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FRIDAY
JULY 5,
2019

THE NEWSPAPER OF FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

LOCAL, C1

Rain fails to dampen the mood at July Fourth events in The Villages.

SPORTS, B1

Piercy Leads 3M Open

WHEELS, E4

Liberty Park couple loves their '94 Jaguar.

NATIONAL NEWS



The Associated Press

PARADES, PARTIES FIREWORKS AND CONCERTS FILL FOURTH OF JULY

Boston, Philadelphia, New York and other places around the country held massive celebrations with fireworks, parades and concerts. And, in Washington, President Donald Trump kicked off the day's events with a tribute to the U.S. Military. **A12**

NATION & WORLD REPORT

Nation: The strongest earthquake in decades shook a large swath of Southern California and parts of Nevada on Thursday, rattling nerves on the Fourth of July holiday and causing some injuries. **A13**

World: Authorities in Gibraltar intercepted an Iranian super-tanker that was believed to be breaching European Union sanctions by carrying a shipment of Tehran's crude oil to war-ravaged Syria. **A3**

INSIDE

- Florida News A5
- Lottery A4
- Local News A10
- World News A2



Faces in The News
Joey 'Jaws' Chestnut

The champion secured his 12th title at Nathan's Famous annual July Fourth hot dog eating contest after consuming 71 winners.

National News, A2

Top of the News

INSIDE THE ISSUES SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

Live-Action Remakes Roar Into Box Office

"Beauty and the Beast" March 2017



"Aladdin" May 2019

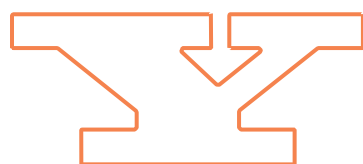


"The Lion King" July 2019



"Dumbo" March 2019

Photos by Disney



By KRISTEN FIORE | Daily Sun Senior Writer

You can't quite bottle up nostalgia and sell it, but Disney is doing the closest thing to it. For the past several years, the company has been successfully reimagining and recreating its classic animated movies, and "The Lion King," which comes to the big screen July 18, is projected to be one of the most popular and highest-grossing movies of all time. And it's expected to be a home run in The Villages, too, according to Deborah Mills, The Villages Movie Theaters operations director. The movie will open at the Rialto Theatre and likely pass through Old Mill Playhouse and Barnstorm Theater during its run.

Please See **LIVE ACTION, A6**

POLITICS

NEW CRASH RECORDS WEBSITE CREATED

The portal grants access to state data and allows different ways to sort the info.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles launched a new crash records portal at FloridaCrashPortal.gov. The portal offers report purchases, crash reporting and the state's latest data. It also includes a dashboard that allows users to view data by year, county and crash type.

— Alexandria Mansfield, Daily Sun

THAT'S AMAZING!

TITANIC SURVIVOR'S CANE TO BE AUCTIONED

A Titanic survivor's walking stick, with an electric light she used to signal for help from a lifeboat, is one of thousands of maritime items that will be up for auction in Rhode Island.

Guernsey's auction house is holding the auction at the International Yacht Restoration School in Newport on July 19 and 20.

Guernsey's President Arlan Ettinger described Ella White's cane as one of the most extraordinary items to have survived the sinking.

Brad Williams said his grandmother was White's niece and cared for her affairs before she died in 1942 at the age of 85, then took possession of the walking stick. It was passed on to Williams' mother, then to him.

— The Associated Press

EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

Fast Cars and Fun

Members of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club all share a common love for racing. Club members regularly take group trips to local tracks, while also volunteering in various ways throughout the community.

By CODY HILLS | Daily Sun Staff Writer

If it's got a motor, chances are The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club wants to know how fast it can go.

The resident lifestyle group of racing enthusiasts meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month — from September through May — at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, and has one simple mission statement it embodies: A love for racing.

