



**THE WEATHER**  
High 71° | Low 58°  
Intermittent clouds. C2

The Villages®

# DAILY SUN



**FRIDAY**  
DECEMBER 20,  
2019

THE NEWSPAPER OF FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

LOCAL, C1

**Local law enforcement agencies take hundreds of kids on shopping trips.**

SPORTS, B1

## A Pickleball Celebration

WHEELS, E5

**Villager's AMC Pacer once led a faster life.**

NATIONAL NEWS



The Associated Press

### CLASH BETWEEN BUTTIGIEG, WARREN SPILLS INTO DEBATE

The feud between Elizabeth Warren and Pete Buttigieg over fundraising erupted Thursday night in a debate that tested the strength of the Democrats' shrinking pool of presidential contenders six weeks before primary voting begins. **A10**

NATION & WORLD REPORT

**Nation:** The Senate passed a \$1.4 trillion government spending package Thursday before leaving Washington for a holiday recess. President Donald Trump is expected to sign the bill today. **A13**

**World:** Prime Minister Boris Johnson signaled an end to Britain's era of Brexit deadlock Thursday, announcing a packed legislative program intended to take the U.K. out of the European Union on Jan. 31. **A2**

**INSIDE**

- Florida News A5
- Lottery A4
- Local News A5
- World News A2



**Faces in The News**  
Mare Anthony

The Grammy Award-winning singer and entertainer's \$7 million yacht was destroyed in a fire on Biscayne Bay in Miami.

State News, A5

## Top of the News

INSIDE THE ISSUES SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

# Hollywood Unwraps Its Big-Movie Gifts

'STAR WARS,' 'LITTLE WOMEN,' 'CATS' TOP SEASON'S FARE



Disney/Lucasfilm

From left, Joonas Suotamo as Chewbacca, Oscar Isaac as Poe Dameron, Daisy Ridley as Rey and John Boyega as Finn are featured in a scene from "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker."

By **KRISTEN FIORE**  
Daily Sun Senior Writer



Multiple generations have enjoyed nine "Star Wars" movies and hundreds of novels and comic books surrounding the series. Today, the Skywalker Saga comes to a close after 42 years with the release of "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker."

But the Force doesn't stop there.

"The Rise of Skywalker" is just one of many highly anticipated films out in the past couple of months and coming up. The

Please See **MOVIES, A6**

### NEW ARRIVALS

**Barnstorm Theater**

"The Rise of Skywalker" (PG-13)

"Frozen 2" (PG)

"Jumanji: The Next Level" (PG-13)

"A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" (PG)

**Rialto**

"Bombshell" (R)

"Black Christmas" (PG-13)

**Old Mill Playhouse**

"Cats" (PG)

"Richard Jewell" (R)

"Knives Out" (PG-13)

"Midway" (PG-13)

"The Irishman" (R)



Submitted photo

### COMING SOON

"Little Women" (PG): Dec. 25

"1917" (R): Dec. 25

"Spies in Disguise" (PG): Dec. 25

LOCAL NEWS

### SANTA CLAUS JOINS FOUR BOAT TOURS ON MONDAY

Trips are planned on Lake Sumter, with a special holiday story and treats for kids.

Tours are scheduled for 3 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., weather permitting. Drinks and holiday cookies will follow each cruise. Tickets are \$5 per passenger, which are available at any regional recreation center. Each tour is limited to 16 people. For more information, call 352-751-7110.

— Greg Miller, Daily Sun

### THAT'S AMAZING!

### HOOT, HOOT, HOORAY: OWL FREED FROM VEHICLE'S GRILLE

An owl that got trapped in the grille of a vehicle has lived to fly another day.

The barred owl took an unexpected three-hour ride to the Outer Banks of North Carolina last weekend, said Lou Browning, founder and president of Hatteras Island Wildlife Rehabilitation.

