

LET'S GO

Looking for something fun to do today? Try yoga for softball players! **D1**

THE WEATHER TODAY, C2

8 a.m. 79° Noon 91° 4 p.m. 96° 8 p.m. 84°

## Is Sergio Garcia Due to Win a Major?

Trivett: Spaniard is ready to claim the PGA, 17 years after his close call at Medinah. **B1**

### Top of the News

INSIDE THE ISSUES SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

# Anticipating the Storm

Eleven years after the last major hurricane made U.S. landfall, forecasters are on alert as the Atlantic hurricane season's peak nears.



Erin Williams | Daily Sun

Members of the Weather Watchers record monthly rainfall, reporting the amount to AM-640 WVLG forecaster Karl Loeper.

By MICHAEL SALERNO  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

THE VILLAGES

Where are the hurricanes?

Despite near-average seasonal outlooks and a bustling start to the season in June, with tropical storms Bonnie and Colin drenching the Southeast, the tropics were relatively quiet in July.

Even the more than 3 inches of rain that fell during the month to date is about halfway below the normal amount for July in The Villages, AM-640 WVLG weather forecaster Karl Loeper said.

But we're weeks away from the start of the peak period for tropical storm formation, traditionally from mid-August through September, he said.

"Nothing is going on (now), but there probably will be something by the end of the month (of August)," he said.

For a record-breaking 129 months — equal to about 11 years — major hurricanes failed to make landfall in the continental U.S., data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration confirmed this week. The last major hurricane to strike was Wilma in 2005.

Please See **STORM, A14**

### PREPARING FOR THE STORM

1

**CREATE AN EMERGENCY KIT**

**Water:** One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.

**Food:** Easy to prepare, no need for refrigeration.

**Kits:** First aid, lantern, batteries.

2

**MAKE A PLAN**

**Evacuation route:** Locate the nearest storm shelter.

**Contact:** Have at least one out-of-state contact.

**Utilities:** Know how to shut off gas, electric and water systems.

3

**BE INFORMED**

**Radio:** Purchase and charge a NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio or battery-powered radio.

**Guide:** Get prepared with our hurricane guide at [thevillagesdailysun.com](http://thevillagesdailysun.com)



DECISION 2016  
THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

## DAY THREE RECAP OBAMA, BIDEN BOOST CLINTON

Amid raucous cheers Wednesday night, Obama touts his former rival as an experienced choice for president.

Declaring that America is already great and does not need some "self-declared savior," President Barack Obama capped an evening of spirited political speeches, including addresses from Vice President Joe Biden and Clinton's VP pick, Tim Kaine. **Political News, A6**



Mark J. Terrill | The Associated Press

President Barack Obama speaks during the third day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia on Wednesday.

## DAY FOUR PREVIEW ON THE SCHEDULE

TODAY'S THEME

"Stronger Together"

TODAY'S PRIME-TIME SPEAKERS

Speakers are part of the prime-time program, which follows the nomination process.

**Hillary Clinton:** Democratic nominee

**Chelsea Clinton:** Clinton's daughter

**Gen. John Allen (Ret.):** Former commander, ISAF Afghanistan

**Sen. Barbara Mikulski:** Maryland

**Chad Griffin:** Human Rights Campaign

**Jensen Walcott and Jake Reed:** Equal pay advocates

**Khizr Khan:** Father of slain U.S. soldier

**Beth Mathias:** Factory worker

**Sarah McBride:** LGBT rights activist

**Gene Karpinski:** League of Conservation voters



## COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS

### Only in The Villages

LIFE IN FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

## Villager Was Driver For Norman Rockwell And Posed For A Painting

By CIARA VARONE  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

At 22 years old, Clarence Barrett was working as a driver in Massachusetts. After chauffeuring his client to an event one night in the late 1950s, Barrett waited for him to exit.

"Park the car and come on in," said his client, Norman Rockwell.

Barrett refused, but Rockwell insisted. It was a common occurrence in his few years working for the artist, who rose to fame as an illustrator for *The Saturday Evening Post*.

"We'd go in, and there'd be all of these famous people around there," Barrett said. "He'd always introduce me, 'This is my friend, Clarence.' Never 'This is my chauffeur' or anything."

Please See **ROCKWELL, A12**



Louis Brems | Daily Sun

Clarence Barrett, of the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens, holds a print of an early version of Rockwell's "The Runaway" featuring him behind the bar.

THE DIGIT

80

The number of children from kindergarten through eighth grade who participated in this year's Buffalo Football Camp at The Villages High School. The three-day camp, which wrapped up July 20, gave participants an opportunity to work on basic football fundamentals, including passing, blocking and tackling.

— Tyler Breaman, Daily Sun

## TONIGHT'S EVENTS ON THE SQUARES

Entertainment runs from 5 to 9 p.m.

**Spanish Springs Town Square**  
Carol Ann  
Happy hour, 5-7 p.m.

**Lake Sumter Landing Market Square**  
Crossfire Band  
Happy hour, 5-6 p.m.

**Brownwood Paddock Square**  
Plus 1 Duo  
Happy hour, 5-6 p.m.

from the front page

**ROCKWELL**

Continued from A1

Each of Rockwell's paintings started as a carefully crafted photo. He'd ask friends and neighbors to pose for his work, preferring them over professional models.

