

REC CENTER NEWS
A Recreation Center of Sun City West publication

New Portal launches May 4
The new Sun City West Recreation Center Portal is now live! It features a variety of information for residents, including upcoming events, programs, and contact information for the center. The portal is designed to be user-friendly and easy to navigate.

Music, games - all in one event!
Join us for a special event at the Sun City West Recreation Center. We'll have live music, games, and more fun for everyone. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!

No whammies, just big fun at new game show experience!
Experience the thrill of a game show at the Sun City West Recreation Center. We'll have a variety of fun games and prizes for everyone. It's a great way to spend a day with friends and family.

2025 PULPIT ANNUAL MEETING
Join us for the 2025 Pulpit Annual Meeting at the Sun City West Recreation Center. We'll have a variety of information for residents, including upcoming events, programs, and contact information for the center. The meeting is designed to be user-friendly and easy to navigate.

Inside this issue:
• New Portal launches May 4
• Music, games - all in one event!
• No whammies, just big fun at new game show experience!
• 2025 Pulpit Annual Meeting



Community

County officials continue voting center search; 4



INDEPENDENT

April 29, 2026 Volume 66 Issue 17 Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

New ADOT configuration for Loop 303 and 155th Avenue being considered

Tight diamond configuration rather than flyover ramps

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Arizona Department of Transportation officials are now looking at a new configuration for the Loop 303 connection to 155th Avenue.

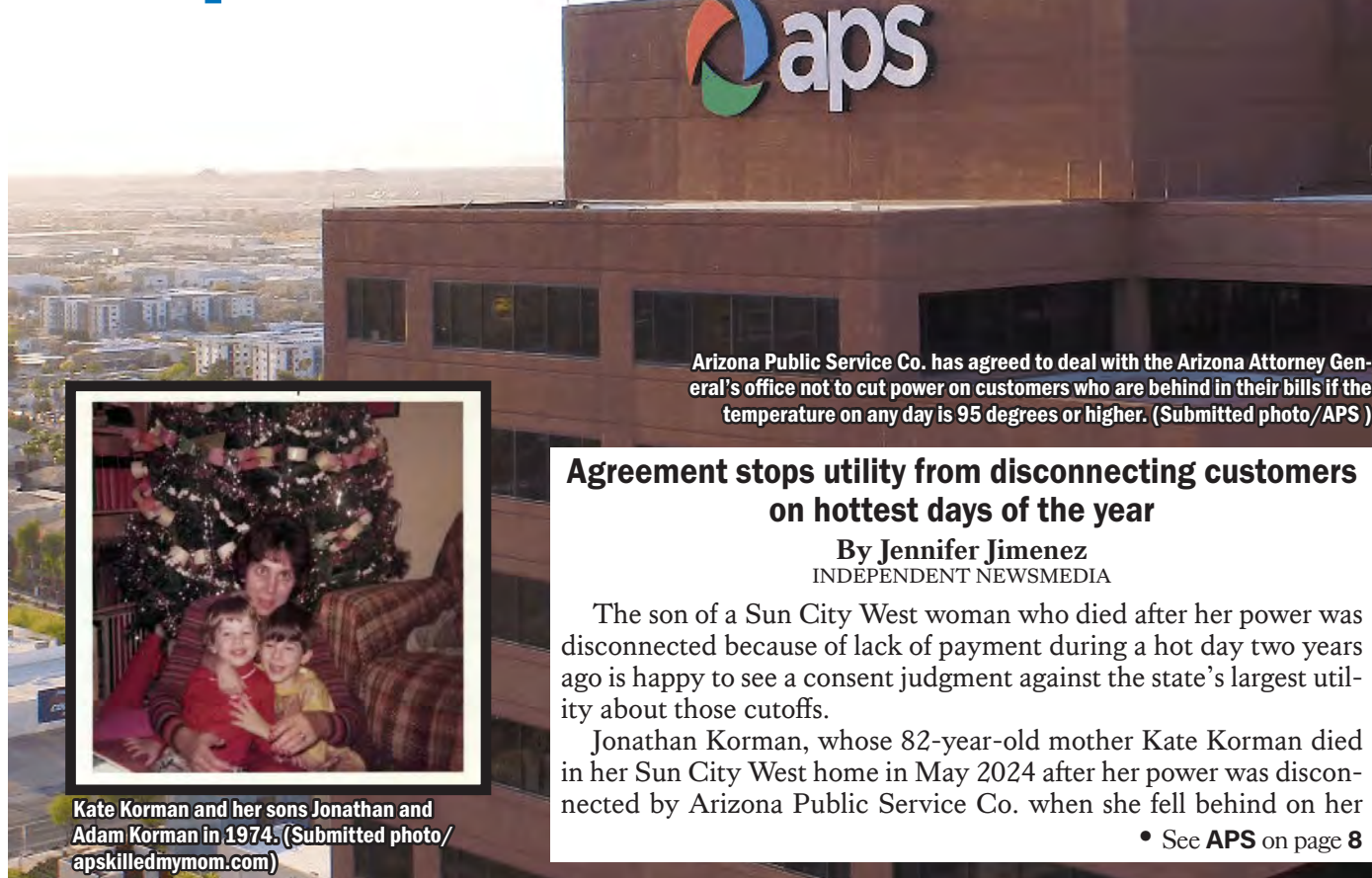
This original project showed northbound on and off ramps crossing over Loop 303 to connect with 155th Avenue on the north side, using flyover ramps.

