



Forecast C2

Chance of storms

Today's high: 86

Tonight's low: 67

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DAILY SUN

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013

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Oklahoma disaster

'We will rebuild'

As Oklahoma salvages pieces from the rubble, millions across the nation and around The Villages offer thoughts, prayers, aid.



Charlie Riedel / The Associated Press

Jim Stubblefield, of Norman, Okla., raises a tattered flag he found while helping his sister salvage items from her tornado-ravaged home Tuesday in Moore, Okla. The huge tornado that roared through the Oklahoma City suburb Monday was rated an EF5, ranking it at the top of the scale used to measure tornado strength and one that's capable of lifting reinforced buildings off the ground. The total scope of the damage has yet to be assessed.

By KATHRYN STOLARZ
DAILY SUN SENIOR WRITER

THE VILLAGES is one of the most destructive tornadoes in Oklahoma history ripped through Plaza Towers Elementary School on Monday, teachers shepherded dozens of students into a restroom and did their best to shield them from harm.

Miraculously, they survived. Villagers who lived in the heart of Tornado Alley can relate.

Village of Hemingway resident Randy Smith remembers taking shelter in his bathroom countless times in the 45 years he lived in Oklahoma City, Okla., 10 miles north of Moore, the site of Monday's devastation.

"You'd go in there and listen to your radio until the all-clear came," Smith said. "Storms and tornadoes were just a daily occurrence, and we were under a tornado watch about six months out of the year. It was just something you lived with, just like Florida people live with the hurricanes."

Living in Tornado Alley means anything can happen.

"I'm sorry for their losses, and hopefully it won't happen again," said Smith, one of several Villagers with strong ties to Oklahoma.

Village of Alhambra resident Bob Stroup has a son, daughter-in-law and four grandchildren living in Oklahoma City, dangerously close to the path of the tornado.

"It's pretty traumatic," said Stoup, who lived there for

See TORNADO, A5

More inside

Death toll: 24

Rescue workers race to complete the search for survivors and the dead.

Nation A3

Disaster in images

Tornado devastates Oklahoma City suburb, flattens neighborhoods.

Pictures of the Day A2

How to help

Donating to Red Cross Disaster Relief is one of many ways to help out.

Local A5

Inside today

FBI identifies five Benghazi suspects

FBI believes five men were responsible for attack.

Washington A10



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Vol. 16 Issue 142

America's Healthiest Hometown

Fixing health care: Getting to know Dr. Joe Hildner

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

By LARRY D. CROOM
DAILY SUN OMBUDSMAN

THE VILLAGES If you ask Dr. Joe Hildner if he's excited about being a part of an ambitious initiative to change the face of health care here, his answer is animated and succinct.

"Pinch me," he said with a wide smile. "It's a great thing." The 52-year-old Hildner, chief medical officer of The

Villages Health, is quite familiar with Florida's Friendliest Hometown and the many residents who call this retirement community home. After graduating from the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University in Chicago — the same place where his



Dr. Joe Hildner
chief medical officer,
The Villages Health

See HILDNER, A6

Education

Undergraduate school: University of Notre Dame (1982)

Medical school: Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago

Internship/residency: Eastern Maine Medical Center (Bangor)

Board certified: American Board of Family Medicine

Interests

Spouse: Cathy

Children: Kimberly, Jenna, Laurel, Rebecca

Hobbies: Running; gardening; playing steel drum and piano; home-brewing

Favorite sports: Recreational running; college football

Favorite color: Skin-tone

Favorite movie: "Monty Python and the Holy Grail"

Favorite TV show: "The Waltons"

Philosophy

When did you decide to become a doctor and why? The summer before my junior year of college. I took

note of my natural gifts, talents and aptitudes; contemplated my personal "mission" — what I felt I was put on this earth to accomplish and to feel fulfilled or "purposeful," and realized that the above lined up very accurately with doctoring — primary care in particular.

Your philosophy on health care: I don't manage diseases — my patients do. I show them how. I help each individual become as "well" as he or she chooses to be, placing profound emphasis upon the art of "shared decision-making."

HILDNER, from A1

father received his degree and where his daughter Kimberly is currently enrolled – Hildner opened a one-man practice in Belleview in the late 1980s. That venture, which eventually grew into Family Doctors of Belleview, has been operating for years in much the same way The Villages Health operates, with primary care doctors who put their patients first and work alongside them as a team to deliver the best health care possible.

“I think it’s kind of ironic that we lived kind of parallel lives, that our practice is based on the same things The Villages is based on, relationship-based care, quality of care, doing the right thing for the people you serve,” he said. “It’s really a match made in heaven and we’re honored to have been invited to help promote

“We don’t treat diabetes at our practice, we don’t treat heart failure, we don’t treat high blood pressure. We don’t treat any of that stuff. Our patients do and we teach them how.”

— Joe Hildner
The Villages Health chief medical officer

this initiative.”

