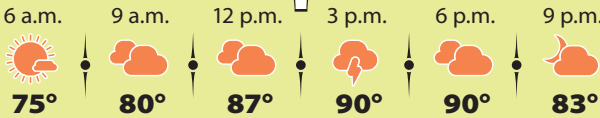




HINTS FROM HELOISE | E11

A reader writes in with a helpful hint about rolling their coins to bring to the bank.



JAMES DINAN ON FAITH | D1

OneBlood will bring its buses to two local churches for donation drives Sunday.



TOP WORLD AND NATION NEWS

## HOUSTON RESIDENTS FACE WEEKS WITHOUT POWER, A3

**In Florida:** Trump attends son Barron's graduation in West Palm Beach. **A2**

**Around the World:** Unrest subsides as France sends in more troops. **A3**

**Coast to Coast:** Community news from around the country. **A4**

SPORTS NEWS

## VILLAGER WINS 15 MEDALS IN ONE SWIM MEET

Nate Leech, of the Village of Winifred, took home 15 medals — 10 of them gold — at a national swimming meet last week. **B1**

AUTOMOTIVE NEWS

## BUICK BACK ON THE ROAD AFTER YEARS IN STORAGE

A Village of Dunedin resident has restored a 1941 Buick Super Convertible Phaeton after the car spent 36 years in storage. **C1**

RELIGION NEWS

## LOCAL HOUSES OF WORSHIP EXPANDING

Temple Shalom and Hometown Baptist Church are expanding to reach more people in Wildwood and Leesburg. **D1**

COMING UP

## LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FOCUS ON SAFETY, MENTAL HEALTH MEASURES

As the nation marked Peace Officers Memorial Day on Wednesday and National Police Week, local public safety agencies are actively working to improve the training, safety and mental health of people in uniform. Read more in Sunday's Daily Sun.

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Taylor Strickland

## Multi-platinum and Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner Johnny Mathis is returning to The Villages.

"The Voice of Romance Tour" will make a stop at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

The upcoming concert holds special significance for Victory Productions founder Fernando Varela, as it reconnects him once again with the legendary crooner.

"Johnny Mathis is not just a singer, he's an institution," Varela said. "He brings more than just nostalgia — he brings a performance that spans generations. We are incredibly excited to

Please See **MATHIS, A5**

OUR TOWN | CELEBRATING THE VILLAGES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES



Sophia Lucente | Daily Sun

Driven by more than 100 athletes in the senior class who were part of Friday's Senior Walk at The Villages High School, including from left, Thatcher Clarke, Josh Gepega, Katherine Probola, Alexis Hume, Jessica Aguilar and Ja'Darian Saucier, the Buffalo athletics program wrapped up a successful first year at its new Middleton campus. The school celebrated district and regional titles and sent several athletes to state competitions.

# VHS Sports End Strong 1st Year In Middleton

By CONNOR O'BRYAN and STEVEN HIENEMAN | Daily Sun Staff Writers

The Villages High School athletic program, driven by more than 100 athletes in the senior class, finished off a successful first year in Middleton — highlighted by an array of new facility debuts, countless unforgettable moments and even the first double state champion in school history.

"I think our first year in Middleton went great. I'm really

serious," said VHS athletic director Richard Pettus, who helped start the school's athletics program more than two decades ago. "I thought from a transition standpoint — from an athletics standpoint — our kids adapted really well. I think it's been a great first year in Middleton. I feel good about it."

Please See **ATHLETICS, A6**

## EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

OUT & ABOUT IN THE VILLAGES

## Try This Today: Yoga Is A Great Exercise to Work Your Body and Mind

Yoga is a great way to help connect your body, breath and mind. The exercise uses physical postures, breathing exercises and meditation to improve overall health. Grab a workout mat and you're ready to take part in the ancient practice. Special yoga sessions, like Yoga on the Square, are routinely held throughout the year for participants such as Christine Brave, of the Village Tierra Del Sol, to enjoy. Consult the weekly Recreation & Parks publication for available yoga classes or go online to districtgov.org.

— Greg Hughes, Daily Sun



Rachel Govola | Daily Sun

IN ENTERTAINMENT

## Come Out to A Cruise In at Spanish Springs

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, **D10**

## LOVIN' THE LIFESTYLE

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

Recipes	E1
Poetry	E4-5
Comics	E6
Puzzles	E7-8
Horoscope	E9
Advice	E11



from the front page



His Christmas songs are probably the most recognizable. Of course, his biggest hits like ‘Chances Are’ and ‘The Twelfth of Never’ are beyond classics — they’re standards.”

FERNANDO VARELA, Victory Productions founder

At left: Johnny Mathis performs for a sold out crowd in 2017 at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Daily Sun file photo

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MATHIS

Continued from A1

host him again in The Villages, where we know his music touches the hearts of so many.”

Known for his “velvet voice,” romantic ballads and classic Christmas song covers, Mathis is the third-best-selling artist of the 20th century. And with more than seven decades of performing under his belt, he has one of the longest recording careers of all time.

The singer also has three songs inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame: the 1957 recordings of “Chances Are” and “It’s Not For Me to Say” as well as the 1959 recording of “Misty.”

“His Christmas songs are probably the most recognizable,” Varela said. “Of course, his biggest hits like ‘Chances Are’ and ‘The Twelfth of Never’ are beyond classics — they’re standards.”

Varela, who is a professional singer in his own right, shared the stage with Mathis at the Grammy Salute to Music Legends, which aired on PBS in 2019. The pair performed tributes to music legends Dionne Warwick and Julio Iglesias.

Mathis honored Warwick with a tribute of her Grammy-nominated song “Walk On By.” Varela covered a Julio Iglesias song, but his segment was not included in the final cut of the show. Nevertheless, the two performed their sets on the same stage.

At that point, Victory Productions already had brought Mathis to The Villages for a couple of concerts, so Mathis knew Varela only as a promoter. He had no idea Varela could sing.

Varela said during his soundcheck for the event, Mathis hung back to watch Varela perform and even gave him a standing ovation once the song concluded.

“I was flattered that one of the greatest singers of all time complimented me and took the time to hear me sing,” Varela said.

The event, coupled with their mutual love of golf, cemented the bond between them, Varela said. It also paved the way for Mathis’ return to The Villages, which will mark Victory Productions’ last concert at The Sharon L. Morse.

Varela refers to Mathis as a master of his craft and encourages patrons to take advantage of his return and come witness the “magic” of his concert.

“Johnny Mathis is one of the greatest voices of our lifetime,” Varela said. “We never know if it’s the last time he will be in town, so make sure you get a seat.”

Tickets for the Johnny Mathis “The Voice of Romance Tour” are \$150 and up. Purchase at any Villages Box Office location or go to thevillagesentertainment.com.

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

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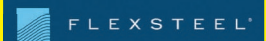
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VILLAGE CROSSROADS PLAZA

