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“Sarah’s Rally”
by
Tom Holbrook

What a week for The Villages! 60,000 individuals, not all Villagers, came to our totally transformed Lake Sumter Landing town square to see and hear America’s new sweetheart, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin. Can anyone imagine 60,000 people standing for up to 6 hours in the 90 degree heat of the day? From all reports it was a fantastic success for all involved and another feather in the hat for our beautiful Villages. Our song of pride and pictures of our wonderful hometown are being broadcast all over the world’s airwaves for everyone to see and hear. Today on a national news report it was stated that Sarah will be “playing golf for life on our Executive Golf Courses.”

Sarah said her children had been able to fulfill a life-long dream of visiting Disney World the day before. See folks, so many of those amenities and venues that we take for granted are truly coveted by many from all over the world. Which reminds me... that is one of the many things that amazes me about Disney. As you walk the grounds it seems there are more visitors speaking foreign languages than there are speaking English. I think that’s a cool thing.

While Judy and I were spying out the changes being made to Sumter Landing on Saturday night before the rally, we met a couple from New Hampshire who have been here for only a short time. Walt and Pat were also sneaking a peek at the preparations and we got to share all the things we love about this place called The Villages. Walt says he gets so many questions back home about The Villages and then receives stares of dis-belief when he tells them what it’s like, that he just tells them to go to The Villages website and see for themselves. Nice meeting you Walt and Pat and hopefully we’ll run into each other again... I’ll have my people get in touch with your people.

Judy and I played golf on Sunday in a Winifred neighborhood scramble and I shot my normal lousy game on the Executive courses. I don’t know how many people out there say they don’t play the Executives because they’re too easy but don’t kid yourself, the Executives are tougher to par than many of the Championship courses. I can’t play them well because to play par-three holes requires more accuracy than I have attained. “You’re a better man than me Gunga Din” if you can par the Executives.

I am getting a little better on my game... and I should be. Over the last 7 days I played golf 6 times... 5 championship courses and 1 Executive. My handicap is getting close to the mid-20’s and hopefully in the next few months, should I say years, I’ll be in the mid-teens. I think I should buy a new driver like my friend Manny. It has reduced his handicap by 8 or 9 points in just a few months. He says it has given him an entirely new outlook and a confidence he never had before. And folks, because golf is primarily a head game the change in attitude and confidence makes all the difference. So it is my humble opinion that anyone who’s having a bad game should go out and buy a new club.

To end this chapter of life in The Villages, allow me to ask these very important questions:

- 1- If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he naked or homeless?**
- 2- If a Parsley farmer is sued would they 'garnish' his wages?**
- 3- If you ate both pasta and antipasto would you still be hungry?**
- 4- If the police arrest a mime do they still have to tell him he has the right to remain silent?**

You folks have a great week.

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