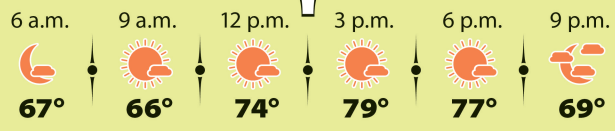




HINTS FROM HELOISE | E5
Find practical advice, household tricks and reader tips for busy, everyday consumers.



JEFF SHAIN ON THE NFL | B1
From games as cartoons to the Taylor Swift whirlwind, the NFL is tapping new fans.



TOP WORLD AND NATION NEWS

HOUSE GOP TASKED WITH CHOOSING SPEAKER, A5

Around the World: Hamas attack out of Gaza stuns Israel. **A3**

Across the Nation: White House to allow border wall construction. **A14**

In Florida: Pit bull ban is over in Miami-Dade after three decades. **C5**

SPORTS NEWS

CRASHES LEAVE BUSCH ON BRINK OF ELIMINATION

Another crash has Kyle Busch last in the playoff standings and in danger of elimination on The Roval at Charlotte Motor Speedway. **B7**

STATE NEWS

ORLANDO NAMED 'BEST FOODIE CITY IN AMERICA'

WalletHub has determined that of 182 cities, Orlando deserves the No.1 slot on its 2023 list of Best Foodie Cities in America. **C2**

LOCAL NEWS

ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE KICKS OFF

The American Legion Post 347 Auxiliary In Lady Lake has kicked off its annual food drive to support local families over the holidays. **D3**

OUR TOWN | 2023 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S



India Pantin | Daily Sun

Participants walk the path at the Walk to End Alzheimer's event at The Villages Polo Club. More than 800 people registered for this year's walk — the largest turnout The Villages event has ever had.

Alzheimer's Walk Runs Past Fundraising Goal

By TAYLOR STRICKLAND | Daily Sun Senior Writer

The annual Walk to End Alzheimer's serves as a beacon of hope for those impacted by Alzheimer's disease.

People from throughout the tri-county area gathered Saturday morning at The Villages Polo Club to participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer's event in The Villages

to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association and show support for the more than 6 million Americans living with the disease.

"Someone may be living with the disease, or someone may be caring for someone with the disease, and

Please See **ALZHEIMER'S, A6**



HOW TO HELP

The 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's in The Villages exceeded its \$165,000 fundraising goal before Saturday's event, but donations are still being accepted. To donate, visit tinyurl.com/y4npx4x8.

CERT of The Villages Celebrates 20 Years of Service to Community

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The organization operates under The Villages Public Safety Department and provides backup in emergencies.

By VERONICA WERNICKE
Daily Sun Senior Writer

After a deadly tornado touched down in The Villages on Feb. 2, 2007, and damaged 1,300 homes, the Community Emergency Response Team of The Villages went from house to house for three days to check on residents.

This month, CERT of The Villages is celebrating its 20th anniversary of looking out for the community. The group is the local branch of the national Community

Emergency Response Team, which includes 2,700 local CERT organizations and more than 600,000 volunteers across the country.

"We wanted to mark our 20 years of service to The Villages in a meaningful way," said Phil Goldsmith, CERT of The Villages commander. "One was to throw a good party — something we seldom do — another was to document and reflect on what we've accomplished over the years."

The group of more than 200 Villagers held the party Thursday at Rohan Recreation to celebrate 20 years of

Please See **CERT, A8**

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Garrett Shiftlet

Beautiful weather and the common goal of raising money for graduating seniors brought around 600 golfers to the green on Saturday for the Annual Buffalo Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament.

The tournament has grown this year to include four courses — Palmer Legends Country Club, Glenview Champions Country Club, Nancy Lopez Legacy Country Club and Tierra del Sol Country Club.

This is the second year in a row that the tournament has expanded to include another course.

Please See **TOURNAMENT, A7**

RISE & SHINE

COMMUNITY COVERAGE

Inside Today's Daily Sun



SPORTS SECTION

A national roundup, Golf Central and sporting events worth watching. **B1**

FLORIDA EXTRA

Features on theme parks, historical sites, and other adventures right in our backyard. **C1**

LOCAL NEWS SECTION

Our weekly in-depth community report, plus politics and pets coverage. **D1**

LIFESTYLE SECTIONS

Join a club, find a good book or travel the world with your neighbors. **E1, F1**

CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

Looking for local help? Find a trusted professional in our service directory. **G1**

EXTRA CONTENT INSIDE TODAY

Expanded color comics and coupons.