However, this was just one possible design concept, and several Sun City West residents expressed concern over it.

"The design team has since chosen an alternative for a final tight diamond configuration, which is most commonly used on freeways.

• See **ADOT** on page 14

Sun City West woman's death cited in APS settlement on power disconnections



Arizona Public Service Co. has agreed to deal with the Arizona Attorney General's office not to cut power on customers who are behind in their bills if the temperature on any day is 95 degrees or higher. (Submitted photo/APS)

Agreement stops utility from disconnecting customers on hottest days of the year

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The son of a Sun City West woman who died after her power was disconnected because of lack of payment during a hot day two years ago is happy to see a consent judgment against the state's largest utility about those cutoffs.

Jonathan Korman, whose 82-year-old mother Kate Korman died in her Sun City West home in May 2024 after her power was disconnected by Arizona Public Service Co. when she fell behind on her

• See **APS** on page 8

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SUN CITY WEST**

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ,
R-Parkwood Dr.

SUNDAY, MAY 3RD
9:30AM-NOON

**14165 W. White Rock Rd.,
SUN CITY WEST**

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ,
L-Trial Ridge, L- White Rock Dr.

TUESDAY, MAY 5TH
9:30AM-NOON

**15208 W. Las Brizas Ln.,
SUN CITY WEST**

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ,
R-151st., L-Corral, R-Mazatlán Dr. to home

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15357 W. Black Gold Ln., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7002574

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-151st., L-Deer Valley, R-Executive Way, L-Black Gold Ln.

Highly sought after Prescott model. Home has 1872 sq. ft., 2 bedroom, 2 bath, den & great room floor plan. Home is located just a block & half from SCW's Desert Trails GC pro shop. Don't Wait! Call Today to View!



12548 W Parkwood Dr., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 6982341

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-Parkwood Dr.

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14165 W. White Rock Rd., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7010367

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, L-Trial Ridge, L- White Rock Dr

Highly desired Aspen model duplex located in the Grandview GC area of Sun City West. Home has 1866 sq. ft., 2 bedroom, 2 bath & an office/craft room. New interior paint 2026 & HVAC 2025. HOA allows pets & rentals. Being sold furnished. Call today to view!



13603 W. Gable Hill Dr., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 6970675... B/B ... 2.5%

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-Meeker, L-135th, L-Gable Hill Dr.

Super golf course & White Tank Mtn. views. Kitchen & bathrooms have been updated. 9' x 9' added to utility Rm for office/crafts. 1824 Sq. FT., 2 bdrm/2 bath. New roof underlayment 2025. Absolute Must See! Call today to view!



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VOTING

County officials continue voting center search for upcoming election

Vote center model means fewer locations

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Maricopa County is responsible for securing all vote center locations and with the change from precinct base voting to a vote center model, fewer locations exist.

The model provides voters the opportunity to vote in any county and officials have the ability to pull up a voter profile and print the ballot right at the venue.

"It helps us because with precinct base voting we had to have between 700-900 different polling locations and if someone was at the wrong location and insisted on a ballot, they could cast a provisional ballot and we would end up with more than 120,000 provisional

ballots for each election," said Jennifer Liewer, Maricopa County deputy elections director for communications.

As a result, there are not as many polling locations. Liewer said when deciding where to put vote centers, officials make sure they are geographically spread out around the county, close to major freeways, bus lines and major transportation. Data are also used to figure out areas where more in-person voting takes place and officials often rely on heat maps to find those focused areas.

"We know in Sun City West, Sun City and The Grand there is a high number of people who enjoy voting in person and probably what they have done most of their lives, so finding adequate centers in those areas is a huge priority," she said.



Jennifer Liewer, Maricopa County deputy elections director for communications. (Submitted photo/Maricopa County)

Liewer said a small group of residents from Sun City West recently visited the tabulation facility and said upon returning they went to management to open the lines of communication and get a voting center back in the community. Liewer said they talked about the needs in the area and officials wanted to help.

When facilities reach out directly to the county to be a voting center, offi-

cials are on board, but certain requirements must be met such as adequate parking, Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility, restrooms, and the room must be the right size to fit booths, tabulators and staff.

According to Liewer, county officials remain in negotiations with the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

"This is a critical area for us, and Maricopa County is going to find something and is actively seeking out places. We have a facility acquisition team who drive the streets where we need to fill a gap," said Liewer.

There will be between 250-260 voting centers across Maricopa County according to Liewer.

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ON YOURVALLEY.NET

Community Fund uses volunteers to help

The Property Owners and Residents Association prior to 2019 had a program in place to help those residents in violation of the covenants, conditions and restrictions working with the Proud Residents Involved Doing Environmental Services.

- READ MORE:

<https://tinyurl.com/4hdr3jsr>

R.H. Johnson Library hosts Foundation official

Foundation officials were invited to the R.H. Johnson Library to present information. Sun City West Foundation Marketing Coordinator Teresa Brown spoke to those in attendance and answered questions.

