

MONDAY THEVILLAGESDAILYSUN.COM 0 S MARCH 31, 2025



IN SPORTS | B1

Lee holds off **Scheffler and** Woodland to win Houston **Open for first** PGA Tour title. Lee had a fiveshot lead before charges from Scheffler and Woodland.



Sumter Line is back in operation, so bring your family and friends along for a scenic boat ride at

Lake Sumter

Landing.

IN LIFESTYLE | E1

The Lake

Get comfortable and enjoy the views as you cruise across the waters of Lake Sumter and learn about the legendary tall tales of the area. The Lake Sumter Line operates from 4 p.m. to sunset.

IN NATIONAL NEWS | A5

NEW U.S. AIRSTRIKE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HOUTHI REBELS MORE INTENSE THAN LAST

Suspected U.S. airstrikes pummeled sites across Yemen controlled by the Houthi rebels on Friday. Other areas hit included terrain north of Sanaa in Amran, where military camps and other installations are believed to be.

IN NATIONAL NEWS

CARGO SHIP THAT COLLIDED WITH U.S. TANKER TOWED

The cargo ship arrived in the Scottish port of Aberdeen on Friday, following a fire that lasted nearly a week. A2

IN WORLD NEWS

RESEARCHERS REPORT A SUCCESSFUL PIG KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

A Chinese patient is the third person in the world known to be living with a genetically altered pig kidney. A9

Middleton Adds New Business to Roster



Rachel Govola | Daily Sun

Store manager Jeo Watterson, left, assists Derek McGuire, center, of Middleton, and Imdi McGuire, 9, as they look at clothing during the opening of The Villages Outdoor on Friday in Middleton.

By SUMMER JARRO | Daily Sun Senior Writer

The Villages Outdoor held its grand opening Friday, taking the next step toward bringing downtown Middleton to life.

The business, which is a sister company to The Villages Golf Cars, rents and sells electric bikes, scooters and golf cars and also sells fun apparel, knickknacks and games.

"We are embarking on a new adventure to bring a lot of fun to Middleton and the families," said Jeo Watterson, store manager of The Villages Outdoor. "We have lots of options."

It's the newest addition to Middleton, the family neighborhood designed to draw and retain the workforce that supports The Villages.

There's not anything quite like it around here," said Samantha Schmidt, office supervisor at The Villages Outdoor, 2314 Dr. Randy McDaniel Way. "The families here ... they can

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Veronica Wernicke

April is Sjogren's Awareness Month and the Sjogren's/ **Rheumatoid Arthritis Support** Group in The Villages is hosting a walk at Spanish Springs to raise awareness about the chronic autoimmune disorder. If just one person learns about Sjogren's syndrome, the group will consider the event a success.



Daily Sun file photo

Addy Roy, from left, Reilyn Yancey, and Jacob Ballecer performed in "Madagascar Jr.," for The Sharon Performing Arts Academy's 2023 summer camp. The theater has hosted children's summer camps since 2018.

Area Art Camps Are Now Open For Registration

By TAYLOR STRICKLAND | Daily Sun Senior Writer

Summer break is fast nurture creative young approaching for Florida students, meaning two months of no school, no homework and plenty of time to learn new skills and creative pursuits.

Every year, theaters and art museums throughout Central Florida host artsbased summer camps to

minds in safe, supervised environments. These camps encourage children to unleash their imaginations and plumb the depths of the visual and performing arts.

There are four such camps in and around The Villages.

Please See ART CAMPS, A7

Please See SJOGREN'S, A6

INSIDE TODAY'S DAILY SUN

Former Fruitland Park Mayor Passes After 30 Years of Service

Chris Bell, who died Wednesday, was Fruitland Park's last elected mayor before it became an honorary position. He served as mayor for more than a decade and then stayed on the commission. He wαs just recently reelected to District 5 when he passed. George Horsford, Daily Sun



By LEAH SCHWARTING | Daily Sun Specialty Editor

Chris Bell, who helped lead Fruitland Park for more than three decades, has died after a long illness.

Bell, 64, represented Fruitland Park's northern residents in commission District 5 when he died Wednesday, but his time as mayor saw him take the helm of his entire adopted hometown when it was undergoing tremendous change. His actions during that time, and beyond, helped lead the city to where it is today.

"He was very concerned about Fruitland Park, all the time," said John Mobilian, former city commissioner. "That was his mission: To make life in Fruitland Park better.'

Bell's childhood was marked by two major moves: South Carolina to Costa Rica and Costa Rica to Fruitland Park. He was a teenager when he arrived in Florida, but made the rural community his home.

His family was a staple of the community, operating a pottery business where he worked until the late 1980s. Bell later opened Disability Consultants with his mother, and, when he was grown, was joined by his son.

Please See BELL, A6

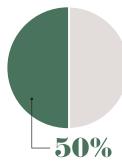




Make it a Great Day!

| Weather | D2 |
|---------------------|------|
| Recreation Listings | D10 |
| Recipes | E1 |
| Comics | E4 |
| Puzzles | E5-6 |
| Horoscopes | E7 |
| TV Tonight | E8 |

BY THE NUMBERS



A record number of parents with a child older than 18 are providing them with financial support, according to a new report by Savings. com. That's up from 47% last year and 45% in 2023. The report found that, on average, these parents are providing their children about \$1,474 a month a three-year high.

from the front page

ART CAMPS

Continued from A1

The Villages

The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center has several programs open for enrollment this summer, which culminate with performances by the summer drama camp students.