"We seem to be a club that if it has a motor and it's racing something else with a motor, we're interested in it," said club President Tony Kennea, of the Village of Collier. "It's all about racing for us, no matter what it is, and that's in the blood of all of our members."

Please See **RACING, A6**

Life In Our Town

What's Happening In The Villages Personal shopping

Brylah Fashions opens its first golf cart-accessible location in Spanish Springs.

Local News, C6

Plus

Entertainment: 'That '60s Show' takes audiences back in time at Savannah Center. **A10**

Health: SoZo Dental Bus will provide care for children in the Ocala National Forest. **C7**

LOVIN' THE LIFESTYLE

Spidey weaves a hit with 'Far From Home.' **D1**



from the front page

LIVE ACTION

Continued from A1

Villagers who took their children to see movies such as “Aladdin” and “The Lion King” more than 20 years ago are returning to the movie theaters with their grandchildren for the reimagined versions.

“Technology combining animation and live action is such a new concept,” said Debbie Winters, president of the resident Disney fan club, Mickey’s “Fan”atics. “It’s nice to see our favorite old movies being recreated with the technology we have today.”

Disney’s live-action remakes started in 2010 with “Alice and Wonderland,” which grossed more than \$1 billion in the box office worldwide, followed by “The Jungle Book,” “Cinderella,” “Beauty and the Beast,” “Mary Poppins Returns” and “Christopher Robin.”

“Dumbo,” which came out in March, grossed more than \$345 million worldwide, while “Aladdin,” which came out in May, became one of the highest-grossing films of 2019 and the highest-grossing film of Will Smith’s career, surpassing “Independence Day.”

Winters has seen the new “Aladdin” twice and thought it was outstanding.

“You have live action animals and live people,” the Village of Country Club Hills resident said. “There’s so much going on. The colors are brighter and it’s more exciting. You think it couldn’t get any better, but Disney is always able to improve everything. It’s a little bit more advanced.”

Richard Leopold, president of the Goopy Villagers club, said he recently took his grandson to see “Aladdin.”

“He couldn’t stop looking at it,” Leopold said. “It’s just so much more fun and keeps the kids occupied. A lot of us started watching (Disney movies) when we were kids, and then we showed them to our kids and now we’re watching them with our grandkids. It goes across all generations.”

SEE A MOVIE FOR \$5

Any regular movie is \$5 every Tuesday all day at all three Villages Movie Theaters.

THE LION KING

“The Lion King” will come out July 18 at Rialto Theatre.

For showtimes, visit thevillages theatres.com or call 352-259-1111.

Thomas Mikota, a professor of lighting and animation at Florida State University, said Hollywood has been in love with redirecting stories for a while.

“We see the phenomenon with sequels, and now we’re seeing the exact same story told multiple times, in some cases every generation.”

Mikota offered the example of “Spiderman,” which has been rebooted multiple times with a different cast and a slightly different storyline.

“We’re seeing a similar thing here with rebooting classic Disney stories as live-action remakes,” he said. “I think they are successful because they promise nostalgia.”

Live-action remakes take the magic and nostalgia from the original movies and revamp the story with new technology and great actors and directors, Mills said.

Some are better than others, however.

“‘Dumbo,’ for instance, was a good movie but it didn’t fare as well because Tim Burton was attached to it, and he’s known for being more dark, gothic and eccentric,” Mills said. “But ‘Lion King’ was done by Jon Favreau, who did ‘Jungle Book’ in 2016. He can do great collaborative works with action and adventure, but keep it within a family format.”

Big-name actors such as Beyoncé and Will Smith help, too.

“They want actors that are versatile enough to be either the villain or the hero and keep within the whole theme of Disney,” Mills said.

Of course, having the Disney name is another reason

they’ve been successful, Mills added.

“Just the Disney name on a movie will bring families in because they know what to expect, and Disney pairs together the right actors and directors,” Mills said.

A big factor surrounding the anticipation of “The Lion King” is the new animation technology it features.