- READ MORE:

<https://tinyurl.com/52y9ctny>



SUN CITY WEST CLUB HONORS VETERANS

The Palo Verde Patchers recently hosted its last honor quilt presentation of the season. The following combat veterans were nominated by club members: Andrea Napier, Army, Iraq 2003-06; Robert Eichers, Air Force, Vietnam, 1966-70; Tom Settje, Army, Vietnam, 1971-75; and Stan Mifflin, Navy, Vietnam, 1964-68. Palo Verde Patchers accept nominations of combat veterans all year, but the presentations are in October, November, January, February, March and April. Visit patchers.scwclubs.com or contact Mary Roberts, club president, at 541-550-9932. An application can also be obtained in the club's room at the Kuentz Recreation Center, open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday. (Submitted photos/Patricia Casey)



MENTORSHIP AT SILVERCRAFT WEST

An experienced SilverCraft West member demonstrates a jewelry-making technique while another observes during studio time at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center in Sun City West. Members regularly assist one another as they develop skills in a hands-on workshop environment. Pictured are Cass Lowell, left, and Michelle Brown. (Submitted photo/SilverCraft West)

Rec Centers amenities for RCSCW cardholders

The Rec Center News, the official publication of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, is inserted in this week's Independent.

The United States Postal Service includes homes in Sun City West and Corte Bella for this issue's delivery, however, those who live in Corte Bella, cannot use Sun City West amenities unless they are a guest of an RCSCW cardholder. Amenities are for cardholders only.



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APS

• From page 1

bills, said the changes APS is making are good, but said he would imagine those are the minimal commonsense requirements for a utility in a position where people are depending on them for survival.

“It is gratifying to see APS agreeing to at least that much and frustrating it took arm-twisting by the AG to get them to do that,” he said.

APS earlier in April agreed to follow a consent judgment with the Arizona Attorney General’s Office and stop disconnecting power to homes when temperatures reach 95 degrees or higher to customers late paying their bills.

After Kate Korman’s death and other concerns about the utility disconnecting people, APS originally said it would not do disconnections between June 1 and Oct. 15, typically the hottest time in the Valley.

In addition, with the settlement there will now be temperature-based thresholds as well as holding disconnections for nonpayment outside that period when temperatures are supposed to hit 95 degrees or higher in specific locations, according to an APS press release.

Attorney General Kris Mayes said the June 1-Oct. 15 time frame is not sufficient, and she cited Kate Korman’s death as a driver of the issue. APS remotely cut off her power due to nonpayment the same day temperatures hit 99 degrees.

Jonathan and Adam Korman believe the utility needed stronger notification systems prior to disconnection, and they believed their mother did not know she owed money to APS and was in danger of having her power shut off.

Those enhanced notifications are part of the settlement, and include customer notifications that feature text messages as well as taking further

steps to remind customers to keep their contact information up to date annually.

Jonathan Korman said he is the kind of person who asks why people need to worry about whether they can afford things that will keep them alive. He said that is a larger question for APS and other power companies to undertake.

He admits he does not want to insult the real value of the program APS will institute under this agreement, but said it is small in comparison to the scale of the need.

This settlement was announced April 15. Mayes said she is looking into other state power company policies, and said those utilities that do not follow the 95-degree hold policy are on notice.

“Anything other than 95 degrees (as a limit against power disconnection) is dangerous and can kill people,” she said. “And if somebody dies on their watch with a date-based pol-

icy, we’re coming after them, too.”

APS, for its part, is not admitting it was doing anything improper.

“APS strongly disagrees with the attorney general’s characterization of the company’s policies, programs and record, and denies any wrongdoing,” it said in a statement. And it noted its disconnect policy is in line with both state law and rules of the Arizona Corporation Commission, which regulates investor-owned and private utilities.

But the company said it has “chosen to resolve this matter by adopting enhancements that benefit our customers.” APS will be required to pay \$2.75 million into a consumer protection fund run by the AG’s office and another \$250,000 in legal fees as part of the settlement.

Howard Fischer of Capitol Media Services contributed to this story. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AsOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.



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OPINION

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Those that are judged as personal attacks or complaints about neighbors, businesses or other opinion writers will not be considered. No person may submit more than two opinions for publication during a calendar month. Two submissions in the same issue will not be published. The content of a submission is the responsibility of the person who submitted it.

Speak Up

We support the use of pen names. Too many people don't speak up because they fear intimidation or even danger to their families and/or careers. Pen names are an important part of our nation's history.

Corrections

We will promptly correct all factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people about whom we write. Readers who disagree with a news story are welcome to respond with a letter.

Time for governing board to act on wages

The Sun City West Governing Board has a fiduciary duty to the owner members of this community. The proposed budget asks the board to approve the wages that have been previously adopted by General Manager Stephen Erno without the board's approval, as required by the bylaw.

Not only did Mr. Erno enact new wage scales, he declined to make available the data upon which the schedules were adopted. I am quite certain that a different conclusion could be made by reviewing the same documents relied upon by Mr. Erno's staff to determine wages.

Management's stated purpose for increasing pay was to hire and retain qualified employees. No evidence was provided that management-level employees have resigned because of insufficient wages and benefits. Mr. Erno has aligned himself with the staff instead of the owners for whom he works by providing self-serving increases to management employees.

