Washington

U.S. LAUNCHES STRATEGY TO FIGHT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

First National Alzheimer's Plan aims to slow threat, help families already suffering

BY LAUREN WHEELER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Look for a fundamental shift in how we think about the way we treat Alzheimer's disease — by testing possible therapies in people who don't have the disease, before the last stage of the brain is damaged.

The clinic is being inaugurated by international clinical trial sponsorship. Tuesday will mark the second phase of an experimental drug trial that will begin in people who are at risk of developing the disease.

“This is a massive leap forward in the treatment of Alzheimer’s,” said Dr. John O'Bryant, a co-investigator on the trial.

The first phase will test whether a protein that is found in the brains of people with early memory problems can be used as a marker for Alzheimer's.

The new focus on Alzheimer's comes as the Obama administration adopts the first national strategy to fight the worst-case Alzheimer's epidemic — a plan that sets the stage for a future of the disease by 2027.

See Alzheimer's, A7

TO SERVE AND PROTECT

BY AMANDA GRAPIEFNAK

The Villages

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

Richard Grifflh of Water Oak Country Club Estate believes that law enforcement officers and firefighters do not get the recognition they deserve.

“There’s always someone out on the streets protecting us,” Griffith said.

Griffith was one of many taking National Peace Officers Memorial Day observance that took place Tuesday at the Veterans Memorial Park in The Villages.

The Peace Officers Memorial Day is held annually in the U.S. on May 15 in honor of federal, state and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty. It’s observed in conjunction with Peace Week.

The idea of Peace Officers Memorial Day came about on Oct. 1, 1968, when Congress passed legislation to designate May 15 to honor law enforcement officers. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the bill into law Oct. 1, 1968. Each year, the president proclaims May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week of each year during which May 15 occurs as Peace Week.

Griffith started his law enforcement career in 1970 at the Prince William County Sheriff's Department in Virginia. He retired Jan. 1, 2000, and has been a Water Oak resident for seven years. Throughout his career, he said he has buried four officers who were killed in the line of duty in Prince William County.

"This is a reminder for them," he said. "People go to bed at night, they don’t need to worry about society, body breaking in, it’s a certain degree. We need our law enforcement officers.

See OFFICERS, A6

The Villages

RESIDENTS LEARN TO MINIMIZE SKIN CANCER RISKS

BY CURT HILLS

THE VILLAGES - Microbiotic and the(md) marks the launch of the perfect storm for possible skin problems, but a USF Health expert said residents can take steps to avoid the sun.

Residents don't have to sacrifice their outdoor activities and sunny days. Instead, Dr. Neil Frieske, professor and chairman of the Department of Dermatology & Cutaneous Surgery and director of -USF Health Cosmetics and Laser Center, said.

Residents learn to minimize skin cancer risks by 6-8

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Cancer, part 2

natural protections from earlier years.

"When you're out in the sun, ladies and gentlemen, you can increase the odds that skin cancer will develop melanoma, he said. Today, one in every 45 men and women in the United States will develop melanoma, he said. Today, one in every 45 people, but the risk has risen dramatically in recent years. Fenske said patients with fair skin, especially if they have a family history of skin cancer, are at higher risk for developing melanoma.

"When you're out in the sun, you're facing. "The sun plays a major role in prematuring skin," Fenske said. Minimizing sun exposure, avoiding sunburn and excess sun exposure, and wearing protective clothing and hats, all will help minimize those risks. And when it comes to seeking help for sun damage, Fenske argues it's important to have your skin examined by a doctor who specializes in dermatology, along with monthly body self-exams, at least through the age of 50.

"It's important for people to know what late enforcement officers face in their year-round endeavor," he said. "We need to make sure that we recognize law enforcement officers and their services to our society as a 24-7, year-round endeavor." Nathanson concluded his speech by saying that after 20 years of serving the town of Lady Lake, he will be retiring.

"I am grateful for all of the memories and the opportunities that I have had," he said. "I will cherish them for the rest of my life."