



Forecast C2

Evening storms

Today's high: 90

Tonight's low: 68

The Villages®

# DAILY SUN

Classifieds . . . . . E1-E14  
Comics, Puzzles . . . . . D6-7  
Lifestyles . . . . . D1-D14  
Local . . . . . C1-C10  
Obituaries . . . . . C4  
Sports . . . . . B1-B10  
TV Grid . . . . . D12

50 CENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2013

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## VHS seniors earn big scholarships

Parents, siblings and grandparents proudly looked on as seniors from The Villages High School were awarded more than \$178,000 in scholarships.

Local C1

## Residents Cup attracts big field

On Wednesday, 176 Villages golfers teed it up during the first day of qualifying for the annual Men's Residents Cup at Bonifay Country Club.

Sports B1

Only in The Villages

# Dream job from the start

## Villager helped build WNBA's Indiana Fever from scratch

By STEVE DAY  
DAILY SUN STAFF WRITER

Michelle Cassaday was honest during her job interview with Kelly Krauskopf, chief operations officer of the WNBA's Indiana Fever, in 1999.

"I was absolutely not a sports fan. I followed the Colts when they came (to Indianapolis)," Cassaday, of the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens, said. "In my interview, I said to Kelly, 'I need to tell you something. I know absolutely nothing about basketball.'"

"She told me, 'I'm not hiring you to play.'"

And so began what Cassaday calls her "dream job" of helping build a professional sports team from scratch, working with the biggest names in women's sports, and rubbing elbows with some of the greatest players in professional basketball history. She worked with the team until retiring in 2008.

Krauskopf is now president and general manager of the Fever, who open the 2013 season Friday at San Antonio. She remembers that initial conversation and credits Cassaday with helping get the team off on the right foot.

"She was the first or second person I hired. She had never been around a sports organization before," Krauskopf said. "She was so critical in getting our program organized and getting the players set up."

In the beginning, Cassaday and Krauskopf were the entire Fever front office.



Peter Travers / Daily Sun  
Michelle Cassaday holds an autographed Indiana Fever jersey at her home in the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens. Cassaday received the jersey when she retired after working nine years with the WNBA franchise.

"I worked on everything with Kelly," Cassaday said. "During that time, I worked for the players with their flights, itinerary, getting them to Indianapolis for tryouts, or whatever. I had to get them furnished apartments, get them cars and corresponded with potential players."

"One of the things I had to do was to coordinate interpreters for the foreign players who couldn't speak English," Cassaday said. "That was fun. I even gave my opinion on the uniforms. I was still an administrative assistant, but I thought I

should be basketball operations manager."

Krauskopf said getting the team started was a complex mission.

"The culture in our office was full of early challenge that must be met. It was a great thing starting a professional sports team, and a women's basketball team at that," Krauskopf said. "We got a group of people together that was so enthusiastic and passionate about what we were doing. It never felt like work. Michelle was one

See CASSADAY, A6

"She was the first or second person I hired. ... She was so critical in getting our program organized and getting the players set up."

— Kelly Krauskopf, president and general manager of the Indiana Fever

America's Healthiest Hometown

## Fixing health care: All about Dr. Dave Jordahl

One in a continuing series on The Villages' efforts to become "America's Healthiest Hometown."

When Dr. Dave Jordahl, the new medical director at the Colony Care Center, and his wife, Jennifer, a family nurse practitioner there, came aboard last July, they immediately went to work getting the facility ready for its December opening. Now, Jordahl, the first doctor to join The Villages Health from outside the local area, said he is enjoying the opportunity to offer input in the early stages in the evolution of the health care initiative here in The Villages.

For more on Dr. Jordahl, see Page A6.