In the proposed budget, the governing board has been asked to approve the implemented wage scale without the benefit of reviewing the wages and benefits paid to the various employees. To avoid breaching their fiduciary duty to the owners the governing board represents, the board must be assured that the wages and benefits paid to all employees are reasonable.

The board needs to review the wages and benefits of all association management-level employees, and compare these amounts to the wages and benefits of employees of other

LETTERS

planned communities in the Phoenix area.

Without obtaining objective evidence to support the amounts of the wages and benefits for all employees, the governing board is shirking its fiduciary duty to the owner members it represents. The bylaw provision requiring board approval of salary and wages is for times such as this, when a general manager enacted changes to the salary structure without board approval.

Dennis Hanzel
SUN CITY WEST

Arizona must disclose industrial water use

Arizona is approving major industrial projects in the West Valley without telling the public how much groundwater these companies plan to pump from the Agua Fria Groundwater Basin. That is unacceptable.

State data shows why transparency matters. The Arizona Department of Water Resources reports declining groundwater levels in parts of the basin and confirms that pumping exceeds natural recharge in its 2024 Supply & Demand Assessment. These are the state's own findings.

Yet projects such as Baccara, BNSF facilities and other heavy use operations are moving forward with no public water use disclosures and no project specific groundwater modeling released by ADWR. No Environmental Impact Statement appears in the public record.

The Agua Fria Recharge Project can store up to 24,000 acre feet per year of Central Arizona Project water, according to ADWR permits. But without knowing how much industry plans to withdraw, the public cannot

judge whether recharge offsets new pumping.

Residents deserve the truth. Before any industrial project is approved, Arizona must require full disclosure of projected groundwater use and basin wide impact analysis.

Without transparency, communities cannot protect their water future.

Cindy Putman
SUN CITY WEST

The author is a member of the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association Board of Directors.

Sun City West rec fees are essential; so is reform

In response to concerns over annual rec fees in Sun City West and recent attempts to tie them to the golf courses; if you move to a golf-centered retirement community then please don't complain about the amenities on the basis of your annual dues.

Consider how many of our neighbors would have bought homes here in the first place were it not for the golf courses and everything else Sun City West has to offer.

There are, however, issues of concern in our community. Many among us may argue that leadership is not particularly collegial or responsive to them, but dues are essential and they are not going away.

I call for open citizen-based dialogue on how to move forward in Sun City West in the best interest of all, and golf courses are a large part of that.

Our charters are outdated and obsolete. They must be reformed, but not by leaders who act in self-interest. The time has come for the people of Sun City West to have a structured

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Letters

• From page 10

debate about how to move SCW into the future.

We need new CCR's representative of our needs going forward. We need a Property Owners and Residents Association responsive to resident concerns.

So, let's talk, all of us. Not in the newspapers and not at board meetings. Your leaders are well-positioned to defray any complaint you may have that brings them discomfort.

This community is nearly 50 years old. We preserve it for the future with open dialogue among citizens who truly care about the future of SCW, not by relying on those at the top to act in our best interest.

We must chart our own course if SCW is to prosper going forward. Let's go.

Eugene Smith
SUN CITY WEST

Why we can't just close golf courses

Readers often write about how they don't use golf courses in Sun City West so why don't we cut costs and close them.

If we closed them, we couldn't just bulldoze the whole space. So, you've got a park.

Mike Whiting, former Recreation Centers of Sun City West general manager, oversaw the Phoenix park system. He knew the costs of creating

THEATRE WEST ANNOUNCES SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Theatre West is presenting a new summer education program starting in May. The classes will be open to all Theatre West members as well as to all RCSCW cardholders. Each class will cost \$5 per session. The first class is "Introduction to Directing" May 18, 21 and 22. Taught by director and guest instructor Lynn Rouyer, this will cover selecting a play, casting, character development, performance, set design and stage management. Guest instructor Ray Scheil will then lead a Readers Theater series June 9, 16, 23 and 29. Theatre West's Judy Ross will share her knowledge of directing in a class titled "Situational Directing." This is a two-day course, June 22 and 29. Guest instructor Helene Benigno will teach "Character Analysis" Aug. 4 and "Intro to Improv" Aug. 8. On Aug. 11 and 15 she will teach "Partner Scene Work" and on Aug. 22 and 29 she will teach "Page to Stage." These two classes are \$10 each. All classes have a class size limit of 20 students. Registration information is at theatrewestscw.com. Call 360-490-0182 for more information.

parking spaces available in many spots, having park benches and tables inserted into the spaces, and having walking trails and park use maintained by staff.

All that would be daily chores for our employees, and the parks would generate no income.

This old question has been asked by all the Del Webb properties that built in golf courses, but they keep drawing people into their communities, so what we have is desirable, resident of Sun City West.

Diane Cheney
SUN CITY WEST

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ADOT

• From page 1

Loop 303 will be raised up over 155th Avenue instead of flyover ramps that rise over the freeway,” said Madison Cole, ADOT community relations project manager.

This will reduce the height and visual presentation north of Sun City West and reduce the complexity and cost of the interchange.

