


RUSTY GLOOR ON SOCIAL SECURITY | D9
Gloor answers a reader's question about finding the details of their medicare premium costs.

6 a.m. 9 a.m. 12 p.m. 3 p.m. 6 p.m. 9 p.m.

46° 55° 65° 68° 63° 60°



VERONICA WERNICKE ON SAFETY | D1
Ladies for Liberty is performing on March 8, benefitting Villages Honor Flight.

NFL PLAYOFFS

CHIEFS TOPPLE BILLS AGAIN IN AFC THRILLER, B1

Around the World: Two British warships collide in a Middle East port. **A2** | **Across the Nation:** New FEMA rules hope to cut red tape for recovery. **A17** | **In Science:** Could a new vaccine curb muscle loss in space, on earth? **A23**

BUSINESS NEWS

BUSINESSES IN VILLAGES READY FOR BRISK SALES

The holiday season may be the busiest time of year for most businesses around the nation, but in The Villages, it's the first quarter of the year. **C6**

LOCAL NEWS

CERT OF THE VILLAGES STARTS CLASSES SOON

A free six-week class offered by CERT of The Villages will begin Feb. 5, teaching residents the skills they need to become members. **D1**

LOCAL NEWS

RETIRED K-9'S LICENSE PLATE NEARS SALES GOAL

A license plate design memorializing Drago, a retired Marion County Sheriff's Office K-9, is halfway to its goal of 3,000 presales. **D3**



Decision 2024

DeSantis: Still Time Of Trump

Florida's governor moves to unify Republican Party, could seek presidential run in 2028.

Daily Sun and Wire Reports

After suspending his presidential campaign Sunday, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is back in the Sunshine State — even as his advisers are already talking up another White House run four years from now. DeSantis endorsed Donald Trump, saying it's clear that a majority of Republican primary voters want to give the former president another chance.

“Following our second-place finish in Iowa, we've prayed and deliberated,” he said in a video posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. “If there was anything I could do to produce a favorable outcome, more campaign stops, more interviews, I would do it. But I can't ask our supporters to volunteer their time and donate their resources. We don't have a clear path to victory.”

Trump responded to DeSantis' endorsement in a statement to Fox News Digital Sunday: “Very honored to have his endorsement,” Trump said.

“I look forward to working together with him to beat Joe Biden, who is the worst and most corrupt president in the history of our country.”

DeSantis' decision leaves Trump and former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley as the last major candidates remaining in the race ahead of Tuesday's New Hampshire primary.

DeSantis has said he heard from a number of voters who had declared their allegiance to Trump this time around, but said they would support him in 2028.

Please See DESANTIS, A8



@RonDeSantis
Presidential candidate and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced his decision to bow out of the race on Sunday with a video post on X, formerly known as Twitter. The move comes just days ahead of the New Hampshire primary.

COMING UP

SPANISH SPRINGS KICKS OFF 30TH CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY

To open the yearlong Spanish Springs 30th celebration, The Villages Entertainment is presenting an all-day bash Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. with more than 16 hours of music on multiple stages. **For more, see Page C1**

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Taylor Strickland

The Glenn Miller Orchestra returned to The Villages for a swinging good time, delighting fans both old and new with an evening of big band jazz tunes.

Applause rang out as the first familiar notes of “Moonlight Serenade” filled The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center on Friday, and continued as theater's red velvet curtains rose to reveal the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

“Like the original band, we begin and end every show with ‘Moonlight Serenade,’” said Erik Stabnau, the band's music director and host for the evening. “Just like they did 80 years ago.”

Please See ORCHESTRA, A9

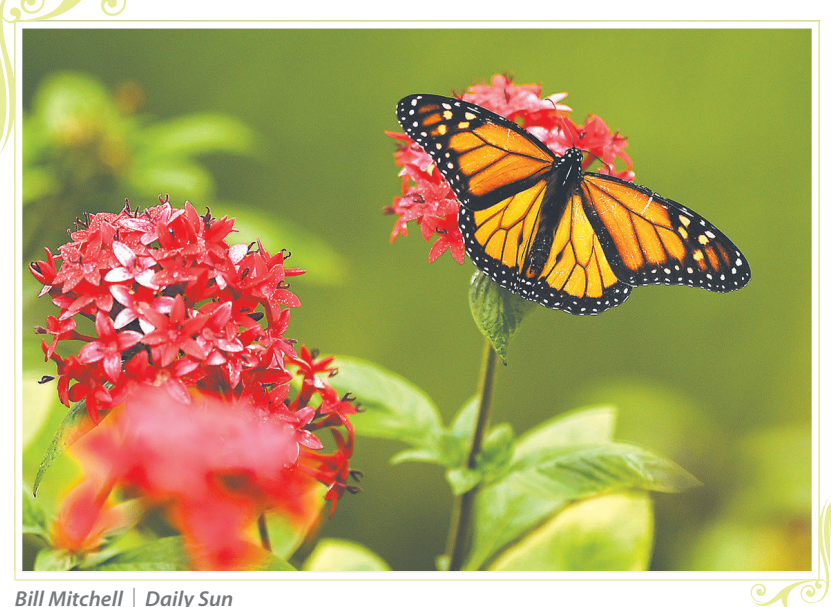
EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