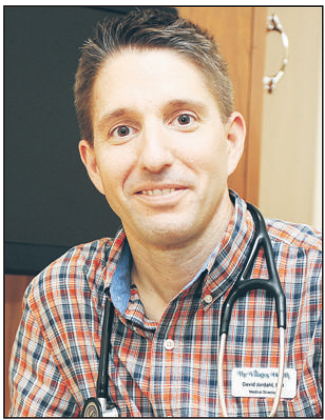
### Education

**Undergraduate school:** Wayne State University

**Medical school:** Wayne State University School of Medicine

**Internship/residency:** Grand Rapids (Mich.) Family Practice Residency

**Board certified:** American Board of Family Medicine



Dr. Dave Jordahl  
Colony Care Center medical director

### Interests

**Spouse:** Jennifer

**Children:** Olivia and Lucas

**Hobbies:** Triathlon; photography; backpacking and hiking

**Favorite sport:** Triathlon

**Favorite color:** Red

**Favorite movie:** "The Shawshank Redemption"

**Favorite TV show:** "The Big Bang Theory"

### Philosophy

**When did you decide to become a doctor and why?**

During early high school, I was leaning toward going into the computer field. All of this changed when I took an anatomy and physiology class in 11th grade. I was hooked.

**Your philosophy on health care:** The delivery of health care needs to be patient-centered and evidence-based.

— Compiled by Larry D. Croom, Daily Sun ombudsman

Florida focus

## FBI shoots, kills man in Orlando with possible ties to bomber

A Chechen immigrant who was being questioned about his ties to one of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects was shot to death by authorities early Wednesday after he lunged at an FBI agent with a knife, officials said.

**The man:** Ibragim Todashev, a 27-year-old mixed martial arts fighter, was gunned down at his Orlando home during a meeting with the agent and two Massachusetts state troopers, authorities said.

The agent was taken to a hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening.

**Possible ties:** The FBI gave no details on why they were interested in Todashev except to say that he was being questioned as part of the Boston investigation. But two officials said he had implicated himself in a 2011 triple-slaying that authorities think may be connected to dead bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev.

**Questioning:** Todashev's

former roommate, Khusein Taramov, said the FBI was asking about a conversation Todashev had with Tsarnaev a month before the Boston Marathon attack.

**On the move:** Public records show Todashev lived in Watertown, Mass., just outside Boston, last year. He had lived on and off with other Chechens in Kissimmee and had recently moved to Orlando.

—The Associated Press



Ibragim Todashev

National focus



Tony Gutierrez / The Associated Press  
Chad Allcox, left, helps his friend, Kevin McElvany, clear debris away from his destroyed home.

## Early estimates say tornado caused \$2 billion in damage

The tornado that tore through an Oklahoma City suburb destroyed or damaged as many as 13,000 homes and may have caused \$2 billion in overall damage.

**Visual estimate:** Oklahoma Insurance Department spokeswoman Calley Herth said the early estimate is based on visual assessments of the extensive disaster zone that stretches more than 17 miles and the fact that the tornado was on the ground for 40 minutes.

**Destruction:** Between 12,000 and 13,000 homes were destroyed or damaged and 33,000 people were affected in some way by the storm, said Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett. He also put the monetary damage estimate at between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion.

For more tornado coverage, see Page A5

—The Associated Press

Inside today's Daily Sun

**Holder: Drones have killed 4 since 2009**

The Obama administration acknowledged that drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen have killed four Americans since 2009.

Washington A3

**IRS supervisor says she broke no laws**

At the center of a political storm, an IRS supervisor said she did nothing wrong, broke no laws and never lied to Congress.

Washington A7

**Jurors can't decide life, death for Arias**

Jurors in the Jodi Arias murder trial said they are unable to reach a unanimous verdict on whether she deserves life or death.

Nation A12



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Vol. 16 Issue 143



America’s Healthiest Hometown

Jordahl excited to help shape care

(One in a continuing series on The Villages’ efforts to become America’s Healthiest Hometown.)

By LARRY D. CROOM  
DAILY SUN OMBUDSMAN

THE VILLAGES – There’s a story about Dr. Dave Jordahl that says a great deal about his decision to join The Villages Health team.

