



SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017

THE VILLAGES DAILY SUN

LOCAL NEWS

To report local news:

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Our Town

WHERE WE LIVE AND WHO WE ARE

Then & Now

On June 12, 2016, 49 lives were lost in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. The attack also left 58 others fighting for their lives. Support continues to pour in from Central Florida and around the globe as the community tries to turn a day of despair into a day of love and service.



2016

Law enforcement officials investigate the back of the Pulse nightclub in Orlando on June 12, 2016 in a massacre that left 49 people dead.
The Associated Press

AMERICA'S HEALTHIEST HOMETOWN

Learn how The Villages Health can help you maintain the lifestyle you want. **C5**

Inside: Primary care doctors, are asked about the important part behavioral health knowledge plays in disease management.

Also: How does it make you feel when you have a diabetic patient who takes the disease seriously?



Plus: Meet Dr. Laura Cloukey, medical director, Pinellas Care Center

TOP OF THE NEWS

PUBLIX HOSTING FUNDRAISER FOR KIDS

Donate to UF Health Shands Children's Hospital today through July 1.

Publix is raising money to help deliver lifesaving care to local children at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital, the area's Children's Miracle Network Hospital. In exchange for a \$1, \$3 or \$5 donation, customers will receive a set of coupons with savings of up to \$2. In 2016, Publix Super Markets raised more than \$780,000 for the hospital.

—Lurvin Fernandez, Daily Sun



Joe Pedersen | Daily Sun

2017 One year after the attack, the memorial at Pulse continues to draw mourners from around the world. The site will host two official gatherings on Monday, and music and prayer services throughout the day. Its owner is working to raise funds for a permanent memorial.

"A Day of Love and Kindness" will mark the anniversary of the worst mass shooting in U.S. history.

By VALENTINA BORÉ
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Bells will toll 49 times at noon tomorrow, around the globe and locally for the lives lost in the worst mass shooting in U.S. history.

The June 12 massacre at Orlando's Pulse nightclub was the worst act of violence unleashed on the LGBT community, and America's

deadliest terror attack since 9/11.

The tragedy hit close to home for Peggy Garvin and Wendy O'Donnell, co-founders of Rainbow Family and Friends in The Villages.

"We really are a resilient community," O'Donnell said. "We do it holding each other's hands, and we do it through a sense of being connected."

Last year, the group honored victims with a candlelight vigil at Bonifay Country Club, with

support from club owner Fred Karimipour and the staff.

"They have been incredibly generous and incredibly helpful to us," O'Donnell said. "All they wanted to do was help."

This year, the group held a moment of silence at its June 8 weekly meeting. Many wore "We Are Orlando" and "Orlando United" shirts to show their solidarity and honor the victims.

Members plan to gather at noon Monday at Spanish Springs Town Square.

Residents traveling to Orlando today and Monday should expect large crowds downtown

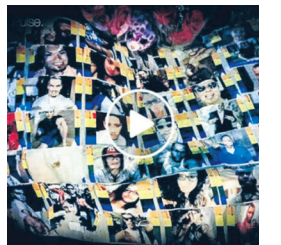
Please See THEN & NOW, C11

ACT. LOVE. GIVE.

Families of some of the 49 victims shared a list of 49 acts with One Orlando Alliance that can demonstrate love and kindness on Monday. The first act on the list: "Visit an elder and ask them to tell you about the world when they were growing up or when they first got married or their first job." To see the full list, go to actlovegive.org

VIDEO EXTRA

Last year, Senior Writer Joe Pedersen joined 50,000 people at a vigil for Pulse victims. See his account on The Villages Daily Sun's Facebook page.



Sinkhole Reported in The Village of Liberty Park

The sinkhole formed under a Villager's home Saturday morning and was about 20 feet wide, about 30 feet deep.

By LURVIN FERNANDEZ
Daily Sun Staff Writer

A Villager was evacuated from her home after a sinkhole formed under the home Saturday morning on Abercrombie Way in the Village of Liberty Park. The sinkhole was about 20 feet wide, about 30 feet deep and partially under the foundation of her home, according to District Public Safety. The house did not sustain any damage, but remained evacuated until a building inspector assessed the situation. SECO Energy was called to disconnect service for safety reasons. Florida is in a part of the country in which sinkholes naturally occur, commonly after periods of significant rainfall.



A Villager in the Village of Liberty Park awoke Saturday morning to find a roughly fifty foot deep sinkhole had formed under the front portion of her home.



Sinkholes occur naturally in this part of the country, often after periods of significant rainfall.