“The technology and techniques for ‘The Lion King’ was birthed on the film ‘Avatar’ and even before that way back in ‘Lord of the Rings,’” Mikota said. “‘The Lion King’ is really a maturing of all of those processes to create something that technically still is an animated film. It’s just rendered at such a high quality artistically that often it’s hard to tell you are not watching a live-action movie.”

Mikota anticipates that this will contribute to the film’s success because it will bring audiences more solidly into the world of “The Lion King” without any distractions.

And the movies are for everyone, said Jenna Deafenbaugh, assistant manager at the Rialto Theatre.

“They’re marketing not only the younger crowd, but the same crowd who watched the movies when they first came out,” Deafenbaugh said.

Disney also creates packages to go with the films, which keeps people’s interests. New attractions such as Pandora – The World of Avatar in Animal Kingdom and Star Wars: Galaxy’s Edge, coming to Disney’s Hollywood Studios in August, crop up along with new merchandise.

There’s something for everyone, Winters said, whether you like movies, rides or merchandise.

“They’re recreating and freshening up their whole product for the younger generation,” Winters said. “I love that they’re able to piece all these things together to make a complete package. You can reintroduce the movies to your grandchildren because it was your kids’ favorite. The movies help make family memories and traditions, and that’s what Disney’s all about.”

RACING

Continued from A1

Founded in September 2006, the club’s membership is known for wearing bright yellow shirts — highly visible in grandstands and pit areas at race tracks both near and far.

Along with regular trips to local short tracks, the club routinely embarks on group outings to Daytona International Speedway — including for this upcoming Saturday’s Coke Zero Sugar 400 — and an annual club trip to the NHRA Gatornationals in Gainesville.

The group has welcomed two Daytona 500 winners (Marvin Panch, Geoff Bodine), an inductee of the National Spring Car Hall of Fame (Jack Hewitt), and various track operators and racing officials from across the country as special guest speakers to its meetings.

“We’ve got motor racing fans from all walks of life in our club, including a lot of ex-drivers and talent buried within,” Kennea said. “Not only do we take an interest in racing, but we come with a lot of history.”

Joining its passion for fast racing, the club also regularly lays down a blistering lap in its never-ending race to promote community stewardship.

In the past, the group has held fundraisers for scholarships awarded to area high school students, while also offering financial support to local short-track racers and their families throughout the Central Florida region — with the club logo often adorning race cars.

“I think it’s all in the name of sharing our love of motor sports with others,” said Mike Anderson, of the Village of Tamarind Grove, who serves as social media coordinator on the “pit crew,” the name lovingly dubbed for the club’s committee. “Whether that’s from helping youngsters race remote-control cars to real race cars, we’ve become good friends and partners with a lot of racers over the years.”

“Plus, it’s always nice to see your club logo on a car,” Anderson continued,



Bill Mitchell | Daily Sun

William Byron, right, leads the field to the green flag, during the 61st annual Daytona 500 at the Daytona International Speedway.

THE VILLAGES MOTOR RACING FAN CLUB

Founded: 2006 (September)

Membership: 180-200

Meetings: 7 p.m., first Wednesday of each month (Sept-May), Colony Cottage Recreation Center

For more information: villagesracingclub.com

and grandparents the opportunity to race for the checkered flag against one another.

Lisa Parkyn, Camp Villages coordinator for The Villages Recreation and Parks Department, said the event has become one of the most popular on the summertime docket annually.

“I think it has been very positive. Because each year, we sell out,” Parkyn said. “The tickets go fast for that particular activity, and each year the club is willing to come back. I think they always enjoy interacting with the kids because a lot of kids have favorite NASCAR drivers. And then they hear this group just chit-chat and talk about their favorites.”

“They make it fun and competitive, that’s for sure,” she said.

Cody Hills is a staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. He can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5286, or cody.hills@thevillagesmedia.com.

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