A family from Wilmington heard something hit their car on the drive to Southern Shores but kept going when nothing appeared out of the ordinary, Browning told news outlets. The owl was found after the family got to its destination, according to a Facebook post from the wildlife group. "Nothing's broken," Browning said of the freed owl's condition. "Just bruising."

—The Associated Press

## EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

# Festival of Lights

The Villages Menorah Lighting will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, the first day of Hanukkah, at Lake Sumter Landing Market Square. The 90-minute event is free and open to the public.

Celebrate the first night of Hanukkah with The Villages Menorah Lighting on Sunday at Lake Sumter Landing Market Square.

The festival is meant to represent the Jewish community in The Villages and to educate residents on the menorah, said Chalsi Goheen-Cox, special events manager with The Villages Entertainment.

Attendees can expect the telling of the Hanukkah story and lighting of the menorah as well as music, dancing and singing. "This Jewish ceremony is a great cultural opportunity to experience on the square," Goheen-Cox said.

The event is from 3 to 4:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

— Julie Butterfield, Daily Sun

### Life In Our Town

**What's Happening In The Villages Holiday view**

Employee at Johnny Rockets in Lake Sumter Landing creates Christmas windows.

Consumer News, C6

### Plus

**Entertainment:** Tribute to John Denver brings back good songs, good feelings. **A8**

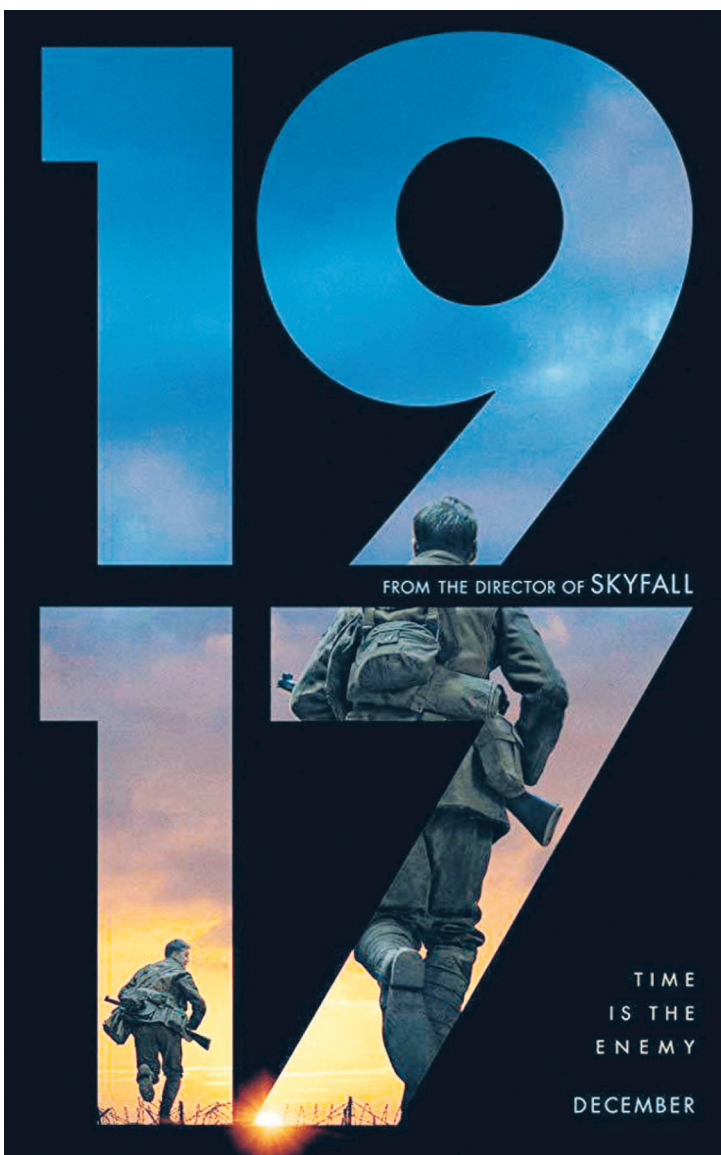
**Health:** State health department offering advice on safe holiday meal preparation. **C1**

**LOVIN' THE LIFESTYLE**

Old-school quality elevates "Cats." **D1**



from the front page



Submitted photos

In "1917," two British soldiers embark on a dangerous mission during World War I.