LOVIN' THE LIFESTYLE

Today's weather report, **D2**

Today's activities in Villages' recreation centers, **D6-7**

Today's photos, **E1**

Today's entertainment on the squares, **E3**



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from the front page

ALZHEIMER'S

Continued from A1

you may not know it," said Jennifer Braisted, director of government affairs for the Southeast Florida chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. "This is the day when people come out of the shadows of Alzheimer's to shine a light on the cause."

Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest walk to raise awareness for Alzheimer's care, support and research. It gives people affected by Alzheimer's disease the opportunity to be seen and heard by their community, Braisted said.

This year marks the biggest turnout the Villages event has ever had, according to Melissa Denham, a dementia care specialist with The Villages Health and the 2023 executive event chair person for the Walk to End Alzheimer's in The Villages.

Last year, 434 people preregistered for the walk and more than 500 participated. More than 800 people registered for this year's walk, and Denham expects participation numbers to reach nearly 1,000 after factoring in those who registered that morning.

A sea of purple shirts flowed throughout the drive leading up to The Villages Polo Club pavilion. Sponsor tents were filled with food, trinkets, resource materials and photo backdrops, and hydration stations and a face-painting booth were set up along the track for people to enjoy.

People showed their "purple pride" by not only wearing the color, but carrying colored flowers around to symbolize what the walk means to them.

The Alzheimer's Association's color-coded flowers it gives out represents the spectrum — yellow for caregivers, blue for the diagnosed, purple for the ones left behind and

orange for support. However, it's the single white flower brought to every walk that is most significant.

"It's the promise of the first survivor," Braisted said. "That one day there will be a cure, and the first survivor will walk with us."

That promise is the connection that binds walkers together, such as Village of St. James resident Diane Gentz and her husband, Ken.

Diane is all too familiar with dementia and Alzheimer's. Three out of her six siblings have been diagnosed and six years ago, Ken was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment. For her, the Walk to End Alzheimer's is a time to raise funds for local support services while connecting with others going through similar challenges. And unlike many others, Diane gets to make the walk alongside her loved one.

"This is our third year doing this, and each time it just lights his fire," Diane said. "He gets so excited about being here and seeing all his friends. I feel so blessed that he's still able to do this."

For other walkers, like mother and daughter Kim and Sarah Hatfield, the walk is not as joyful, but no less important.

Kim, of the Village of DeLuna, lost her college sweetheart and husband of 46 years, Mike, in June of this year. He was diagnosed with early onset dementia, an uncommon type that affects people younger than 65. This is the first walk for Kim and Sarah, of Tampa, as well as their first time celebrating Kim's birthday without Mike.

"It means a lot to me," Kim said. "It means hope for the future. It's a legacy given by those who have walked before me and it lets me know that I can do it."

An average of more than 600 walks are held nationwide each year, according to



Photos by India Pantin | Daily Sun

Village of Belle Aire neighbors Judy Creaser, left, and Susan Demers, wore purple to show their support while participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's event.



Left: Ten-year-old Kennedy Kovaleski, of Longwood, reaches for a Promise Garden Flower at the Walk to End Alzheimer's event. Right: Renae Sokola, right, a member of the East Port Lions Club and resident of the Village of St. Catherine, and Heather Vass, a member the Lions Club of Orange Blossom Gardens and resident of the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens, volunteer at the Walk to End Alzheimer's event.

the Alzheimer's Association, with collected revenue from walks totaling more than \$87.5 million in the 2022 fiscal year.

The Villages walk met its fundraising goal the week prior, exceeding its original goal of \$165,000 by more than \$20,000.

Of the more than 800 registered participants at this year's

walk, 200 of them are part of The Villages Health's Dementia Care Coordination Program, which Denham oversees. The program is free and open to any primary care patients with The Villages Health. Call 352-674-8949 to learn more.

All proceeds from the Walk to End Alzheimer's goes to the Alzheimer's Association's

care and support resources, advocacy efforts and research funding, and people can donate through the end of the year. To donate or learn more, go to alz.org.

Senior writer Taylor Strickland can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5334, or taylor.strickland@thevillagesmedia.com.

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

The annual walk put on by the Alzheimer's Association is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care and research. Money raised through Walk to End Alzheimer's events goes toward funding national research as well as supporting local community programs and resources. In 2022, The Villages walk raised \$142,273. Here are some other important numbers:

\$87.5M

The amount of money raised nationally in the 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's, according to the Alzheimer's Association's annual report. Nearly 300,000 participants raised the money at events around the country.

600

The number of U.S. communities that hold an annual Walk to End Alzheimer's fundraiser, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

6.7M

The number of Americans living with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

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