

Florida celebrates 500th anniversary

2013 marks the anniversary of Juan Ponce de León's arrival in Florida. The milestone is being celebrated with events throughout the state.

Local C1

Villagers remember The Rolling Stones

The British band that formed 32 years ago is still rocking today. Find out how this group influenced the lives of some residents.

Lifestyles D1

America's Healthiest Hometown

GERM BUSTERS



Bethany Climer, supervisor of environmental services, takes the Xenex, a UV-C pulse-light disinfecting system, to a room in the intensive care unit at The Villages Regional Hospital.

Donations used to purchase high-tech cleaning machines

By LARRY D. CROOM
DAILY SUN OMBUDSMAN

(Part of an ongoing series on The Villages' efforts to become "America's Healthiest Hometown.")

THE VILLAGES In the battle against bacteria and viruses, The Villages Regional Hospital has a secret weapon. Make that three germ-fighting weapons, to be exact, donated by The Villages Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation. The high-tech Xenex machines use a pulsating UV-C light system, along with Xenon gas, to kill germs in everything from patient rooms to surgical suites to intensive-care areas. "It just about completely eliminates all bacteria and viruses that are left in the room," said Don Firestone, director of environmental services for Central Florida Health Alliance. "The pulsing light bounces off the walls, hits all our high-touch areas, and literally takes the DNA of the virus or the bacteria and blows it apart, so it dies automatically."

See GERMS, A6

"It just about completely eliminates all bacteria and viruses that are left in the room."

— Don Firestone, director of environmental services for Central Florida Health Alliance

Only in The Villages



George Horsford / Daily Sun file photo

Chuck Lewis shows the medal he received when he was inducted into the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Sports Hall of Fame.

Coach found a fullback; Chuck Lewis found a dad

The spent man lay motionless under Skyline Medical Center sheets and incandescent lights.



GARY CORSAIR
DAILY SUN

His visitor, who traveled 642 miles from The Villages to reconnect with his hero, was taken aback. Coach Brimm had been so robust. He'd always had a presence — a persona — that commanded respect. But Father Time had battered the legendary coach who shaped hundreds of boys into men — the coach whose teams were 9-1, 7-3, 8-2, 8-2, 9-1, 9-1, 10-0, 8-1-1 and 7-2-1 from 1955 through 1963. The 89-year-old tethered to the heart monitor had been wrestled to the turf by old age, knocked out of bounds by a stroke. Chuck Lewis, Madison High School Class of '61, pulverizing linebacker and punishing fullback, strode to the bed. "I wanted to make sure he felt my love, and stuff. I gave him a great big hug, gave him a kiss on the cheek and told him I would not have had the success I did without him," said Lewis, of the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens. The hug was long and strong. The frail man in the Nashville hospital didn't respond.

See CORSAIR, A8

National focus

Yosemite National Park takes steps to protect sequoias from fire

As a wildfire rages along the remote northwest edge of Yosemite National Park, officials cleared brush and set sprinklers to protect two groves of giant sequoias. **Extra precautions:** The iconic trees can resist fire, but dry conditions and heavy brush are forcing park officials to take extra precautions in the Tuolumne and Merced groves. About three dozen of the giant trees are threatened. **Largest and oldest:** The

trees grow naturally only on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada and are among the largest and oldest living things on Earth. **Not taking chances:** The Tuolumne and Merced groves in are in the north end of the park near Crane Flat. While the Rim Fire is still some distance away, park employees and trail crews are not taking any chances. **Story, A3**

—The Associated Press



Andy Alfaro / The Associated Press
A wildfire rages out of control in the Stanislaus National Forest.

Inside today's Daily Sun

Syria warns US not to intervene

The Syrian government accused rebels of using chemical weapons and warned the U.S. not to launch any military action.

World A3

Thousands march on Washington

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech, thousands marched down the National Mall.

Nation A9

Public less worried about drunken driving

A survey finds that Americans have become much less worried about drunken, aggressive or drowsy driving.

Nation A12



Today's Charity
Hospice Care Awareness



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Vol. 16 Issue 237

College Colors Day



Shirley and Leonard Smith

5 days until

Brought to you by: **BEALLS**

Share your college pride

3 to 5 p.m. Aug. 30
Spanish Springs Town Square

College Colors Day Food Drive

3,887.27 pounds collected so far



 = 200 pounds

Donations can be made at Bealls stores in The Villages or Lady Lake.

