



Forecast C2

Mostly sunny

Today's high: 74

Tonight's low: 47

The Villages®

# DAILY SUN

\$1.00

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2014

Classifieds	.....	F1-F14
Lifestyles	.....	D1-D12
Local	.....	C1-C10
Obituaries	.....	C4
Puzzles	.....	D7
Sports	.....	B1-B10
Travel & Leisure	.....	E1-E6
TV Grid	.....	D10

www.thevillagesdailysun.com

## America's Healthiest Hometown



# Restoring the sounds of life

Villages Health audiologists step in to help patients with hearing issues

By LARRY D. CROOM / DAILY SUN OMBUDSMAN

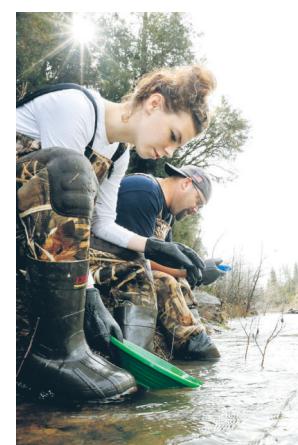
Joseph Zeh takes a moment to compose himself as he talks about being able to hear again after 25 years of near silence. "You don't understand," the Village of Fernandina resident said. "It's overwhelming. You know, not to hear, then suddenly you're starting to hear all over again." Zeh is one of the many success stories Villages Health audiologists are telling almost 16 months after the first of five primary care centers in Florida's Friendliest Hometown opened its doors. The former gasoline tanker driver lost his hearing about 25 years ago when a building exploded next to his truck. The blast claimed almost all of Zeh's hearing, and he was told at the time that hearing aids wouldn't help him. **See Sounds, A7**

## Poroshenko backed in Ukraine

Ex-world boxing champion Vitali Klitschko announced he will throw his support behind a billionaire candy maker. **World A3**

## Walker, Christie court GOP donors

Possible GOP presidential candidates gathered in Las Vegas as a billionaire casino magnate, looks for a new favorite. **Washington A11**



## Drought leads to gold prospectors

Smateur prospectors are taking advantage of the lower water levels to search for gold in riverbeds that have been unreachable for decades. **Nation A15**



## Charity highlight

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness



6 90548 00003 9

Vol. 17 Issue 089

68

Cardiac arrests handled by the District Public Safety Department in 2012-13 fiscal year

28

Cardiac-arrest patients the department helped save in 2012-2013

41%

The survival rate of cardiac-arrest patients treated by the department, well above the national average of 9.5 percent.



Bill Mitchell / Daily Sun

Dr. John Geeslin has served as medical director of the District Public Safety Department since its inception in 2000.

## Villages' impressive cardiac survival rates a team effort

By CHRIS GERBASI  
DAILY SUN STAFF WRITER

THE VILLAGES recreation manager shocks a heart attack victim back to life. An EMS captain revives a man who collapsed at church. Paramedics race to cardiac arrest calls on a weekly basis.

Just this year, District Public Safety Department and Villages employees have made several "saves."

Physicians and District Public Safety personnel credit

a team effort, including well-trained residents, for the amazing survival rates for cardiac arrest patients in The Villages.

In the 2012-13 fiscal year, the department handled 68 cardiac arrests and saved 28 patients, District Public Safety published in its recent annual report.

The survival rate of 41.2 percent far surpassed the national estimated average of 9.5 percent in reported cases in 2013, as documented by the American Health Association.

Since the current fiscal year started Oct. 1, the department has worked 37 cardiac arrests and saved 17 patients, or 46 percent, said Capt. Gail Lazenby, District Public Safety EMS training coordinator, who in February resuscitated the man at a Belleview church for an additional save outside department jurisdiction.

Colleagues in the medical field are "blown away" by The Villages' numbers, physician and District Public Safety Associate

**See CARDIAC, A7**

## Weather focus

### Severe weather moves rapidly through The Villages



Peter Travers / Daily Sun  
People undeterred by the rain as they walk Saturday on Main Street in Spanish Springs.

Dark skies and heavy downpours across Central Florida on Saturday brought severe thunderstorm warnings to The Villages and surrounding areas.

A tornado watch was in effect until 5 p.m. Saturday for the Central Florida area, including The Villages. Severe afternoon thunderstorm warnings were issued by The National Weather Service for Citrus, Hernando, Sumter and Lake counties.

