



Daily Topics

Sun: Education

Mon: Nearby

Tue: Friends & Family

Wed: Veterans

Thu: Giving

Fri: Amenities

Sat: Religion

Heard on The Beat

NEWS FROM KEY COVERAGE AREAS IN OUR COMMUNITY

THE ENRICHMENT ACADEMY
A GREAT WAY TO LEARN AND GROW

The Enrichment Academy, a division of The Villages Recreation and Parks Department, provides a variety of fee-based extra-curriculum courses that enhance learning opportunities for residents of The Villages and the general public.



Learn More: anc.apm.activecommunities.com/districtgov

Fun Art: Basic Acrylic Painting (ART1690)

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August 15

Description: Let your inner “Michelangelo” out! Follow along as you are guided step by step using a variety of brush tools.

Register: anc.apm.activecommunities.com/districtgov

TODAY'S TOPIC

EDUCATION

The Parady Cares Foundation gave thousands of school supplies to Villages Elementary of Lady Lake, Stanton-Weirsdale Elementary School and Wildwood Elementary School on Aug. 6.

“An estimated \$6,000 of school supplies was donated to the three schools, funded by our Parady Cares Foundation and generous donations by our wonderful clients who share and embrace our belief in the power of giving,” said Karen Schafer, event planner for the Parady Cares Foundation. The Parady Cares Foundation is a charitable organization run by Greg Parady and the Parady Financial Group. The foundation has given thousands of dollars to local schools for everything from jackets in the winter to school supplies.

COLLEGE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA ALUM IS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The 2026 Florida Teacher of the Year is Union County High School teacher Mark Harrison, as announced at a formal gala July 17 in Orlando. Harrison is a College of Central Florida alumni from 2002 who furthered his education at the University of Florida. The College of Central Florida congratulated Harrison in a news release. “We are so proud of Mr. Harrison and the meaningful work he does every day with students,” said Vice President of Academic

Affairs Mark Paugh. “It is always rewarding to see graduates of our Associate of Arts program continue their education and have access to a wide array of career options that positively impact our communities.”

HORIZONS AFTERCARE OFFERS FAMILIES AFTERCARE SERVICES

Horizons Aftercare Program provides after-school care for families at every public elementary school in the district, including Bushnell Elementary School, Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School, Webster Elementary School and Wildwood Elementary School. Cost is \$10 for care needed before school and \$60 for care needed after school. Students can receive help with homework and are provided snacks. For more information about the program, contact Josefina Negrete at 352-793-2315, ext. 50203, or josefina.negrete@sumter.k12.fl.us.

WILDWOOD WILDCATS BOOSTER CLUB HOSTS CARD SALE

The Wildwood Wildcats Booster Club is hosting

a discount card sale this week from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday at the tennis courts in front of Wildwood Middle High School. The cards generate over \$80,000 to help students and teachers at Wildwood Middle High School with scholarships, mentoring, equipment and more. The cards have deals from 52 businesses on the cards, including new additions such as Peterbrooke Chocolatier in Lake Sumter Landing and All Booked Up in Colony Plaza. The cards are on sale for \$10 and will be sold all school year long at school events like football and basketball games. For more information visit wildwoodwildcatsboosterclub.com.

SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOLS HAS TICKET DEAL WITH UF

The Sumter County School District has announced a deal with the University of Florida to offer discounted prices on football tickets for the opening football game of the 2025 season. The game between the UF Gators and the Long Island University Sharks is scheduled for 7 p.m. Aug. 30 at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium in Gainesville. A portion of the proceeds from the discounted ticket sales will go toward funding the Sumter County School District through its Sumter Schools Enhancement Foundation. Tickets start at \$30.50. To purchase discounted tickets, visit gofevo.com/event/sumtercounty5.

— Garrett Shiftlet, Daily Sun



Submitted photo

Karen Schafer, from left, event planner for Parady Cares Foundation, Assistant Principal Jasmyn Harrison, Principal Brittany Brown, secretary Kortene Pinkerton and Katrina Hall, of Parady Cares Foundation, stand behind donations given to Wildwood Elementary School. The Parady Cares Foundation on Aug. 6 gave thousand of dollars in school supplies to three local elementary schools.

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