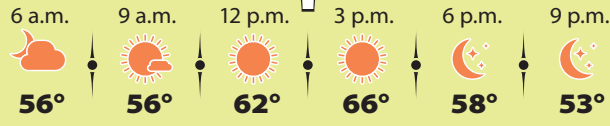




**BEFORE THEY WERE VILLAGERS | D5**  
Dr. Paul Haight was a small town doctor and pilot with the Flying Physicians Association.



**VERONICA WERNICKE ON SAFETY | D1**  
Law enforcement ramps up property and auto theft prevention for the holiday season.



TOP WORLD AND NATION NEWS

## CONGRESS RAMPS UP SOCIAL SECURITY ACTION, A5

**Around the World:** A council meeting in Ukraine was hit by grenades. **A3**

**Across the Nation:** An Indigenous fashion show features beaver mitts. **A4**

**In Florida:** Harry and the Natives broke ground for their new restaurant. **C4**

SPORTS NEWS

## MOSTERT, TAGOVAILOA LEAD MIAMI IN WIN

Raheem Mostert scored two more touchdowns to set Miami's single-season record with 20, as the Dolphins shut out the New York Jets 30-0. **B1**

BUSINESS NEWS

## THE RICH HIPPIE OFFERS UNIQUE FINDS

The boutique store in downtown Leesburg sells new and upscale resale items that are difficult to find anywhere else. **C7**

LOCAL NEWS

## OFFICIALS WARN OF RISE IN CRYPTO SCAMS

Several agencies are warning consumers about a recent rise in bitcoin and other cryptocurrency scams using ATMS. **D3**

OUR TOWN | THE TOP ISSUES FACING OUR COMMUNITY



Bill Mitchell | Daily Sun

Jessica Farley, left, a Crime Scene Investigator with the Wildwood Police Department, helps London and Paris Green of Wildwood during the Christmas with a Cop shopping event Saturday at Walmart in The Villages.

# Officers Create Lasting Bond With 100s of Kids

By VERONICA WERNICKE | Daily Sun Senior Writer

Eight-year-old sisters London and Paris Green's faces lit up as they pushed around their brand-new pink and purple bicycles alongside their mother Cassandra Green and Wildwood Police Department crime scene investigator Jessica Farley. "It's a blessing," said their mother, Green, of Wildwood. "The excitement and Christmas spirit and I get to see that."

On Dec. 16, the Wildwood Police Department

hosted its annual Christmas with a Cop program and Sumter County Sheriff's Office hosted its annual Kids, Cops and Christmas program at the Walmart in The Villages.

More than 400 children spent the morning and afternoon shopping for gifts paid for by the departments thanks to donations from the community. "It's the kids and seeing the smiles on the kids'

Please See SHOP, A12

# New VPSD Board Seeks Resident Input To Fix Budget Issues

## SETTING PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

Supervisors for the newly established VPSD Dependent District held their first public meeting Friday.

By KEITH PEARLMAN | Daily Sun Specialty Editor

The five Villagers who will determine the new budget for The Villages Public Safety Department want as much input as possible from residents as they set priorities for the future.

That was a message shared several times as the newly appointed supervisors for the VPSD Dependent District met for the first time Friday morning.

About 40 people attended the two-hour session at which supervisors approved several organizational

resolutions to officially begin operations.

"I'm ecstatic to see this many people here today but I think doubling and tripling it would really be great," said Chris Christopolus, who was unanimously selected to serve as board chair to start the meeting. "Having been on the public side of things for a number of years, the audience and our citizen participation always hasn't been real high. But I think it's

Please See BOARD, A9

ONLY IN THE VILLAGES

By Taylor Strickland

## Veteran performer Marie Osmond returned to perform a Christmas extravaganza Saturday night at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Marie Osmond kept guests on their feet all evening during her Christmas show at The Sharon L. Performing Arts Center.

