

LET'S GO

Looking for something fun to do today? Try table tennis! D1

THE WEATHER TODAY, C2

8 a.m. 65° Noon 74° 4 p.m. 71° 8 p.m. 63°

## US Sliding Teams Feature Military

From athletes to coaches, Armed Forces will have big presence in Olympics. Sports, B1

LOCAL NEWS

### LEADING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TEAM UP

Central Florida Health, parent company of The Villages Regional Hospital and Leesburg Regional Medical Center, will work alongside the University of Florida Health Shands hospital system to expand access to leading-edge patient care programs and clinical studies for local residents, provide training opportunities and eventually increase the number of primary care physicians available to see patients in the tri-county area. **Local News, A17**



## Olympics

2018 WINTER GAMES | PYEONGCHANG

# Olympians With Local Ties Begin Their Quest

### Erin Jackson

Jackson, of Ocala, will compete in the 500-meter speed skating event. The University of Florida graduate is sponsored by, and has been treated at, Legacy Clinic of Chiropractic in The Villages.

Photos by The Associated Press

### SENATE MAKES BUDGET DEAL; SHUTDOWN STILL POSSIBLE

Senate leaders brokered a budget agreement Wednesday that would grant the Pentagon and domestic programs an extra \$300 billion over the next two years. **National News, A6**

Advice	D13
Classifieds	E1
Comics	D8
Lottery	A4
Movie Listings	D3
Obituaries	C4
Television	D12

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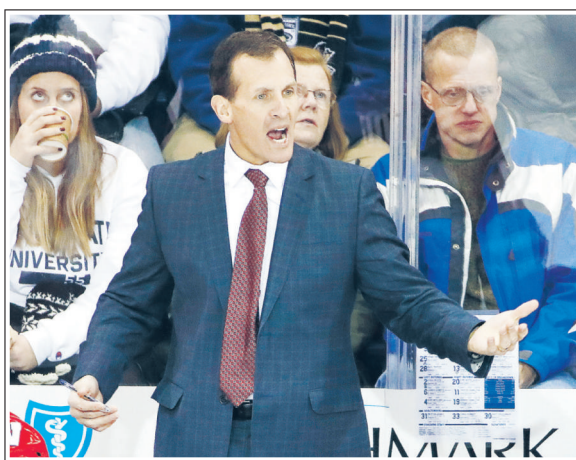


The Winter Olympics are an event like no other in the sports world. Every four years, the winter games feature the most popular draws, of course — hockey, figure skating and skiing. But over the two-plus weeks of the games, we also get to witness the kind of quirky events that bring out the fun in any Olympics — curling, luge and biathlon, for example. This year's winter games are being held in South Korea, centered in Pyeongchang, nearly 7,500 miles away from The Villages. But four members of Team USA competing in the games will get a little extra bit of love and support stemming from Florida's Friendliest Hometown. Men's hockey coach Tony Granato, men's hockey player Ryan Donato, freestyle mogul skier Tess Johnson and speed skater Erin Jackson all have ties to the tri-county area, and all will be hoping to return to the states with medals around their necks. Opening ceremonies for the Games are Friday night, but competition starts tonight and runs through Feb. 25. **For more on the athletes and their ties to the area, see Page A18.**



### Ryan Donato

Donato, a junior forward on the Harvard University men's hockey team, will play for Team USA in South Korea. His grandmother, Helene McLees, lives in the Village of Lake Deaton.



### Tony Granato

Granato, the son of Village of Belvedere residents Don and Natalie Granato, is the head coach of the U.S. Men's Hockey Team. Tony went to the Games as a player in 1988.



### Tess Johnson

Johnson, who competes in freestyle moguls, will be one of six 17-year-olds competing for Team USA. Her grandparents, Steve and Kathy Frangos, live in the Village of Bonita.

## COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS

### Only in The Villages

LIFE IN FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

## Love Was There To Stay During Tony Bennett Concert At The Sharon

By KRISTEN FIORE  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Tony Bennett got a standing ovation before he had even raised the microphone to his lips.

