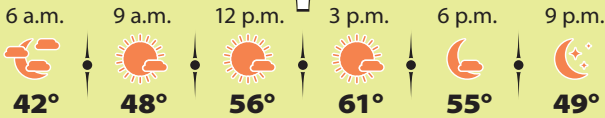




HINTS FROM HELOISE | E10

A reader shares a simple way to keep shirts from sliding off their wire hangers.



JAMES DINAN ON FAITH | D1

Ernie Hase and Signature Sound are playing at Village of Faith Baptist Church on Jan. 20.



TOP WORLD AND NATION NEWS

TWO STATES TRY TO KEEP TRUMP OFF BALLOT, A5

Around the World: World's population to top eight billion by Jan 1. **A2**

Around the World: Russia launches its largest air attack on Ukraine. **A3**

Across the Nation: After fire, Maui must balance tourism and emotions. **A9**

SPORTS NEWS

BUFFALO TO PLAY FOR 5TH PLACE IN HOOPS BATTLE

The Villages High School defeats West Forsyth 60-51 in a consolation semifinal at the Battle at The Villages and will play for fifth place today. **B1**

LOVE YOUR RIDE

RESIDENT GETS TO BUY RARE CAR OF HIS DREAMS

Dale Boyd, of the Village of Chatham, got the chance to purchase a rare 1935 DeSoto Airflow, but had to wait nearly a year to get to drive it. **C1**

LOCAL NEWS

AREA CHURCHES SEE LEADERS, NAMES CHANGE

2023 was a year of change for many local houses of worship. Two churches have been renamed and others have new clergy. **D1**

COMING UP

LOOK BACK AT 2023'S TOP STORIES BEFORE RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

With 2024 closing in, it's time to take a look back at the past year. From notable national and international headlines to celebrity passings and big stories in The Villages, 2023 was a year to remember. Check out Sunday's edition of the Daily Sun for a recap.

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Garrett Shiftlet

There are hundreds of stories waiting to be told in The Villages and, fortunately, many residents write them down.

The Writers League of The Villages is showcasing 101 authors at its annual BookExpo 2024 set for 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Jan. 28 at Eisenhower Recreation. "The expo provides a unique opportunity for people to meet a wide range of talented authors — many of them multiple award winners," said Rita Boehm, WLOV BookExpo 2024 Chair and resident of the Village of Winifred. "They also will have an opportunity to win free gift baskets of books, listen to two incredible speakers and buy

Please See **EXPO, A7**

OUR TOWN | HEALTH AND AIR QUALITY

It's Pollen Season Already? Look To the Trees

Allergies aren't just for the spring and fall, as Florida's trees typically start putting out pollen around now.

By LEAH SCHWARTING | Daily Sun Specialty Editor

Believe it or not, tree pollen season is starting. Unlike in Northern states, Florida's trees begin emitting pollen in the winter. Although Villagers won't see their community blanketed in yellow pollen dust just yet, they could still see their allergies triggered as trees attempt to reproduce. Central Florida's mild climate is tricky for seasonal allergy sufferers who, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, made up about 1 in 4 adults in 2021. There isn't really a peak allergy season in the region since allergens

Please See **POLLEN, A7**

SURPRISE! YOU HAVE NEW ALLERGIES

It's not uncommon for new Florida residents to suddenly start reaching for tissues. "Allergens vary from one environment to the next," said Dr. Robert Reilly, The Villages Health's medical director of risk based care. Immune systems may also respond more vigorously to new allergens.

BUT WHERE IS ALL OF THE YELLOW DUST?

The infamous dust will likely make its big appearance around February and March, so residents' cars and sidewalks are probably safe for the time being. However, that doesn't mean allergy-aggravating pollen isn't present in the air.



TREES ARE AMONG OUR BIGGEST POLLEN CULPRITS

Florida's mild climate can cause allergy issues all year, but tree pollen season can prove particularly difficult. Junipers are big pollen culprits lately, but residents should also keep an eye on oaks. The Villages is home to many live oak trees, an iconic part of Florida's landscape.

EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

OUT & ABOUT IN THE VILLAGES

Try This Today: The Villages Chain Gang Welcomes All Players

The Villages Chain Gang is a disc golf club that has grown to 365 members. Players like Bob Blake, of the Village of Sanibel, throw discs at a target with rules similar to golf. The club plays at 9 a.m. Mondays at Lake Okahumpka Park. The women's division meets at 9 a.m. Tuesdays at Lake Okahumpka Park. Some members always bring extra discs for newer members who want to try it out. No sign-up is required, just show up and play. For more information, contact Eric Bilow at 704-214-4649 or ericbilow@gmail.com.

—Greg Hughes, Daily Sun



Daily Sun staff photo

IN ENTERTAINMENT

See Miranda Madison Perform In Ocala

Find out more, **E1**

Plus: Find the lineup of entertainment at the town squares, theaters and beyond, **E3**

AT RECREATION CENTERS

Happening near you: From aqua aerobics to Zumba and everything in between, there's fun for everyone, **E9**

LOVIN' THE LIFESTYLE

Plan your perfect day in The Villages, **E1**

Recipes	E1
Comics	E4
Puzzles	E5-6
Horoscope	E7
TV Guide	E8
Advice	E10



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from the front page



Frank Lancione, of the Village of Monarch Grove, and Rita Boehm, of the Village of Winifred, both members of the Writers League of The Villages, show their books at Barnes & Nobel at Lake Sumter Landing.