"A lot of times, I think he chose people for his models just because he wanted to do something for them," Barrett said.

In 1958, he asked Barrett to pose for what would become one of his most famous works, "The Runaway." The painting depicts a boy sitting with a policeman in a diner. Barrett was the original inspiration for the man serving behind the counter, though the final result doesn't look much like him. That's because after Rockwell sent in the painting, his publisher said he wanted it to show the boy running away to the country, not the city — so the face behind the counter was changed.

"(Rockwell) said, 'I got bad news for you. I've got to change the painting.' And I say, 'My God, that's bad news for you,'" Barrett said.

The original with Barrett's likeness now hangs beside the reworked result in the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Barrett sold the painting to the museum after a family vote when his kids were reaching college age.

"I guess I toured all over the world — not me, but with the painting," he said. "It's been wonderful. It's been a wonderful thing. I enjoy it so much when I go back to Stockbridge, and my family and I go to the museum."

A signed copy of the painting hangs in the living room of Barrett's home in the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens, along with some of his other favorite Rockwell works.

"To my best worker," the inscription reads. "Clarence and Anne (Barrett's wife at

the time). Sincerely, Norman Rockwell."

Barrett said that unlike some others in Rockwell's life, he never sought the attention. Rockwell was the star, he says, and he was lucky to play a role in his life.

But he enjoys giving details about the painter, like about how quickly he worked. Barrett said he would drive paintings to the Curtis Publishing Company before the paint even had dried.

"He'd just get it finished and put it in the car. And he'd say, 'Clarence, if anything happens on the way, please stay with the painting,'" Barrett said. "He was joking, of course."

Though he transported Rockwell's paintings most frequently, he also got to know Rockwell's family on drives, including his children and second wife, Mary Barstow. They all treated him with the same kindness shown by Norman.

"You look at his paintings, and you say he had a good philosophy on life. Well, he was just that way. So nice," Barrett said. "Such a nice man."

After working as a personal driver, Barrett drove buses throughout New England for 30 years. He's expecting a large turnout of fellow drivers at his birthday party in Massachusetts later this month. Barrett now works as a gate attendant in the Village Del Mar — and people can expect a wide grin if Rockwell's name comes up. Barrett is happy to share his experiences.

He may flip to a page in one of the Norman Rockwell books he keeps for visitors to show a picture of himself modeling, but his eyes will go straight to his former boss. "There he is," he said, pointing. Then he smiled and his blue eyes brightened. "Such a nice man."

Ciara Varone is a staff writer with *The Villages Daily Sun*. She can be reached at 753-1119, ext. 9036, or ciara.varone@thevillagesmedia.com.



In 1958, Norman Rockwell asked Clarence Barrett, who now lives in the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens, to pose for what would become "The Runaway."

Barrett was the original inspiration for the man serving behind the counter, as captured in the photo, top. Rockwell based the painting on.

Rockwell completed an initial version of the painting, left, above, but his publisher said the boy should be running away to the country, not the city — so the setting and the man behind the counter were changed.

The final version, left, features Rockwell's assistant, Don Johnson, behind the counter.

Image Sources: The Norman Rockwell Family Agency; Clarence Barrett

**Able Trust Honors Villager as Volunteer of The Year**

By LURVIN FERNANDEZ  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

In 2005, Rich Cole experienced a horrific accident that changed his life forever.

The retired attorney from Pennsylvania became an amputee only a year into retirement, and he felt helpless.

However, his athleticism and volunteer work soon shattered misconceptions associated with people with disabilities — a feat honored last week, when he was named Able Trust's Volunteer of the Year.



Rich Cole

"It was a natural continuum for me," said Cole, of the Village of Glenbrook. "Retirement, as I see it, is a time to do what you enjoy. It wasn't planned that I would have a disability, but it has been a rewarding way for me to spend my retirement."

Able Trust, a nonprofit public-private partnership that provides Floridians with disabilities opportunities for successful employment, rewarded Cole for his contributions in his neighborhood and the organization, said Dr. Susanne Homant, Able Trust president and CEO.

"It's one of those blessings you get in a lifetime, and Able Trust was able to get it in the form of Richard," Homant said.

Cole advocated for individuals with disabilities before he became one.

He has served on the Able Trust board of directors for about a decade, as vice chairman and three terms as chairman.

He also served in former Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburg's administration as the chief counsel for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, which included the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Bureau of Disability Determination.

Cole also served as vice president and general counsel for United Hospitals in Philadelphia and later entered private practice, where he devoted a large portion of time to working with severely disabled persons.

After the motorcycle crash that took part of his leg, he took a more inspirational approach to his work in The Villages. He became leader of The Villages Amputee Support Group, which provides information and support to new and long-time amputees.

Additionally, he serves as a certified peer visitor, someone who visits recent amputees and offers words of encouragement.

This month he established a partnership with the new The Villages Regional Hospital Acute Rehabilitation Hospital, to visit patients, Cole said.

The award came as a huge surprise to Cole, who usually is the one presenting the award.

"It was the first time in a long time that I was at a loss for words," Cole said.

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