

Residents reflect on 9/11 anniversary

Villagers gather to remember the heroes lost during memorial services marking the 12th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Local C1

Men's Village Cup semifinals set

Palmer Legends, Tierra del Sol, Orange Blossom Hills and Cane Garden all won matches Wednesday in the quarterfinals at Bonifay Country Club.

Sports B1

America's Healthiest Hometown



Peter Travers / Daily Sun

The new United Healthcare MedicareStore is shown in Lake Sumter Landing. The company is preparing to celebrate National Medicare Education Week and the opening of three MedicareStores in The Villages.

United Healthcare to host Medicare Education Week

By LARRY D. CROOM / DAILY SUN OMBUDSMAN

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

THE VILLAGES Villagers who have questions about Medicare are in luck. That's because United Healthcare is bringing its National Medicare Education Week to Florida's Friendliest Hometown next week. The insurance provider will hold informational seminars and celebrate the grand openings of three new MedicareStores – one in each town square. And that means Villagers will have the opportunity to get key questions answered by agents before the upcoming open-enrollment period, which runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 and allows Medicare beneficiaries to make changes or selections regarding their coverage.

Pete Clarkson, chief operating officer of North/Central Florida for United Healthcare Medicare & Retirement, said his company started National Medicare Education Week last year to help baby boomers, other beneficiaries and their

See UNITED, A5

Education in The Villages

Our schools are ready

By KATIE SARTORIS / DAILY SUN STAFF WRITER

Florida didn't fare well in a recent study about school and child-care facility disaster preparedness. But when it comes to safety at The Villages Charter School, preparation is paramount. Working with local law enforcement officials, the school has developed, regularly rehearses and, when necessary, tweaks a comprehensive disaster plan. Randy McDaniel, the school's director of education, recently outlined a few aspects of the school's preparation plan.

State of Florida

The Villages Charter School

Planning for evacuating children in child care



The state must require that all child-care providers have a written plan for evacuation and safely moving children to an alternate site.



"There are multiple plans in place regarding evacuation," McDaniel said. "Every office and classroom has an evacuation plan. We also have an off-site evacuation location that we just completed."

A plan for reuniting families after a disaster



The state must require that all child-care providers have a written plan for emergency notification of parents and reunification of families following an emergency.



Once students are evacuated, the school "would use multiple methods of communication to get the word out to families," McDaniel said, including mass communication through radio, television and websites.

A plan for children with disabilities and those with access and functional needs



The state must require that all child-care providers have a written plan that accounts for children with disabilities and those with access and functional needs.



Whether their students have allergies or a learning disability, teachers and administrators are aware of their possible limitations, McDaniel said. Evacuating students with special needs is "factored into the evacuation plan."

A multi-hazard plan for all K-12 schools



The state must require that all schools have a disaster plan that addresses multiple types of hazards and covers a number of responses, including evacuation, shelter-in-place and lockdown situations.



In addition to regularly rehearsing disaster drills, "every phone in our entire school, from the Early Childhood Center to the Lifelong Learning College, has an emergency flip chart with key numbers of emergency contacts and what the procedures are for each situation," McDaniel said.

Source: Save the Children's assessment of states' preparation and safety standards.



"We have a full procedural manual that covers every scenario we can think of. We're trying to do everything appropriate to keep the students safe."

— Randy McDaniel, director of education at The Villages Charter School

International focus



The Associated Press

A Free Syrian Army soldier stands on a damaged military tank in Zabadani, near Damascus, Syria.

Syrian opposition forces feel let down by Obama

Syrian opposition forces are more divided than ever after President Barack Obama decided to seek a diplomatic path to disarming Damascus of its chemical weapons.

**Second wind:** Many rebels who had held out hope for a U.S.-led strike believe America has indirectly given President Bashar Assad a second wind as a statesman negotiating with world powers. Rebels have been fighting for 2 1/2 years to topple Assad.

