



Forecast C2

Sun and storms

Today's high: 94

Tonight's low: 74

# The Villages® DAILY SUN

\$1.00

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2014

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## Soccer: Do Americans love it or hate it?

The Daily Sun's Amy Johstono and Steve Trivett each state their case as to why Americans have such a love-hate relationship with soccer.

Sports B1

## Amateur Radio Club takes on Field Day

The Villages Amateur Radio Club is participating in a Field Day event to demonstrate the club's ability to respond to emergency situations.

Local C1

## America's Healthiest Hometown



George Horsford / Daily Sun

Beginning Tuesday, the specialty care center, located in the former wellness center near the Sharon Morse Building and The Villages Regional Hospital, will become part of The Villages Health, a primary-care-driven health care provider in Florida's Friendliest Hometown.

## Specialty care shifts to The Villages Health

USF Health will target research, education as academic partner

By LARRY D. CROOM  
DAILY SUN OMBUDSMAN

**T**HE VILLAGES In the ongoing effort to provide patient-centered care to area residents, The Villages Health is assuming the responsibility for the specialty care center in Florida's Friendliest Hometown.

Beginning Tuesday, the primary-care-driven health care provider will begin operating the facility, which is located in the former wellness center near the Sharon Morse Building.

It's a move that both Villages Health and USF Health officials said makes perfect sense.

"When we started this health initiative two years ago, we made the decision to focus on primary care and our academic partner, USF Health, agreed to lead specialty care,"

See SPECIALTY, A9

## National focus

### Review: VA a struggling agency beset with ills

Citing "significant and chronic system failures" in the nation's health system for veterans, a review ordered by President Barack Obama portrays the Department of Veterans Affairs as a struggling agency battling a corrosive culture of distrust, lacking in resources and ill-prepared to deal with an influx of new and older veterans with a range of medical and mental health care needs.

The scathing report by White House Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Nabors says the Veterans Health Administration, the VA sub-agency that provides health care to about 8.8 million veterans a year, has systematically ignored warnings about its deficiencies and must be fundamentally restructured.

Obama ordered the review last month in a response to widespread reports of long delays for treatment and medical appointments and of veterans dying while on waiting lists. But Nabors' report goes far beyond the lengthy waits and manipulated schedules raised by whistleblowers and chronicled in past internal and congressional investigations.

—The Associated Press



## Science focus

### Mars 'flying saucer' vehicle splashes down after NASA test

A saucer-shaped NASA vehicle testing new technology for Mars landings rocketed high over the Pacific on Saturday and deployed a novel inflatable braking system, but its massive parachute failed to fully unfurl as it descended to a splashdown.

Control room cheers that greeted successful steps in the complex test rapidly died as the parachute appeared to emerge tangled.

"Please inform the recovery director we have bad chute," a

mission official ordered. The vehicle, called the Low Density Supersonic Decelerator, was testing methods for slowing big, heavy spacecraft hurtling into the thin Martian atmosphere.

Despite the parachute problem, "what we just saw was a really good test," said NASA engineer Dan Coatta, of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

—The Associated Press



The high-altitude balloon carrying a saucer-shaped vehicle for NASA is launched Saturday in Kauai, Hawaii. Saturday's experimental flight is testing technology that could be used to land on Mars.

NASA  
The Associated Press

## Inside today's Daily Sun

### Benghazi suspect pleads not guilty

In a 10-minute hearing, Ahmed Abu Khattala pleaded not guilty before a judge to charges from the 2012 fatal attack in Benghazi.

World A3

### Firefighter deaths prompt few changes

One year after 19 Arizona firefighters were killed, few changes have been implemented among the state's fire crews.

Nation A11

### Iraq forces retake northern city

Iraqi soldiers began an offensive Saturday to retake the northern city of Tikrit that was besieged by Sunni militants.

World A21



Charity highlight

Childhood Cancer Awareness



Vol. 17 Issue 180

**SPECIALTY**, from A1

said Dr. Elliot Sussman, chair of The Villages Health. "As our primary care centers have progressed and had a bigger and bigger impact on our community, it became clear that primary care and specialty care could work more closely together if they were both under the direction of The Villages Health team. For our patients, it means better coordinated, more seamless care while retaining the innovative ideas and research of the University of South Florida. It's a continuation of the exciting partnership we have with USF – a partnership that will soon be expanding as medical students from there begin to study and work right here in The Villages."

Dr. Joe Hildner, chief medical officer of The Villages Health, said the move to include specialty care under The Villages Health umbrella is the next logical step for providing health care here.

In fact, he added, it will be much like the Mayo Clinic model, where a variety of doctors and medical services all are provided to patients by one entity in an effort to make care as seamless as possible.