Another major concern for residents who live adjacent to the area of the project is noise. According to Cole, ADOT is required by federal law to have noise analyses, which she said are always done during the final design because the project must be completed enough to model accurately. This is the reason those results cannot be shared yet.

“Within 500-900 feet of the freeway we will present that in early 2027 once we have completed the 60% design and the noise analysis will be shared for public review,” said Cole.

The Traffic Interchange Alternative Study identified potential areas, according to Tricia Brown, ADOT project manager. Things considered when selecting a location included regional mobility and how each alternative would relieve the congestion on US60 and 163rd Avenue. Traffic operations, environmental, engineering feasibility, social and economic impact, cost and design and public input were considered.

Property Owners and Residents Association President Jim Scott said the meeting with ADOT officials was organized after Sun City West residents brought the plan to their attention. Ron Wambach and Mike Deal, who live adjacent to Loop 303 at this potential 155th Avenue change, discussed the plan.

Directly behind both their backyards and several others along Las Brizas is where this potential change will go in at 155th Avenue. Wambach and other residents on this road did

not receive any direct information on the project.

However, ADOT officials said a comprehensive survey was available online, as well as various news releases and a presentation hosted by Maricopa Association of Governments.

“Not one person ever heard of this project on my street. Notice was totally ineffective to those totally impacted,” said Wambach.

Cole said 18,000 subscribers to Maricopa County projects received notification and 1,563 people responded to the online survey, with more than 7,000 comments. The results showed the best outcome and most widely supported by two-thirds was the 155th Avenue option.

“The 155th (option) has the least visual impact from homes. The only locations with no impacts for Sun City West was the Litchfield Road alternative and that would have had significant noise and visual impacts

for Corte Bella, receiving the least public support,” said Cole.

When Cole was asked about the responses directly and how ADOT officials knew who responded, she said there was not a section on the survey to indicate which ZIP code these responses were coming from.

However, without an indicator to say where the person was from, officials cannot know who was responding and chose the 155th Avenue option as the choice of Sun City West resident responses.

The next design phase is set for early 2027, with construction expected to begin in 2028.

Visit azdot.gov/projects/central-district-projects/loop-303-155th-avenue-traffic-interchange-project.

Reporter Jennifer Jimenez can be reached at jjimenez@iniusa.org. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

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We are storytellers for all generations. We don't shy away from recalling unjust practices affecting the underprivileged, but we'll also highlight the fortunate and the good in our neighborhoods. All stories should be shared with each other.

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As we move toward the 250th anniversary of America, I am grateful that the First Amendment remains today.

James Madison had the foresight to craft the Bill of Rights, keeping the people our Founding Fathers fought for in mind for generations.

We work for a news organization founded on principles to support independent thinkers. I am thankful for our first CEO, Joe Smyth, for creating a journalistic trust that keeps the First Amendment in mind.

I'm excited for the future when I hear new journalist Zev Black get pumped for a story in Sun City, or read an in-depth development or City Council piece written by James Goldmeer, Allison Kotzbauer or Andrew Lwowski.

It's humbling to see INI long-timers Jeremy Carr, Richard Dyer, Richard Smith or Steve Stockmar, to name a few, continue our love for celebrating and connecting our communities year after year with political, business and neighborly news.

Journalism continues to shrink in America, but there are community changemakers, like yourselves, keeping us viable even today among all the noise of the internet.

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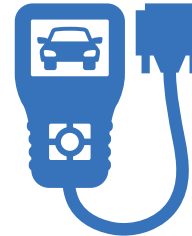
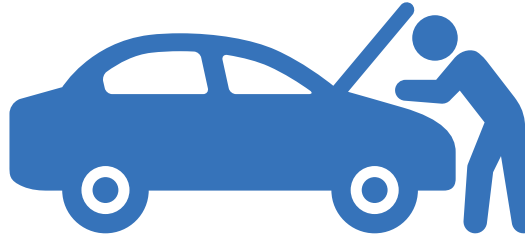
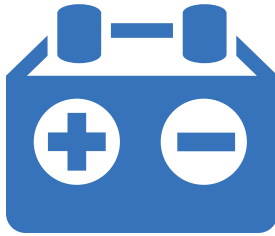
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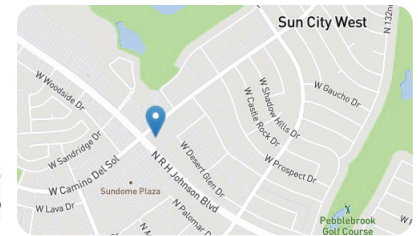
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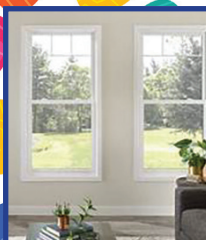
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WELCOME

Church welcomes new lead pastor

Dr. Jay Knoles is the new lead pastor at Church on the Green, 19051 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Knoles began his Christian journey in the early 1970s as a graduate of Teen Challenge. He soon met and married his wife of 53 years, Doris. Following his call to full-time ministry, Knoles was ordained with the Assemblies of God in 1978 while on active duty as a chaplain's assistant in the United States Air Force. He has earned a M.A. in Biblical Studies at Fuller Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.

