


BEFORE THEY WERE VILLAGERS | C5
Before turning to the performing arts, Diana Arlt had a career as a real estate agent.

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

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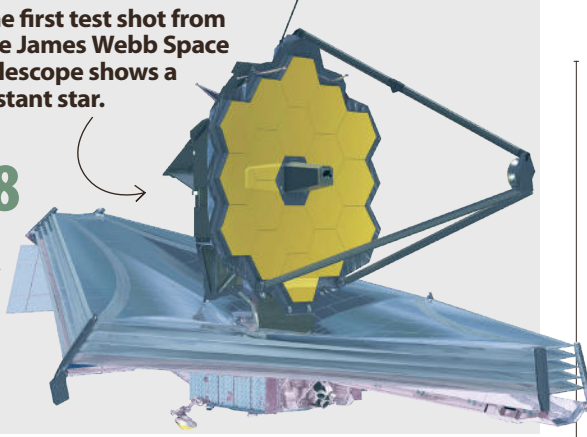
CURT HILLS ON HEALTH | C1
Community Medical partners in The Villages have committed to caring for seniors.



NASA TESTING TELESCOPE IMAGES, A18

After testing each hexagonal mirror segment's imaging quality last month, NASA has now released images produced by the 18 segments working together. The photographed star is 2,000 light years away and 100 times fainter than the human eye can see.

The first test shot from the James Webb Space Telescope shows a distant star.



Organizations Honor Female Vets During Women's History Month

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

Women veterans in the area continue to pave the way for future generations, and groups are recognizing them for it.

By VERONICA WERNICKE | Daily Sun Staff Writer



Though only about 10% of veterans in the U.S. are women, they are supporting and uplifting each other this Women's History Month and every month.

The American Legion Auxiliary Post 347 hosted its annual women veterans luncheon Monday to honor and recognize 150 local women veterans.

"It is our pleasure to celebrate not only your service today, but the road that you paved for so many women to follow," Maureen Caswell, auxiliary president, said to the crowd. "We celebrate the work you continue to do to educate the public and push for the benefits of recognition that you and all those women currently serving so deserve."

Not only does American Legion Post 347 have the largest membership of any post, but it also boasts the largest women membership.

Please See **VETERANS, A13**

OUR TOWN | HELPING THE ECONOMY

Family Togetherness Bolsters Spring Travel

Villagers' relatives looking for a warm place for a getaway are flocking to The Villages.

By MICHAEL SALERNO
Daily Sun Senior Writer

By March, the snowbirds start to look younger.

That's when families with young children and teenagers, as well as college students, come to Central Florida from up North for spring break.

Opportunities for family togetherness help drive the region's reputation as a hotbed of spring tourism activity.

Travel surveys by AAA, the auto club group, typically identify Orlando as the most popular destination for spring travel based on their booking data, including this year. And a recent outlook from Orlando International Airport described mid-March to early April as "our Super Bowl."

The Villages benefits from spring break travel, too. March is

Please See **SPRING, A8**

MORE INSIDE

Local youth and teens take their spring break time off as an opportunity to team up with churches for mission and ministry work. **A11**



Rachel Stuart | Daily Sun

Brooke Wheat, left, visiting from Pittsburgh, plays with her 3-year-old daughter, Gwen Wheat, while visiting Brooke's mother, Karen Simon, of the Village Rio Ranchero.

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Michael Fortuna

Almost a week after getting a head start of an Irish celebration at one town square, the party re-emerged at another square on St. Patrick's Day itself.

Under a sky of blue, a sea of green filled Spanish Springs Town Square (including its fountains) Thursday afternoon for the St. Patrick's Day Festival, presented by The Villages Entertainment.

At the gazebo, the Byrne Brothers — father Tommy Byrne on guitar; his sons, Luca, 17, on accordion; Finn, 15, on banjo, mandolin and guitar; and Dempsey, 11, on whistle and bodhran, which is a small hand drum

Please See **ST. PATRICK, A12**

RESCUE CREWS SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS IN THEATER RUINS

As Russian air strikes continue to wreak havoc on Ukraine's most populated areas, people are working to help civilians who may be trapped in the rubble of the theater they had been taking shelter in before the attack. **A3**

ORIGINAL MEMBERS CELEBRATE CHURCH'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Congregants of First Baptist Church at The Villages look back on the past 20 years and plan for the future. **C3**

RESIDENT-SUBMITTED ART HIGHLIGHTED IN LIFESTYLES

Today's pick of Villager photos and poems showcases the talent found in The Villages. **D2**

STATE & REGION

FLORIDA NEWS

Wekiwa Springs State Park Breaks Ground On Serenity Garden

Longtime Wekiwa Springs State Park volunteer John Leaman hatched an idea while spending time near the park's nature center. "Personally, in my heart, I felt a tremendous peace about what I was experiencing," he said, "From that point on, I said, 'We need to duplicate this for others.'" Almost five years later, Leaman, who uses an electric wheelchair for mobility, is finally seeing his vision come to fruition — thanks to countless hours spent planning and fundraising to turn his dream into a reality.

— Tribune News Service

1

The concept for the Serenity Garden is that visitors who use mobility aids or people with autism, PTSD and other disabilities can have a safe outdoor space to encounter nature. School groups will also be able to use the gardens for group therapy, art and physical activities.

2

In order to make the new space as quiet and serene as possible, hedges with sound baffles will be installed to block out noise from the swimming area. All walkways will be nine feet wide to allow two wheelchairs to pass safely, and no gradients will be more than three degrees.



LOVIN' THE LIFESTYLE

Get out and about in The Villages, **D1**

In recreation centers today, **D4-5**

Happening on the squares today, **D3**

What to watch on TV today, **D10**