



# LOCAL NEWS

### To report local news:

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### CONSUMER NEWS

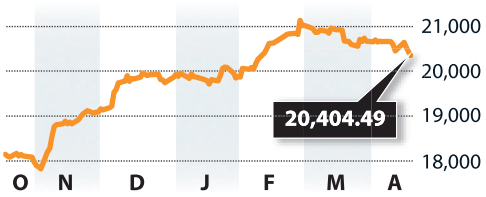
## HIERS-BAXLEY OPENS LIFE EVENT CENTER AT BUFFALO RIDGE

Hiers-Baxley Funeral Services opened its 12,000-square-foot life center this week at 3975 Wedgewood Lane in Buffalo Ridge Plaza. But the service built a property that not only celebrates the life of the departed, but also serves organizations and businesses in need of meeting space. **Complete story, C8**

### MARKET NEWS

The major U.S. stock indexes closed mostly lower Wednesday, led by a slide in energy companies as the price of crude oil fell. **Full report, C9**

#### Dow Jones Industrial Average



#### Dow



-118.79  
Close:  
20,404.49

#### Nasdaq



+13.56  
Close:  
5,863.03

#### S&P 500



-4.02  
Close:  
2,338.17

## Our Town

WHERE WE LIVE AND WHO WE ARE



Photos by Erin Williams | Daily Sun

Sandra Warnock, of the Village of Tall Trees, admires the variety of roses on display Wednesday at the 11th annual Celebration of Roses hosted by The Villages Rose Club at Laurel Manor Recreation Center.

# Everything's Coming Up Roses at Laurel Manor

### The Villages Rose Club held its 11th annual Celebration of Roses on Wednesday for the public.

By VALENTINA BORÉ  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

#### THE VILLAGES

Bud Stout may not be a rosarian — an expert on the art of cultivating roses — but his knowledge may cause you to think otherwise.

Stout stood by the tables set up for the Celebration of Roses on Wednesday, answering questions to the best of his abilities. His wife, Nancy, is the president of The

Villages Rose Club, and Bud has learned by extension.

"If you pick up a little bit of lingo, you can fake the rest of it, and people walk away thinking you're a master," he said with a laugh. "When it comes down to expertise, she's the one with the knowledge, and I'm trained to get out of the way."

The Celebration of Roses, the 11th annual event organized by the Rose Club, took place Wednesday



A hybrid tea rose was one of many on display at the 11th annual Celebration of Roses.

"The idea is for the roses to continue to bring happiness to people who, for physical reasons, are not able to be here."

**NANCY STOUT**  
President of  
The Villages Rose Club

Please See ROSES, C12

### VILLAGER DRIVING WITH 2 FLAT TIRES ACCUSED OF DUI

A woman ended up in jail after being seen driving with two flat tires in the wrong lane Tuesday night on Buena Vista Boulevard, the Sheriff's Office reported. **Public Safety, C4**



Talking With...  
**Gary Gross**, chairman of the Dunedin Unit 203 AED Program.

Interview, C3

### TOP OF THE NEWS

## THE GUY SINGERS STRIKE BACK SATURDAY

Group to feature men vocalists during meeting at Laurel Manor.

After an all-women show, A Classic Rock and Roll Dance will feature men performing songs by Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Laurel Manor Recreation Center, 1985 Laurel Manor Drive. Admission is \$5 at the door, with proceeds going to animal rescue groups. For information, call Larry and Sharlene at 352-750-6448.

— Michael Fortuna,  
Daily Sun

## THIS & THAT

### Spring Day Sets The Tone for Coffee And Conversation At Brownwood



**Patricia Steele**

753-1119 ext. 9412  
patricia.steele@thevillagesmedia.com

Dunkin' Donuts in Brownwood can be a great place to take a break and watch the world go by on a spring afternoon. **Skip Connors**, of the Village of Collier, spent a few minutes Tuesday afternoon sharing one of the outdoor tables and conversation with Wildwood resident Albert Cronk. Cronk visits Brownwood most days. He likes the convenience and all the activity. Connors visits regularly between his many golf and pickleball games. He counted off the number of days he plays golf, and it's almost every day. When he's not golfing, he's at the pickleball court. "We've ended up here at the same time a few times in the past few weeks, so we started talking about places we know," Connors said.