"This move truly is a win-win for everyone," Hildner said. "Our primary care doctors and our specialists will continue to work hand in hand as one solid team. Our patients can be referred to specialists when they need to see them. And all of our providers will be on the exact same electronic medical record, so when you see a specialist, he or she will know everything about you and will be able to see the notes from your primary care doctor long before you arrive for the visit."

Sussman said the health care initiative in The Villages couldn't be as successful as it is without the continuing partnership and support from USF Health. He added that as the effort has continued to grow and new primary care centers have opened, the need



George Horsford / Daily Sun

Dr. Charles Lockwood, left, senior vice president for USF Health and the dean of the Morsani College of Medicine at USF, talks with Dr. Elliot Sussman, chair of The Villages Health, as they walk near the USF Health in The Villages office in Lake Sumter Landing recently.

for further education, research and training efforts has become more obvious by the day.

"We've got some real opportunities to learn about health care here and how to make it better across the country," Sussman said. "But that takes an intensive effort by folks who understand how to conduct research and compile the findings. When it comes to those kinds of things, USF Health's involvement is critical. So we want them to concentrate on the learning process and help us with the big picture of steering this effort in the right direction."

Dr. Jeff Lowenkron, CEO of the USF Health Physician Group and chairman of the department of comprehensive medicine in The Villages, agreed.

"Our efforts as an academic partner in The Villages are as strong as ever," he said. "But as this initiative continues to grow, we're really going to have to understand better what works well and what doesn't work so well. So we want to be in a position to study the findings and then share those results – all with the goal of improving patient care."

Dr. Charles Lockwood, senior vice president for USF Health and the dean of the Morsani College of Medicine at USF, said he thinks it's important for both organizations to

play to their strengths.

"I think the strengths that we can bring to the table are the ability to affect communitywide health through our college of public health and the ability to provide some really super subspecialty care as needed by the specialists and the primary care docs here," he said. "But for the day-to-day care the patients receive here, you need to have the tightest possible coordination and collaboration and you really need a seamless connection between the primary care doctors and the specialists."

For his part, Sussman said he is excited about the future of the specialty care center, which is located at 1400 N. U.S. Highway 27/441, Building 810. He said it will be managed the same way as the six Villages Health primary care centers are, which means patients will see a smooth transition and can count on customer service being at the top of the priority list.

"This move is all about our patients and providing them the best possible care," he said. "So going forward, we're going to be actively seeking the right specialists to see Villagers at our care center. And we'll continue to search for those specialists that make the most sense for our patients as we all work together to create America's Healthiest Hometown."



George Horsford / Daily Sun

Traffic heads northbound on U.S. Highway 27/441 just past Main Street in The Villages.

**TRAVEL**, from A1

AAA reported.

The current national average price of gas is 20 cents per gallon more expensive than the average on July 4, 2013, which was \$3.48 per gallon.

In The Villages, the price per gallon of unleaded regular averaged \$3.52, the Daily Sun found Thursday morning in a review of selected golf cart-accessible convenience stores.

Prices averaged about \$3.41 per gallon last year during the holiday weekend and \$3.12 per gallon two years ago.

But the sisters from The Villages will carry on, despite the gas costs.

"That's your only choice," said Routte, of the Village of Summerhill. "We couldn't take the golf carts."

AAA reported that a willingness of consumers to take on credit card debt, not an increase in income, is spurring consumer spending and overall travel.

But expenses will keep some Villagers at home for the holiday.

Linda Sandusky, of the Village Alhambra, said she also maintains a house in Ohio and can't afford to take a trip.

"This is my traveling right here," said Sandusky, referring to The Villages. "This is my vacation forever."

Her friend Linda Berry also is from Ohio and just returned from a trip there. She will be staying close to home for the holiday as well.

"I don't like to travel on the holiday. It's too busy," said Berry, adding it was too early to make holiday plans.

As for Sandusky's plans? She said she might go see the new Melissa McCarthy film, "Tammy."

Stewart and Irene Zahn, of the Village Santo Domingo, said they find everything they need in The Villages, where they have lived for nine years.

Their traveling days are behind them, Zahn said, and they have just one plan for the holiday.

"We'll spend a lovely day here in The Villages like we usually do," Zahn said.

*Chris Gerbasi is a reporter with The Villages Daily Sun. He can be reached at 753-1119, ext. 9265, or chris.gerbasi@thevillagesmedia.com.*

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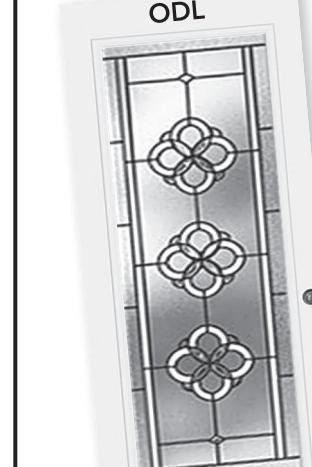
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