Jazz dance band to perform tonight

The Villages- January Cruise!

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acknowledges that the nation boasts advanced technology, a high-quality education system, and is usually at the forefront of new drug therapies and innovative surgical procedures. But that’s where the strengths end.

“We have great medicine, but our system has real problems,” Kirch said.

There’s are problems as aggravating as when a person goes to different doctors and has to fill out his or her entire medical history time and again. In an age of information technology, Kirch said that information should be readily available so the patient doesn’t have to complete a lot of paperwork.

“You have to reinvent yourself,” Kirch said.

And, of course, there are the major signs of trouble, such as skyrocketing health care costs and a health insurance system that seems off- kilter for helping get optimum care and treatment to patients, Kirch said.

How to fix it?

For Kirch, it’s finding groups of people who want to improve health care. He said it can’t be random individuals, but rather an entire community that embraces the same goals. And that community needs a qualified academic partner that is involved in the latest advancements and evidence-based medicine, he said. Additionally, involvement must come from local health care providers willing to make changes in the best interest of their patients, he said.

That’s why when Kirch heard of The Villages-USF Health partnership, he became deeply interested. His curiosity brought him to The Villages earlier this week to learn more about the entrenched partnership that is seeking to enhance quality and longevity of life, not only for local residents, but perhaps offer far-reaching value to others.

That work begins with a simple survey of residents, which would produce valuable information for researchers.

“I sense there is a lot of energy here. I sense there is a lot of vision here,” Kirch said of The Villages. “People didn’t come here to retire from thinking or from aspiring.”

Kirch met with residents, local doctors, government officials, USF Health staff and others connected to The Villages-USF partnership to tell them they are on the right course to bring about change.

“My sense is, this is one of the few places in the country where tens of thousands of people could come together in a common cause with a key academic partner, as well as with others who are interested in health care and can re-energize the system, to start to drive out the parts of the American health care system we don’t like,” Kirch said.

Kirch’s message reinforced what some Villages residents already feel.

“We’re headed in absolutely, positively the right direction,” said Joe Santoro of the Village of Bridgeport at Lake Miona.

“The Villages is the right place for something like this. It’s the perfect storm. If we can make this model that works for everybody, we’ll get better health care and will reduce the cost through efficiencies. Then we definitely would want to take this around the country,” Kirch added.

Kirch added that the goal is to get patients not only back to the days of family physicians, such as those portrayed on the television show “Marcus Welby, M.D.,” but where they will have a full team of primary care professionals looking after them. That team would include doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, dietitians, nutritionists and whatever else is needed.

And certainly, USF Health’s pledge to create a personalized electronic medical records system that is instantly available and controlled by the patient is a step in the right direction, he said.

Kirch’s props for the electronic medical records efforts attracted Village of Palo Alto resident Evan Richards’ attention.

“The speaker was talking about this medical community all working together and creating a team and community of information. It seems to me that electronic medical records are a key to accomplishing that,” Richards said.

“The more we can get medical records to where we share my CT scan with my general practitioner and so forth, the better off we’ll be.”

Kirch added that the proposed The Villages-USF Health survey of the community could also be extremely valuable.

“It’s the potential of using the power of numbers to answer questions,” Kirch said.

All the technology is in place, he said, but it will take innovative leaders, like those behind The Villages-USF Health partnership, to help create it.

Kirch said the goals are ambitious, but if The Villages community embraces it, the effects could be far-reaching. He urged those in the partnership and community to press on.

“We’re talking about the most challenging change this nation has ever faced,” Kirch said. “If change in health care was easy, we would have done it a long time ago. Stay the course.”

Don Hahnfeldt, a Village of Bridgeport at Lake Miona resident and president of The Villages Homeowners Association, said having a speaker of Kirch’s stature shows the significance of the partnership.

“What we are doing here is trying to be meaningful, not only to Villagers and our future generations but it’s going to have a national and international impact,” Hahnfeldt said.

“It was great to see he is excited about this. He laid out a road map of how we can take this from a vision to reality.”

Rus D’Emidio of the Village of Virginia Trace agreed.

“I think it helps build on some of the energy that’s been developing,” D’Emidio said. “It’s good to get a group together to hear someone from the outside tell us how what we are doing here can have a national impact.”
Detectives: Man arrested on jewelry theft charges

By JESSICA SNIKER

The VILLAGE S — Information from an ex-girlfriend led Marion County detective

officers to arrest a Summerfield man on charges tied to three jewelry thefts in The Villages and another in Sumter County, according to Marion County Sheriff's Office officials.

Detectives arrested 30-year-old John Carroll Story at approximately 11:50 a.m. at a home in the 44800 block of SE 4th Court, according to arrest affidavits. He could face four counts of charges of burglary and grand theft, according to the affidavits, and his bond was set at $200,000.

According to arrest affida-

vits, detectives said Story was

involved in a series of burglary

and thefts that took place between Oct. 1, 2011, and Jan. 14 in The Villages, Wild-

wood and Marion County, Summerfield. Byrd, commander of the South Marion District of the Marion County Sheriff’s Office, said the arrest was part of a combined effort with the Wildwood Police Department and the Summer County Sheriff’s Office, as well as Community Watch in The Villages.

Byrd said additional charges could be forthcoming.

Altogether, he said, detec-

tives believe Story was involved in the thefts of more than $50,000 worth of property, much of it jewelry.

“Dr. Jason E. Davis

Chiropractic Physician

www.DavisSpineInstitute.com

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professor of medicine at the University of South Florida and a consultant for The Villages, said the results from the upcoming simple survey of Village residents will serve as a baseline for improving health in the community and the nation.

“Takes Morse Blvd. south across CR 466A to the first round about,... from the Village of Springdale said about us:

“We met and mingled in a cultured atmosphere with awesome service”

“We met and mingled in a cultured atmosphere with awesome service”

The Villages

Reservations Preferred: (352) 430-2121
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Mike Story was arrested, he was taken to the Summer County Detention Office in The Villages where he was questioned and denied any involvement with any of the four cases the affidavit stated. Byrd said the department has been in touch with the residents who reported the thefts, to keep them updated in the case.

“We’re talking to the vic-

tims, and obviously they’re very relieved,” he said.

Byrd said the next step is to recover the stolen prop-

erty. Even if it’s not recovered he said an arrest can bring about peace of mind.

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