As he walked out on stage, the house lights turned on and everybody stood up, cheering and clapping.

Bennett performed before a full, eager and attentive audience Wednesday night at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Bennett's daughter, Antonia Bennett, opened the show with a few songs.

"For me, this is the greatest thing," she said. "Every night I get to travel the world with my dad. I sit in the wings and watch him and he's just amazing."

Please See **TONY BENNETT, A17**



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Tony Bennett performs for a sold-out crowd Wednesday at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

### THE DIGIT

## 65

### Artists

More than 65 artists will show their work at the Visual Arts Association of The Villages' Winter Fine Art Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Laurel Manor Recreation Center. Admission is free and the show will feature 2-D works in different media, live music and a performance from the musical "Evita" from 12:45 to 1:30 p.m. — Maddie Cutler, Daily Sun

### TONIGHT'S EVENTS ON THE SQUARES

Entertainment runs from 5 to 9 p.m.

**Spanish Springs Town Square**  
Mark Seymour  
Happy hour, 5-7 p.m.

**Lake Sumter Landing Market Square**  
Mardi Gras Festival  
Happy hour, 5-6 p.m.

**Brownwood Paddock Square**  
Lee Ann Noel Band  
Happy hour, 5-6 p.m.



from the front page



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Bass player Marshall Wood plays a solo before Tony Bennett takes the stage for a sold-out show at the Sharon.

## TONY BENNETT

Continued from A1

And he was.

At 91, Bennett's voice still has the familiar smooth and robust tones that it did 50 years ago.

The first time Villager George DelMonte and his wife, Carole, saw Bennett perform was in 1953, when they were in high school.

"We had our prom, and after the prom we went to New York City in a limousine," he said. "We went to the Latin Quarter, and we saw Tony Bennett live. It was exciting, because at the time, he had just become a star."

Since then, they've seen several other of Bennett's shows, including one on their 50th anniversary. They've even met him a few times after the shows.

"He's always been exceedingly friendly and he's always aware of our identical backgrounds," DelMonte said. "He was a street kid in Queens and I was a street kid in Paterson. We always have a good time at the shows."

Bennett performed songs such as "Watch What Happens," "They All Laughed," "Solitude," "I'm Old Fashioned," "Steppin' Out With My Baby," and "Love is Here to Stay."

It was obvious that Bennett adored his quartet, made up of

four musicians playing a piano, drums, double bass and guitar.

They played with quick fingers, but the beat they created was smooth and calming.

Every now and then, Bennett would stop singing to watch them each play a solo in the spotlight and he'd point at them as if to say, "Aren't they great?"

"That's how you're supposed to play the guitar," he said after one of the guitarist's solos.

Vicky McLean, of the Village of Chatham, said that during the Super Bowl she joked with her great-niece that she was going to see Bennett, the Justin Timberlake of the 50's.

This is McLean's third time seeing Bennett in concert. Last time she saw him in South Carolina performing with k.d. lang.

"Oh, man, that is an album," McLean said. "Their voices are heaven. What gifts they were given to be able to sing like that. It's just astonishing. And for Mr. Bennett to have a career this long is amazing."

Bennett sang song after song. There was no time for small talk. His conversation with the audience was through the music.

"Let the music play as long as there's a song to sing," he said, singing "This Is All I Need." "And I will stay younger than Spring."

## Central Florida Health Partners With UF Health

Initiative targets expanded patient care, training, boost in health care providers.

By LARRY D. CROOM  
Daily Sun Ombudsman

Central Florida Health is joining forces with the University of Florida Health Shands hospital system to collaborate on new health care initiatives.

The agreement, which marks the second time the two medical entities have worked together in a partnership, seeks to expand access to leading-edge patient care programs and clinical studies for local residents, as well as increase the number of primary care physicians available to see patients in the tri-county area.

"This affiliation is an acknowledgment of the great care we already offer, and a means to find ways of coordinating care for patients from our local community who have especially complex medical problems we don't typically treat," said Don Henderson, president and CEO of CFH, parent company of The Villages Regional Hospital and Leesburg Regional Medical Center.

