

Bowling

Shipping delays push pinsetter project back to mid-July; 3

Fitness

Badminton offers physical activity, friendship; 8



INDEPENDENT

July 8, 2026 Volume 66 Issue 27

Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Resident raises concerns during emergency incidents

AFMA officials say 'steer it and clear it' when it comes to minor accidents

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

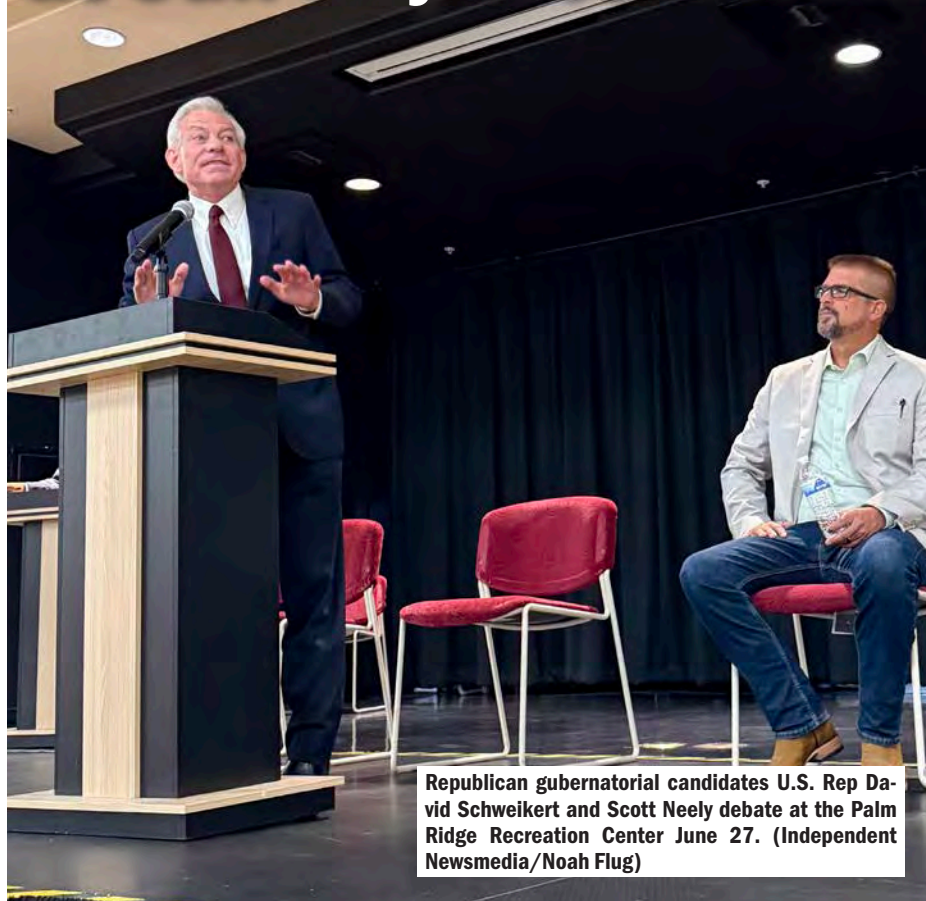
The common misconception when a vehicle collision occurs is to keep the vehicle in the exact place of the incident. However, Arizona Fire & Medical Authority officials suggest "steer it and clear it."

Deputy Chief Kane Nixon said if the accident is a minor fender-bender, nobody is seriously injured and the vehicles can still safely drive, then it should be moved.

"Carefully move the cars out of the travel lanes to the shoulder, a median, or a nearby parking lot. Leaving drivable vehicles in the middle of a roadway dramatically increases the risk of a secondary, much worse chain-reaction crash, and it creates massive traffic backups that delay our emergency ve-

• See **Emergency** on page 5

Biggs absent as GOP gubernatorial candidates clash at Sun City West forum



Republican gubernatorial candidates U.S. Rep David Schweikert and Scott Neely debate at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center June 27. (Independent Newsmedia/Noah Flug)

By Noah Flug
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Arizona's Republican gubernatorial primary took center stage June 27 as candidates Scott Neely and U.S. Rep. David Schweikert debated before a crowd of more than 100 Sun City and Sun City West residents, while frontrunner U.S. Rep. Andy Biggs skipped the event and instead addressed attendees through a prerecorded video.