"Bombshell," starring Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman and Margot Robbie, was released Dec. 13.

**MOVIES**

Continued from A1

winter months tend to be a popular window for release of potential award-winning movies, making it a good time for fans of film to grab a bag of popcorn and hit the movie theater.

In addition to "The Rise of Skywalker," "Cats" also made its way to the big screen today. "Cats" has a lot of buzz because this is the first time it's going to be a movie on the big screen, not just an interpretation of the play," said Jenna Deafenbaugh, assistant

manager at Rialto Theatre.

The movie's cast is full of big names, including Taylor Swift, Jennifer Hudson, Idris Elba and Rebel Wilson.

Christmas, another popular release date, brings titles like "Little Women" and "1917."

"Little Women," which has a cast including Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson, Timothée Chalamet and Meryl Streep, is directed by Greta Gerwig, who wrote and directed the widely successful "Lady Bird," released in 2018.

"Cats" and "Little Women" will play at Old Mill Playhouse and "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" is playing

at Barnstorm, according to Deafenbaugh.

"1917" tells the story of two British privates on an impossible mission during World War I, and though its national release date is Dec. 25, it will not be released in The Villages Movie Theaters until Jan. 10.

"1917" is filmed to look like one continuous shot, which is rare in a movie," Deafenbaugh said.

The Villages Movie Theaters typically release schedules with showtimes and locations on a weekly basis. Patrons can check thevillages.com for schedules and information on upcoming films and events.

Other recently released standout films include "Frozen 2," "Midway," "Joker" and "The Irishman."

"The Irishman" was released to select movie theaters Nov. 1 and was released on Netflix on Nov. 27.

The leading film in the recently released Golden Globe nominations is "Marriage Story," which came out in August and stars Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver.

It premiered at the Venice Film Festival in August and was released to select theaters on Nov. 6. On Dec. 6, it was released on Netflix.

"Marriage Story" received six

nominations.

"The Irishman" and "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" follow "Marriage Story" with five nominations each.

Other movies that pop up a lot in the Golden Globe nominations are "Joker," "Jojo Rabbit," "Knives Out," "Rocketman" and "1917."

The Golden Globes are at 8 p.m. on Jan. 5.

"It's a pretty good mix out there," said Deborah Mills, operations director at The Villages Movie Theaters. "I'm excited to see who the winners will be so we can get an idea of what we're looking at with the Oscars in February."

Oscar nominations will be released Jan. 13, and the Oscars will take place at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 9, according to the Oscars' official website.

A big trend in movies this year was remakes, as exhibited by films like "It Chapter Two" and "Little Women," as well as Disney's live-action remakes of "Dumbo," "The Lion King," "Aladdin" and "Lady and the Tramp."

"A lot of Disney movies are old stories for us," Mills said. "We saw it in cartoon form, and maybe that lessened the story's power. They want you to see what it would look like in real

life. 'Mulan' is highly anticipated. I think they like to tie in major tales from throughout the years that still ring true."

None of the Disney movies released this year missed a beat in The Villages, according to Mills.

The "Downton Abbey" movie and "Midway" were also favorites among audiences in The Villages, Mills said.

"A lot of the movies that don't get enough recognition and credit (nationally) did a great job for us," Mills said. "I think we have a unique market and a unique audience. People here not only appreciate the content, but the process."

This year was also a successful one for The Villages Movie Theaters as far as events go. Dozens of guest actors and directors came to The Villages for special events.

John Travolta held a red carpet premiere of his film "The Fanatic" at Barnstorm Theater in August, and Old Mill Playhouse hosted its first military film festival in November.

"This should be the norm, because the Villagers really like to be involved with what it takes to make a film and who made the film," Mills said. "It's what we can do to bring more value to our most valuable people."

