



BEFORE THEY WERE VILLAGERS | E10
To make assembling furniture easier, purchase an Allen wrench with a handle.

6 a.m. 9 a.m. 12 p.m. 3 p.m. 6 p.m. 9 p.m.
66° 74° 85° 91° 82° 77°

GARRETT SHIFLET ON NEARBY NEWS | D1
The Fine Arts for Ocala will host its annual Symphony Under the Stars event May 11.



IN SPORTS | B1

Mao Saigo of Japan won the Chevron Championship on Sunday for her first major title, making a 3-foot birdie putt on the first hole of a five-way playoff.



IN LIFESTYLE | E1

Come out and learn to get more comfortable on the water today at 9 a.m. with adult swimming lessons offered at Rohan Recreation.

The introductory class aims to help beginners get comfortable and learn basic swimming techniques. Participants should bring a swimsuit, towels, goggles and an optional swim cap.

IN WORLD NEWS | A5

CRIMEA A FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS TO END RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE

The strategic Black Sea peninsula that was illegally annexed by Moscow in 2014 is a major topic in peace negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, who both demand ownership of the territory.

IN WORLD NEWS

11 KILLED WHEN SUV PLOWS INTO FILIPINO HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Vancouver police ruled out terrorism after a car rammed into a crowd of people at a Lapu Lapu Day street festival. **A3**

IN NATIONAL NEWS

RFK JR. DISCUSSES DRUG ADDICTION AT NASHVILLE SUMMIT

The health secretary emphasized community and prevention as ways to stop young people from using drugs. **A8**

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By James Dinan

Moving to The Villages sometimes means finding a new and interesting hobby to dabble with, or re-discovering a hobby not touched in decades. The Villages Amateur Radio Club was looking for those fitting that definition Saturday at Brownwood Paddock Square for the Ham Radio Rodeo.

Please See **HAM RADIO, A6**

SoZo's Dragonfly Pilot Program Takes Wing



George Horsford | Daily Sun

Pastor David Houck, left, spends a few moments talking with Dalton Goodman, a participant in the Dragonfly Project at Camp Sozo on April 21. Houck is seeking to raise money to give the program its own home.

By LEAH SCHWARTING | Daily Sun Specialty Editor

Dragonflies are born in swamps. If they want to escape, they must fight.

To Pastor Dave Houck, that's also true for the men involved in his latest effort to fight poverty — the Dragonfly Project.

Houck, of Salt Life Church in Silver Springs, ministers to the people living in the Ocala National Forest, a pocket of extreme

poverty about 40 miles from The Villages. Houck's flagship program, SoZo Kids, is for the forest's children, but Dragonfly is meant to teach young adults skills they need to succeed in a stable environment. The pilot program is at Camp SoZo, but

Please See **DRAGONFLIES, A7**



Bill Mitchell | Daily Sun

Melissa Steele-Matovu, with Parady Financial Group, moves baby supplies during the 6th Annual Parady Baby Shower. This year's baby shower event is May 8.

Parady Accepting Donations for Its Baby Shower Event

By SUMMER JARRO | Daily Sun Senior Writer

Parady Financial Group's annual baby shower is coming up soon, and community members can begin donating this week.

The seventh annual Parady Baby Shower, put on by the Parady Cares Foundation, will be held from 10 a.m. to noon May 8 at the Parady Financial Group office

in Colony Professional Plaza. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The financial services firm will start accepting donations of baby items Thursday at its offices at 340 Heald Way, Suite 226, in Colony Professional Plaza, and at 3602 Kiessel Road in Brownwood.