EXPO

Continued from A1

autographed books as gifts or for their own enjoyment. It's a wonderful way to spend a January afternoon."

There will be 25 genres of books available at the expo, ranging from memoirs and politics to mystery, romance and military.

"Additionally, we will have a wide range of books for children and young adults, and a number of poetry books as well," Boehm said.

Many of the 101 authors featured are local residents who are members of WLOV.

"The BookExpo is the premier event of the Writers League and has been for many years," Boehm said. "Our membership looks forward to it every year and the expo exhibitor training sessions that we hold are well attended. Everyone wants to put their best foot forward."

Around 3,500 book lovers are expected to attend the event.

The two featured speakers for the expo are Dr. Donald Wyman and Patricia Charpentier.

Wyman will lead his lecture titled, The JFK Assassination: Why It Had To Happen from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the General MacArthur room of Eisenhower Recreation.

It is billed as an "expose" on the infamous assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

Wyman is glad to have events like this in the community.

"There are so many people living here in the Villages who have outstanding credentials and firsthand experience in so many fields," the Village of Duval resident said. "It is fortunate that we have the opportunity to learn from them firsthand through events like this."

Wyman's book, "The Chosen Path: Based on the Life of Elizabeth Van Lew" chronicles one of the Union Army's spies during the American Civil War and will be sold during the expo.

"Elizabeth Van Lew lived during the period of the Civil War," Wyman said. "She was born and raised as a Richmond, Virginia, aristocrat and she spied for the North because of her hatred both of slavery and seeing the country deeply divided. She was enshrined in

the U.S. Military Intelligence Hall of Fame in 1993."

Wyman's presentation will be followed by Charpentier's lecture, Writing Your Life Stories, from 2 to 3 p.m., also in the General MacArthur room.

"I will focus on how easy it is to get started writing your life stories and how you can have fun doing it," Charpentier said. "I plan to provide some tools that help people break their big lives into manageable sections, making their stories easier to write."

Charpentier, who lives in Orlando, is a familiar face in The Villages, as she teaches writing courses with the Enrichment Academy.

"I'm thrilled to be asked to speak at the WLOV BookExpo for the second year in a row," Charpentier said. "WLOV is a great organization that has helped so many authors get into print, and I am grateful for the chance to spread the life story writing message to those they attract."

Charpentier will sell multiple books including "Eating an Elephant: Write Your Life One Bite at a Time" and "I Remember: Fifty Prompts to Write Your Life Story," among others during the expo.

POLLEN

Continued from A1

circulate throughout the year, said Dr. Robert Reilly, The Villages Health's medical director of risk based care.

However, Reilly tends to see a lot of allergy flares when the season changes, such as from fall to winter and winter to spring.

"It seems the change in humidity and temperatures trigger a more vigorous allergen response," he said.

Right now the biggest culprits in Central Florida are juniper trees, but they're not the only trees that release pollen into the air. Once released, the wind disperses the pollen, according to the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension.

Trees and other plants that rely on the wind must put out massive quantities of pollen, as only a small amount will result in seeds. So, every year trees like junipers and later oak trees, which are responsible for the yellow dust, cause literal and figurative headaches for residents.

The Villages in particular is home to a lot of live oaks, which can grow up to 60-80 feet. Many developers favor the species for characteristics such as their wind resistance.

Jim Davis, Sumter County UF/IFAS director, considers live oaks an important species.

"There's a lot of animals that live in live oaks," he said. "There's a lot of homeowners that want to get rid of oak trees, but we don't want to do that."

Birds, raccoons, possums, insects and other animals all live in oak trees. Other plants, such as Spanish Moss which birds use for nesting material, also depend on the trees.

"If you don't have those large canopy trees you're



Daily Sun file photo

A historic live oak tree stands at Dade Battlefield State Park. While junipers are big pollen culprits, people with allergies should also keep their eyes on oak trees as well.

going to decrease certain wildlife," Davis said.

In areas without live oaks, there's a lot less raptors such as owls. Raptors' diets include rats so, without hospitable housing for birds of prey, the rodent population would lose an important check.

"So it's very, very important to keep those plants in the landscape," Davis said.

The only downside is that, in the coming months, those with allergies are in for some rough days.

It's not just life-long allergy sufferers who should be on the watch either. Different vegetation, and allergens, call different regions home. As a result, new Floridians may experience unexpected allergy symptoms.

Those same people could also see their immune systems go into overdrive to respond to the new allergens.

"When people are exposed to new allergens that they have not previously encountered, their immune system may respond more vigorously than if they have had chronic or prior exposure, which tends to dampen their response," Reilly said.

The good news is that severity may not be permanent. Allergy symptoms vary considerably depending on the patient, Reilly said, reflecting the degree their immune system responds.

"Some of this is genetically determined, but also has to do with the length of time the person is exposed to the allergen," he said. "Over time of repeated allergen exposure, typically symptoms abate."

It's possible to mistake those symptoms for a cold or flu, since both seasons are in full swing. Typically, Reilly said viral or bacterial sinus infections are accompanied by symptoms that can include headaches, sinus pressure, fever, productive cough and thick/colored nasal discharge.

"But often times symptoms overlap so, if there is a concern for infection, patients should seek medical evaluation from their healthcare team to help discern between the two," he said.

Throughout the season, those with allergies can check the pollen counts in their area through platforms such as the National Allergy Bureau at pollen.aaaai.org/#/. Pollen levels will vary throughout the next few months, and depend on the weather.

The season usually runs through the spring. After that, tree pollen gives way to grass pollen.

We're moving the dial.

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