**Violence continues:** On Wednesday, Syrian government warplanes hit a field hospital in the town of al-Bab near Aleppo, killing 11 people and wounding dozens more, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

—The Associated Press

Florida focus

Disney offering free workshop to support hiring of veterans

Building on its successful Heroes Work Here initiative, Disney is holding a workshop in November to encourage companies to hire veterans.

**Developing a program:** Disney officials said that its Veterans Institute workshop in November will help teach some 300 small and mid-sized companies how to build successful veteran hiring programs of their own.

**Workshop:** The workshop will feature experts from

Disney's own veteran-hiring program, government officials, veterans, and non-profit veterans service organizations, who will share their experiences, best practices and tips for making a successful transition to the civilian workforce.

**Success:** Since starting its own program last year, Disney has hired 2,200 veterans, including 1,500 in Central Florida.

**Proud:** "We're incredibly proud of the veterans who

work at Disney, and we fully recognize the value, experience and skills they bring to our company," said Robert A. Iger, chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Company.

**Unemployment:** The jobless rate for all veterans is 7.3 percent, but for veterans who served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars it's 9.9 percent, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

—Staff report



The Associated Press

Inside today's Daily Sun

UN panel tallies Syrian violence

Eight massacres perpetrated by President Bashar Assad's regime and one by rebels, the commission reported.

World A3

Study: US could default by Oct. 18

The United States could default on its obligations as early as Oct. 18 if Washington fails to agree on borrowing legislation.

Washington A7

Capsule returns from space station

A Soyuz capsule carrying three astronauts touched down to Earth after undocking from the International Space Station.

World A14



Today's Charity  
Scleroderma Awareness



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Vol. 16 Issue 255



Atlanta

Study: Use of e-cigarettes by children increasing

By MIKE STOBBE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA – Children – like adults – are increasingly trying electronic cigarettes, according to the first large national study to gauge use by middle and high school students.

About 2 percent of the students said they'd used an e-cigarette in the previous month, according to a survey done last year. That was up from 1 percent in 2011.

More kids still smoke traditional cigarettes than the new electronic ones, and it's not clear how dangerous e-cigarettes are. It's also not clear from the report how many are using them on a daily or weekly basis.

But health officials are worried. The new study suggests many kids are now getting a first taste of nicotine through e-cigarettes and then moving on to regular tobacco products, they say.

Electronic cigarettes are battery-powered devices that provide users with aerosol puffs that typically contain nicotine, and sometimes flavorings like fruit, mint or chocolate. They've often been described as a less dangerous alternative to regular cigarettes.

Unlike conventional smokes, the federal government does not yet regulate e-cigarettes, although more than 20 states have banned store sales to minors. The devices began to appear in the United States in late 2006, but marketing has exploded in the last couple of years.

The new study – released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – is based on a questionnaire filled out by nearly 19,000 students in grades 6 through 12 in 2011 and another 25,000 in 2012.

In 2011, about 3 percent said they'd tried an e-cigarette at least once. That rose to 7 percent last year and translates to nearly 1.8 million students.

In contrast, 6 percent of adults have tried e-cigarettes, according to a different CDC survey done in 2011.

UNITED, from A1

families learn more about Medicare. He said that decision was based largely on the fact that seven out of 10 people ages 60-64 don't have a clear understanding of Medicare.

"We understand that Medicare can be confusing," Clarkson said. "We believe that this is a valuable resource and a valuable tool."

The informational seminars will be held Monday at 6 p.m. at Lake Miona Recreation Center and Sept. 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the Savannah Center. In addition to receiving information about Medicare, Clarkson said, Villagers will learn more about his company and its involvement with The Villages Health. Those wishing to attend either seminar should RSVP by calling 1-877-228-4557.

"We'll have a question-and-answer period, and we believe that folks will walk away from both of those events better informed about their options, about what Medicare is all about and how they can make some informed decisions about their health care," Clarkson said.