Please See **PARADY, A6**

INSIDE TODAY'S DAILY SUN

TEST YOUR NEWS IQ

AN ELECTRIC SET OF NEW LAWS, A GOLDEN VALUE AND A MASSIVE JOB SEARCH

1. Electrical utility companies are backing bills that would grant immunity from lawsuits if their equipment sparks wildfires. The laws, which have been passed or proposed in eight states, grant protection from fire-related lawsuits if companies do what? **Page A9**

- a) Contribute to a recovery fund
b) Pay into wildfire insurance
c) Follow a wildfire mitigation plan
d) Fund their own firefighters

2. President Donald Trump is set to mark the first 100 days of his second term in office with a rally located in which state? **Page A8**

- a) Florida
b) Texas
c) New York
d) Michigan

TRUE OR FALSE

3. Financial analysts say that the price for a spot of gold is up only 10% since the beginning of 2025. **Page A13**



4. Researchers suggest how many U.S. adults suffer from a fear of flying — also called aerophobia? **Page A14**

- a) 10 million
b) 25 million
c) 50 million
d) 100 million

5. How many people globally will be searching for a new job in 2025, according to LinkedIn? **Page C11**

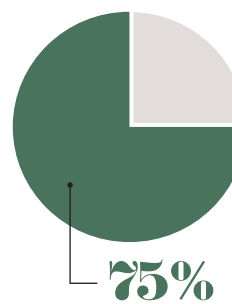
- a) 60%
b) 65%
c) 70%
d) 80%



Make it a Great Day!

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Weather | D2 |
| Recreation Listings | D10-11 |
| Recipes | E1 |
| Comics | E4 |
| Puzzles | E5-6 |
| Horoscopes | E7 |
| TV Tonight | E8 |

BY THE NUMBERS



The majority of U.S. adults think aging lets them focus on what makes them happy, according to a recent survey by Harris Poll for CVS Health. The survey suggests that older adults tend to be happier than their younger peers, with 94% of people 65 and older rating their mental health as "well" or "very well."

from the front page

HAM RADIO

Continued from A1

“It’s an opportunity for us to interest people in The Villages in what we find to be a fun hobby,” said Steve Walbrun, a Village of McClure resident and president of The Villages Amateur Radio Club. “It’s a showcase of ham radio and what it does and to show it off in the community.”

There are over 700,000 amateur radio operators in the U.S. and three million worldwide, according to the American Radio Relay League, and getting a ham radio license is easier than ever.

“For a time, you had to know Morse code, how everything inside the radios worked and the like,” said George Rutkoskie, a Village of Hadley resident and club member. “Now it’s a 35-question multiple choice exam to get a ham radio license. With technology advancing the way it has, there was less relevance for Morse code and whatnot.”

Walking through Brownwood Paddock Square on Saturday was also an opportunity to go through the history of ham radio. Larry Peterson, of the Village of Collier, was using a ham radio machine that sent out messages through Morse code.

“I’m getting a few contacts,” he said. “Through Morse code, I let everyone know that I’m here and if anyone else was out there.”

Sitting next to Peterson was Ralph Sangataldo, of the Village of Moultrie Creek, who was working a digital ham rodeo. In a matter of minutes, he got in contact with people from Poland, Italy,



Steve Waterhouse, of the Village of Pine Ridge, demonstrates ham radio by using Morse code to communicate with other operators during The Villages Amateur Radio Club’s Radio Rodeo event on Saturday at Brownwood Paddock Square.

Germany and Cuba. “You never know who’s going to reach out,” he said.

Joining Peterson and Sangataldo was Paul Nittel, of the Village of Fernandina, who was working the phones.

“I never got into ham radio when I was younger, although my dad did this back in the 1930s,” Nittel said. “Now we have people coming by and telling us they were ham radio enthusiasts back in the day and would be interested in trying it again.”

Club members were stationed at the Brownwood Paddock Square concert stage surrounded by those attending the weekly farmer’s market at the square. A few customers checked out the club to ask questions.

“People ask who I’ve talked to and I mentioned people from all over the world,” Peterson said. “I’ve learned no matter where you’re from, complaints and concerns are universal. We all have them.”

Ham radio also serves a critical function for

sustaining emergency communications, according to Walbrun, particularly when it comes to local or regional disaster situations.

