



LOCAL NEWS

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MARKET NEWS

MAJOR INDEXES BARELY ADVANCE

U.S. stocks couldn't build any momentum Tuesday after major automakers said their car sales shrank last month. That worried investors who fear that consumers may be shutting their wallets.

Details, C11

Dow



+ 36.43
Close: 20,949.89

Nasdaq



+ 3.77
Close: 6,095.37

S&P 500



+ 2.84
Close: 2,391.17

WOMAN ACCUSED OF HITTING MAN WHO TRIED TO HELP HER

A Village of Caroline resident was arrested Monday night after she fought with a man trying to help her get up when she kept falling in her front yard.

Public Safety, C4



Talking With...
Diane Tucker,
of the Village
Community
Development
Districts.

Interview, C3

Our Town

WHERE WE LIVE AND WHO WE ARE

Plan the Perfect Derby Day Soirée

By VALENTINA BORÉ AND GREG WILLIAMS | Daily Sun Staff Writers

It's not Churchill Downs, but The Villages is the stage for numerous Kentucky Derby events. The "Run for the Roses," held for the first time in 1875 in front of 10,000 people, can attract crowds of more than 150,000 nowadays, said Karen Roby, communications manager for the Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, Kentucky. "As the Derby race grew in popularity, so, too, did the desire to gather and celebrate," Roby said. "Through the years, specialty drinks and food items became synonymous with the Derby and are still being served to this day." If you're planning on throwing a party for Saturday's Kentucky Derby, here are some essentials to make sure you're off to the races in style.

Please See DERBY, C14



Party Tip
1

Photos by Erin Williams | Daily Sun

RACE GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT

Maggie Fraser, of the Village of Bonnybrook, dons her jockey outfit and poses with her winning horse, Happy Trails. If planning a game for your Kentucky Derby event, some groups play a raucous horse-race dice game, while others prefer the more active race featuring pool noodles and feathery add-ons. The key is simply to create a fun and memorable experience with a Villages twist.

FOOD AND DRINKS

David Sawyer, president of the Kentucky Connection club, holds a Derby staple, the mint julep. The key to this iconic libation: sugar water, bourbon whiskey and fresh mint poured into a cup full of crushed ice.



Party Tip
2



Party Tip
3

DERBY HAT CONTESTS

Regina Caruolo, of the Village of Silver Lake, shows off her hand-crafted prize-winning Derby hat. Which hats are more likely to win? The handmade ones, of course.



Party Tip
4

DECORATIONS

Judy Keelin, of the Village of Charlotte, helped choose the decoration for her club's Kentucky Derby party. "We got confetti, big horses to hang from the ceiling, plastic jockey hats," Keelin said. Keelin also ordered special napkins — with the date of the luncheon printed on them — as keepsakes for the ladies at the inaugural luncheon.

THIS & THAT

Mum's the Word: A Little Less Talk Allows for Lots More Dancing



Jill Sherman

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You don't have to say it twice. When Ken Smith hears the lyrics to "Shut Up and Dance" by Walk the Moon, he quiets down and allows his fancy footwork to speak for itself. Smith might hop out of his chair on Spanish Springs Town Square as the nightly entertainment cranks out his favorite song. But not always. "Half the time," the Village of Silver Lake resident said, motioning Monday toward the pavers around the Gazebo, "I'm already out there." Smith said he has loved to dance since he first cut a rug as a 14-year-old at the Canteen in Bellevue, Kentucky. Now, the square — scented with blooming jasmine — is his dance hall. And Dorothy Davis, of Water Oak, is his dance partner.



Linda Hodges | Village of Pennecamp

Moment of Zen A hawk watches intently from a cover of leaves and branches.

Share a photo: Email photos@thevillagesmedia.com with "Moment of Zen" as the subject. Include your name and village/city. Photos should be from our community.

SWIMMING POOL CLOSE TO HOME IS A GOOD THING

Barbara Love followed a Tuesday morning line dance class with running errands. When afternoon hit, the Village of Country Club Hills resident relaxed in a chair on the deck of Hilltop adult pool. She eyed the sparkling pool water as the outdoor temperature rose into the mid-80-degree range. "I'll be getting in soon," she said. "I'm sure the water will be refreshing."

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING HELPS WITH SAFETY

The dress code at Paradise Archery Range is there for good reason. "We follow the rules — for safety," Mary Ann Hartman, of the Village of Piedmont, said Tuesday as experienced archers stepped up to the line. Hartman, who runs the archery program for the Recreation Department, said flip-flops are a no-go at the range — athletic shoes are required. That's just a sampling of the code.

local news

DERBY

Continued from C1

Food and Drinks

Mint juleps are a staple at any Kentucky Derby-related event, so of course, the Kentucky Connection club will include the iconic drink at its Derby party.

