

REC CENTER NEWS

Primary Election voting moves to Village Room

General Election in Social Hall East

TORCH program is now SCW Citizens Academy

CITIZENS ACADEMY

Community

Help is needed to assist library Friends; 8





SUN CITY WEST

INDEPENDENT

May 27, 2026 Volume 66 Issue 21 Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Budget discussions raise questions surrounding employees

Full-time equivalent employees recommended in recreation and Sports Pavilion divisions

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Directors from the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board discussed employee pay and hours and the challenges.

Currently, the budget proposed a wage performance based increase of up to 3% based on seats and position evaluations for all employees not at minimum wage, effective to start 2027. The minimum wage positions will increase by the Federal Consumer Price Index, from the current rate of \$15.15 per hour to \$15.65 per hour in 2027. Also, full-time equivalent positions would increase by three in the recreation division and two in the sports pavilion division, if the board approves.

Director Jolene Piaskowski referenced golf course closures and suggested with all the data collected, the hours could be reduced

• See **Budget** on page 5

Governing board approves a revised budget for the next fiscal year



The Lizard Acres Pub continues to be a gathering spot for residents in the Sun City West community.
(Submitted photo/Recreation Centers of Sun City West)

Dues, asset preservation fee increase included

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

In a 6-2 favorable vote, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board approved the revised 2026-2027 fiscal year financial budget.

Directors Nick Turner, Alan Schlemmer, Anne Becknell, John Chattin, Sandra Forsey and Christine Novello voted "yes" to the \$20 increase, \$416 annual in dues and \$350 increase in asset preservation fee to \$5,750.

Directors Rudy Grom and Jolene Piaskowski voted "no."

However, in the initial proposed budget included a motion by Becknell with a \$42 increase to annual dues for \$640 annually and an asset preservation fee increase to \$5,900. Schlemmer seconded the motion to get communication going between directors on the item.

This proposed budget included a \$22 increase into the general operating budget and the other \$20 into the reserve fund for a one year commitment to help fund the master plan. The asset preservation fee increase would have sent \$200 to the operating budget and \$300 to the reserve fund, as well.

Turner said while at the work-

shop he stated he was not comfortable with the big rise in annual dues and has changed his position as the process has not been fully explained to residents.

"We have not explained fully to membership in a comprehensive way that is understood for building up funds for the master plan and a lot of folks are saying they want to see that," said Turner.

Schlemmer shared similar opinions and said he changed his opinion after speaking with concerned residents.

Grom and Piaskowski, Chattin, Schlemmer and Turner were op-

• See **Board** on page 5

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MODERN JEWELRY-MAKING AT SILVERCRAFT WEST

SilverCraft West instructor TJ Henrie demonstrated the club's precision pulse arc jewelry welder during a hands-on jewelry-making session in Sun City West. Pictured left to right are SilverCraft West members Patty Brookins, TJ Henrie, Wendy McKeever and Art Bennett. The pulse arc welder is one of many modern pieces of equipment available for members to use while creating jewelry in the club's studio. (Submitted photo/SilverCraft West)



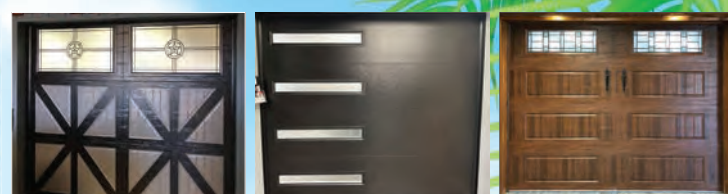
ARC MEMBERS GATHER FOR SNOWBIRD SEND-OFF

The Automobile Restoration Club of Sun City West hosted an evening of food and laughter for its members and the snowbirds leaving Sun City West for the summer. There was also automotive trivia contests. Shelley Giles and Gary Masek worked to provide the food, including a smoked turkey and all the fixings. The ARC shop and clubhouse will remain open throughout the summer. Residents are welcome to visit. The clubhouse is the tall standalone building just west of the bowling alley next to the Men's Club at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center. (Submitted photo/Sue Steward)

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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.

Sun City church slates fundraiser

Lakeview United Methodist Church in Sun City is holding a fundraiser Monday, June 1, at the Black Bear Diner in Glendale, 6039 W. Bell Road. It specializes in home style and comfort foods.

Board

- From page 1

posed, while Becknell and Forsey voted in favor of the original presented budget.

Sun City West resident Frank Bagnato spoke during resident comments alleging over-budgeting and underspending and said the notion of a special assessment for future unknowns is another money grab by the administration.

Budget

- From page 1

during the summer months.

"We need to think outside of the box," she said.

General Manager Stephen Erno explained if there was an option to keep all the golf courses open, that would mean more revenue.

He said there is not a reduction in members or some perceived drop in play, but the reality is courses have to close for maintenance.

NEWS IN BRIEF

This fundraiser, which will credit 20% of the order to Lakeview Church, is for the "Benefit of the Ministries of the Church."

Those wishing to participate should pick up a flyer in the church office or Smoot Hall and scan the barcode at the diner for Lakeview.

Carry-out or delivery diners need to present this nine-digit number — 533-537-330 — at BlackBearDiner.com to credit Lakeview Church.

This offer is on dine-in, carry-out and delivery orders.

The delivery orders must be placed through BlackBearDiner.com. Lakeview church members will be at the diner the entire time and be available to assist diners who want to donate to the fundraiser.

The diner is open from 6 a.m. to 10

p.m.

Call the church, 623-974-5821, or Black Bear Diner, 602-843-1921, for more information.

Church hosts presentation on living with chronic illness

Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd., invites the community to a free presentation on "Living With Chronic Illness" 11 a.m. Thursday, June 18.

Sponsored by Hospice of the Valley, this program is designed to offer practical guidance, support and encouragement for anyone navigating the realities of long-term health conditions.

