



THE WEATHER
High 64° | Low 40°
Partly sunny. C2



FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 7,
2020

THE NEWSPAPER OF FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

NATIONAL NEWS



The Associated Press

STRONG STORMS SWEEP OVER SOUTH WITH HIGH WINDS, FLOODING

The powerful system is forecast to bring cooler temperatures to The Villages today and tonight.

A potent winter storm brought high winds, rain and floods that killed four people and injured several more across a dozen states. Strong winds prompted the closure of the Sunshine Skyway bridge in the Tampa Bay area. After moving through The Villages late Thursday, the system is expected to drop highs into the mid-60s today and lows to near 40 tonight. **A10**

NATION & WORLD REPORT

Nation: Tom Perez, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, called for a "re-canvas" of the results of the Iowa caucuses, saying it was needed to "assure public confidence" after three days of delays. **A12**

World: The flu-like virus that has spread from China has researchers from around the world again scrambling to find a vaccine against a surprise threat, with no guarantee that it will arrive in time. **A13**

INSIDE

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Faces in The News Ruth Bader Ginsburg

The Supreme Court justice will present an award named for her to a prominent philanthropist next week at an awards ceremony.

National News, A12

Top of the News

INSIDE THE ISSUES SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

Town Squares Sizzle With Special Events



Max Gersh | Daily Sun

Carmen Raby, left, of the Village of Glenbrook, dances with Marta Andino, of the Village Tierra Del Sol, during the Mardi Gras Festival last year at Spanish Springs Town Square.

From car shows and festivals to a 1980s glow party, there's something for everyone this month at the three squares.

FB

By **KRISTEN FIORE**
Daily Sun Senior Writer

Browse handcrafted goods, dance the night away in your favorite neon attire, waltz down streets full of gleaming cars, chow down on strawberry shortcake and pose with stilt walkers clad in shiny beads. As the busy season for special events ramps up, these are all activities people will be able to do this month on the three Villages town squares. And the fun doesn't stop there. March brings St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Spanish Springs Town Square and Lake Sumter Landing Market Square. "Our goal is to create fun, new and exciting opportunities for our community to enjoy," said Chalsi Cox, special events manager. "With the community continuing to grow and evolve, we want to ensure our events continue to grow and evolve as well, to provide the best experience." The fun-filled month of February kicks off with the February Arts & Crafts Show

Please See **SQUARES, A8**



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

A customized 1950 Ford, right, sits next to an early version of the Ford Thunderbird at the 20th Anniversary Car Cruise In at Spanish Springs Town Square in 2017.

LOCAL NEWS

RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR KAYAK DEMO DAY

The event, hosted by The Villages Canoe and Kayak Club, is at Lake Miona Park.

People with no canoeing or kayaking experience may learn it for free at an upcoming canoe and kayak demo day. The event will feature canoes and kayaks brought in by two regional paddle boat outfitters that anyone can test out at no cost. The outfitters present will also be on hand to answer questions about what to look for in a canoe or kayak. The event runs from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 3 at Lake Miona Park, 10501 County Road 115. To RSVP, contact Jim Zoschenko at tripmaster@vckc.net.
— Michael Salerno, Daily Sun

THAT'S AMAZING!

HEADDRESS OF NATIVE LEADER RETURNING TO WYOMING TRIBE

The headdress worn by a Native leader in Wyoming is returning to the tribe after he gave it to a non-Native dentist living in the state, tribal leaders said. The Northern Arapaho Tribe has planned a ceremony Saturday to welcome the headdress of Chief Black Coal, who guided many to the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming in the 19th century. Coal gave his headdress to a dentist who would often travel to the reservation to provide dental care, officials said. The great-grandson of that dentist contacted the tribe last year asking if the tribe wanted the headdress back, tribal leaders said. The Tribal Historic Preservation office accepted the offer.
— The Associated Press

EXPLORE EXPERIENCE

Up, Up and Away: Balloon Festival Begins Today, Continues Through Sunday at Polo Club

Prepare to take flight at The Villages Balloon Festival. Hot air balloon flights, tethered rides and balloon glows are the highlight of the event at The Villages Polo Club, which also features entertainment, a kids zone and a variety of arts and crafts vendors. The festival runs from 2 to 9 p.m. today and 7 to 9 a.m. and 2 to 9 p.m. Saturday, with a final mass ascension at 7 a.m. Sunday, which is open only to those with a wristband from the previous day. Andrea Zadrozny, office administrator for The Villages Entertainment, said attendees look forward to the tethered balloon rides. "People love them as it allows them to see The Villages from a different viewpoint," she said. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for those 11 to 17 years old; children 10 and younger are free. They are available at thevillagesentertainment.com and at any Villages Box Office location, as well as at the gate the day of the event.

— Andrea Davis, Daily Sun

Life In Our Town

What's Happening In The Villages Striking a chord

Performers from The Villages bring blues lessons to Wildwood students.