Hildner and his team joined forces with The Villages Health after Dr. Elliot Sussman, chair of the organization, paid a visit to his Belleview facility. Sussman said he had heard about a “special” practice that was

Wildwood

Commissioners review growth of Sumter stormwater program

By TATIANA QUIROGA
DAILY SUN SENIOR WRITER

WILDWOOD – Sumter County commissioners listened to a presentation highlighting the growth of the county’s stormwater management program during a workshop meeting Tuesday at The Villages Sumter County Service Center.

Public Works Director Scott Cottrell reviewed the progress of the program and talked about where it’s heading.

In the summer of 2010, the county had no staff members specifically assigned to the stormwater program, no master plan and no bank of stormwater-related information, according to the presentation documents.

At the time, the county maintained more than 20 stormwater retention ponds and 27 bridges, and was responsible for the maintenance of the Gant Lake and Jumper Creek canal systems, according to presentation documents.

In September 2011, commissioners launched a stormwater management program

that included updating the database of stormwater infrastructure and developing a maintenance plan for canals.

Since then, the county has also hired an engineer to oversee the stormwater program. Staff also has planned a ditch cleaning and low-water crossing replacement at Jumper Creek.

Future plans include hiring a field supervisor for the north end of the county, continuing the south canal maintenance program, and updating the stormwater system database.

In the current fiscal year, the program’s budget is \$735,000 to cover crossover (bridge) repairs, watershed studies and program development costs.

Chairman Doug Gilpin said the county funds directed toward the program seem to be sound financial investments.

“I think we should continue on that path,” he said.

Tatiana Quiroga is a senior writer with the Daily Sun. She can be reached at 753-1119, ext. 9013, or at tatiana.quiroga@thevillagesmedia.com.

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Coming up

Thursday: Introducing Dr. Dave Jordahl, medical director of the Colony Care Center.

Friday: Introducing Dr. Saul Rosenblum, medical director of the Santa Barbara facility.

Saturday: Introducing Dr. J.D. Steed, medical director of the Belleview Care Center.

going on just to the north of The Villages, and after talking with Hildner and company, he knew he’d found exactly what he was looking for.

And to make it even better, Sussman said, that excellent care was taking place in an innovative care center that was the first in Florida to receive the prestigious designation of patient-centered medical home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. In other words, the medical professionals at Family Doctors of Belleview were successfully adhering to strict guidelines that all revolve

around putting the patients’ needs first.

“Joe was a natural to do this and I’m delighted that he’s accepted this role,” Sussman said. “It was clear that he was passionate about what he did and eager to take the next step, to take the learnings, share them, grow them, develop them, improve on them and make this a system that could, in fact, be used to get us to America’s Healthiest Hometown.”

In addition to seeing patients, Hildner’s role is to recruit and oversee the family doctors who join The Villages

Donations needed to help homeless students

What: The Lake County Commission, in partnership with the county’s constitutional offices, is working with Villagers for Deliver the Difference to collect donated food items to benefit the more than 3,000 homeless students (and those in need) in the county.

When: Through May 31.

Where: In Lady Lake, donations can be made at the Clerk of Courts Office, 902 Avenida Central, and the Tax Collector’s Office, 918 Avenida Central. There are boxes to collect donations at all Tax Collector’s Office locations and Clerk of Court offices, including

Tavares and Minneola.

What: Items needed to help fill backpacks to give to students include: single-serve cereal boxes; pre-baked toaster pastries; cereal bars; macaroni and cheese; single-serve cans of spaghetti, etc; single-serve fruit cups; single packs of raisins; juice boxes; and single-serve snacks.

For information on Villagers for Deliver the Difference, contact Marge Marschel at 751-3613.

For information on the food drive, contact the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, 343-9850.

— Staff report

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DENTAL SAVINGS

Villages resident and owner, Dr. James Costello, says, “My doctors utilize modern techniques, and I instill old fashioned values.”

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Health. It’s a mission he takes quite seriously.

“I can’t just get a guy who’s got on a stethoscope and wants to have a job,” Hildner said. “I’ve got to get the ones that resonate with this idea, who like the process, who enjoy getting to know their patients and teaching them.”

Hildner said he’s also looking for doctors who share his philosophy on practicing medicine.

“We enable our patients to be in charge of their own care,” he said. “We don’t treat diabetes at our practice, we don’t treat heart failure, we don’t treat high blood pressure. We don’t treat any of that stuff. Our patients do and we teach them how.”

Throughout the past several months, Hildner said he’s talked with some excellent physicians who can’t believe there’s an opportunity to practice medicine in such a different way.

“Don’t think for a minute that making dreams come true applies only to the residents,” he said. “I’ve got doctors that have joined this group that have said, ‘where have you been all my life? I have always wanted to take care of patients this way. I just couldn’t.’”

Not surprisingly, Hildner feels the exact same way.

“I was put on this Earth to bring primary care into the middle and into the light, that’s really my mission in life,” he said. “To have a leadership role in something that was this meant to be, it’s a dream come true.”

If you have a health care question you’d like to have answered in future stories, 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. Or call him at 753-1119, ext. 9366.

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