Hospice of the Valley is a nonprofit hospice and palliative care provider serving Maricopa and northern Pinal counties in central Arizona.

Chief Financial Officer Clif Swann explained as far as the financial statements, the bulk of savings came by way of wages, benefits and utilities.

"I did not know we would have a very wet overseeding period and a very mild year in terms of temperatures," said Swann regarding golf operations savings.

Per the policy, all savings to the budget goes into the reserve fund.

Swann said there is nothing nefarious

happening and there is no attempt at a money grab.

He said the funds go into the reserve fund which help enhance and invest back into the community.

To watch the full meeting, visit youtube.com/watch?v=7iP-CHDOD7I.

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.

Erno said all employees are valued at all levels and often times those on minimum wage has gone up more than an increase given to other employees. Additionally, he explained employees are being paid at the value of the position.

"Certainly we have looked at ways and continuing to look at ways to further engage employees and lots of things we have done with additional recognition and we acknowledge their work at all levels," said Erno.

He said he is proud the work officials have done to make sure the employees feel valued. Anyone who would like to

increase pay, has the opportunity to apply for other positions. Erno said he loved coaching and developing people and for those who have a desire to move up in the organization, he is happy to help.

Chief Financial Officer Clif Swann said employee recognition is given every year and after five years of employment, employees are also recognized. Of 490 employees last year, the employee of the year held a minimum wage position.

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PHOTOGRAPHY



Master winners Tom Richardson, Susan Cowles, Kelly Asmussen, Lou Haskell, Emily Schwoerke, Greg Swinney, John Frelich, Rondy Voorhees, Bill Lane and Tony Gross. (Submitted photo/Linda Victor)

Photography West names competition winners

Following are the results of the spring Photography West Projected Image Competition. There were three classes: beginner, advanced and master. Additional club information can be found at photography.scwclubs.com. Join the club 10 a.m. Fridays at the Stardust Theater, in the Kuentz Recreation Center.

Open

Class B — Candy Worley - 1st place; Randall Farwell - 2nd and 3rd place; Barb Miller, Lora Gonzales - honorable mention
Class A — Susan Moy - 1st and 3rd place; Chuck Clark - 2nd place; Gene Mitofsky - honorable mention
Master — Bill Lane - 1st place; Susan Cowles - 2nd place; Mark McKinney - 3rd place; Nap O'Young, Lou Haskell, Rondy Voorhees, David Pickles, Tony Gross - honorable mention

Monochromatic

Class B — Diana Smierciak - 1st place; Sherry Clark - 2nd place; Lora Gonzales - 3rd place; Robert Mariana - honorable mention
Class A — Richard Garneau - 1st place; Gene Mitofsky - 2nd place; Susan Moy - 3rd place; Liz Mitofsky - honorable mention
Master — Susan Cowles - 1st and 3rd place; Ella Schreiber - 2nd place; Mark McKinney, Tony Gross, David Pickles - honorable mention

Rotating Subject-Arches

Class B — Robert Mariana - 1st place; Anthony Mason - 2nd place; Glen Boedecker - 3rd place; Bob Smierciak, Barb Miller, Diana Smierciak, Randall Farwell
Class A — Gene Mitofsky - 1st place; Liz Mitofsky - 2nd place and honorable mention; Cheryl Gross - 3rd place;
Master — John Frelich - 1st place; Mark McKinney - 2nd place; Kelly Asmussen - 3rd place; Susan Cowles, Nap O'Young, Tony Gross, Rondy Voorhees, Lou Haskell - honorable mention

Creative Expression

Class B — Diana Smierciak - 1st place; Robert Mariana - 2nd place; Lora Gonzales - 3rd place; Sally Hilding - honorable mention
Class A — Richard Garneau - 1st place; Liz Mitofsky - 2nd place; Chuck Clark - 3rd place; Gene Mitofsky - honorable mention
Master — Ella Schreiber - 1st and 3rd place; Tom Richardson - 2nd place and honorable mention; Mark McKinney, Tony Gross - honorable mention

Nature

Class B — Robert Mariana - 1st place; Sally Hilding - 2nd place; Barb Miller - 3rd place; Sherry Clark, Lora Gonzales - honorable mention
Class A — Richard Garneau - 1st and 2nd place; Susan Moy - 3rd place and honorable mention;
Master — Kelly Asmussen - 1st place; Susan Cowles - 2nd place; Lou Haskell - 3rd place; Greg Swinney, John Frelich, Emily Schwoerke - honorable mention



NON-SINGERS WELCOME AT KARAOKE CLUB

The Sun City West Karaoke Club's non-singing members come to enjoy the different genres of music each week. Pictured are Frank Perry and Jeanette Wood and Mary Schneider and Fred Schneider. The club is open Thursdays for all Sun City West residents and their guests, meeting at the R.H. Johnson social hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. Doors open at 5 p.m. and singing begins at 5:30 p.m. The club's last theme included Hawaiian with a few Mother's Day songs thrown in the mix. Bring food or drinks; water, cups and ice are provided. Visit karaoke.scwclubs.com for more information. (Submitted photos/Marcine Coburn)



TEA TIME

Ladies were invited to the West Valley Genealogical Society Library May 1 for a tea hosted by Alice Faust, who provided all the setups and the food as well as several games. (Submitted photo/Mary Hart)



BEADERS CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL CHALLENGE

The Sun City West Beaders Club holds an annual event called Bead Challenge, during which a single bead is chosen and distributed to members to create an original piece of jewelry. Pictured are the pieces created for the 2026 picnic display. The club is located in the Kuentz center Kiva Room. Membership is \$5 and is open to RCSCW cardholders. The club meets 6-9 p.m. Mondays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesdays. All levels of beading instruction and mentoring are offered, from beginners to experts. The club also hosts parties. Email club president Carol Dunaway at dunawayfp@outlook.com, call 520-979-2554, stop by during normal club hours or visit beaders.scwclubs.com for more information. (Submitted photo/Sue Casey)

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LIBRARY

More help is needed to assist Friends of the R.H. Johnson Library

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The most recent book sale hosted by the Friends of the R.H. Johnson Library had more than 6,000 books for sale, as well as DVDs and puzzles.