Damaging winds capable of producing gusts in excess of 60 mph and quarter-size hail were reported in Sumter County, Neil Kastor, AM-640 WVLG weather forecaster said.

The District Public Safety Department responded to a reported lightning strike in the Village of Sunset Pointe, but no damage was noted.

The severe weather was expected to pass through the region rapidly. Today's forecast calls for mostly sunny conditions with a high of 73 degrees.

-Jill Winters / Daily Sun

## NCAA men's basketball tournament

### Florida 1st to Final Four, beating Dayton 62-52

The Florida Gators are first yet again this season.

Scottie Wilbekin scored 14 of his 23 points in the first half, and Florida became the first team to advance to the Final Four with a 62-52 win Saturday night over the 11th-seeded Dayton Flyers in the South Region final.

The Gators reached their fifth Final Four after losing at this point in each of the past three NCAA tournaments. This time, they came in as the country's top-ranked team and the overall No. 1 seed.

Florida won its 30th straight game and improved to 36-2, topping the 35 wins by the 2007 national championship squad. **See Page B1**

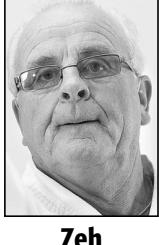
**SOUNDS**, from A1

So, until he moved to The Villages from Connecticut, his dreams of regaining that precious sense were just that - dreams.

Enter Dr. Tressie Waldo, an audiologist with The Villages Health, who has 20 years

of Air Force experience including an extensive background in hearing loss prevention. She saw Zeh after he was referred by his primary care physician, Dr. Karla Noel.

"I did an assessment and didn't see anything that led me to believe he would fail at it," she said of her reason for trying hearing aids with the 70-year-old Zeh, who also suffers from diabetes and Meniere's disease, a



Zeh



Cathy Smalling, right, of the Village of Bonita, sits in a sound booth as Dr. Tressie Waldo, an audiologist and 20-year Air Force veteran, administers a hearing test recently at the Pinellas Care Center.

disorder that causes vertigo and seizures. "He put them on and a week later he goes, 'Wow! I can hear.' We had to try a couple of different things to get him to the satisfaction where he is, but it really wasn't that difficult.

Sometimes you just have to think outside the box."

Fran Ehrmann tells a similar tale. After 15 years of frustration with hearing aids, she visited Dr. Al Turri, director of audiology for The Villages Health.

Turri made some adjustments, including changing out an acoustic coupling that fit inside the 67-year-old Ehrmann's ears. He also showed her how to manually adjust the volume.

A short time later, Ehrmann was hearing things she hadn't heard in years.

"It sounds so melodramatic to say it's life-changing, but it is," said the Village of Poinciana resident, who was referred to Turri by Sylvia Wallace, a Villages Health advanced registered nurse practitioner. "I really thought that it was normal; that people with hearing aids never really heard well."

Another Villager, Rick McKelvy, started wearing hearing aids about six months ago. The Village of Virginia Trace resident said he waited far too long to address his hearing loss - a point that was driven home by his golfing buddies.

"They're actually saying, 'Welcome back to the real world; we were basically just kind of ignoring you for the

last couple of years,'" said the 71-year-old, who also enjoys playing pickleball as well as sailing and fishing. "They said, 'You didn't think you were fooling anybody, did you?'"

Jim Brockman, of the Village of Chatham, said he also waited much too long once his hearing started to deteriorate. He said his wife was the first to point it out, followed by his physician, Dr. Brent Stabler, of the Bellevue Care Center.

Brockman visited Turri about three years ago and discovered that hearing aids were the solution to his problem.

"I was surprised," the 72-year-old said. "I didn't realize that I could not hear. I think people thought I was ignoring them when they talked to me."

Cathy Smalling said she realized she had a hearing problem shortly before retiring from teaching in West Palm Beach. She started seeing Turri about four years ago, and now sees Waldo here in The Villages.

Not surprisingly, it's a

relationship the Village of Bonita resident said is quite important to her.

"She's just been so attentive and so professional and just really understood exactly what my problem was and how to go about finding the right ear piece that would work for me," the 68-year-old said. "She just makes me feel real comfortable. She makes me feel like we're family."

Jim Scarlett, of the Village of Chatham, offered similar sentiments about Turri.