AMERICA'S HEALTHIEST HOMETOWN

A weekly report on The Villages' efforts to become "America's Healthiest Hometown" compiled by Daily Sun Ombudsman **Larry D. Croom**
Email larry.croom@thevillagesmedia.com.
Or call him at 753-1119, ext. 9366.

Villages Health

For information about The Villages Health, call 352-674-1700 or visit thevillageshealth.com.

Did you know?

Dr. Karla Noel, who practices at the Colony Care Center, graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine and is a true Indianapolis Colts fan.

Fixing health care: All about ARNP Sylvia Wallace

Primary care doctors and other medical providers have been recruited as part of an initiative to revamp health care right here in Florida's Friendliest Hometown. The Villages Health is partnering with USF Health to bring in family doctors, care providers and specialists who will work as a team, all in the best interests of serving patients. This weekly feature will introduce these innovative medical providers who have joined this effort.

Why did you decide to be a nurse practitioner?

About 10 years into nursing, I felt like I had done everything that I could do as a nurse and was looking for more challenges. I was looking at the physician assistant program, but I'm like, 'well, I'm a nurse, let's be a nurse practitioner.' So I went back to the University of Florida and did that. It's the best decision I ever made. I love what I do.

What is your health care philosophy?

The patient is the most important thing. I think how I've been successful is I understand the importance of listening and paying attention and really hearing what the needs are, then take it from there.

How important is more time with patients?

It gives you that time to listen to the concerns and the worries and issues, to take the time to go through these things. When our patients know we're giving them this time, they're not all keyed up and they're able to open up. We can sit and listen and have a better understanding of you versus thinking about, 'oh, I've got five minutes. I've got to get out of the room.' That should never be.

How important is it for



Care Center: Sharon Morse Building (Santa Barbara in October)
Age: 51
Certified: Advanced registered nurse practitioner
Undergraduate: University of Florida
Master's degree: University of Florida

patients to come to their primary care doctor before seeking out specialists?

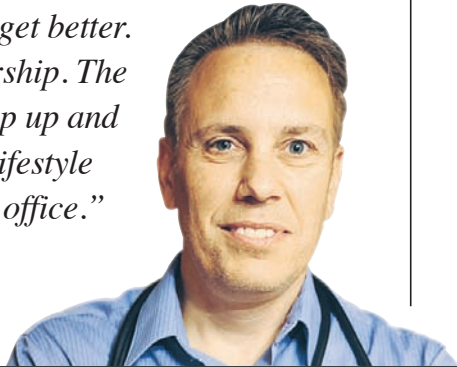
Patients don't necessarily realize, first of all, if they even need a specialist. We can handle so many of their problems. Sometimes they don't realize what we can do and what we're able to take on. But when they do need a specialist, they need to rely on our expertise and history and knowledge base so that they get the appropriate specialist.

Next week Find out all about Jack Redding, a physician assistant who practices at the Belleview Care Center.

What is your personal philosophy on health care?

“I think health care really depends a lot on the individual. My role in health care is to try to give the patient the best advice I possibly can. I really rely on them then to make changes in their own lifestyle, to try to obtain the goals that we set. I can't fix anybody. I can provide them tools and information so that they can help themselves to get better. But I see it as a partnership. The patient really has to step up and take care of their own lifestyle when they're out of the office.”

Dr. Daniel Whinnen,
Belleview Care Center



George Horsford / Daily Sun

Touring the USF Health in The Villages Specialty Care Center are, from left, Dr. Jeff Lowenkron, Dr. Stephen Klasko, Dr. Harry van Loveren, Dr. Elliot Sussman and Dr. Larry Howard.

Staying the path

USF Health's interim dean excited about initiative to revamp health care

By **LARRY D. CROOM**
DAILY SUN OMBUDSMAN

USF Health's Dr. Harry van Loveren summed up a recent visit to Florida's Friendliest Hometown with one very telling comment.

"It looks like the kind of place I'd like to come to get my medical care," the interim dean of the University of South Florida's Morsani School of Medicine and USF Health said while touring medical facilities here.

