



Forecast C2

Partly sunny

Today's high: 90

Tonight's low: 72

The Villages®

DAILY SUN

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\$1.00

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2013

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Sumter again talks library privatization

Sumter County officials point to other successful transitions when again discussing the possible privatization of their public library system.

Local C1

Platform tennis continues to grow

With a newly formed club and the number of courts soon to be doubled, the sport of platform tennis is gaining momentum in The Villages.

Sports B1

America's Healthiest Hometown



Photos by Bill Mitchell / Daily Sun

A Rural/Metro ambulance from Sumter County stops outside The Villages Regional Hospital. Officials say a planned expansion and use of the urgent care facility across the street are among factors that can help expedite emergency care.

Life in the circus



Submitted photo

Sandor Raski, left, of Leesburg, is shown with his wife, Elizabeth. Raski traveled the world as a circus performer until retiring in 2001.

Small performer led a big life under the big top

Sandor Raski tipped his hat and bowed deeply to gleeful shouts, shrieks of delight and raucous applause reverberating off canvas walls.

Forty years ago, before hand-held video games, cable TV and the Internet, it was still a big deal when the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Brothers Circus came to town.

And the outpouring of love and admiration always made Raski feel like a giant. And that's saying something since there's only 40 inches of him.

Save your sympathy. Raski was proud to be known as a "midget."

Call him a "little person" if you must, but Raski isn't big on political correctness. He certainly didn't object when The New York Times called him "Hungary's midget clown."

When was the last time you made the Times?

Being in the circus elevated Raski from genetic oddity to esteemed performer. No one who worked with him ever considered him small.

"He's a heck of a guy. A professional human," said Peggy Williams, who was part of the Ringling Brothers "family" that traveled 12,765 miles during a 340-day season to bring

See CORSAIR, A11

GARY
CORSAIR

DAILY SUN



When the new tower opens at The Villages Regional Hospital in January 2015, the emergency department will double in size to 64 beds.

Florida focus

Some pig: Wheelchair-bound swine becomes an inspiration

In many circumstances, a piglet without the use of its hind legs would be euthanized. But Chris P. Bacon's unusual condition has made him an international star and an inspiration to those with disabilities.

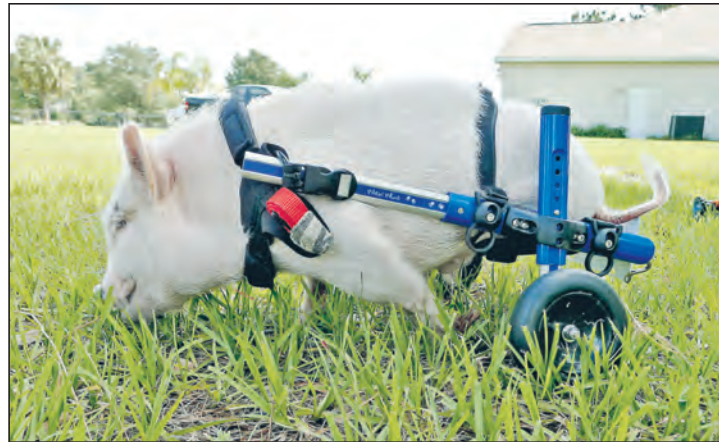
The condition: In January, a woman brought Chris to Len Lucero's veterinary office in Sumterville. The piglet's two back legs were deformed because of a congenital defect that left the joints fused together. Lucero said the woman

thought the animal would need to be euthanized.

New wheels: The doctor noticed how the little pig pulled himself along with his front legs. So Lucero built a wheelchair out of some of his son's toys so Chris could move around, then found a dog-sized harness and cart.

Read all about it: Chris is now a healthy 22 pounds and has landed a three-book publishing deal.

—The Associated Press



National focus

Former 'All in the Family' star Stapleton dies at 90

Jean Stapleton, the stage-trained character actress who played Archie Bunker's far better half, the sweetly naive Edith, in TV's groundbreaking 1970s comedy "All in the Family," died Friday of natural causes at her New York City home. She was 90. **Story, C4**

On TV: Stapleton co-starred with Carroll O'Connor in the popular CBS sitcom about an unrepentant bigot, the wife he churlishly but fondly called "Dingbat," their daughter Gloria (Sally Struthers) and liberal son-in-law Mike, aka Meathead (Rob Reiner).

Accolades: Stapleton received eight Emmy nominations and won three times during her eight-year tenure with "All in the Family." She also earned Emmy nominations for playing Eleanor Roosevelt in the 1982 film "Eleanor, First Lady of the World" and for a guest appearance in 1995 on "Grace Under Fire."

—The Associated Press



The Associated Press
Actress Jean Stapleton speaks during a 1977 interview in Washington, D.C. Stapleton died Saturday in New York.

Inside today's Daily Sun

New Mexico crews battling wildfires

Fire crews in New Mexico fought two blazes that have scorched thousands of acres and poured smoke into the state capital.

Nation A3

Nutrition labels OK'd for alcohol

Alcoholic beverages could soon have nutritional labels like those on food packaging — if the producers want to.