"He's not only very professional, but very caring," the 74-year-old said, adding he never had been able to hear out of his left ear before seeing Turri. "You can tell that it means so much to him. We don't think of him just as a doctor we go see. He's a friend, and very, very competent."

*Larry D. Croom is the ombudsman for The Villages Daily Sun. He can be reached at 753-1119, ext. 9366, or larry.croom@thevillagesmedia.com.*

**CARDIAC**, from A1

Medical Director Frank Fraunfelter said.

"They ask, 'What are you doing so much better than community X, Y or Z?'" Fraunfelter said.

The answer can be found in three key areas: quicker response and treatment times, the use of compression-only CPR and community involvement.

District Public Safety's survival rate for cardiac arrest went from 16.75 percent in 2004-05 to more than 40 percent just four years later, department figures show.

Overseeing that success is Dr. John Geeslin, who has served as medical director since the department's inception in 2000. Geeslin, who was born in Orlando and earned his medical degree at the University of Florida, also is medical director for Sumter County Fire Rescue and Rural/Metro Ambulance in Sumter.

"He brings a wealth of experience on a daily basis," Fraunfelter said about Geeslin. "He's well respected by paramedics and EMTs and firefighters, knowing that what he brings to the table is tried and true."

Working with Geeslin the past four years is Fraunfelter, an experienced emergency room physician at Munro Regional Medical Center in Ocala. He also is medical director for Marion County Fire Rescue.

"Frank is an excellent physician," Geeslin said. "He's a real attribute."

Geeslin establishes the protocols and procedures for the EMS staff, in consultation with Fraunfelter. Geeslin reviews medical calls, the procedures performed and treatment outcomes.

Geeslin wants the department to "provide the highest level of service possible," Lazenby said.

"Dr. Geeslin is an activist," Lazenby said. "He doesn't sit back and simply watch; Dr. Geeslin does."

Geeslin has just one definition for a "save": A save counts only when the patient walks out of the hospital.

Naturally, response time is essential. Geeslin pushes EMS staff to get to the scene as fast as possible, Lazenby said. District Public Safety's average response time has been four minutes for more than 11 years.

The national average response time of nine to 10 minutes is too late to save a cardiac patient, he said.

"Time is brain, time is muscle, time is the difference between life and death," Lazenby said.

Hand in hand with response time is treatment time.

Geeslin said 90 minutes is the nationally recommended "door to balloon" time, starting from the minute the patient reaches the ER door to the time they receive an angioplasty balloon.

"Ninety minutes is where

they want you," Geeslin said. "Of course, we want to do better."

District Public Safety consistently beats that mark - usually hitting 70 to 80 minutes - even while tracking the time over a longer process, starting with the call to dispatch.

In an effort to trim time, Lazenby said Geeslin was the "prime mover and shaker" about three years ago in moving the department toward transmitting "Code STEMI" data directly to area hospitals.

STEMI stands for "ST elevation in myocardial infarction," which is a major heart attack, Geeslin said. "ST elevation" refers to a pattern that shows up on an electrocardiogram, or EKG.

In a recent technological advance, paramedics can transmit cardiogram information from the field to emergency rooms in about eight minutes, Geeslin said. Doctors can be prepared to treat the patient as soon as the ambulance arrives.

Shorter response and treatment times mean more serious heart attack patients are receiving expedited treatment and experiencing positive outcomes.

In another shift about two and a half years ago, District Public Safety adopted a change from traditional CPR, which includes airway ventilation and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, to chest compression-only CPR with the use of automated external defibrillators, or AEDs.

The compression-only

approach not only brought a significant increase in survival rates, Geeslin said, but also encourages more residents to dive into CPR training. People are more willing to give chest compressions than to use the mouth-to-mouth method, he said.

"We have a group of citizens who are educated and dedicated ... and willing to do CPR," Geeslin said.

The department's neighborhood CPR/AED programs, overseen by Lazenby, have trained more than 14,000 Villagers. The programs are in about 130 neighborhoods, covering about 12,000 homes with 300 AEDs, Lazenby said.

"That's what gives everyone the best chance of survival," Fraunfelter said. "It's neighbors caring for neighbors."

Geeslin also credited the well-trained paramedics, emergency medical technicians and chiefs for the department's successes.

"It's a team effort," he 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.*

Geeslin is an excellent physician," Geeslin said. "He's a real attribute."

Geeslin establishes the protocols and procedures for the EMS staff, in consultation with Fraunfelter. Geeslin reviews medical calls, the procedures performed and treatment outcomes.