The forum at Palm Ridge Recreation Center was originally scheduled to feature all three Republican candidates. Biggs did not attend, with campaign staffer Grant Steiber citing a "scheduling conflict" and declining further comment. His campaign instead submitted a prerecorded video that was played for the audience.

Biggs' absence quickly became an issue during the forum, with both Neely and Schweikert suggesting the congressman was avoiding a live debate.

"Andy Biggs didn't show up today because he doesn't want to face me in a forum where my microphone is not

• See **Debate** on page 9

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L-Deer Valley, R-Executive Way, L-Black Gold Ln.

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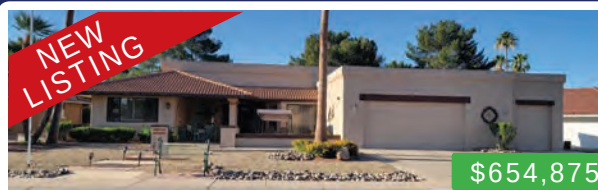
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R-Sunglow Dr. which becomes Eveningside Dr.

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R-151st., L-Corral, R-Mazatlán Dr. to home



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

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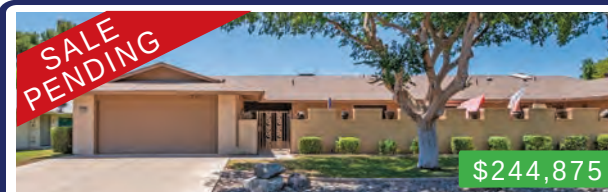
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Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, L-Trial Ridge, L- White Rock Dr

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!



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!





The pinsetter project at the Sports Pavilion continues in Sun City West. (Submitted photo/Jeff Skocelas/ Courtesy of RCSCW)

Shipping delays push pinsetter project back to mid-July

Partial reopening is expected

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The 30 bowling lanes inside the Sports Pavilion have been closed since April as pinsetters on all the lanes, which have been in place for more than 20 years, are replaced.

Half of the new pinsetting machines were delivered and installation began, which is expected to be completed in early July. However, Brunswick has informed Recreation Centers of Sun City West officials the remaining pinsetters will be delayed.

Due to shipping delays, the remaining pinsetters are not expected until mid-July and according to association officials, the completion date for the project will also be pushed back until August. This also allows for time to install the machines after arrival.

At this time, there is no additional update on the project, according to General Services Officer Katy O'Grady.

On the association's Facebook page, Diana Jamison posted stating

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What is your opinion on this issue?

Send letters, 300 words or less, to
jjimenez@iniusa.org.

she was happy for the updates that have been provided.

Due to the delay, there will be no summer league this year because half of the lanes will not be available until August, but league play will return in the fall.

The partial reopening will be announced, and the remaining lanes will be barricaded off.

The press release from association officials stated, "The Recreation Centers of Sun City West appreciates members' patience, understanding and cooperation during this project and look forward to seeing bowlers back at the Sports Pavilion during the partial reopening and the full reopening later this summer."

The first part of this project, according to Recreation Centers of Sun

• See **Pins** on page 4

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Sun City West Republican Club to host US congressman

The Sun City West Republican Club is hosting a meeting 9 a.m. Saturday, July 11, at Church on the Green, 19051 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Social time begins at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts available. The meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. Paid-up members are admitted without a donation.

A \$3 donation will be accepted at the door from non-members, which helps pay for the room rental.

July featured speakers will include:

• Abe Hamadeh, US congressman 8th District, candidate for re-election

• Justin Heap, Maricopa County recorder

• Katherine Haley, candidate for Arizona treasurer

All Republicans and Independents from the Sun Cities and surrounding areas are welcome to attend SCW Republican Club meetings.

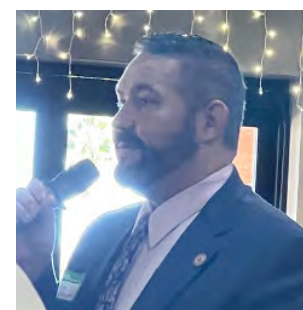
For more information, go to scwrepublicans.com.



