



Bill Mitchell | Daily Sun

Sandy Perdue, of the Village of Pine Ridge, pushes the disk down the court during play at the Moyer Recreation Center Jan. 17 with the South of 466A Shuffleboard League.

Shuffleboard Leagues Expanding South

Joe Arlt, president of The Villages Shuffleboard Club, wants to make sure everyone can play the sport.

By LURVIN FERNANDEZ
Daily Sun Staff Writer

When seasonal residents leave, The Villages Shuffleboard Club combines teams to ensure each one has enough players.

Come July 25, teams will reset to their fall and winter lineups and include more teams south of County Road 466A.

"We'll be looking for people," said Joe Arlt, founder of the shuffleboard club.

Arlt said membership dips when seasonal residents leave, so he forms summer leagues by taking two teams and merging them.

Since the start of April, 10 teams of 12 have played at five recreation centers south of 466A — Bradenton, Captiva, Manatee, Moyer and Rohan, he said.

However, that will change come July 25.

After competing for about three weeks, teams will break in August and return to regular leagues for the fall and winter season that starts Sept. 5.

The league will go back to 14 teams, each made up of eight to 12 players.

Teams will begin playing at Eisenhower and Burned recreation centers, and teams will be added to Big Cypress in the fall.

Anyone interested still can join the league by emailing Arlt at joeartl@juno.com.

Arlt said his goal is to make sure everyone, especially new residents, has access to The Villages lifestyle, and to provide opportunities for them to meet their neighbors

near and far.

"We want to get residents involved in their area," he said. "With shuffleboard, for example, they play with people in their area, and when they travel to other centers for away games, they get to meet new people."

Arlt, of the Village Santiago, formed the shuffleboard league in 2013.

Over time, he shared management with captains who led teams at different recreation centers.

Each recreation center has two teams.

The teams practice with each other and alternate between playing at their home recreation centers and away at the opposing teams' centers.

Arlt began the league's southward expansion last summer after realizing there was no organized shuffleboard available south of CR 466A.

That is no longer the case. Seven recreation centers south of CR 466A now have shuffleboard teams, Arlt said.

On Jan. 24, the teams from Moyer and Bradenton recreation centers had their first week of play.

Residents enjoyed having a new activity to try in their area.

Having more options helps residents pick and choose which activities they prefer, said Judi Duquette, of the Village of Pine Ridge, who was playing for the Moyer Marvels. "That's the beauty of The Villages," Duquette said. "Not everyone is an expert, but if you're good at it, then you can play it competitively. If not, then you play a friendly game with your neighbors. It's a great way to meet people."

Lurvin Fernandez is a staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5268, or lurvin.fernandez@thevillagesmedia.com.

International Star Jon Secada To Perform at The Sharon

The bilingual singer's concert will be the first show of the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center's 2018-19 season.

By KRISTEN FIORE
Daily Sun Senior Staff Writer



Submitted photo

Bilingual singer Jon Secada will perform at 7 p.m. on Aug. 17 at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center

Patrons of the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center will have the opportunity in August to enjoy the romantic melodies and superior vocals of bilingual singer Jon Secada.

Secada, whose career spans from songwriting and recording to theater, has won two Grammy Awards and worked with artists such as Gloria Estefan, Jennifer Lopez and Ricky Martin.

It has been 26 years since Secada's first and widely successful CD came out, and Secada said his show in August will encompass a little bit of everything from his career.

"I like to leave people with a feeling of what it's like to be an artist and to start where I started and evolve and be blessed with so many opportunities," Secada said. "It's a journey. It's a history of who I am."

Lately, Secada has been traveling quite a bit, collaborating with other artists and celebrating the success of his

latest CD, "To Beny Moré with Love."

In 2016, Secada was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year by the Muhammad Ali Center, according to his official website.

Secada also is recognized for using his platform to help a variety of causes, from the Make-A-Wish Foundation to various AIDS, educational, children's and Hispanic-American organizations.

Secada feels that as a successful artist, he has a responsibility to do some good whenever he can.

"It's always been something that's important to me," he said. "If I can contribute, then

I do."

Secada said that the best part of his career has been the opportunities he has been given.

"I was very aware and conscious of what those opportunities meant early on, when my first CD came out," Secada said. "It meant a lot to me."

Secada promised his concert will be a fun night.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said.

The show will be performed at 7 p.m. Aug. 17 at The Sharon. Tickets, which range in price from \$20 to \$70, can be purchased online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Teenager from Georgia Killed In I-75 Crash

Florida Highway Patrol released details about a crash that killed one and injured others Friday on I-75 on the overpass near State Route 44.

Shanaya Porter, 18, of Georgia, lost control of her car when traveling southbound on the interstate, according to the FHP report. The car crashed into a semitrailer truck, ejecting Makhaya White, 16, from the car. White died at the scene.

Porter and two passengers ages 16 and 11 sustained serious injuries and were taken to UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville, according to the report.

—Lurvin Fernandez, Daily Sun

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