He has served in a range of ministerial endeavors, including 42 years as a missionary to Native Americans,

Bible college professorships and pastoring in Winslow.

Knoles and Doris have lived in Sun City West since 2018. She has served as administrative assistant to college presidents at two colleges and taught financial workshops. She now serves Church on the Green as the executive administrator.

Sunday morning services are at 9:30 a.m. and the weekly Bible study takes place 6 p.m. Wednesdays. From September through May, the church serves Sun City West, Sun City and surrounding communities with the following assistance on Thursdays: food distribution 8:30-10:30 a.m. and a soup kitchen with a free meal 10:30 a.m.-noon.



Dr. Jay Knoles and his wife Doris (Submitted photo/Doris Knoles)



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Church hosting National Day of Prayer service

Area churches are joining together for a National Day of Prayer service noon-1 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at First Baptist Church, 17419 N. Conquistador Drive.

"This prayer effort is not about elevating ourselves; it's about magnifying God alone," said National Day of Prayer Task Force president Kathy Branzell.

The National Day of Prayer's 75th anniversary is taking place the year of America's 250th anniversary. Its theme is "Glorify God Among the Nations – Seeking Him in All Generations," inspired by King David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 16:24 NASB: "Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples."

Call 623-584-5738 or visit fbcschw.org.



Submitted photo/Pat Centner



REPUBLICAN CLUB SLATES NEXT MEETING, SPEAKERS

The Sun City West Republican Club will meet Saturday, May 2, at Church on the Green, 19051 R.H. Johnson Blvd. Doors open at 8 a.m., social time is at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts available and the meeting starts at 9 a.m. Paid-up members are admitted without a donation; \$3 will be accepted at the door from non-members, which helps to pay for the room rental. May speakers will include: David Livingston, LD 28 legislator (legislative update and candidate speech); Beverly Pingerelli, LD 28 legislator (legislative update and candidate speech); Heather Rooks, LD 28 legislator candidate (candidate speech); Kimberly Yee, running for Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction; Danielle Blake, running for Justice of the Peace; and Nathan Duelle, from Heritage Action for America, who will address the propositions on the upcoming ballot. All Republicans and Independents from the Sun Cities and surrounding areas are welcome. Visit scwrepublicans.com for more information. Submitted photos/Art Goes

FOOD AND FUN AT SEWING CLUB

Each Sun City West club has at least one social event a year. Rip 'N' Sew thinks bigger, having at least one such event most every month. April's event was a potluck appetizer party followed by Left Right Center, a dice game often played for money. Club members played for fat quarters of fabric. Grand prize winners were, from left, Melissa VanDyken, Linda Logan and Eva Weisberg. They each took home a stack of fat quarters. (Submitted photo/Gary Reynolds)



KARAOKE CLUB MEETS WEEKLY



The Karaoke Club had 20 singers entertaining a crowd of more than 60 during its recent Gospel Night. Marcine and Byron Coburn sang "If God Met You," by Tammy Wynette and George Jones. The club meets 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays at 19803 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd., in the social hall. Water, ice and cups are provided; food, snacks and drinks are welcome. Singing is not required. Visit karaoke.scwclubs.com for more information. (Submitted photo/Marcine Coburn)





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AAUW BRANCH NAMES NEW OFFICERS

The American Association of University Women, Northwest Valley branch, recently held its installation of new officers for 2026-27. Pictured, in front, are Nancy Wilson, records and membership; Janet Ricco, programs; Marge Haberman, newsletter/webmaster; Dorothy Alexander, programs; Shelby Merwin, president; and Karen Bunting, co-president elect. In back are Kathy Long, public policy; Lynn Cepichan, public policy; Kathie Morgan, co-recording secretary; Elizabeth Chek, programs; Marge Whitman, finance vice president; and Lynn Brooks, co-president elect. Regular meetings are 9 a.m. the third Thursday of the month, September-April, at the Sun City West Foundation. Membership is open to anyone holding an associates, bachelors or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. Call 612-910-1493 for more information. (Submitted photo/Rosemary Dougherty)



CHURCH CELEBRATES WORLD LABYRINTH DAY

Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd., invites the community to take part in a global movement of reflection and peace during World Labyrinth Day 8 a.m. Saturday, May 2. This annual international event, founded by The Labyrinth Society in 2009, brings together people from around the world who walk labyrinths as a shared act of meditation, unity, and spiritual connection. Guests are invited to walk the church's outdoor labyrinth and experience this ancient practice firsthand. With each step along the winding path, participants are encouraged to slow down, breathe deeply and enter into a quiet, reflective space. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has no wrong turns or dead ends. Instead, it offers a single, intentional path that gently leads inward and back out again, symbolizing the journey of life and faith. Following the walk, attendees are invited to stay for conversation and community. (Submitted photo/Luna Lorenzano)

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News in Brief

Friends to hold book sale

The Friends of R.H. Johnson Library book sale is 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at the R.H. Johnson Social Hall.

The event, which is open to the public, will feature more than 6,000 curated books consisting of paper back and hard cover fiction, non-fiction, history, biography, crafts/hobbies, cookbooks, large print, books printed before 1950, children, religious, audio books, over 1,000 DVDs and CDs and six tables of puzzles. All proceeds are reinvested in the library and are used to buy new materials for the library.