Katherine Haley is a candidate for Arizona treasurer. (Submitted Photo/SCW Republican Club)



Abe Hamadeh is running for re-election for Arizona's 8th district. (Submitted Photo/SCW Republican Club)



Maricopa County Recorder Justin Heap. (Submitted Photo/SCW Republican Club)

Pins

• From page 3

City West officials, included disassembling the pin elevators which sit behind each lane, followed by the pinsetters. Full removal of the old units must occur before installing the

new equipment, which is the reason for the full closure of Johnson Lanes.

Brunswick delivered equipment in shipping containers on May 7 and May 28. This project originally was planned with keeping half the lanes open, but the systematic way it is being done makes it more challenging

than just throwing them into the garbage. Sports Pavilion Manager Gary Zarick said the old equipment was sold for \$66,000 to Strikers East in New Hampshire. Zarick also said in the budget are synthetic pins that are approximately \$18,239 a case for 77 sets of them, and he is hopeful to get three years

instead of two out of them.

There is no guarantee, but the Brunswick result test shows three years of life.

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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FROM THE COVER



Sun City West resident Angie Jones captured this photo of a car accident near the intersection of Camino del Sol and Spanish Gardens. (Submitted photo/Angie Jones)

Emergency

• From page 1

hicles from getting to other critical calls," he explained.

Moving to safety doesn't change who was at fault, but it absolutely keeps everyone safer, he added.

If residents are involved in a traffic accident, it depends on where the vehicle comes to rest, but the default rule of thumb is if the car is in the middle of a busy roadway it is generally much safer

staying inside it with your seatbelt buckled until emergency services arrives, Nixon said.

He described the vehicle as a multi-ton shield equipped with airbags and crumple zones.

"The moment you step out onto a busy street, you become an unprotected pedestrian exposed to passing traffic. Now, there are two major exceptions. If your vehicle is on fire, or if you've managed to safely pull completely off the roadway onto a wide shoulder or a nearby parking

lot, then it makes sense to exit carefully and move to a safe sidewalk or grassy area," said Nixon.

Individuals stuck in a lane of traffic should stay there, turn on the hazard lights and wait for the big fire apparatus to block the traffic.

Sun City West resident Angie Jones said she is concerned with the way drivers approach accident scenes and think some are posing more of a risk.

When approaching an accident, Nixon

• See **Concern** on page 12

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John Goolsby, from Shepherd of the Hills, Roger Quan, Sun City West Posse, Deborah Gentry from Shepherd of the Hills and Sun City West Posse Cmdr. Carolyn Patterson gather together for the \$4,000 donation from the church. (Submitted photo/Shepherd of the Hills)

Shepherd of the Hills donates \$4,000 to Sun City West Posse

As Arizona temperatures continue to soar, staying hydrated can be more than just good advice because it can save lives.

Recognizing the increased risk of heat-related illness during the summer months, the congregation at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church has donated \$4,000 to the Sun City West Posse to help provide bottled water, electrolyte hydration packets and insulated cooling totes for community members who may be vulnerable to extreme heat.

Health experts recommend drinking water before feeling thirsty, aiming for at least 64 to 80 ounces of water each day, with an additional 24 to 30 ounces per hour when spending time outdoors. Many residents and visitors venture outside for yard work, shopping, recreation or other activities without bringing enough water.

To help meet this need, members of the Sun City West Posse carry insulated cooling bags stocked with bottled water while patrolling neighborhoods and shopping areas, allow-

ing them to offer immediate relief to individuals who may be experiencing heat distress. The posse headquarters is designated by Maricopa County as an official hydration center where anyone can stop in for water and flavored electrolyte hydration packets.

While many of the posse's hydration supplies are provided through the United Way, additional community support helps ensure these lifesaving resources remain available throughout the hottest months of the year.

"Our community is strongest when neighbors care for one another," said Pastor Deborah Lerner from Shepherd of the Hills. "We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Sun City West Posse in helping keep our neighbors safe, healthy, and hydrated during Arizona's challenging summer season."

This donation reflects Shepherd of the Hills' ongoing commitment to serving the wider community through practical acts of compassion and support, helping local organizations meet real needs and improve the quality of life for residents across the West Valley.



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Badminton offers residents physical activity, friendship

Welcoming players of all levels

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Two years ago the Sun City West Racquetball, Whisperball and Badminton Club had dwindling membership numbers, but many residents were looking for racquet options indoors.

Sun City West resident Jan Bowden began playing badminton in the community two years ago and brought along some friends from the pickleball club.

"It was just the five us taking over the badminton group, and I keep recruiting as many people as possible," she said.

