



**THE WEATHER**  
High 88° | Low 69°  
Mostly sunny. C2

# The Villages® DAILY SUN



**WEDNESDAY**  
OCTOBER 14,  
2020

THE NEWSPAPER OF FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

## NATIONAL NEWS



The Associated Press

### HIGH COURT PICK FACES QUESTIONS ON ELECTIONS, ABORTION RIGHTS

Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett fielded questions from senators Tuesday on controversial issues that could come before the court. Insisting she would decide cases "as they come," she declined to say if she would recuse herself from any election-related cases involving President Donald Trump, who nominated her to fill the seat of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. **A3**

## NATION & WORLD REPORT

**Nation:** The Supreme Court ruled the Trump administration can end census field operations early, rejecting a lawsuit that warned the truncated schedule will lead to minorities being undercounted. **A12**

**World:** Russia's foreign minister threatens to cut off dialogue with the European Union in response to its sanctions over the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny with a Soviet-era nerve agent. **A20**



World News A2  
Florida News A5  
Lottery A4  
Health News A7

## Faces in The News Mark Zuckerberg



The Facebook founder and his wife have donated an additional \$100 million to helping local election offices prepare for November.

National News, A10

## Top of the News

INSIDE THE ISSUES SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

# Open Enrollment Starts Thursday

What to know when reviewing 2021 Medicare options.

# P

BY MACKENZIE RAETZ | Daily Sun Specialty Editor

Patients can switch their Medicare plans during the annual Medicare Open Enrollment, starting Thursday. The enrollment period ends Dec. 7. Those already enrolled in Medicare should review their insurance plans each year to make sure the coverage is still what's best for you, recommends Betty Cunningham, area coordinator for Lake and Sumter counties and The Villages for Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE). The average 2021 premiums for Medicare Advantage plans are expected to decrease 34.2% from 2017, according to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

# 1

**Review your plans:** Patients should look over their current plans and make note of any changes in 2021 costs or benefits. "One very important thing is to look at your drug plan," said Cunningham, of the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens. "They can change the premium and the deductible. The tier of the drugs can change. Everyone needs to go and have it checked. It can make a huge difference." If your current coverage will meet your needs in 2021 and is still available, you won't need to do anything during enrollment, according to medicare.gov. To compare coverage with other options, go to medicare.gov/plan-compare.

# 2

**What you can change:** During the annual open enrollment period, enrollees can switch their current Medicare Advantage plan; switch from Original Medicare to Medicare Advantage or from Advantage back to Original; make changes to their prescription drug plan with Original Medicare; or drop/join a drug plan. During the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment from Jan. 1-March 31, enrollees have the opportunity to change from one Medicare Advantage plan to another if they already have one or go back to Original Medicare. During that time you can't change from Original Medicare to Medicare Advantage.

# 3

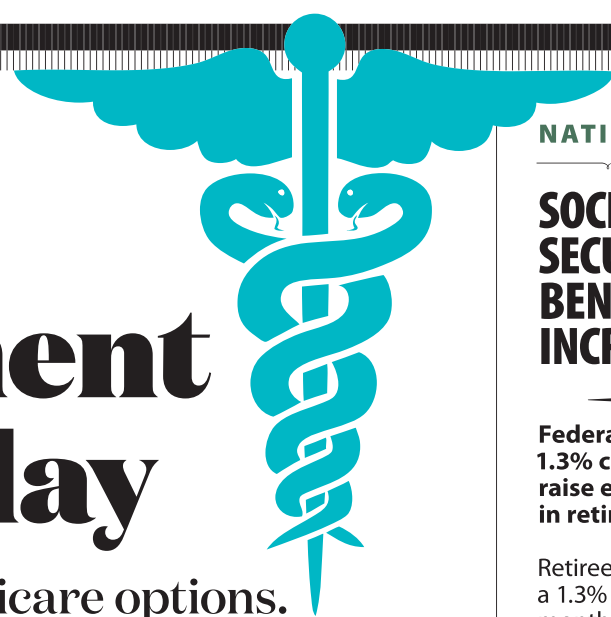
**The Villages Health:** The Villages Health accepts UnitedHealthcare, Medicare Advantage and Florida Blue Medicare Advantage plans for primary care, said Bob Trinh, CEO of The Villages Health. The Villages Health's specialty care does participate in Original Medicare, but primary care does not. Medicare classes also are available through The Villages Health's learning center at thevillageshealth.com/learning-center/. Medicare Simplified: How to Choose Worry-Free Health Care is available online. You do not have to be a Villages Health patient or a resident of The Villages to attend.