Visit library.scwclubs.com/friends-of-the-library-book-sales or call 612-308-5693 for more information.

Republican women slate next meeting

Arrowhead Republican Women will meet Wednesday, May 13, at the Briarwood Country Club, 20800 N. 135th Ave. Members and associates are welcome to bring guests.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 11:30 a.m.

The menu will include house-made quiche Lorraine, salad, dessert (cheesecake) and beverages (regular and decaf coffee, iced tea, hot tea and water).

Cost is \$39. Make reservations and note any dietary concerns by emailing arwlunchrsvp@gmail.com or calling 602-885-2939.

Northwest Valley Democrats set May meeting

The next Northwest Valley Democrats meeting is 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, at the Sun City West Foundation Building, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

The club will welcome Kristin Roberts, of Save Our Schools Arizona, who will break down what this moment means for public education and how voters can get involved. A national board-certified teacher with a master's degree in educational leadership from Arizona State University, Roberts has spent 18 years in Arizona classrooms and nearly a decade organizing her community to advocate for strong public schools.

RSVP at northwestvalleydemocrat.com under Events.



DESERT GARDEN CLUB SLATES BOGO SALES

Volunteers from the Sun City West Desert Garden Club are winding down the seasonal plant sales and preparing remaining inventory for the upcoming summer heat. To reduce stock, the sales on April 30 and May 2 will be "buy one, get one free." Individuals can buy one plant, get one of equal or lesser value free. This offer applies to plants only. Dish gardens, soil and pumice are excluded. Sales are 9 a.m.-noon April 23 and 30 and 8 a.m.-noon May 2 at the Beardsley center. Net proceeds from these sales support educational initiatives and charitable organizations serving the community. The Desert Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Pictured, Gwen Holmes checks and arranges inventory. (Submitted photo/Billie Strand)

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Ernest James Brothers

MAY 18, 1924 –
APRIL 13, 2026

Ernest James Brothers, a proud member of the Greatest Generation, passed away peacefully on April

13, 2026, in Sun City West, Arizona, just weeks shy of his 102nd birthday.

Born in Pueblo, Colorado, to Chester and Anna (Manguso) Brothers, Ernie's life was defined by service, entrepreneurship, and an unwavering zest for life. A veteran of World War II, he served in the United States Army and honorably participated in the D-Day invasion. In a testament to his lifelong belief

in personal growth, Ernie officially received his GED in 2010, decades after attending Pueblo Central High School.

Ernie was a cornerstone of the Pueblo business community for over half a century. Alongside his father and brother, Angelo, he co-founded Brothers Plumbing and Heating Company. He later expanded his local impact as the proprietor of the

Minnequa Bowl and Bergerman's Clothing store.

In 2001, Ernie traded the Colorado mountains for the Arizona sun. An accomplished bowler, he was equally at home on the ballroom floor. For 15 years, he shared his love of dance with his partner, Imogene Davidson. In his later years, he became a fixture in the local karaoke scene, sharing his voice with friends and neighbors as

recently as the week before his passing.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Angelo; his sisters, Teresa Patti and Margaret Giardino; his first wife, Virginia Blair (Scoggins); his second wife, Mary Mauro (Colnar), and his youngest son, Daniel Gordon Brothers (2017).

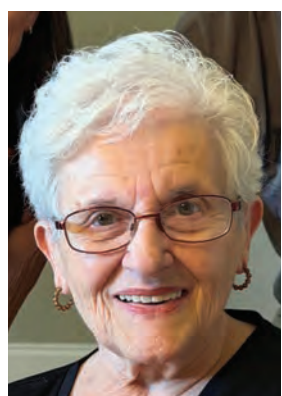
He is survived by three sons: Douglas Jeffrey, Gregory Marvin, and Byron Chester Brothers and

six grandchildren: Amy Drew, Daniel Brothers, Jaime Brothers, Steven Settefrati, Dustin Brothers and Christopher Brothers.

Memorial Services:

Community services will be held in Sun City West, at Kuentz Courtyard on Sunday May 3, 4 - 7 PM.

For further information, please contact Byron at 719-291-0379 or byronbrothers@gmail.com.



Judith L. Craig

Judith L. Craig passed away peacefully on March 22, 2026, in Surprise, AZ. Though we grieve her absence, we know she rests joyfully in the arms of Jesus, surrounded by angels. She was a tireless woman of faith who shared God's love with

everyone she met.

She was born May 25, 1940, on her maternal grandparents' farm, to Laverne (nee Pennings) and Harold Bissonette. Born premature and weighing barely 3 lbs., it was feared she would not survive. Her grandmother swaddled her and placed her in a warm drawer in the kitchen cook stove, creating a simple incubator. With many prayers and the healing touch her grandmother was known for, she thrived. This was only the beginning of the miraculous healings in her life. In early childhood, she often recounted, she prayed for relief from an earache, and it suddenly disappeared. Years later, she would pray for miraculous healings for others, and they happened. Throughout her life, she believed in the power of prayer and was a living

testament to God's love.

When she was very young her parents divorced and her mother remarried George Berndt. Judy loved George, he was a supportive and caring father to her. Although George never officially adopted Judy she was known throughout childhood as Judy Berndt.