Local News, C1

Plus

Entertainment: The Studio's production of "Assassins" is artfully crafted. **A6**

Health: TLC Services to launch support group for those grieving the loss of a pet. **C1**

LOVIN' THE LIFESTYLE

"First Lady" tells a modern fairy tale. **D1**



from the front page

SQUARES

Continued from A1

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday on Spanish Springs Town Square.

At this free event, people can browse handcrafted items including leather goods, paintings, glassworks, photography and more.

Those looking for something to do on Valentine's Day should head to Lake Sumter Landing for an '80s Glow Party.

The Spazmatics, an '80s Revenge of the Nerds-style band, will perform from 5 to 9 p.m. Feb. 14 at Lake Sumter Landing Market Square. The event will include neon and light-up decorations, a free photo booth and more.

"We will be handing out lighted rings, bracelets, necklaces and lighted batons," said Mary Carlson, square entertainment coordinator.

Carlson said she wanted to do something special for Valentine's Day this year.

"Wear '80s, neon or light-up attire," she said.

Meanwhile, car lovers will have three events to choose from this month.

The February cruise in will take place from 4 to 9 p.m. Feb. 15 at Spanish Springs Town Square. It will feature live entertainment and food trucks.

Next, there will be a Monday Night Car Show from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 17 at Lake Sumter Landing Market Square featuring The Villages Porsche Club, and The Villages Street Rod Golf Car Club will be featured in the Friday Night Car Show slated from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 28 at Lake Sumter Landing.

February also is a big month for festivals.

The Strawberry Festival will be held from 2 to 9 p.m. Feb. 21 at Brownwood Paddock Square. "Expect continuous street performances," Cox said. "We are bringing back our pie-eating contest for the second year, and I'm hoping for more pie-eating volunteers. Our carnival games are bigger and better, so be ready for some carney fun."

The event, which is sponsored by Pelican Water and



People walk the square while looking at classic cars during a cruise in at Spanish Springs.

Edward Jones and benefits Operation Shoebox, will also include more than 50 market vendors, a tractor museum, a hay ride and more.

Entertainers like The Villages Cheerleaders, Sweet & Sassy and more will perform throughout the event, and attendees can try food from vendors like the Kettle Corn Cabin and Impasto.

"We are bringing in some fresh food trucks, so be on the lookout for new cuisines," Cox said.

On Feb. 25, there will be more festival fun with the Mardi Gras Festival from 4 to 9 p.m. on Lake Sumter Landing Market Square.

"(There will be) elaborate street performances from the 2nd Line Mardi Gras Band, still walkers and magicians," Cox said.

There will also be main stage performances by groups like Stu Okra and the Fixins, Aloha 'O Ka Hula, Sweet & Sassy, Mystic Jewels Dance Troupe and The

Original Villages Belly Dancers. After the Mardi Gras Festival, people don't have long to wait for the next special events.

St. Patrick's Day Festivals will be held from 4 to 9 p.m. March 13 at Lake Sumter Landing Market Square and 4:45 to 9 p.m. March 17 at Spanish Springs Town Square. Both events will include live entertainment, food and market vendors and more.

For more information on upcoming events on the squares, visit thevillagesentertainment.com.

Cox recommends coming to events in golf carts, if possible, to make room for more parking availability.

"Our goal is to create an unforgettable experience here in The Villages, and I hope we can go above and beyond the expectations to execute our goal," she said. "I hope people take home fun and exciting memories from our festivals, and continue to enjoy what the squares have to offer on a daily basis."



A band plays during the 2019 Mardi Gras Festival at Spanish Springs Town Square.

WHY DO I STILL HAVE THYROID SYMPTOMS IF MY BLOOD TESTS ARE NORMAL?

COME LISTEN TO A FREE HEALTH TALK Monday, February 10th at 2:00pm



Seminar will be held at:

Villages Public Library at Belvedere
325 Belvedere Blvd., The Villages, FL

Registration Required!

<http://sumterpubliclibrary.evanced.info/signup/calendar>

Dr. John A. Podlaski

DC, DABCI, DACBN, DCBCN

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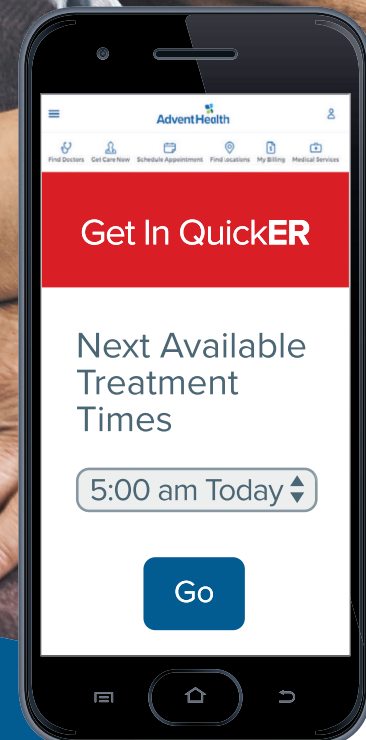
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