The grand-opening celebrations for the three new MedicareStores will take place Tuesday. The largest of the new stores is in Lake Sumter Landing at 1049 Lake Sumter Landing, near the USF Health in The Villages office. That event will last from 3 to 9 p.m. and there will be refreshments and entertainment, as well as a live remote broadcast by AM-640 WVLG. Those attending will also take home a free United Healthcare Positivity Kit.

"Service, service, service is the mantra of these stores," Clarkson said. "Medicare beneficiaries (can) speak with an agent one-on-one, because those health care decisions are very personal."

With approximately 10,000 baby boomers turning 65 every day – one Medicare beneficiary becoming eligible every eight seconds – Clarkson said the partnership with The Villages Health and USF Health couldn't come at a better time.

"When you combine the strengths and capabilities of each one of those entities, the end result will be better health care and that's what we're all about," he said. "We are about helping people live healthier lives, and that fits right in with what we're designing and what we're building together with our partners there at The Villages."

Dr. Elliot Sussman, chair of The Villages Health, said he couldn't be happier for The Villages to be part of National Medicare Education week.



Peter Travers / Daily Sun

The United Healthcare MedicareStore in Lake Sumter Landing is one of three new locations in The Villages.

National Medicare Education Week

- Learn more about the events at NMEW.com.
- To attend either United Healthcare seminar – Monday at 6 p.m. at Lake Miona Recreation Center or Sept. 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the Savannah Center – RSVP by calling 1-877-228-4557.

United Healthcare MedicareStores

- Lake Sumter Landing:** 1049 Lake Sumter Landing, 391-5262
- Spanish Springs:** 979 Del Mar Drive, 674-7160
- Brownwood:** 2617 West Torch Lake Drive, 674-1240
- La Plaza Grande:** 1124 Bichara Blvd., 460-7924

"To have a great health care delivery system and to partner with United, the largest health insurance company, to meet the health care needs of Villagers is just a wonderful opportunity," Sussman said. "It really helps to simplify the complicated topic of health insurance and Medicare so that during the open-enrollment

period, people can make informed decisions."

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

The Villages



Virginia Sherwood / NBC

Forte, featuring Fernando Varela, from left, Sean Panikka and Josh Page, will participate Tuesday in the finals of 'America's Got Talent' on NBC.

Varela and Forte move up on 'America's Got Talent'

This musical ship hasn't sunk yet.

Forte, featuring Villages' favorite tenor Fernando Varela, is moving on to the finals of "America's Got Talent," which will be held on Tuesday. The tenor trio learned it had earned a place as one of the final six competitors during the results show Wednesday night on NBC.

As part of Tuesday's Top 12 performance at Radio City Music Hall in New York,

Forte – featuring Varela, Josh Page and Sean Panikka – performed a stirring rendition of Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On" from the movie "Titanic," receiving another standing ovation from judges Howard Stern, Heidi Klum, Mel B, and Howie Mandel.

If Forte wins it all, the group will receive \$1 million and headline its own show in Las Vegas.

– Michael Fortuna, Daily Sun staff writer

DENTAL DESIGN

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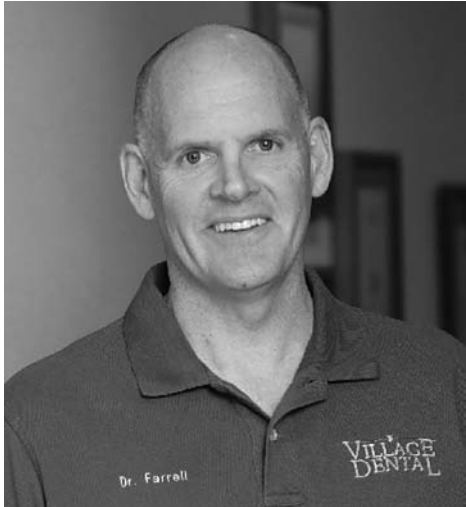
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