The history of the julep's Derby symbol status is long and debated, Roby said. The silver julep cups were offered as prizes at county fairs in Kentucky as early as 1816, and the famous drink somehow made its way to the track, Roby said. It was around 1938 that the drink became a popular choice at the Derby.

Club President David Sawyer volunteered to prepare mint juleps for the club, using his grandfather's recipe.

The Kentuckians will share some of their favorite dishes with fellow club members through a potluck, said Cindy Duncan, event organizer. Additionally, the club will provide pulled pork sliders from OakWood Smokehouse & Grill.

An early Derby-themed event took place April 21 at Legacy Restaurant at Nancy Lopez Country Club in The Villages.

The event — which organizer Judy Keelin dubbed The Villages Ladies Kentucky Derby Luncheon — was scheduled to accommodate a few women who were heading North before Saturday's running of the horses in Louisville.

Virgin mint juleps were to be served at another pre-race party Thursday at Lake Miona Recreation Center, according to Carolyn Christensen, president of the Georgia Club in The Villages.

For the benefit of any interested attendees, however, the event was billed as "BYOBourbon," Christensen said.

Decorations

To prepare for their get-together, planners of The Villages Ladies Kentucky Derby Luncheon went online to look for decorations.

"We got confetti, big horses to hang from the ceiling, plastic jockey hats," Keelin said.

Keelin also ordered special napkins — with the date of the luncheon printed on them — as keepsakes for the ladies at the inaugural luncheon.

Thinking ahead to 2018, Keelin saved most of the decorations.

Kentucky Connection's party decorations also have a Derby theme, Duncan said.

Every year, Duncan goes online to order paper goods with the current race's logo, number and colors for the party. For the 143rd Derby, the colors are blue, white and red, so Duncan will use that color combination to decorate the room for the party, she said.

Derby Hat Contests

You can't celebrate the Kentucky Derby without Derby hats, and members of Kentucky Connection know all about them. Members enter one of the three categories of their hat contest: store bought, handcrafted and handcrafted with a Derby theme.

All who came to The Villages Ladies luncheon wore fancy hats, many of which were adorned with ribbons and stripes, even flowers and butterflies. First- and second-prize awards were given for the best overall hats, as well as a "Most Creative" prize.

Members of the 3C's Ohio Club will participate in the club's fancy hat contest, to be held at their Derby party May 13. Members will parade around the room to show off their colorful and fun headwear, club President Judi Andrews said.

Winners are selected by applause from the club, and normally, handmade hats are the most popular, Andrews said.

Race Games and Entertainment

For party entertainment, The Villages Ladies participated in a raucous horse-race dice game. Painted paddles were passed from person to person — labeled with Villages-centric names of six fantasy horses.

Georgia Club members also participated in a horse-race game, using horses made by Sandy Glickman from pool noodles with feathery add-ons. Volunteer jockeys would move through a grid on the floor, made with painters tape.

The Florida Club, which held its Derby party April 26, used six wooden horses that were crafted by a former member of the club, said Joyce Maschinot, club president.

"We used to do it after the race, but by then everybody was so bored of the Derby," she said. "Now we do it in April, so it's like the beginning of Derby season."

The jockeys for the 3C's Ohio Club move through a grid on the floor.

"There's no actual running involved, just stepping from one square to the other," Andrews said with a laugh.

While the race format followed by Kentucky

Konnection is similar, each of the six jockeys creates an elaborate theme for the races. The costumes can get outlandish thanks to the jockeys' creativity, Duncan said.

The theme for each jockey includes selecting colors and naming the horse, the trainer and the stable, as well as the horse's sire (father) and dam (mother). Using all of this information, Duncan narrates the races much like a Churchill Downs announcer would,

she said.

After the winning jockeys are announced and the horses are back in their stables, Kentucky Konnection will televise the real Kentucky Derby to enjoy the "most exciting two minutes in sports" in good company.

It may be hard to beat the in-person vibe at Churchill Downs, but many local clubs are on pace to create a fun and memorable experience with a Villages twist.

SAWYER FAMILY MINT JULEP RECIPE

David Sawyer, president of Kentucky Connection, will be sharing his family's mint julep recipe at the club's Kentucky Derby party Saturday. The recipe was passed down from his grandfather.

- » 4 cups water
 - » 1 cup sugar
 - » Handful of mint leaves
 - » Sprigs of mint
 - » Premium Kentucky bourbon
- Boil water, add sugar and handful of fresh mint leaves. Chill when complete.

Fill entire julep cup with crushed ice, then add a sprig of fresh mint long enough to be more than 3 inches above the rim of the cup. Add 3 to 4 ounces of premium Kentucky bourbon, then add the sugar water to fill the cup. Enjoy.

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