OUT & ABOUT IN THE VILLAGES

Try This Today: Enjoy Nature With The Villages Butterfly Garden Club

Spread your wings with The Villages Butterfly Gardens Club. The group meets the third Friday of each month from 1:30 to 3:20 p.m. at Fish Hawk Recreation. Butterfly gardeners of all levels — from master gardeners to picture-book beginners — are welcome to join. The club maintains a demonstration garden, members share experiences and routinely brings in guest speakers. Members also come together for garden tours at local clubs and schools to discuss various butterflies and plants. Email the club at tvbgclub@gmail.com.

— Greg Hughes, Daily Sun



IN ENTERTAINMENT

Head Out to the Sumter County Farmers Market

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
Horoscope	E7
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Recreation	E9

from the front page

ORCHESTRA

Continued from A1

Every single one of The Sharon's more than 1,000 seats were filled to see the orchestra's performance. More than just a tribute to one of the world's most popular big bands of the 1930s and 40s, the present Glenn Miller Orchestra is a painstaking recreation of the swing-era style of performance.

"This kind of music — big band swing — allows for a lot of solo performances," Stabnau said.

As was common during the original band's heyday, soloists played improvised melodies over the standard arrangements, showing off their musical skills for the benefit of the crowd. Trombone players also interacted with the audience by waving vintage derby mutes — which resemble little white hats with red rims — at them during every break in a song.

The band's featured vocalist for the night was Jenny Swoish, a Nashville-based singer who covered songs like "The Rhumba Jumps," "Just Imagine" and "I've Got It Bad (And That Ain't Good)."

Joining her on several songs were the "Moonlight Sereaders," the vocal ensemble made up of Stabnau, Kevin Sheehan, Chris Stein and Joe Young. Together, the group sang classics like the "Chattanooga Choo Choo" and "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree."

In addition to songs in Miller's repertoire, the band played songs from other great big bands of the time. Among them were Tommy Dorsey and Duke Ellington's orchestras, featuring songs like "Puddle Wump," "Satin Doll" and "Take the A Train."

Miller's original band disbanded at the height of its popularity in 1942, when Miller volunteered for the U.S. Army in World War II. There, he organized the Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band and revolutionized the sound of military bands, taking them from drums to the popular music of his time.

In 1944, Miller's plane disappeared over the English Channel and the U.S. Army declared him officially dead a year later. In his honor, the band dedicates the song, "American Patrol," to his memory and to honor all those who served.