“As a public service club, we assist The Villages Public Safety Department with emergency communications,” Walbrun said. “We also operate repeater stations to facilitate wider local communications.”

The Villages Amateur Radio Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at Eisenhower Recreation with activities starting at 6 p.m. Anyone interested in amateur radio is invited to attend and you do not need to be licensed to attend or join the club.

For more information on The Villages Amateur Radio Club and to learn about its upcoming activities, visit k4vrc.com.

Senior writer James Dinan can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5302, or james.dinan@thevillagesmedia.com.

PARADY

Continued from A1

The firm first held the event seven years ago after clients wanted to host a baby shower for CEO Greg Parady’s wife, Jenni, who was pregnant with their third child.

The couple didn’t need anything, but they knew there were many mothers in need in the area. They asked Parady’s clients and the public to instead donate to organizations dedicated to helping mothers.

Since then, the event has grown and hundreds of items have been donated over the years to local organizations focused on helping new mothers, expectant mothers and young children.

About \$25,000 to \$30,000 worth of items is donated each year, and Parady staff members said they always are amazed at how the community comes together to help.

“What a phenomenal moment just to see what our community can do to help each other, and to see the joy in people’s faces when they bring the items in and know they are helping families in need,” said Katrina Hall, who is part of Parady’s events team with Karen Schafer.

Schafer, Hall and other staff members recently went shopping at Target and Sam’s Club to buy their own items to donate.

Parady is asking for baby formula and bottles, car seats, baby and toddler blankets and clothes, strollers, toys for toddlers and infants, baby wipes, shampoo, pacifiers, bibs and diapers.

Julie Harkins, who joined Parady several months ago as its chief operating officer, is excited to participate in the baby shower for the first time.



Everybody who donates, they have such generous hearts, starting with Greg Parady and his wife and going all the way down to the patrons who donate.”

TINA ST. GERMAIN
Hands of Mercy Everywhere

“The Parady Cares Foundation and what it does to give back to the community is absolutely amazing,” she said. “This will be my first baby shower experience, so I can’t wait.”

Donations will benefit the Pregnancy & Family Care Center, Hands of Mercy Everywhere, Children’s Home Society of Florida and the Congregational Church’s Infant & Toddler Pantry.

The Pregnancy & Family Care Center in Leesburg has benefited from Parady’s baby shower event in the past, and the donations are given to pregnant mothers and their children up to age 2.

“We do an Earn While You Learn Program with our parents so they can earn the items they need for babies by doing parenting classes and different studies,” said Gina Grimes, assistant director of the Pregnancy & Family Care Center.

Grimes said the publicity the center receives from the event is just as valuable as the donations.

“For us, it’s not even about the items being donated — it’s more about getting awareness out about the center and about what we do and what we can offer for families in the area,” she said.

Tina St. Germain, community engagement manager for Hands of Mercy Everywhere, said the donations are “a great boost” each year.

“They are just such quality products,” St. Germain said. “Everybody who donates, they have such generous hearts, starting with Greg Parady and his wife and going all the way down to the patrons who donate.”

Hands of Mercy Everywhere is a local Christian residential group home for girls between 13 and 17 who are pregnant, have young children or at risk.

Faith Andrus, of the Village of Bonita, has donated to the baby shower since it started, and she plans to help again this year. She makes blankets, booties, sweaters and hats to donate and has started on three sets in aqua and light green, purple and pink for this year.

“We love to help out the community, and I know that there are a lot of people out there in need if they’re having their first babies or they are single mothers,” Andrus said. “I think this cause is fabulous.”

Andrus, who has been a Parady Financial Group client since 2014, makes the items herself because she wants to donate something personal.

“Even though I don’t know the individuals, this is something they may keep for a long time after they have their baby,” she said. “And who doesn’t like baby things?”

Senior writer Summer Jarro can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5404, or summer.jarro@thevillagesmedia.com.

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