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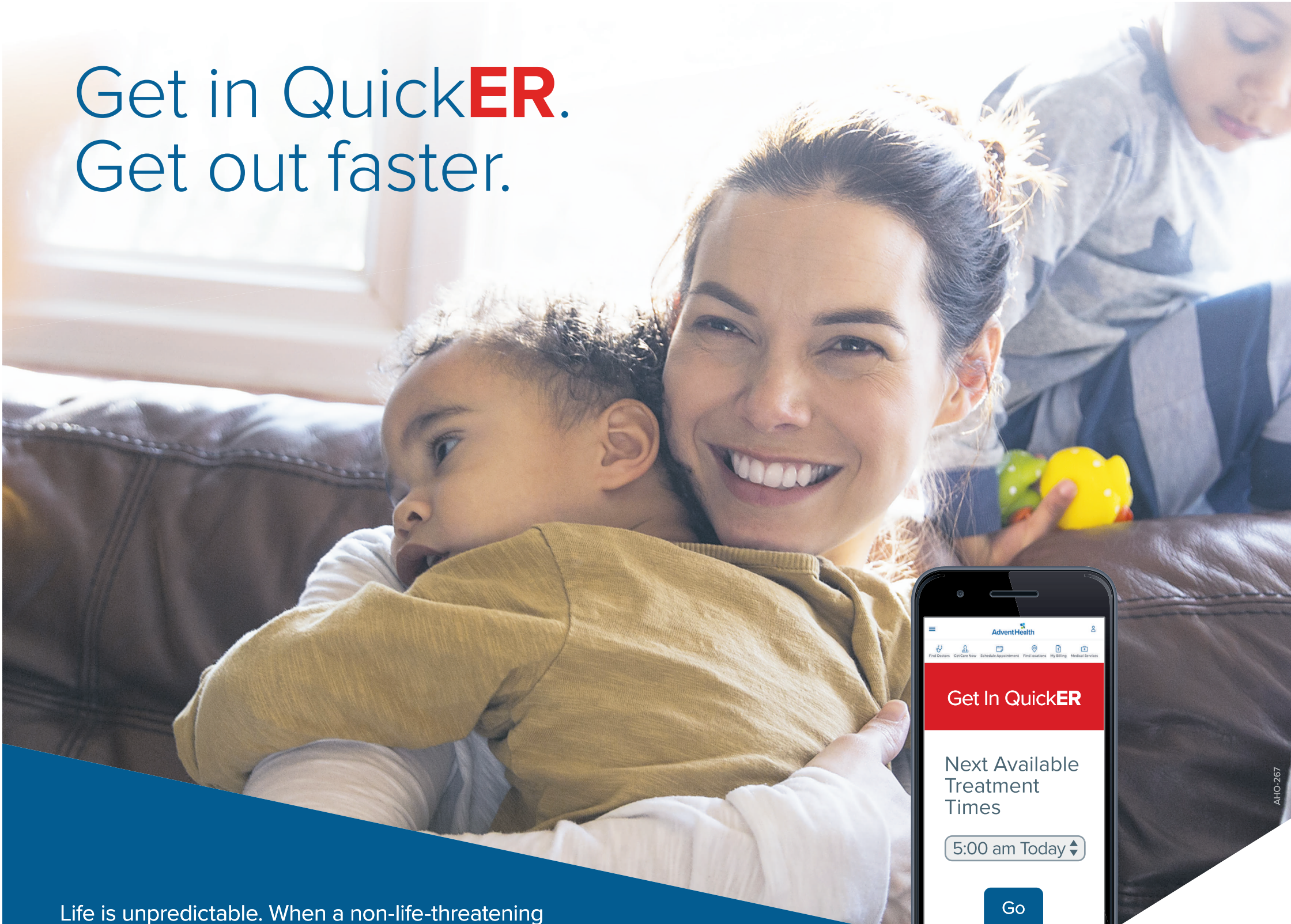
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