All proceeds made from the book sale are used to provide the materials located inside the library.

While more than 50 volunteers took part in the last book sale, it takes volunteers throughout the year to take in donated books, as well as sort and transport these items to storage until the next sale.

Volunteer Cindy Cassara said from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30-3 p.m. volunteers are needed at the book drop to collect any donations. This volunteer job is called a sorter and requires removing the books from resident cars and placing them on a cart to take inside the library.

“Sorters check the print dates and if the book is from 2025-2026, it is compared to the list of books the library is looking to buy. If it is not on the list, it comes back to us, and we sell it in our bookstore that is inside the library,” she said.

Volunteer Bill Svensson said most of the volunteers the organization gets are acquired through people stopping in and filling out an application, but the new goal is to give volunteers a specific job they can volunteer for that suits the needs of both.

Cassara said interviewing volunteers helps to understand what they are looking for.

“Getting the right volunteers in the



Doug Wheeler and Debbie Hilligas are long-time sorters who make up the Wednesday morning crew. (Submitted photo/Friends of the R.H. Johnson Library)

right positions is what we are focused on,” she said.

Currently, there are several volunteer positions available, but Cassara is looking to fill a sorter need during the morning shifts.

For 2026, book sale income brought in including the May 16 sale is \$26,994 and the year-to-date total in April for the book store in the library is \$2,506.

For more information, call 623-544-6166 or email folrhj@yahoo.com

Reporter Jennifer Jimenez can be reached at jjimenez@iniusa.org. 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

Take the Civility Pledge

Yes, I will do my part to help my community become a safe place for people to engage in civil discourse about public issues. Visit iniusa.org/civility-pledge/ to take the pledge.

Your Opinion

Our opinions page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We hope to stimulate debate, not to dominate or control it. We reserve the right to edit our opinions, and we insist on civility. Please include your name and phone number, so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. We welcome your photo. All opinions must be no more than 300 words.

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.

Why I take freedom and responsibility seriously

Viktor Frankl, a Jewish doctor of psychiatry, tremendously suffered as a prisoner of the Nazis during World War II.

Two things he later wrote about: Many who survived the death camps focused on a reason(s) to live, and tenaciously clung to them, helping them to get through their suffering.

The other thing concerned freedom.

He surmised that many can imprison a person from the outside, but one, even though it can be hard, does not have to relinquish their freedom on the inside.

As a European, he loved the idea of what the Statue of Liberty represents to our country, but he thought we also needed a Statue of Responsibility along with it.

It is my opinion that our freedom to vote needs to be followed up with the responsibility to vote and not make excuses to skip it.

Our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution rely on us to be responsible citizens. Otherwise,

LETTERS

we will lose them — or worse, they become just words on paper.

George Hilburn
SUN CITY WEST

What is an American and other questions to consider

I take exception with Jeff Hostetler's May 6 opinion on birthright citizenship. He incorrectly offers that "the Constitution plainly states that anyone born on U.S. soil is a citizen, period."

First, the Executive, as president, is charged in Article II of the Constitution with preserving, protecting and defending the U.S. Constitution, which includes the 14th Amendment. Enforcing the law is what we hire the Executive to do.

The text of the 14th Amendment contains two requirements for acquiring automatic citizenship by birth: first, one must be born in the United States and, second, be subject to its jurisdiction.

The amendment's interpretation of "subject to its jurisdiction" means total, exclusive allegiance and lawful presence, not merely location. The current political misconception of

citizenship arose in the mid-20th century.

The U.S. Supreme Court first confirmed the understanding of jurisdiction in its 1873 Slaughterhouse Cases and again in *Elk v. Wilkins* (1884).

Proponents of "birthright citizenship" incorrectly point to *US v. Wong Kim Ark* (1898) as they thought it dealt with illegal immigrant parents, but that case involved lawfully U.S. parents present and domiciled; not parents here illegally. In fact, SCOTUS has never held that children of illegal immigrants are entitled to citizenship simply because they were born in the U.S.

Think of it this way: If a British citizen visits the U.S., the law requires them to drive on the right side of the road; in doing so, the Brit doesn't owe allegiance to the U.S. and is not subject to our army draft or prosecuted for treason.

The real questions for the 14th is a moral debate on this 250th anniversary year are: what is an American? Who is America for? What is the purpose of immigration?

Mike Kapic
SUN CITY WEST

From the Newsroom: Get to know the Independent

The Independent newsroom hosted a meet and greet with residents May 18 to hear directly from you! We didn't have anything in mind for when we set this up, but wanted the opportunity for casual, face-to-face conversations.

During the two-hour event, people rolled in and out, giving our team their great ideas, questions and concerns. One of the main concerns we heard was that they didn't know about our website, yourvalley.net.

Our website hosts almost every article written in all of our local Arizona communities, including the wonderful submissions from our readers. It also has our free e-newspaper for those who missed the Independent or are out of town.

Additionally, the website is a great resource to see articles and submissions that may not make it into the physical paper — after all, space is tight! — as well as news, events, and

ads from around the Valley.

We also have a Facebook page where we preview every article that gets posted when it gets posted. You can follow the Sun City and Sun City West pages to never miss an article.

One of the questions we got asked at the event was "why don't I get the newspaper delivered every week?"

Frankly, as prices continue to rise, it is too expensive to print and deliver the

• See **Newsroom** on page 14



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SATURDAY, MAY 30TH
10:00AM-12:30PM

**15357 W. Black Gold Ln.,
SUN CITY WEST**

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

SUNDAY, MAY 31ST
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

TUESDAY, JUNE 2ND
10:00AM-NOON

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

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

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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!