Becky Goble | Village of Osceola Hills at Soaring Eagle Preserve

**Moment of Zen**  
The sky is filled with orange and red clouds after the sun sets.

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.

### VILLAGER FINDS ONE-STOP SHOPPING IN BROWNWOOD

What a way to spend the day. **Rosemary Rovegno** spent Tuesday getting her nails done, shopping at Rustic Rose and window shopping during her trip to Brownwood Paddock Square. "I love the convenience of Brownwood," said Rovegno, of the Village of Lake Deaton. "It's five minutes from home, and it has everything."

### PLANES, PANCAKES BENEFIT ANIMALS

Villages E Flyers President **Stan Carpenter** knows a lot about airplanes and flying, but he also appreciates the work of the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County. Carpenter, of the Village of Buttonwood, along with fellow club members, worked at a pancake breakfast fundraiser the club sponsored April 15 during a fly-in at FreeFlight airport in Coleman.

local news



Photos by Erin Williams | Daily Sun

George Grim, of the Village of Calumet Grove, smells a bouquet of hybrid tea roses Wednesday at the 11th annual Celebration of Roses hosted by The Villages Rose Club at Laurel Manor Recreation Center.

ROSES

Continued from C1

at Laurel Manor Recreation Center. For most of the day, residents, guests and curious passersby stopped to smell the variety of roses offered by the club.

"There are 130 displays of different colors, sizes and fragrances," Nancy said. "It's an opportunity to see a variety of roses growing in gardens around The Villages."

Twenty-two club members participated in the event, displaying roses grown in their gardens and representing eight different classifications of roses.

"Technically, there are 10,000 different types of roses, so we don't come close to that in The Villages Rose Club. But we have a good mixture of variety," Nancy said.

The different classifications displayed at the event included hybrid tea roses, climbing roses, old garden roses and shrub roses.

"We have eight classifications here today and they're some of the more popular ones that we grow in our gardens," Nancy said. "It gives information to the public on the classifications that would grow well in our area."

Sally Little, of the Village of La Belle, missed the celebration

last year. So this year, she made sure she was able to attend.

"It lived up to my expectations and then some," Little said. "I had company and I was waiting for them to leave so I could come here. I couldn't miss it."

Rose Stein, of the Village of Bonnybrook, walked around the lobby while taking pictures, decked out in a shirt with roses printed on it.

"When I tell friends I'm a member of the Rose Club, they want to know, 'Is it for your name?'" she said with a laugh.

Stein's husband, Pete, said he is not a member of the club but joked that Stein is a thorn in his side.

"It's the other way, I'm the rose and he's the thorn," Stein added with a laugh.

Stein, who joined the club four years ago, said her rose-growing skills have grown greatly since she joined the club.

"I was doing everything wrong. Now I'm a rose fanatic," she said. "The rosarians here have rose gardens. I just have a garden with roses in it."

After the event, the displays will be donated to several charities in the community, Nancy said.

"The idea is for the roses to continue to bring happiness to people who, for physical reasons, are not able to be here," she said.



Roses from eight classifications were on display at the 11th annual Celebration of Roses.

The beauty of roses is worth sharing with other people, Nancy said, and it is why she chose to grow roses as a hobby.

"My mother grew roses when I was a young girl. I noticed how happy she was when she was in her rose garden, so I thought there must be something special about roses," she said.

It doesn't escape people that Bud's name seems fitting, given his wife's rose-growing hobby, Bud said.

"A lot of people pick up on that and they say that my wife picked the perfect person to be married to," Bud said with a laugh. "My joke is that she shopped around and the only qualification was the right name, so I said, 'What about me? My name is Bud.'"

"He's my favorite rose bud," Nancy said fondly.



We have eight classifications here today and they're some of the more popular ones that we grow in our gardens.

**NANCY STOUT**  
President  
The Villages Rose Club



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TOMORROW- PROPERTIES OF THE VILLAGES® CUP

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P LO

1p.m. & 3p.m.

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