As part of the agreement, CFH, a 626-bed not-for-profit health care system that is the most comprehensive provider of health care services in the region, and UF Health, the Southeast's most comprehensive academic health center with main campuses in Gainesville and Jacksonville, will work together in an effort to create training opportunities for primary care physicians and other health care professionals at both area hospitals. According to Henderson, that's particularly important because the local population is growing rapidly and already has surpassed 117,000 residents in The Villages alone.

"A recent study showed that in the next 10 years, Florida will need 35 percent more primary care physicians than it has now," Henderson said, adding that

this partnership is the common set of values shared by both health care providers.

"Our discussions are centering on how we can combine our talents and resources to better address challenges facing the health care industry and improve the coordination of care to overcome barriers patients face in accessing the help they need," he said. "This relationship is about adding health care treatment options for the area's residents."

This new partnership follows another successful venture between CFH and UF Health to provide comprehensive stroke care to patients when needed. Under that agreement, UF Health physicians accept transfer patients from CFH facilities and provide around-the-clock access to consultations with a vascular neurologist regarding treatment plans and decisions related to the administering of the clot-busting drug tPA, as well as educational opportunities about the latest in

stroke care. And The Villages Regional Hospital, through its rehabilitation facility, often-times provides additional care for those stroke patients after they've been released from Shands.

As for the latest partnership, Henderson said it provides an avenue for both area hospitals to raise the bar in patient care to an even higher level when needed.

"It is important for us to work with a comprehensive academic health center like UF Health because it affords us the ability to continually offer our patients the latest medical breakthroughs," Henderson said.

Jimenez agreed.

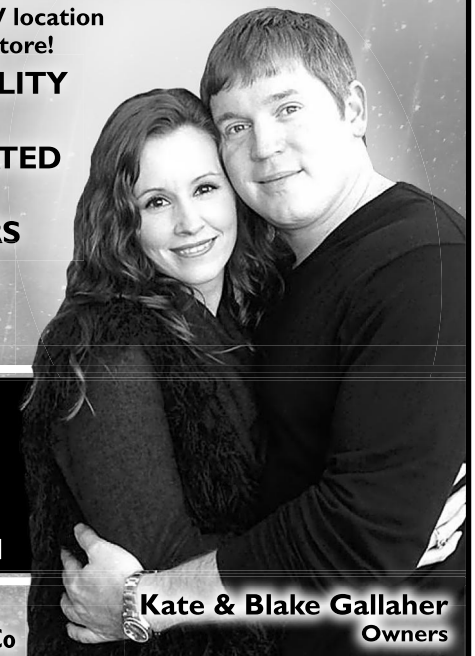
"We are looking forward to working together as we collectively seek to provide the highest-quality, most compassionate care possible, with superior outcomes for the patients we both serve," Jimenez said. "We also are excited about exploring new opportunities related to our community service, medical education and research activities."

## GOSSIP.. Here's the TRUTH

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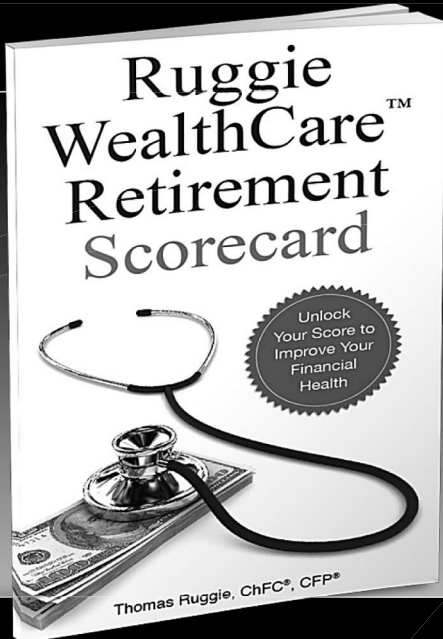
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