12727 W. Copperstone Dr., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7024624

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-128th, R-Copperstone Dr.

Expanded duplex has 1697 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, 2 baths plus a 19' X 9' glass enclosed AZ room/lanai. This home has been a successful seasonal rental & is being sold furnished. Neighborhood HOA also allows pets. Home is located close to SCW's Pebblebrook GC pro shop. Call today to view!



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

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

Expanded duplex. This 1757 sq. ft., 2 bedroom, 2 bath home has a 10' X 18" glassed encl. Lanai & combined with 30' x 17" great room there is ample space for entertaining. Home is located near SCW's Pebblebrook GC pro shop. Call today to view!



15208 W. Las Brizas Ln., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7000065... B/B ... 2.5%

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

Popular Flagstaff model, 1970 sq. ft. (expanded), great room floor plan, 2 bdms, 2 baths & den on 7th fairway of Desert Trails GC. Enjoy the savings that comes with a paid off solar lease. Make arrangements today to view!



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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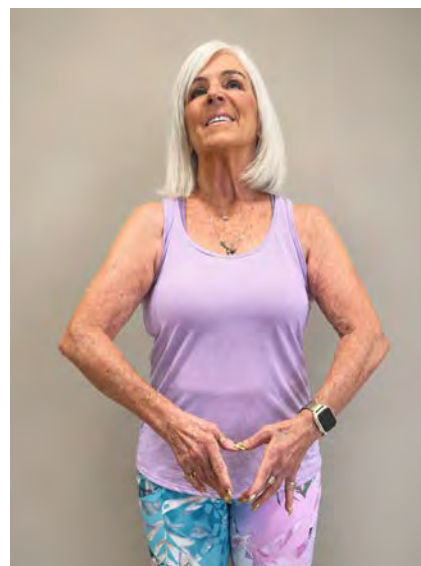
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SUN CITY WEST CHURCH OFFERS ONGOING BARRE FITNESS CLASS

Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd., invites the community to join its ongoing barre exercise class 9-10 a.m. Wednesdays in the sanctuary lobby. This low-impact, full-body workout blends ballet-inspired movements with elements of Pilates, yoga and strength training. Led by Bunny Gasior and designed to improve balance, core strength, flexibility and overall wellness, this free class welcomes participants of all fitness levels. Donations are appreciated. Participants are asked to bring their own exercise mat, weights, hoop and resistance band. Comfortable clothing and water are also recommended. No registration needed. (Submitted photo/Luna Lorenzano)



PEBBLEBROOK GOLFERS NAME MAY ACES

Pebblebrook's May aces of the month are Wanda Schnabel (low net 69) and Shari Olson (putter of the month, 29 putts). Pebblebrook offers three USGA rated tee options (Red/5,709, Combo/5,352 and Green/4,411) for players of all abilities. Every Tuesday is an organized 18-hole club game. There is an optional "Chip-In Pot" and "Blind Draw" each week. After the round, members gather on the patio. The annual Tournament of Champions recognizes the Club Champion (low gross), President's Cup (low net) and flight champions. There are also several "Fun Day" mixers and team play with the other regulation course ladies 18 groups. Join the group any Tuesday to try out the group. Though not eligible for prizes, individuals may play three times before making a commitment to join. Visit pbwomensgolf.scwclubs.com or call Marj Markle at 406-230-2621 for more information. (Submitted photos/Gisela Roemer)



SUMMER TENNIS ACTIVITIES

Morning drop-in times are available every day for a variety of tennis play, including classic tennis, red ball, platform and table tennis. There is also evening drop-in play for tennis and red ball. For more information on all drop-in times, visit tennis.scwclubs.com. (Submitted photo)



CATS

JUNE 12 THROUGH JULY 25, 2026

CATS is a mesmerizing, one-of-a-kind theatrical experience that transports audiences into the mysterious world of the Jellicle Cats. Through breathtaking dance, stunning visuals, and Andrew Lloyd Webber's unforgettable score - including the iconic ballad "Memory" - each cat shares their unique story. CATS is a spellbinding journey of rebirth, acceptance, and the magic of the feline world.

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THURSDAY 5/28 Chicken Enchiladas \$9.99 (plus tax) with rice and beans	FRIDAY 5/29 2-Piece Fish Fry \$9.99 (plus tax) with fries & coleslaw	SUNDAY 5/31 Turkey Dinner \$9.99 (plus tax) with mashed potatoes, green beans & stuffing

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13206 W. Gaucho Dr., Sun City West

\$315,000 - Semi-open floorplan - 2BD/2BT, large enclosed patio, newer AC and roof, no carpet, a must see! MLS# 7020724 **Angela Brunetti (623) 824-3405 | Jessie Laux (623) 755-4780**

Jessie Laux
Cell phone: (623) 755-4780
Email: Jessiesellsazhomes@gmail.com
License: SA655396000



Angela Brunetti
Cell phone: (623) 824-3405
Email: angelasahomes@gmail.com
License: SA669360000



PARTY BRINGS PICKLEBALL CLUB TOGETHER

The Sun City West Pickleball Club marked Cinco de Mayo May 5 with a celebration attended by approximately 150 members and guests. A potluck buffet showcased a variety of homemade dishes and desserts, from Mexican-inspired favorites to traditional American fare. Team Peterson Homes sponsored the event and helped set the festive tone with margaritas and a raffle featuring prizes. Entertainment for the evening event was live music by Lounge Lizard (Scotty Johnson), whose music kept the dance floor busy. The gathering also served as a seasonal send-off, giving friends a chance to visit before winter residents depart for the summer. (Submitted photo/Marla Peters)

Newsroom

• From page 10

amount of papers necessary to provide a hard copy to each resident every week. That is why our website exists! To allow those who didn't receive the paper to still take in all the news.