Geeslin wants the department to "provide the highest level of service possible," Lazenby said.

"Dr. Geeslin is an activist,"

Lazenby said. "He doesn't sit

back and simply watch; Dr. Geeslin does."

Geeslin has just one definition for a "save": A save counts only when the patient walks

out of the hospital.

Naturally, response time is essential. Geeslin pushes EMS staff to get to the scene as fast as possible, Lazenby said. District Public Safety's average response time has been four minutes for more than 11 years.

The national average response time of nine to 10 minutes is too late to save a cardiac patient, he said.

"Time is brain, time is muscle, time is the difference between life and death," Lazenby said.

Hand in hand with response time is treatment time.

Geeslin said 90 minutes is the nationally recommended "door to balloon" time, starting from the minute the patient reaches the ER door to the time they receive an angioplasty balloon.

"Ninety minutes is where

they want you," Geeslin said. "Of course, we want to do better."

District Public Safety consistently beats that mark - usually hitting 70 to 80 minutes - even while tracking the time over a longer process, starting with the call to dispatch.

In an effort to trim time, Lazenby said Geeslin was the "prime mover and shaker" about three years ago in moving the department toward transmitting "Code STEMI" data directly to area hospitals.

STEMI stands for "ST elevation in myocardial infarction," which is a major heart attack, Geeslin said. "ST elevation" refers to a pattern that shows up on an electrocardiogram, or EKG.

In a recent technological advance, paramedics can transmit cardiogram information from the field to emergency rooms in about eight minutes, Geeslin said. Doctors can be prepared to treat the patient as soon as the ambulance arrives.

Shorter response and treatment times mean more serious heart attack patients are receiving expedited treatment and experiencing positive outcomes.

In another shift about two and a half years ago, District Public Safety adopted a change from traditional CPR, which includes airway ventilation and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, to chest compression-only CPR with the use of automated external defibrillators, or AEDs.

The compression-only

approach not only brought a significant increase in survival rates, Geeslin said, but also encourages more residents to dive into CPR training. People are more willing to give chest compressions than to use the mouth-to-mouth method, he said.

"We have a group of citizens who are educated and dedicated ... and willing to do CPR," Geeslin said.

"Arterial blockages also known as peripheral arterial disease (PAD), arthritis, venous stasis or neuropathy can cause leg pains.

"Artery narrowing in the pelvis and legs that causes reduced blood flow to the legs. Narrowing of the arteries happen due to cholesterol and calcium deposition in the arteries causing the hardening of the arteries. Calf pain is most common, but patient may also experience buttock pain during ambulation limiting the ability to walk. Some of the other symptoms include leg numbness or weakness; cramping in the legs. Cold foot or non healing ulcers on the toes, feet; hair loss of the feet and legs and erectile dysfunction in men are all described symptoms of PAD.

Untreated PAD could result in amputations. 30% of patients with PAD also have associated coronary artery disease and stroke. PAD could cause a reduction in life expectancy by 10 years on average.

Arterial blockages also known as peripheral arterial disease (PAD), arthritis, venous stasis or neuropathy can cause leg pains.

Artery narrowing in the pelvis and legs that causes reduced blood flow to the legs. Narrowing of the arteries happen due to cholesterol and calcium deposition in the arteries causing the hardening of the arteries. Calf pain is most common, but patient may also experience buttock pain during ambulation limiting the ability to walk. Some of the other symptoms include leg numbness or weakness; cramping in the legs. Cold foot or non healing ulcers on the toes, feet; hair loss of the feet and legs and erectile dysfunction in men are all described symptoms of PAD.

Untreated PAD could result in amputations. 30% of patients with PAD also have associated coronary artery disease and stroke. PAD could cause a reduction in life expectancy by 10 years on average.

Artery narrowing in the pelvis and legs that causes reduced blood flow to the legs. Narrowing of the arteries happen due to cholesterol and calcium deposition in the arteries causing the hardening of the arteries. Calf pain is most common, but patient may also experience buttock pain during ambulation limiting the ability to walk. Some of the other symptoms include leg numbness or weakness; cramping in the legs. Cold foot or non healing ulcers on the toes, feet; hair loss of the feet and legs and erectile dysfunction in men are all described symptoms of PAD.

Untreated PAD could result in amputations. 30% of patients with PAD also have associated coronary artery disease and stroke. PAD could cause a reduction in life expectancy by 10 years on average.