Jordahl, the new medical director at the Colony Care Center, and his wife, Jennifer, a family nurse practitioner there, came aboard last July and hit the ground running, working hard to get the facility ready for its December opening.

But even though he was busy at work, life was changing in a positive way for the Jordahls. Dave was no longer responsible for more than 2,000 patients. He was in a practice where he could spend quality time with patients. And he was home at night with Jennifer and their two children, Olivia and Lucas.

So it was at a Christmas party last December when that very telling moment took place, when Jennifer was asked when she realized the decision to join The Villages Health was the right thing to do.

Her answer came very quickly.

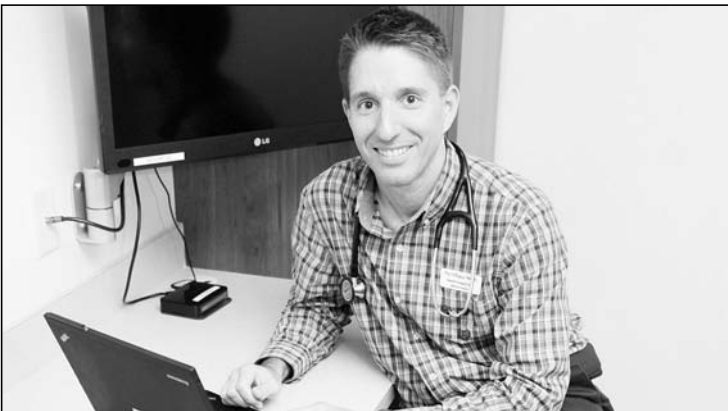
“She said it was when she saw me on the floor one day playing Matchbox cars with our son, Lucas, who is a first-grader,” Jordahl said. “There were many times where I wasn’t home in my past life. So this was obviously an improvement.”

The Jordahls’ venture to become part of The Villages Health team started last year during a spring-break trip to visit relatives in Florida’s Friendliest Hometown. When they heard about the primary care dream that was becoming a reality here, they had to find out more.

After successful meetings with Dr. Elliot Sussman, chair of The Villages Health, and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joe Hildner, the decision was made to leave Michigan for a new life in Florida.

“We had hurdles that made it difficult to come down, family locally, cousins that my children played with regularly, the health system that we knew very well, patients that I knew very well,” Jordahl said. “But we felt the calling to come. And not coming felt very wrong.”

Sussman recalled that first meeting with the Jordahls with a chuckle. He was looking for



Dr. Dave Jordahl is the new medical director of The Villages Health’s Colony Care Center.

**Coming up**  
**Friday:** Introducing Dr. Saul Rosenblum, medical director of the Santa Barbara facility.  
**Saturday:** Introducing Dr. J.D. Steed, medical director of the Bellevue care center.

great doctors, but he didn’t have much to show them yet, since the Colony facility wasn’t much more than a blueprint.

“We just hit it off right from the get-go,” he said. “Dave clearly was the kind of guy we wanted, somewhat of a risk-taker, a prudent risk-taker, who loved what he heard.”

Hildner said there was no doubt in his mind that Jordahl was the right guy to bring aboard and then promote to medical director.

“Dave gets it,” Hildner said. “He enjoys getting to know his patients. He’s a good explainer, a good teacher, and he really just looks forward to growing old with his patients. That is the kind of doctor that we are looking to attract.”

For his part, Jordahl said he’s proud to be the first doctor to join The Villages Health from outside the local area. He said he has really enjoyed the opportunity to offer input at such an early stage in the evolution of the health care initiative here.

“It was one of the reasons why we joined,” he said. “To be a part of the very beginning of all this, and to be part of recommending ways to accomplish this mission, was incredible.”

Jordahl said he’s also thrilled at the opportunity to serve as a medical director. He said he’ll spend time really getting to know all of the medical professionals at the care center, as well as overseeing and maintaining the high quality of care.