You can also pick up a hard copy at dozens of locations in Sun City and Sun City West.

For more information on our circulation, please call 888-665-3848.

We rely on advertisement sales for our newspapers. We encourage you to talk to local businesses about placing advertisements and supporting the local paper.

It's a simple trade. They get their name in front of local readers, and we get to keep doing what we do for our readers. Businesses should reach out to our sales team and let's make it work for both parties at Azads@iniusa.org.

We also recognize that it is important for you to know about the journalists who are reporting on your community!

Zev Black,
Sun City reporter

I am a huge sports fan. I graduated from the Walter Cronkite School of

Journalism and Mass Communication last May with a degree in sports journalism.

When I'm not working, I'm usually watching baseball. The Red Sox are my favorite team (yes, I know they're not very good this year).

I think community news is one of the backbones of America. Without it, how would people know what is happening locally?

Sun City is no different. It's not called the "City of Volunteers" for nothing... The people are the pulse of the community.

Jennifer Jimenez,
Sun City West reporter

I am passionate about community news and believe the residents in Sun City West are the heartbeat of its community.

I enjoy informing residents and more importantly listening to the concerns, challenges and positive things happening in Sun City West.

I particularly enjoy getting to know residents and sharing personal stories. Everyone has a story and I look forward to sharing more.

When I am not covering community news, I am spending time with my husband and four children. My passion is watching and playing sports.

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STITCHERS KEEP BUSY

Residents who like to be creative and learn new ways to stitch projects can join Creative Stitchers. There is a teacher for each craft, including counted cross stitch, needlepoint, hardanger, embroidery, smocking, rug hooking and punch needle. Creative Membership is \$10 a year and is open to Sun City West residents. The group meets 8-11:30 a.m. Mondays at Kuentz Recreation Center Kiva room, 14401 W. R.H. Johnson Blvd. To use the club room, two or more members are required. The general meeting takes place the third Monday of the month. Residents can stop by on Monday mornings to see what the club is all about. Visit stitchers.scwclubs.com or call John Harrison at 480-363-6392 for more information. The club recently donated \$500 to the Sun City West Community Fund. Pictured is Debra Senelly with a criss stitched project. (Submitted photo/Jeanette Hill)



LEGION POST HONORS QUILTS FOR A CAUSE MEMBERS

Members of American Legion Post 94 awarded a Certificate of Appreciation plaque to members of the Rip-N-Sew Club's Quilts for a Cause. Over the years, the Quilts for a Cause group has provided numerous hand-made, patriotic-themed quilts to the post for distribution to veterans living in Sun City West. The group also provides quilts and other hand-made "message of love" items to various local care activities ranging from newborns to seniors living in Hospice/assisted care facilities. (Submitted photo/Rudy Grom)



CLASSES CONTINUE IN SUN CITY WEST

Susie Jennings just completed one of the many classes offered to Glass Fusing and Enameling Club members. Beginning classes are offered twice a month and classes are kept small in order to provide plenty of interaction with the instructor. Club hours are 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Call 623-544-6532 or 702-278-0995 for more information. (Submitted photo/Deb Daly)



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WHERE: THE Grand / Sago Room / 19726 N. Remington Dr, Surprise, AZ

WHEN: June 9th, Tuesday, 4PM-5:30PM

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CLUB CELEBRATES NATIONAL SCRAPBOOKING DAY

Members of Scrapbooking, Papercrafts, & More gathered to celebrate National Scrapbooking Day May 2 at the Beardsley center clubroom. Throughout the day, member Lynne Marion, pictured standing, taught a class on making a 6x6-inch folio book, which could hold recipes or serve as a photo journal. Members who did not take the class worked on personal projects and hand-crafted cards. Attendees took a break from paper crafting at midday for lunch and desserts. Anyone interested in papercrafts, cardmaking or scrapbooking can join the club in the Beardsley center's Agave Room on Wednesday (4-9 p.m. through the end of May), Thursday (9 a.m.-3 p.m.), Friday (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) and Saturday (9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Call Kristi Bibbee, club president, at 803-207-0102, visit scrapbooking.scwclubs.com or email scwscrapbook@gmail.com for more information. (Submitted photo/Christina Hecht)



CLUB MEMBERS DISPLAY WORK AT SHOW AND TELL

By their size alone, quilts dominated May's show and tell at Rip 'N' Sew. Twenty club members attended the monthly event, 16 of them with items to display. And seven quilts were unfurled. Other items shown at the Sun City West club were purses, a tote with six pockets, a collapsible bowl and numerous small items. The latter included quilted eyeglass cases, coasters, hot pad trivet, wall hangings, neck cooler and cord wrappers. The next show and tell at Rip 'N' Sew will begin 11 a.m. June 1 on the upper level of the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center. Pictured, Lynn Craig sewed this brightly colored quilt for an event at her church, and Shari Jones machine-embroidered the patterns on this colorful quilt. (Submitted photos/ Gary Reynolds)

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH

7:30 AM

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- Patient rights across a variety of care settings
- Understanding available Veteran services
- Difference between home health, home care, and case management
- Advocating for yourself and loved ones
- Navigating hospitals, rehab facilities, and medical offices
- Practical tools to make informed decisions

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Marla Peters, Michelle Tissot and Leal Maloney having a strategy session. (Submitted photo/Marla Peters)

Pickleball Club introduces publicity team

When the Pickleball Club in Sun City West reorganized under new leadership 18 months ago, it needed a new publicity team to share its renewed mission with the community. Three multigenerational members — previously strangers — came together to serve the club's 2,000 members by promoting the club's social side, including classes, tournaments and events, and showcasing its volunteer work and charitable giving.