"This summer we chose two very exciting titles that the kids have already let me know they are thrilled about," said Sierra Weiss, booking manager for Significant Productions and The Sharon's camp coordinator. "We are doing one production of 'The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition,' which was lightly inspired by the success of the 'Wicked' movie recently, and we are doing 'Disney's Moana JR.,' which was again lightly inspired by 'Moana 2' coming out this year."

Camp programs are sorted by age, with first and second graders participating in creative drama and musical theater classes like "The Wizard of Oz" from June 2-7 and "Moana" from June 9-14. Campers in third through eighth grades will attend performance workshops for "The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition" from June 2 to 7 and "Disney's Moana JR." from June 9 to 14.

High school students also can participate as summer camp apprentices, which involves setting a good example for younger campers by being a model learner and aiding during activities.

Unlike previous years, campers of all ages will now get the chance to perform in whichever play they worked on, be it "The Wizard of Oz" or "Moana," at The Sharon.

All summer camp programs hosted at The Sharon are conducted in partnership with Orlando Family Stage, which hosts 10 weeks of summer



George Horsford | Daily Sun

The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center's annual art camp starts June 2 and spots are still open for the first and second grade campers. Last year, the camp put on productions of "Finding Nemo JR." and "Annie JR." at The Sharon, culminating in two shows parents and residents could purchase tickets to and attend.

camp on-site and sends teachers to satellite locations like The Villages.

"They send us incredibly talented, qualified education artists who specialize not only in putting on a show, but making sure that every kid at every level gets something out of the camp every single year," Weiss said. "They have as much of a curriculum as many after school programs at the charter school or any other school in the area."

The price of enrollment for all summer camp programs, except for the high school one, is \$275 plus an additional \$30 charge for aftercare. Enrollment for high school students in the summer camp apprentice program is \$150.

Tickets for "The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition" and "Disney's Moana JR." are \$15 each. For more information, go to thevillagesenter tainment.com.

Leesburg

Leesburg Center for the Arts once again will host its annual summer art camps, where campers develop their love and appreciation for the arts in a fun, open atmosphere.

The center's art camp runs June 2 to July 18, with each week focusing on a different theme and art media. To keep up with demand, the camp will include a few programming changes — campers and camp dates no longer will be grouped by grade level and classes will last half of the day.

"The new format includes a shift from weekly daylong camps based on grade to weekly half-day camps based on age," said Claire Simpson, associate director at the center and camp director for LCFA's 2025 Summer Camp Program. "This change allows us to offer more camp date opportunities and flexibility for all age groups, and we feel like the half day camp length gives a better experience for both students and staff."

For example, Simpson said, instead of having only one week where a fourth or fifth grader can come, the center now offers six camps for ages 9 to 12 on different weeks.

Other changes to the camp's curriculum include new titles for each camp and a teacher specializing in each medium. Some of the new classes are "Book-Binding" with Margaret Everson, "Expedition Under the Sea" with Jackii Molsick and "Sgraffito is Neat-O" with Robin Serna.

"We hope these changes add a new excitement for each class and a chance to dive deeper into each subject for the students," Simpson said. "We also are excited to offer more teachers opportunities to teach the subjects they are most passionate about to create a variety of fun and educational experiences."

At the end of camp, the campers will celebrate the progress they've made by showcasing their art in a grand presentation in the center's exhibit room.

To register or find out more, go to leesburgarts.com/kidsart-camp. Prices are \$130 for non-members and \$100 for members.

Ocala

The Appleton Museum of Art in Ocala hosts one of the area's largest summer art programs, with around 25 multi-day art courses offered each year.

"The museum is the perfect place for young art enthusiasts at every skill level to gain inspiration from the worldclass art collection and create masterpieces of their own," said Victoria Billig, assistant director at Appleton Museum of Art. "From clay to jewelry making, plein air painting and much more, there is something for everyone."

Appleton's one-week and two-week camps are for ages 5-17, and a singular fourweek camp was added for ages 8 to 12. The camps start June 2 with "Dig Into Clay" and "Outdoor Landscape Painting" and ends the week of Aug. 4 with "Space Cadet," "Architecture FUNdamentals" and "Pixels and Blocks."

All classes are taught by professional art educators and teaching artists, who help campers complete themed projects inspired by the museum's extensive permanent collection.

Most of Appleton Museum's classes still are open for registration, with subjects ranging from famous artists to cultural arts, architecture, 3D art, ecologically friendly art, jewelry and design, birds and critters.

Tuition prices vary

depending on the course and cover all art supplies, snacks and a free T-shirt for the first class attended. Those with museum memberships get a discount on tuition.

To register for one of the classes, go to appletonmu seum.org/2025-summer-art-camp and sign up.

Mount Dora

Although Mount Dora Center for the Arts is preparing to move its location, the center still will host its Creative Kids Summer Art Camp this year.

Starting the week of June 2 with "Time Travel With Miss Aimee" and continuing through the week of July 28 with "All Creatures Great and Small," the art camp features eight weeks of themed classes taught by local teachers and artists. There will be no camp the week of July 4.

Classes are integrated and designed for children from 6 to 12 years old, and include painting, sculpting, drawing, performance art segments and visits from special furry guests.

Currently, all classes are open for registration except for Week 7, "She Sells Seashells By The Seashore," but space is limited. Keri Bourne, executive assistant for the center, suggests people sign up their children as soon as possible.

"It's limited to 10 kids each week," Bourne said. "Normally, before we've had like three classrooms of 10 to 15 kids but because we're in the process of the move we're going to limit it to just 10 kids per week."

Half-day classes are from 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m each week and are \$125 per camper. Full-day classes are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each week and are \$225. Before and after care is available at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for an additional \$50.

Go to mountdoraart.com/ art-camp to register for one or all eight weeks.