The veteran performer returned to The Villages on Saturday to perform "An Orchestral Christmas," an unforgettable holiday show full of Christmas carols, Osmond family classics and joyous reminiscing of previous

Please See MARIE, A11

EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

OUT & ABOUT IN THE VILLAGES

## Try This Today: Get Kicking With The Silver Rockettes

The Silver Rockettes are a precision dance team, bringing fun and entertainment to The Villages. The group performs year-round at events, such as the Brownwood Tree Lighting Festival, throughout the community. Dancers wear custom-made attire to match their performance and the event. Practices are held from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Bacall Recreation. The troupe offers tryouts for those interested in joining — all members must be full time residents. For more information, email Georgette Getz at georgettelgetz@gmail.com or call 419-340-0375. — Greg Hughes, Daily Sun



George Horsford | Daily Sun

IN ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrate the Holidays With Orchestra Music

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, D6-7



Plan your perfect day in The Villages, E1

Recipes	E1
Comics	E4
Puzzles	E5
Horoscope	E7
Today is History	E7
Poetry	E9

from the front page

MARIE

Continued from A1

Christmases and past performances. She also sang a few songs from her latest studio album, named after the title track "Unexpected."

"It's for all the people who stopped doing what everyone expected them to do and did the unexpected," Osmond said. "For me, that was learning how to sing opera, so here's 'Nessun dorma.'"

Osmond is an American singer, actress and television host best known for her remake of the country pop ballad "Paper Roses" and various features on songs with her brother, Donny Osmond. Her most recent studio album, "Unexpected," debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Classical Crossover Albums Chart following its 2021 release and spent 16 weeks in the Top 10.

Throughout the show, Osmond delighted guests by playfully singling people out.

Osmond invited John Messo, an Ocala resident and self-described "Marie fanatic," to come onstage and perform Elvis Presley's "A Blue Christmas" with her and promised him a year's supply of Nutrisystem if he got "a legit standing ovation." Messo good naturedly obliged, and joked that he didn't know whether to be insulted or complimented.

"It was nerve-wracking," Messo said of the performance. "But it was for Marie, so whatever Marie wants."

David Osmond was meant to be part of the show,



I don't know how much longer I'm going to do this.

I have nine beautiful grandkids that I want to spend more time with."

MARIE OSMOND

During her holiday performance Saturday night in The Villages

but could not perform with his aunt as planned due to scheduling conflicts. Special guest Daniel Emmet joined her onstage instead.

"Simon Cowell — you know who he is — called this guy's voice perfection," Osmond said upon introducing Emmet. "David Foster says his voice is flawless, but me, I'm happy to call him a friend."

Emmet is a two-time America's Got Talent finalist and classical crossover vocal powerhouse best known from his PBS performance of "Simply The Best" with Pia Toscano. His debut Christmas album officially released Nov. 17 and was available for purchase after the show.

"It's such an honor to be here with you, our wonderful musicians and the amazing audience here tonight,"



Submitted photo

Marie Osmond, the entertainer who is best known for her remake of the song "Paper Roses," led a holiday concert called "An Orchestral Christmas" on Saturday evening at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Emmet said.

Emmet and Osmond sang several songs both together and separately. Standouts among the crowd were "Angels We Have Heard on High," "Mary, Did You Know?" and "The Prayer."

Osmond got unexpectedly vulnerable during the midpoint of the show, sharing charming family traditions and opening up about her struggles with the February 2010 suicide of her son, Michael Blossil, at 18 years old.

"Christmas has always been my favorite time of the year," Osmond said. "But when I lost my son, it changed my life forever."

In honor of Blossil, Osmond said "How Great Thou Art" and said that through God, she knows she will see her son again.

Osmond also got introspective about her career and what the future holds, tearfully announcing that the night could mark one of her last performances.

"I don't know how much longer I'm going to do this," Osmond said. "I have nine beautiful grandkids that I want to spend more time with."

The night ended on a happy note. Osmond and Emmet gave a spirited rendition of "Jingle Bells" as Santa came out with stockings and little elves dashed through the audience to deliver candy canes. The final part of the



It's such an honor to be here with you, our wonderful musicians and the amazing audience here tonight."

DANIEL EMMET

Two-time America's Got Talent finalist who performed with Marie Osmond Saturday night

concert featured some of Osmond's personal Christmas favorites — "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," "Grown Up Christmas List" and "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

Then, amid calls of for an encore, Osmond came back to the stage and performed her original song, "But the World Goes 'Round."

"We've been through an awful lot these past few years," Osmond said. "I'll never forget the hope we had — we can never give up hope."

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

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