Photos by Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Academy Gives Teens New Insight to Law Enforcement

By **PATRICIA STEELE**
Daily Sun Senior Writer

BUSHNELL

Shamerica Williams has a new understanding of law enforcement after a week in the Teen Citizens Academy.

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office held its first teen academy June 5-9.

The academy was free to the first 40 teens ages 13 to 17 to register.

Williams was encouraged by her South Sumter High School criminal justice teacher to participate.

"Next year I'll be working on my 911 certification and she thought I would benefit from the class," Williams said. "I wasn't sure."

The academy gave Williams a new appreciation for the variety of careers and the amount of work that is involved in law enforcement.

"The academy was pretty awesome," Williams said. "There was lots of hands on activities."

Sumter County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Gary Brannen initiated the idea and collaboration between community outreach, media, and school resource offices to make the academy a reality.

The academy allowed deputies to connect with teens and help dispel myths about law enforcement, Brannen said.

The program also showed them the variety of career opportunities available, he said. Sheriff Bill Farmer participated in graduation activities Friday afternoon.

Before meeting each student, Farmer shared how his life took a change during a chance encounter.

It was career day at South Sumter High School during Farmer's senior year. A chance meeting with a representative from the Federal Bureau of Investigation out of Ocala gave him the opportunity to



Sumter County Sheriff William O. Farmer, Jr., center right, and deputy Bill Rappleyea, center left, pose for a photo Friday with, from left, Baylee Garrity, Angelina Ayala and Evan Ayala, after presenting them with their certificate for completing the firearms safety course at the Sumter County Sheriff's Office Teen Citizens Academy during a graduation ceremony in Bushnell.

Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

attend fingerprint identification training with the FBI in Washington, D.C.

"I didn't anticipate I would go into law enforcement when I was in high school, but one opportunity changed my life," Farmer said.

He advised the students to be open to opportunities and whatever they choose, "be the best they can be."

Capt. Pat Breeden, coordinator for the academy, said the goal was to give students an opportunity to experience all aspects of law enforcement.

It was the staff from all departments that made the academy a success, Breeden said.

During graduation, Beatriz Garrity, a SCSO school resource officer at The Villages Charter School was busy taking photos of her children and nephew as they received two certificates — one for

completing the academy, and one for completing the gun safety class.

"They came home excited and talking about the academy everyday," Garrity said. "They loved anything hands-on."

The academy curriculum included a mock trial, a staged crime scene, a jail tour and a trip to the shooting range.

Evan Ayala, 15, Garrity's son, loved the mock trial.

"It was very informative, and I learned a lot about the process," Evan said. "I've always thought I would like to be an attorney. This just made it clearer for me."

His sister, Angelina Ayala, 14, made up her mind during the course of the week that she wanted to be a crime scene investigator.

"I loved the work involved and the attention to details," Angelina added.

For Baylee Garrity, 12, the academy was also about making connections, getting to know people and sharing ideas. She also learned she was a pretty good shot.

"I didn't expect that," Baylee said. "I've never shot a pistol or rifle before. That was interesting."

Shortly after graduation was completed, Breeden, along with other academy coordinators, started planning for next year.

"We're looking for ways to improve, and now is the time while it's fresh in our minds," Breeden said. "We have already decided there will be two sessions next year."

Patricia Steele is a senior writer with *The Villages Daily Sun*. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 9029, or Patricia.Steele@thevillagesmedia.com.



Joe Pedersen | Daily Sun

Seuss Rivera, of Orlando, stands in front of Pulse nightclub paying his respects to the 49 people killed last year.

THEN & NOW

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and a visible police presence across the city.

Civic leaders hope all Central Floridians will join in "Orlando United Day — A Day of Love and Kindness." Organizers set up a website — actlovegive.org — to link volunteers to service projects and other ways to show kindness.

Commemorative events Monday include:

» A ceremony to honor the memory of the victims at Pulse from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. featuring community speakers, reflective prayers, a reading of the victims' names and live music.

» From 4 p.m. until 6 p.m., volunteers will package 10,000 meals for each of the 49 people lost — for

a total of 490,000 meals — at Feeding Children Everywhere, 830 S. Ronald Reagan Blvd. in Longwood.

» At 7 p.m., a ceremony at Lake Eola Park titled "Orlando Love: Remembering Our Angels" will feature remarks by community leaders and musical performances.

» To end the night, the community is invited to Pulse from 10 p.m. until midnight for prayers, live music and reflection.

"We just will not let the hatred and the fury define us," O'Donnell said. "Love is going to be what defines us and what makes us who we are."

Valentina Boré is a staff writer with *The Villages Daily Sun*. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 9061, or valentina.bore@thevillagesmedia.com.

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