# 4

**Materials to gather:** There are seven health insurance resource centers in The Villages. Though they are located next to care centers, they are not affiliated with The Villages Health. The resource centers have third-party insurance agents there to answer questions and offer advice on what may be best for you. The Villages Health does not endorse one plan or insurance carrier over the other. Some items to bring to the resource centers include what your current plan is and a record of medical expenses and prescriptions, Trinh said. Find a location near you at thevillageshealth.com/medicare-resources/find-an-agent.

# 5

**More help locally:** SHINE, a program of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, offers free health insurance counseling and will be providing virtual Medicare classes. Classes provided cover topics such as Medicare 101, Medicare Basics, Financial Assistance and Medicare Part C. Find the full class schedule at floridashine.org. There will be no in-person counseling or presentations this year. Patients also can get their questions answered by calling the Elder Helpline at 1-800-963-5337 and asking for SHINE. "We are here to help people make wise choices and explain the different pathways of Medicare," Cunningham said.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS INCREASE

Federal agency OKs 1.3% cost-of-living raise effective Jan. 1 in retirement income.

Retirees will receive a 1.3% increase in monthly Social Security retirement benefits, effective Jan. 1, the Social Security Administration announced Tuesday. That is about \$20 more per month for a benefit deposit of \$1,514, according to the agency's average monthly estimates. The agency adjusts the monthly benefit according to average increases in the Consumer Price Index. Also, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax will increase to \$142,800 from \$137,700.

— David R. Corder, Daily Sun

## THAT'S AMAZING!

### WITH 'DREAMS' AND JUICE, MAN FINDS ONLINE FAME

Nathan Apodaca is enjoying the ride of online fame from a 22-second TikTok video in which he hugs cranberry juice and dances along to Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams" while cruising down an Idaho highway atop a longboard.

The video has racked up more than 33 million views and counting since he posted it last month, with thousands of others posting their own versions, including politicians and even Mick Fleetwood.

"I've just been getting flooded with everybody, even just a little boy drinking juice," he said from the RV where he lives in Idaho Falls, Idaho. "I think I've even seen a dog on a skateboard rolling around with some juice taped to him or something."

— The Associated Press

## EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

### Karate Club Comes Together Again With New Safety Protocol

Karate students are back to kicking it at Laurel Manor Recreation Center. With classes ranging from 22-25 people, participants seem to be fairly happy to be back together again, said Lee Aiello, president of the Karate Club. Even though Aiello hosted virtual classes on Zoom for about 40 students in five or six classes a week for a few months, he said nothing can beat being able to be in the same room with each other again. And, the group has implemented plenty of safety precautions. "We're wearing masks," said the Village of Winifred resident, "and we're social distancing with marks we put on the floor." Each lesson lasts about an hour and a half, and members aren't doing moves or workouts that are extreme right now as a way to prevent heavy breathing. Newcomers are recommended to attend the Thursday lessons, which are geared toward beginners. Those who haven't attended before can either show up to a lesson or call Aiello for more information.

— Alexandria Mansfield, Daily Sun



## Life In Our Town

### What's Happening In The Villages Water warriors

After a virus-imposed hiatus, members of a dragon boat team are back at practice.

Local News, C1

## Plus

**Home & Garden:** Love roses? Many stunning varieties actually are easy to grow. **E1**

**Sports:** Former Cleveland Indians pitcher Sam McDowell strives to help others. **B1**

## LOVIN' THE LIFESTYLE

Behind the lens with a Daily Sun photojournalist. **D1**