Before joining the Pickleball Club publicity team, Marla Peters managed the print publicity for the Glass Fusing and Westernaires Chorus clubs. When the chance to help the Pickleball Club arose, she gladly joined.

Peters studied retail merchandising and theater arts at SDSU and has written short stories, poetry and song lyrics. Her father was a newspaper man and a technical writer, so returning to writing helps her honor his legacy. She also enjoys the team's creative and collaborative process.

Michelle Tissot earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and public

relations from ASU and a master's in creative writing from Prescott College. In spring 2025, club president John Click invited her to help share club news in local newspapers, and she quickly accepted. She enjoys collaborating with the team's other creative members.

Leal Maloney majored in English and once planned to teach high school but instead built a 30-plus-year career in advertising, marketing and brand management. There she strengthened her customer service and writing skills through proposals, executive summaries and training materials.

She has also edited books, websites, resumes and LinkedIn profiles. Encouraged by fellow club member Cynthia Baumhover, she brought those skills to the publicity team. Because Maloney values volunteering and community service, the role was a natural fit.

Members of the club who would like to join this publicity team, or anyone wanting more information on how to join the club, can visit scwpickleballclub.com.



APRIL ACES

Desert Trails Ladies Golf has named its April aces: Darla Brewer, low net 47, and Barb Lacrosse, low gross 68. (Submitted photo)



SILVERCRAFT WEST THANKS PRESIDENT FOR SERVICE

SilverCraft West members recently surprised outgoing president Ron Petrin (center) with a gift to thank him for his time and dedication to the club. Former president Kathy Estes (left) presented the gift while incoming president Mary Jo Tucker (right) joined in celebrating Petrin's leadership and many contributions to the club. (Submitted photo/SilverCraft West)



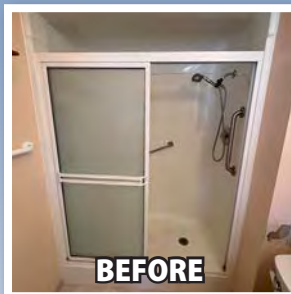
SUN CITY WEST HIKERS HEAD TO MORRISTOWN

Eight Sun City West hikers enjoyed the early morning temperatures May 14 while hiking the Maricopa Trail by the Waddell Dam in Morristown. The out and back hike was 4.73 miles with an elevation change of 311 feet and 545 feet of total gain. The total time was two hours and 35 minutes with a "move time" of two hours and 10 minutes for an average of 27.5 minutes per mile. Hikers included Barb Miller, David Stringham, Michael Weingarten, Julie Szafraniec, John Mitchell, Jeanette Martin, Fred Preston and Michael Anenen. Not pictured is Barb Miller, photographer of the day. (Submitted photo/Barb Miller)

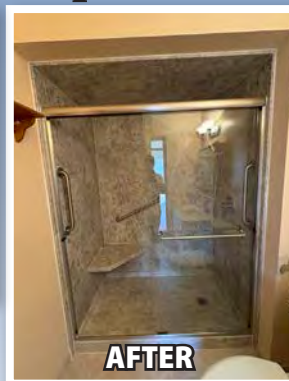
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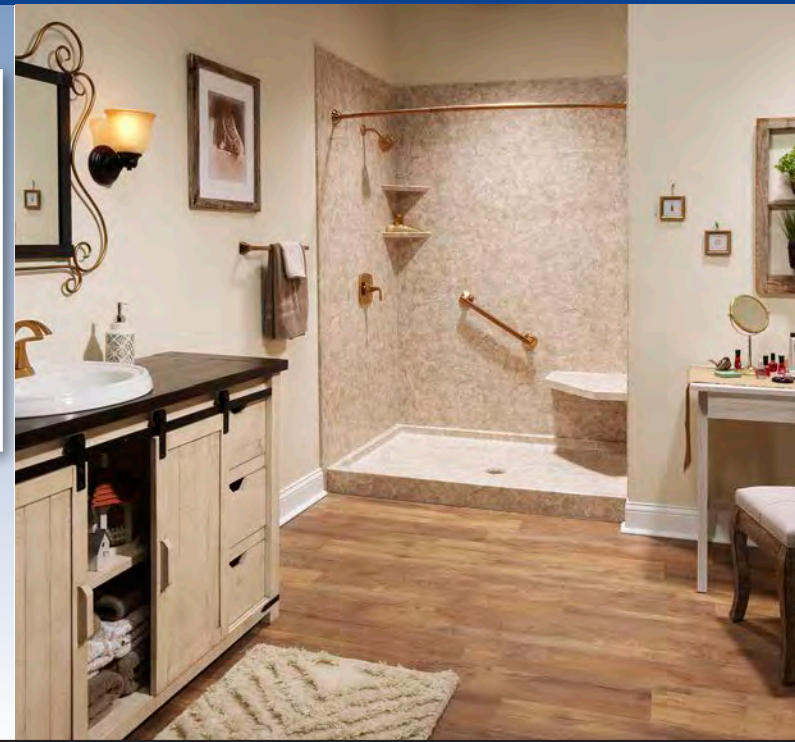
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SCORES

GOLF

Desert Trails Ladies Golf

April 28

Flight 1 Low Gross B. LaCrosse 68 Low Net D. Craig 56
Flight 2 Low Gross D. Savage 75 Low Net K. Davis, J. Hollenbeck 56
Flight 3 Low Gross L. Vandever 72 Low Net L. Giebelhaus 53
Flight 4 Low Gross K. Backman 80 Low Net R. Keeley 58
Flight 5 Low Gross K. Carter 86 Low Net D. Bytwork 58
Flight 6 Low Gross B. Andrus 82 Low Net J. Frey 53
Flight 7 Low Gross D. Brewer 83 Low Net J. Martin 51
Flight 8 Low Gross J. Reynen 97 Low Net Karen Byers 57
Flight 9 Low Gross P. Barnsley, B. Suddeth 98 Low Net C. LaFontaine 60
Nine Hole Golfers
Low Gross E. Burke 40
Low Net M. Zanon 26

