen this firsthand, she said. When a student at a nearby

school died, the team was in the classroom when their fellow students found out. With the dogs there, the students took the news well, Sheridan said.

"It's the most heartwarming feeling in the world," Sheridan

After meeting with Sheridan and Miles, Stamborski determined Miles had a great temperament and was well behaved enough to be on the team, she said.

Some of the places they have been with the therapy team are local schools and various community events.

"It's awesome because we're able to reach even more people," Stamborski said. They are amazing about working events and interacting with the community."

It's also great having a variety of dog breeds and sizes on the team, said Stamborski, who works with her black lab, Jetty. The team also includes bulldogs, bloodhounds and other breeds. "It's awesome to see people

donating their time to the agency and community," Stamborski said. "Gail and Miles, they interact with people at the schools, and you can just see that they're enjoying it, and the community is enjoying it."

In the future, Sheridan hopes the county and its judges will allow therapy dogs in the courtroom while witnesses testify

For now, she gives people stuffed beagles to carry with them.

Currently, the therapy K-9 team is full, but if people are interested in adding their names to an interest list, they can contact Stamborski at erica.stamborski@lcso.org or 352-326-8108.

For more information on the K-9 units, visit lcso.org.









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