And, he added, he’ll do his best to make sure everyone is thoroughly enjoying their work.

“I look at it as a challenge with open arms and I am very excited,” Jordahl said. “I felt called to do it. I have had other leadership positions, but nothing like this before.”

There’s also one more thing Jordahl will be doing – the thing he’s loved the most about his career.

“I will continue to do what I think I do best, which is see patients,” he said. “I still want that to be a big part of my practice.”

*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 St., The Villages, FL 32159, Attn.: Larry Croom. Or call him at 753-1119, ext. 9366.*

CASSADAY, from A1

of the earliest employees to help us get set up and going.”

A family affair

Once the team was put together, Cassaday became like family to many of the players.

“I was like a mom to the girls. Some of them were quite immature. They had been taken care of most of their lives at home or by their coaches,” Cassaday said. “One night at around 11, one of the players called me and said her kitchen was on fire. I told her to call 911. She was just panicking. I kept saying hang up and call 911.”

One of the things that sticks in Cassaday’s memory is the fun the girls had.

“I spent a lot of time in the locker room. I would take game plans to them. Walking down the hall, you could hear the music. They would be dancing and having so much fun,” Cassaday said. “I was just in awe of their body strength and tone, and the amazing shape the girls were in.”

Cassaday said the Fever players were a special group.

“I was so impressed with the people I worked with. WNBA players all had to be college graduates or have played in a foreign country for a certain number of years,” she said. “Not only were they college graduates and professional ballplayers, they were lawyers, teachers, CPAs ... they all had something to do after the season. Our players didn’t make what many people think. They had to go

overseas where players made much more money.”

Watching both the Fever and Pacers play, Cassady preferred the ladies’ aggressive style of play.

“Every player had their heart into it every game,” she said. “What a difference to go to the Pacers games and to ours. Our girls played hard, but weren’t flashy. They just played their hearts out.”

Warm memories

There was plenty of cross-over between the Fever and their NBA brethren, the Indiana Pacers. Both teams played and shared office space in Conesco Fieldhouse, which opened in 1999 to replace Market Square Arena.

“It was a retro, state-of-the-art building,” Cassaday said. “It was the best fieldhouse in the nation at the time. I was so in awe working there.”

With Cassaday’s admitted lack of basketball knowledge, she was happy when a former Pacer working in marketing for the team decided to become her tutor.

“The very first day I met Darnell Hillman, he immediately took me under his wing,” she said. “He tried to teach me basketball terms and helped me to learn them. Every day, it was like a quiz.”

Cassaday formed another lasting bond with former Pacer Mel Daniels.

“He was an unbelievable, wonderful, wonderful man,” Cassaday said. “Daniels was a real-life cowboy and wrote poetry. When my husband

retired after 38 years with the fire department, Mel wrote a poem for me to read at the retirement party. I have a framed poem signed by him hanging in my bedroom. He and Darnell were both wonderful men. I miss both of them.”

Cassaday also had passing encounters with Larry Bird, the former Hall of Fame player who later worked in the team’s front office.

“Larry had a great personality. When he spoke to the staff, he was just hilarious,” she said. “He and (Pacers head coach) Rick Carlisle were very good friends. Larry had an incredible office, by the way.”

Although Cassaday didn’t have much interaction with the Pacers players, one stood out.

“Reggie Miller was a joy to be around. He was funny and he was everything you saw when he played – that was Reggie,” Cassaday said. “He was as honest as they come. He was pure Reggie. When he left, I missed him. Everybody did.”

Cassaday has many warm memories of her days with the Fever.

“It was quite an impressive group of people,” she said. “I never thought about it at the time. I had so many good memories, I’ve forgotten a lot of them. Working with the Fever was the best experience of my life – except moving here.”

*Steve Day is a Daily Sun staff writer. Reach him at 753-1119, ext. 9325, or by email at steve.day@thevillagesmedia.com.*

# Make the Most Out of Your Retirement

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- Free one hour consultation for workshop attendees.
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