Growing up in the small town of Antigo, WI, Judy attended Peace Lutheran School and Antigo High School. She was active in 4-H and school plays and passionate about horses. Judy and her horse, Happy, were often seen in local parades.

Her desire as a young girl was to be in ministry. However, in the 1950s, women in the Lutheran church could not be pastors, so Judy decided the next best thing would be to become a nurse.

But in 1957, she met a charming, handsome young man from the local radar base, Dick Craig. Quickly, they became sweethearts, and Judy's nursing career was put on hold as she chose to marry Dick and become a wife and mother to their daughter, Kelly, and son, Tom.

In 1976, she finally enrolled at John A. Logan College in Illinois to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. In 1978, she graduated first in her class. Judy went on to have a thirty-year career in nursing, starting in Carbondale, Illinois. She returned to Antigo in 1982, where she worked at the Antigo General Clinic until her retirement in 2006. Judy was a beloved nurse, blessing everyone with her optimism and faith.

Even while packing

and moving her family 17 times during their careers throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and Illinois, Judy was a great encourager. She was loved by every community she was a part of, including the Phoenix, AZ area, where she and Dick spent their retirement years near their children.

Through all of her moves, Judy remained an active member of the church and fulfilled her life goal of serving in ministry. She served as a lay pastor and featured speaker at churches in Antigo, WI, and Surprise, AZ. Sharing God's word and becoming a faith leader were highlights of her life.

Judy was also an accomplished and passionate seamstress and quilter. In 1966, while Dick served in Vietnam, she took up

cake decorating with great success. One of her cakes, shaped like a Polaris snowmobile, made the local paper's front page!

Judy is survived by her husband, Richard T. Craig; her two children, Kelly (Craig) Emme and husband Jeff, and Tom Craig and wife Tacia; six grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

The oldest of 8 children, Judy loved her siblings. She has 6 sisters, Jane, Diane, Georgia, Kim, Kyle, Kay, and the youngest, her brother Kurt.

Judy lived her life caring for everyone, and knowing it or not, they were held and blessed in her prayers.

There will be a memorial service for Judy on May 5, 2026 at 1pm at Sun City West Christian Church, 20803 N 151st., Sun City West, AZ.



JoAnn Oldorf Kettman
December 15, 1934 –
March 19, 2026

JoAnn Oldorf Kettman passed away on March 19, 2026, in Sun City West, Arizona, at the age of 91 after an extended COPD illness. She was born on December 15, 1934, in Clarence, Iowa, to Harold Oldorf and Pauline Kahler Oldorf and grew up on the Oldorf family farm southwest of Stanwood. She was baptized and confirmed at the Stanwood St. Paul Lutheran Church. JoAnn

graduated from Stanwood High School and received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Iowa.

Following graduation, she moved to Minnesota where she taught physical education and science at LeRoy and Simley High Schools. She retired from teaching at Pleasant Valley High School in Pleasant Valley, Iowa, where she taught science and coached the volleyball and tennis teams.

On March 18, 1978, she married John Kettman of Moline, Illinois, where they made their home.

JoAnn was active in a variety of activities and interests. She was recognized as one of three pioneers of Iowa high school girls' volleyball, which led to her induction to the first class of the Iowa Girls High School Coaches & Officials Hall of Fame in 2005. While coaching she served on the Iowa Volleyball Rules & Interpretation Committee for IGHSAU. She also officiated volleyball.

JoAnn was an avid traveler and golfer, playing on the

women's golf team at the Tipton Golf & Country Club and the women's Waterman's Cup Team at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. She traveled throughout the US, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Upon retiring to Sun City West, Arizona, JoAnn's innovations continued. She introduced pickleball to Sun City West by chalking lines on the platform tennis court to create a pickleball court. She also pushed to establish the shorter "green" tees at the four regulation golf courses in Sun City West.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, John Kettman, sister-in-law, Marilee Oldorf, brother-in-law, Richard Vaerst, friends Kris Plueger and Beth Stearns, eight nieces and nephews, and seventeen great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Pauline Oldorf, sister, Janis Vaerst and brother, Roger Oldorf.

A memorial service celebrating her life will be held at a later date.



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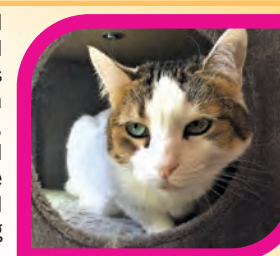
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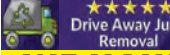
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Civility Checklist

How to engage in respectful, honest & civil dialogue about public issues

- ☐ **Take the high road.** Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.
- ☐ **Be respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment, and threats directed at another person — or that person's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone's character or motives.
- ☐ **Be truthful.** Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes. When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.
- ☐ **Don't misrepresent.** Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.
- ☐ **Listen & learn.** It's both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don't agree with your own.
- ☐ **Look for common ground.** When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.
- ☐ **Respect privacy.** Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and, in many cases, illegal.
- ☐ **Set a good example.** Practice civil behavior online as well as in public and in your interaction with others. Encourage others to practice these civil behaviors. And it's OK to challenge disrespectful behavior — but be courteous, respectful and helpful in your approach.



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