Health A7

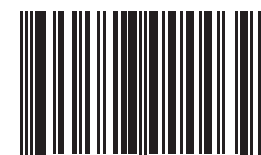
Many fled in cars as tornado neared

Oklahomans fleeing from Friday's violent tornado turned a rush-hour packed interstate into a deadly parking lot.

Nation A10



Today's Charity
Epilepsy Awareness



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Vol. 16 Issue 153



Photos by Bill Mitchell / Daily Sun
Ambulances wait outside The Villages Regional Hospital. Officials say a planned expansion and use of the urgent care facility across the street will help ease wait times in the emergency room.

EMERGENCY, from A1

emergency room for nonemergency care.

The hospital's January 2015 opening of a new tower will double the size of its emergency department to 64 beds.

The expansion will also bring the number of in-patient beds to 325, the same as its sister facility, Leesburg Regional Medical Center.

In the meantime, hospital officials are preparing for this winter's peak season by looking at staffing in the ER, coordinating admissions with the Leesburg facility and educating patients about the hospital's urgent care center across the street.



Laskowski

"We've had a lot of growth in the last four to five years," said Dr. Ron Laskowski, system director of emergency medicine for CFHA. "Over the last few, we've actually doubled the staffing in the emergency department to try to meet the needs."

Laskowski said a mid-level provider – a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant – has been added to greet patients

and speed up the triage process. "We've added two positions daily that are practicing around the clock," he said. "We're also looking at things like improving lab turnaround and X-ray turnaround."

Patients waiting for hours in the emergency room may not realize they can often be seen immediately at the urgent care center.

"Typically, our wait time in our urgent care is no wait time at all," said



Pfingsten

Bill Pfingsten, vice president of ambulatory services at CFHA. He pointed to findings by the Centers for Disease Control that show

nearly 40 percent of patients in the ER could actually be treated in an urgent care setting. Nearly 100 patients are treated daily in the emergency department versus only 20 to 30 in the urgent care center, according to hospital officials.

"We're probably at 25 percent capacity for the number of patients that we could truly accommodate," Pfingsten said. "I always use the term, 'appropriate care at the appropriate place.' Having patients aware we have immediate access to



A treatment room is shown at The Villages Regional Hospital's urgent care facility.

less-acute type services, I think, is a real important part of our growth strategy."

Laskowski said the average time from registration to discharge is less than an hour in the urgent care center. It's staffed by providers with years of ER experience.

"They're able to identify a more serious issue that would need to get to the emergency department," he said.

Pfingsten said patient feedback has been "just exceptional."

"They feel they get immediate care, they get prompt care and they really, really like the mid-level (providers) that they're seeing," he said.

The hospital's urgent care is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Starting tomorrow, a van service will make trips between it and the hospital every 15 minutes.

"We're real excited about starting that service right now, because when the snowbirds

come back we want to have all the kinks worked out," Pfingsten said. "The important part is convenience, access and the patient being seen immediately."

The addition of primary care centers throughout The Villages will also offer more treatment options. Three such centers will be operational by January, with others set to open in February and March.

"It's not that people don't

need care," said Dr. Elliot Sussman, chair of The Villages Health. "It's just that they may not need emergency room care."

Sussman said the centers will allow patients to have more same-day visits, phone consultations and computer linkups.

Henderson is confident the hospital is on the right track to resolve long ER waits.

"We have one more challenging winter to get through,"

he said. "We would ask for the public's gracious consideration, knowing that we are racing to catch up. There's light at the end of the tunnel."

Email your health care questions to larry.croom@thevillagesmedia.com. You can also send them to the Daily Sun, 1100 Main Street, The Villages, FL 32159, Attn.: Larry Croom. Or call him at 753-1119, ext. 9366.

Cardiac and Vascular Consultants

TOP FIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT LEG PAIN

Q. 1. What are the common causes of leg pain?

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

Q. 2. What is Peripheral Arterial Disease?

A. Narrowing of the arteries 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.

Q. 3. What is the danger of having peripheral arterial disease (PAD)?

A. 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.

Q. 4. How can you prevent PAD progressing into amputations?

A. Screening is suggested for patients at high risk of having PAD. High risk patients would be long term smokers, coronary artery disease, high cholesterol, long standing high blood pressure, diabetes mellitus, obese patients, and advanced age.

Q. 5. How do we treat PAD?

A. Walking for at least 30 minutes a day, cessation of smoking habits, aggressive treatment of cholesterol, diabetes mellitus and blood pressure. Endovascular treatments are used most frequently to treat these blockages and that includes balloon dilation of blockages referred to as angioplasty, stenting and atherectomy (removal of plaque and calcium). Due to the improvement in techniques, arteries that have 100% blockage can be opened by these techniques for better flow to the foot. In selected patients surgery is an option. Cardiologists, radiologists, and surgeons with peripheral intervention training and skills are able to perform the endovascular procedures.

For further questions regarding leg pains, contact experienced peripheral Interventionalists Dr. Vishnu Yelamanchi and Dr. Shrikanth Upadya at the Cardiac and Vascular Consultants.

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