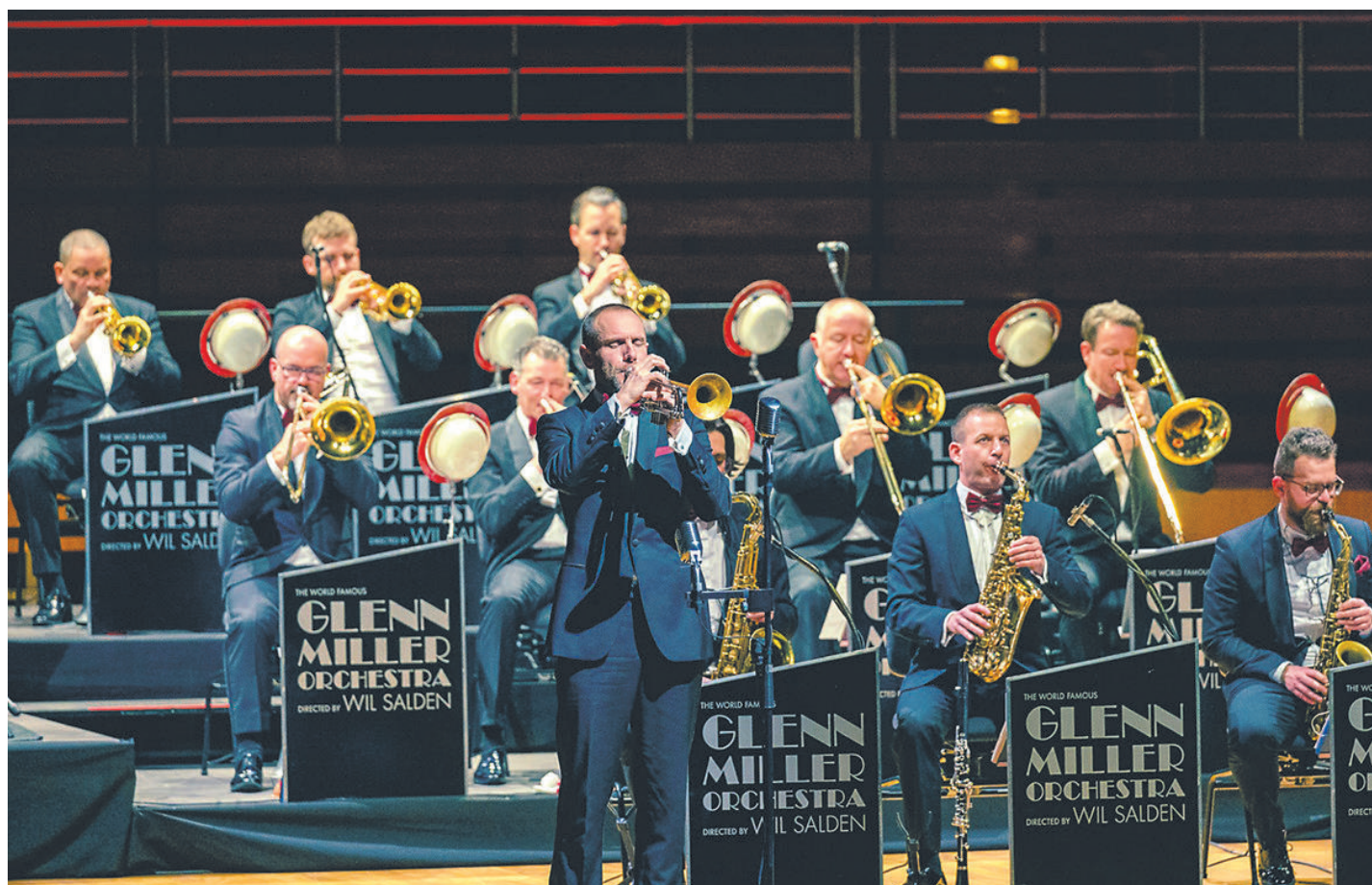
"We always want to dedicate songs to the veterans," Stabnau said. "Veterans, you mean so much to us."

Many of the audience members were drawn to the concert by the promise of re-experiencing the sound of their childhood, such as Villager Dana Wilson.

"This is going to sound corny, but I remember (the Glenn Miller Orchestra) from the Lawrence Welk Show," the Village of Pine Hills resident said.

Wilson was joined by fellow Pine Hills residents, John and Mary Hampel. Although not as familiar with Glenn Miller themselves, the couple decided the orchestra's appearance at The Sharon was the perfect opportunity to become more acquainted with his work.

"They're top quality musicians," Mary said of the band. By far the biggest Glenn



The Glenn Miller Orchestra, named in memory of the late star and styled after his original orchestra, performed on Friday at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Submitted photo

Miller fan of the night was found among the Hamilton family, who came from Gainesville and Melbourne to see the orchestra play. However, it wasn't anyone from the first or second generation of the Hamilton family.

"We're here for him," Debby Hamilton said, gesturing to her grandson, Elliott.

Elliott is a 12-year-old from Gainesville. He loves jazz music and Miller is his favorite musician.

"I wasn't dragged here," Elliott said. "I'm actually the fan of Glenn Miller."

Harrison, Elliott's 10-year-old brother, also really liked the show. The two brothers are in band at school and though they haven't graduated to playing in jazz ensembles yet, they listen to many songs from swing era

jazz musicians and aspire to one day emulate their mastery of the style.

Despite liking many of Miller's songs, Elliott had a clear favorite of the night.

"I've heard a lot of Glenn Miller songs and I think 'American Patrol' is really the one I like most right," he said.

At the end of the concert, Stabnau expressed his wishes that the band would return to The Villages next year. He also said that should anyone wish to keep up with the band's activity until that time, there are welcome to follow the Glenn Miller Orchestra on all their social media accounts. All are listed on glennmillerorchestra.com.

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

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I've heard a lot of Glenn Miller songs and I think 'American Patrol' is really the one I like most right."

ELLIOTT
12-year-old grandson of Debby Hamilton