

The Villages

CPR/AED training saved Villagers' life

By **KAYLA COLLIER**
DAILY SUN STAFF WRITER

THE VILLAGES – Bob Fish, of the Village of Bonita, remembers almost nothing about the day he went into cardiac arrest.

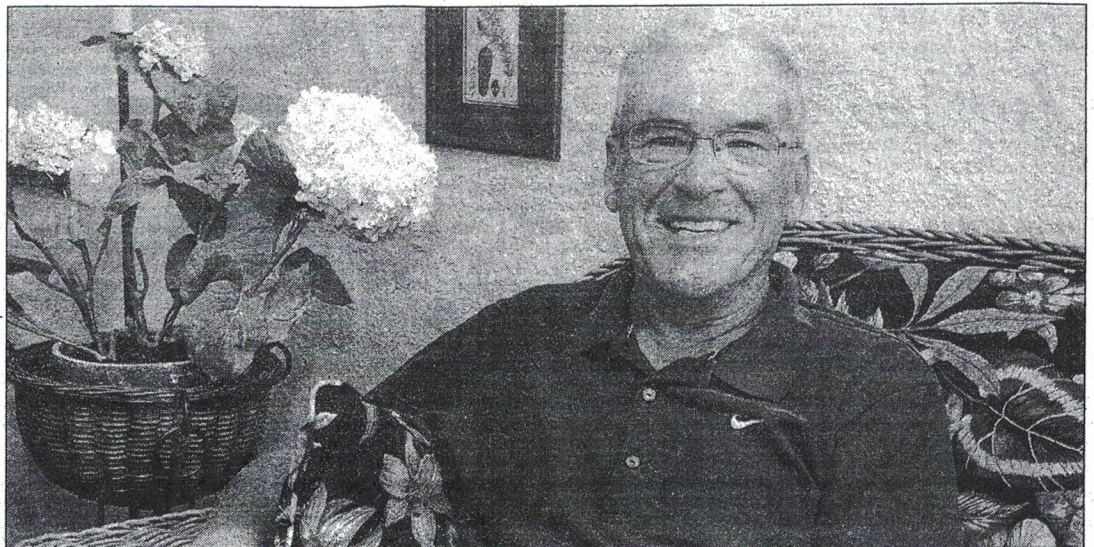
That morning, he visited two other pickleball courts before deciding he would play at Odell Recreation Center.

Thinking back to when he collapsed on Jan. 30, 2012, all Fish recalls is going for his first serve.

“I started to move for the serve and then – lights out,” Fish said. “And for some reason, that morning I decided to put my wallet in my pocket. I never carried it with me while I played.”

Carrying his wallet was just one of many lucky breaks for Fish that morning. It just so happened that members of the group Fish was playing pickleball with – the Amigos Sports Club – recently had been trained in CPR and AED usage. On top of that, Fish’s pickleball partner for that game, Don Carpenter, was a former EMT from Iowa.

“When I went down, they told me, (Dón) came over and asked me if I was all right and obviously I wasn’t all right,”



Amy J. Correnti / Daily Sun

Bob Fish, of the Village of Bonita, was saved in January 2012 by responders using an automated external defibrillator at Odell Recreation Center.

Fish said. “He immediately started the compressions, which is very vital, because for every minute you’re down, you lose a 10 percent chance of surviving. There was another woman on the court who was a former nurse; she checked for a pulse and there was none. They tell me some guy was going by in a golf cart, saw the commotion, he ran over, stepped in and did some of the compressions and left. No one knows who he was. Tom Hågadorn

ran in (the recreation center) to get the defibrillator, and they came back and I was shocked – twice. Again, I don’t remember anything. They said the ambulance arrived shortly after. Some people just freeze, but these guys didn’t.”

Fish reflects on that day with amazement and gratitude to the many good Samaritans who helped him.

And exactly one year later, on Jan. 30, 2013, Fish and his wife attended a class to

become trained in CPR/AED usage so they would be able to help others if needed.

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