Artery narrowing in the pelvis and legs that causes reduced blood flow to the legs. Narrowing of the arteries happen due to cholesterol and calcium deposition in the arteries causing the hardening of the arteries. Calf pain is most common, but patient may also experience buttock pain during ambulation limiting the ability to walk. Some of the other symptoms include leg numbness or weakness; cramping in the legs. Cold foot or non healing ulcers on the toes, feet; hair loss of the feet and legs and erectile dysfunction in men are all described symptoms of PAD.

Untreated PAD could result in amputations. 30% of patients with PAD also have associated coronary artery disease and stroke. PAD could cause a reduction in life expectancy by 10 years on average.

Artery narrowing in the pelvis and legs that causes reduced blood flow to the legs. Narrowing of the arteries happen due to cholesterol and calcium deposition in the arteries causing the hardening of the arteries. Calf pain is most common, but patient may also experience buttock pain during ambulation limiting the ability to walk. Some of the other symptoms include leg numbness or weakness; cramping in the legs. Cold foot or non healing ulcers on the toes, feet; hair loss of the feet and legs and erectile dysfunction in men are all described symptoms of PAD.

Untreated PAD could result in amputations. 30% of patients with PAD also have associated coronary artery disease and stroke. PAD could cause a reduction in life expectancy by 10 years on average.

Artery narrowing in the pelvis and legs that causes reduced blood flow to the legs. Narrowing of the arteries happen due to cholesterol and calcium deposition in the arteries causing the hardening of the arteries. Calf pain is most common, but patient may also experience buttock pain during ambulation limiting the ability to walk. Some of the other symptoms include leg numbness or weakness; cramping in the legs. Cold foot or non healing ulcers on the toes, feet; hair loss of the feet and legs and erectile dysfunction in men are all described symptoms of PAD.

Untreated PAD could result in amputations. 30% of patients with PAD also have associated coronary artery disease and stroke. PAD could cause a reduction in life expectancy by 10 years on average.

Artery narrowing in the pelvis and legs that causes reduced blood flow to the legs. Narrowing of the arteries happen due to cholesterol and calcium deposition in the arteries causing the hardening of the arteries. Calf pain is most common, but patient may also experience buttock pain during ambulation limiting the ability to walk. Some of the other symptoms include leg numbness or weakness; cramping in the legs. Cold foot or non healing ulcers on the toes, feet; hair loss of the feet and legs and erectile dysfunction in men are all described symptoms of PAD.

Untreated PAD could result in amputations. 30% of patients with PAD also have associated coronary artery disease and stroke. PAD could cause a reduction in life expectancy by 10 years on average.

Artery narrowing in the pelvis and legs that causes reduced blood flow to the legs. Narrowing of the arteries happen due to cholesterol and calcium deposition in the arteries causing the hardening of the arteries. Calf pain is most common, but patient may also experience buttock pain during ambulation limiting the ability to walk. Some of the other symptoms include leg numbness or weakness; cramping in the legs. Cold foot or non healing ulcers on the toes, feet; hair loss of the feet and legs and erectile dysfunction in men are all described symptoms of PAD.

Untreated PAD could result in amputations. 30% of patients with PAD also have associated coronary artery disease and stroke. PAD could cause a reduction in life expectancy by 10 years on average.

Artery narrowing in the pelvis and legs that causes reduced blood flow to the legs. Narrowing of the arteries happen due to cholesterol and calcium deposition in the arteries causing the hardening of the arteries. Calf pain is most common, but patient may also experience buttock pain during ambulation limiting the ability to walk. Some of the other symptoms include leg numbness or weakness; cramping in the legs. Cold foot or non healing ulcers on the toes, feet; hair loss of the feet and legs and erectile dysfunction in men are all described symptoms of PAD.

Untreated PAD could result in amputations. 30% of patients with PAD also have associated coronary artery disease and stroke. PAD could cause a reduction in life expectancy by 10 years on average.

Artery narrowing in the pelvis and legs that causes reduced blood flow to the legs. Narrowing of the arteries happen due to cholesterol and calcium deposition in the arteries causing the hardening of the arteries. Calf pain is most common, but patient may also experience buttock pain during ambulation limiting the ability to walk. Some of the other symptoms include leg numbness or weakness; cramping in the legs. Cold foot or non healing ulcers on the toes, feet;