Echo Mesa Women's Golf Club

April 28

High - Low
Flt. 1 16 - 27 Gross Net
Sue Carstens 36 23.5
Sally Hamill 37 27
Jane Landstra 38 27.5
Flt. 2 28 - 32
Stacy Hoenig 36 22
Linda Geyer 39 24.5
Janet Eriksson 39 25
Flt. 3 33 - 44
Barb Martin 43 23.5
Colleen Zarate 43 25
Bonita Nielsen 43 26
Combo Tees
Judy Keller 45 31
Nine Holes

Kay Grossman 43
Jeanne Pribnow 49

DT winners

April 29

1st flight: (Handicaps 5-17)
Steve Wolf (Low Gross) 64 Richard VanVulkenburg (Low Net) 56
Bob Carlson, Mike Anenen and John Evans (Tied at 57)
Mike Dmitriev and Burton Murray (Tied at 58)
2nd flight: (Handicaps 18-20)
Steve Guthrie (Low Gross) 70 Dave Letsche (Low Net) 53
Ky Slickers-54 Bill Dulski-55 Mike Wright-56 John Mollenkamp-58
3rd flight: (Handicaps 21-30)
Fred Preston (Low Gross) 74 Steve Taylor (Low Net) 51
Dave Bennett-53 Randy Giedt, Jim Meier and John Plum (Tied at 58)

Tom Best-59
Closest to the pin on #5 - Steve Wolf
Closest to the pin on #16 - Robert Pape

Echo Mesa Women's Golf Club

May 5

Low Gross/Low Net
Flt. 1 16 - 28 Gross Net
Low Gross
Sally Hamill 68
Low Net
Valerie Carter 49
Linda Geyer 50
Carolyn Lopez 52
Flt. 2 28 - 32
Low Gross
ReNae Keuck 79
Low Net
Bonita Nielsen 49
Karen Huss 50
Carol Weinberg 52
Nine Holes

Jeanne Pribnow 54

Desert Trails Ladies Golf

May 5

Flight 1 Low Gross Donna Craig 71 Low Net C. Ellis, K. Seiler, K. Warren 55
Flight 2 Low Gross K. Davis 75 Low Gross B. Pendergrass 55
Flight 3 Low Gross M. Adler 75 Low Gross R. Keeley 51
Flight 4 Low Gross D. Bytwork 81 Low Net S. Anderson 51
Flight 5 Low Gross C. Comer 82 Low Gross C. Wendling 53
Flight 6 Low Gross D. James 91 Low Net T. HANARHAN 47
Nine Hole Golfers
Low Gross 46
Low Net 29

GAMES

Monday Bridge Results — May 18

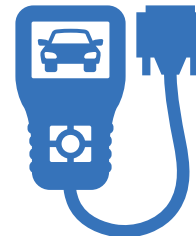
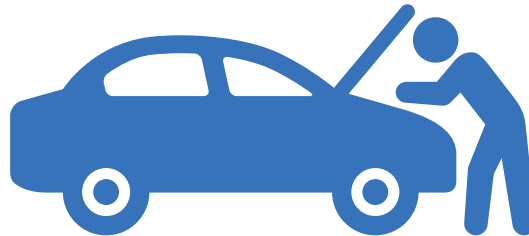
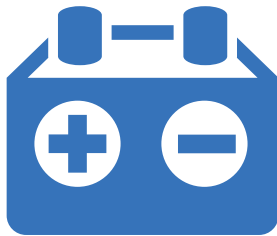
1st place - Barb Carl and Bill Cooper
2nd place - Dianne Wyethrich and Mary Lou Hindal
3rd place - Mary Kiewel and Shirley Hughes
4th place - Rod Scrivener and Margaret Beach
Small Slams: Barb Carl and Bill Cooper, Sharon Riebe and Hal Norris

SCWCBC Tuesday Division Bridge

May 19

1 Corinne Bailiff 4260
2 Bonnie Mattraw 4140
3 Rita Hughes 3900
4 Faye Liebling 3830
5 Mary Vraney 3810
Small Slam(s): Pauline Maxwell and John Hood

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Sun City West • October 28, 2026 • SCW Foundation Center

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CHURCH SLATES PATRIOTIC EVENT

The community is invited to celebrate Independence Day with a morning of free patriotic music, food and fellowship Sunday, July 5, at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd. The concert will kick off at 11:30 a.m., featuring the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Arizona Band in Fellowship Hall. As part of the celebration, the church choir — joined by community singers and accompanied by a brass quartet under the direction of music director Ken Goodenberger — will present a rendition of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” during the morning worship service at 10 a.m. Following the concert, guests are invited to stay for a free lunch. Call 623- 584-2280 to sign up. (Submitted photo/Luna Lorenzano)



CLUB ENJOYS HANDS-ON CREATION

Founding member Judy Ross feels the biggest change to the Artistic Hand Lettering, Cards & Mixed Media club, since its founding, is the introduction of technology into card making, mixed media, scrapbooking, etc. While she feels the option of using technology is wonderful and makes it much quicker, easier and even more professional looking, “Nothing breathes life into lettering like your own hand.” This can be writing a message inside a card or using artistic hand lettering to decorate a mixed media project. Ross also referenced YouTube videos, which she also uses when looking for inspiration. The club meets in the Kuentz Center’s Pueblo Room, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays and Fridays and 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays. Contact Dottie Schmit (602-758-9854) or Kat McGinnis (480-806-8053), visit artistichandlettering.scwclubs.com or email ahlcandmm@gmail.com for more information. Membership is \$10 annually. Pictured, Kat McGinnis and Susan Manser make a Staggered Z-fold Card. (Submitted photo/Melanie Harrison)



PA CLUB GATHERS FOR MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

The Pennsylvania Club recently held a member appreciation picnic in Sun City West. There were burgers, hot dogs, sides, salads and desserts served for the 38 members in attendance. The club continues to meet throughout the summer. Anyone with an affiliation to Pennsylvania can email paclubaz@gmail.com for more information. (Submitted photo/Toni Fitzgerald)

CLUBS

Meet a Sun City West Mac-Cro-Knitter

Mary Lisowski recently loom-knitted her 200th baby hat. She purchases onesies and creates a coordinated loom-knit hat for each one, with the sets then donated to Banner Hospital.