Van Loveren is no stranger to the health care initiative that's sweeping through The Villages, but he is new to the role of overseeing the partnership between USF Health and The Villages Health. The chairman of USF's neurosurgery department is filling the interim dean role because of the departure of Dr. Stephen Klasko, who is leaving to become the new president of Thomas Jefferson University and CEO of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital system in Philadelphia.

For his part, van Loveren said the opportunity for USF Health to build its specialty care center in the former Wellness Center next to the Sharon Morse Building is quite special. And, he added, the concept of having primary care doctors work alongside those specialists as one team is something that

will draw national attention.

"This is definitely going to make an impact," he said. "It's an opportunity to model what the most efficient type of health care will look like."

While touring the Colony Care Center, van Loveren said the opportunity to work alongside The Villages Health to revamp health care

is a "chance to do it right," largely because the initiative provides opportunities for physicians to practice medicine in better ways.

"This is the kind of doctor the people we recruit wanted to be when they thought of going to medical school in the first place," he said. "A lot of partners have come together to give them this opportunity to take a chance on being the doctor they wanted to be, providing the kind of care they would like to provide – unencumbered – without all the usual external pressures."

Dr. Elliot Sussman, chair of The Villages Health, said history proves that van Loveren is serious about succeeding with everything he touches.

"He's done a wonderful job of building first at USF and then increasingly at other regional hospitals – really across the state – a large neurosurgery network," Sussman said. "And he's made it very clear that he isn't just going to be a caretaker for a couple of months. He's going to get things done and continue the momentum that we have here at The Villages Health, in terms of

working with USF."

Dr. Jeff Lowenkron, chairman of the department of comprehensive care in The Villages, said he's looking forward to working alongside van Loveren to develop the one-of-a-kind specialty care center.

"He is just so solidly behind the whole project and he has a good understanding of it," Lowenkron said. "He wants to drive singular messages that everybody understands and can get behind, so we're on course."

One of those messages, van Loveren said, is that everything being put into place to change health care in The Villages is designed to help the patient.

"It really ought to translate into an experience where you can get what we all like to refer to as 'Marcus Welby' care," he said, "a doctor who knows you and stays with you."

If you have a health care question you'd like to have answered, please email it to larry.croom@thevillagesmedia.com. You can also send your question to the Daily Sun, 1100 Main Street, The Villages, FL 32159, Attn.: Larry Croom.

GERMS, from A1

Firestone said the machines come into play after rooms are cleaned the traditional way. The time it takes to run the machines varies depending on the size of the room, but private rooms and operating suites can be completed in 15 to 20 minutes.

"We keep them positioned throughout the hospital and we do anywhere from 65 to 70 rooms a day," he said.

Firestone said the donated machines, which cost about \$84,000 each, already have proven valuable in reducing infection rates. He cited a

100 percent kill-rate on MRSA infections, which can cause skin and bloodstream issues. He said the technology is also 99.9 percent effective at killing the dangerous clostridium difficile bacteria, which causes symptoms ranging from diarrhea to life-threatening inflammation of the colon.

"Basically, we're saving lives by doing this," he said. "It's something that sets us apart from every other hospital in the area here, because no one else in the area has it."

Dr. Christine Cote, who serves on the foundation's board of directors, said she enjoyed working with Firestone on the process of putting the state-of-the-art technology

into use.

"His enthusiasm in deploying the robots 24/7 to get the very best outcomes made all of the fundraising efforts really worthwhile," she said.

Sandy Nusbaum, president of the hospital's auxiliary and a foundation board member, said the equipment helps the hospital stay ahead of the ever-changing face of health care.

"The Auxiliary Foundation felt that this would be something that could benefit every patient who comes into our hospital, the biggest bang for our buck," she said.

For his part, Don Henderson, president and CEO of Central Florida Health Alliance, said he is thankful to

have such an effective tool in his facility.

"It represents a great leap forward in the health care industry's ongoing battle against superbugs," he said. "Patient safety is always our No. 1 priority."

Dick Campbell, president of the foundation board, agreed.

"It's a given that all of us will need the services of our hospital at one time or another," he said. "I would like it to be the best."

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George Horsford / Daily Sun

Don Firestone, director of environmental services, is shown with the Xenex, a UV-C pulse-light disinfecting system used to clean rooms at The Villages Regional Hospital.