How long have you been a member of the Mac-Cro-Knit? I've been a member for a little over two years.

What brought you to the club? I was invited to join MCK by a friend who is a member of the club. We are in another club together and in talking, she learned I was a knitter who hadn't knitted in several years and was looking to start back up. She invited me to come and see what MCK was all about.

What do you enjoy most about being a member? I enjoy the fun and friendship of the members. It's so nice to get together with ladies that share the same interests. Seeing the accomplishments of fellow crafters is so encouraging.

How long have you been knitting/loom-knitting? I started knitting about 20 years ago and began loom-knitting when I joined the club about two years ago. I never heard of loom-knitting before I joined the club and now do a majority of my projects for charity on the loom.

What do you enjoy making the most? My favorite things to knit are items for babies. I worked at a children's hospital and always had a soft spot in my heart for the little ones that I took care of.

What makes Mac-Cro-Knit special? MCK is special to me because from day one, I have felt welcome, encouraged and like I have been a member of this great group of women for years. Each mem-



Mary Lisowski (Submitted photo/Lisa Capriotti)

ber has special talents and are willing to share with fellow members and our community.

How does it feel to donate handmade items to others? Donating handmade items shows more than time and talent. It shows love for the craft and the love that goes into each stitch for lovely pieces we create.

Mac-Cro-Knit meets 8-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Kuentz center's Pueblo Room #3. Call club president Connie Ottemann at 402-499-1681 for more information.



TEACHER-STUDENT STAYS BUSY

In a one-month period, Denise Bryan taught three Rip 'N' Sew classes and was a student in a fourth class. She taught "twisted table runner," "little purse pin cushion" and "sunflower wall hanging" and took a wired frame purse class. She liked that class and its purse so much she made a second such purse at home the next day. Bryan also serves on the club's hospitality committee. With their appliqued sunflower wall hangings are, from left, Eva Weisberg, Robyn Reynolds, Bryan, Jolene Piaskowski and Linda Logan. (Submitted photo/Valerie Holliday)

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INDEPENDENT
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POLICE REPORTS

Editor's Note: The following information is obtained from Maricopa County Sheriff's Office District 3. This column lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons listed here who are later found not guilty are welcome to inform the Independent by calling 623-972-6101.

MAY 12

- A fight was reported 5:58 p.m. in the 11300 block of West Tennessee Avenue.
- Civil action was reported 1:24 p.m. in the 15000 block of North 72nd Drive.
- Trespassing was reported 1:31 p.m. int eh 13500 block of West Camino Del Sol.
- A stolen vehicle was reported 10:47 a.m. in the 17000 block of North Boswell Boulevard.
- A stolen vehicle was reported 9:57 a.m. at the intersection of North Crozier Road and North Center Street.
- Neighbor trouble was reported 8:24 a.m. in

the 12400 block of North 111th Drive.

MAY 13

- Criminal damage was reported 9:25 p.m. int eh 15000 block of West Deer Valley Drive.
- An assault with a deadly weapon was reported 4:52 p.m. int he 13600 block of North 99th Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 3:35 p.m. in the 17000 block of West Puget Avenue.
- A theft was reported 9:36 a.m. in the 10000 block of North 156th Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 6:32 a.m. at the intersection of West Aleppo Drive and North R.H. Johnson Boulevard.

MAY 14

- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 4:21 p.m. at the intersection of West Thunderbird Boulevard and North 103rd Avenue.

- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 5:42 p.m. at the intersection of North 107th Avenue and West Sun City Boulevard.
- A suspicious person and vehicle was reported 2:34 p.m. in the 11100 block of West Oregon Avenue.
- An assault was reported 11:19 a.m. int eh 12500 block of West Paintbrush Drive.
- A theft was reported 11 a.m. in the 10600 block of West Coggins Drive.
- A fraud or con game was reported 7:45 a.m. in the 12600 block of North 111th Drive.
- A burglary was reported 6:30 a.m. in the 11400 block of North Blue Ridge Drive.

MAY 15

- A theft was reported 1:08 p.m. in the 10400 block of West Thunderbird Boulevard.
- A civil action was reported 9:56 a.m. int eh 14600 block of West Windcrest Drive.
- A fire was reported 2:37 a.m. int eh 19400

block of North Star Ridge Drive.

MAY 16

- Prostitution was reported 10:15 p.m. at the intersection of North 111th Drive and West Michigan Avenue.

MAY 17

- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 6:03 p.m. int eh 12000 block of North 112th Drive.
- An assault was reported 6:04 p.m. in the 11500 block of West Schleifer Drive.
- A stolen vehicle was reported 4:15 p.m. in the 13600 block of North Silverbell Drive.
- A theft was reported 1:38 p.m. in the 10600 block of Northwest US60 Grand Avenue.
- A fraud or con game was reported 7:49 a.m. in the 12500 block of West Paintbrush Drive.
- A theft was reported 8:18 p.m. in the 10700 block of West Venturi Drive.



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Mens Prayer Time: Thurs 7:30am / Men's Bible Study: Thurs 9:30am

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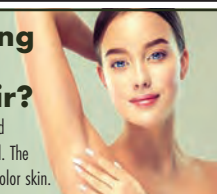
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Be a Civility Advocate!



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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