She said this group includes male and female players from beginners to experienced players.

There are about 30 members participating in badminton, and about 10 of those are winter visitors.

Bowden said as a former high school physical education teacher, she was familiar with badminton and knew it was something they could do when temperatures were over 100 degrees.

"This is another way for us to cross-train and do something different. When you make the change from pickleball to badminton you have to get use to the length of the racket," she explained.

For the most part, she said people catch on right away.

Carol Bowden is Jan's sister who has lived in Sun City West since 2005 and is also playing badminton.

"We played backyard badminton, and this is a lifelong sport to learn,"

• See **Badminton** on page 14



Members of the Racquetball, Whisperball and Badminton Club gather to play badminton games on a Saturday in June. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

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FROM THE COVER

Debate

• From page 1

mutated,” Neely said.

Schweikert struck a similar tone, telling the audience, “You’ve got to show up at every group like this. You show up everywhere and you earn it.”

In his prerecorded remarks, Biggs centered his campaign on Arizona’s affordability crisis, calling it “the loss of the American dream.”

“Young people going out, they don’t think they can afford to buy a home these days,” Biggs said. “And we need to make sure that they can, because that’s when they get on the ladder. They build families, they form families, which preserves our history.”

He argued that Arizona should reduce its dependence on California fuel by bringing additional pipelines from Texas into the state, saying lower fuel prices would ripple through the broader state economy. Biggs also blamed Gov. Katie Hobbs’ housing policies for increasing home prices and said Arizona should expand its housing supply.

Biggs highlighted his experience in state government and Congress, saying he knows “how to get things done.”

“I know how to work with people across the aisle,” he said, citing legislative work with Democratic leaders including Hakeem Jeffries, Pramila Jayapal and Jerry Nadler.

Neely, making his second run for governor, focused heavily on education, skilled trades and housing affordability.

“I’m the candidate who’s going to bring back trade schools, wood shop, metal shop, vocational training,” Neely said. “We’re going to cut the college budgets 30%. We’re going to have a carve-out for trades.”

He argued artificial intelligence will eliminate many white-collar jobs over the next decade and said Arizona

na should prepare students for skilled labor careers instead.

Neely also proposed eliminating property taxes for Arizona residents 65 and older, calling it overdue relief for longtime taxpayers.

“Sixty-five plus will not pay property tax under my administration. Period.”

The candidate repeatedly attacked Biggs throughout the forum, urging voters to examine what he called the “Biggs Files” on his campaign website.

“I want to point out the Biggs Files,” Neely said. “It’s his voting record. ... There are other things there too, and it’s quite alarming.”

Schweikert emphasized his record in Congress and argued Arizona’s affordability problem has become the state’s defining issue.

“We’re in rough shape,” Schweikert said. “Over 45th in affordability. In the last two years, wages have gone down in Arizona. Our working middle class is getting poorer here.”

He outlined proposals to lower prescription drug prices, streamline state permitting through artificial intelligence and modernize government operations.

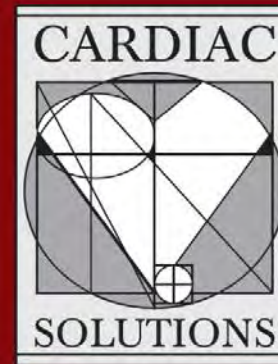
“We have the technology,” Schweikert said, arguing permit reviews that now take months could eventually be completed in minutes.

Schweikert also devoted attention to Arizona’s long-term water supply, describing it as a management challenge rather than an immediate short-age.

Closing the debate, Schweikert argued that Republicans face a pivotal election.

“As of a month ago, there are now more Independents in Arizona than there are Republicans,” he said. “If we do not win the Independents, we are in dark, dark and troubled times.”

Primary Election Day is July 21.



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OPINION

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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.

Constitution requires postal service to deliver ballots

The current administration in Washington, D.C. appears to have no boundaries when it comes to attacking our rights as citizens of the United States. With the backing of our Arizona Congressional 8 Rep. Abe Hamadeh, they want to deprive many of us to our right to vote.

The latest, and illegal, attack is the threat to not allow the U.S. Postal Service to deliver ballots that are cast through the postal system in states which do not adhere to the latest directive by the president to follow his order to restrict time limits he has ordered as to when these ballots can be mailed and/or accepted by those states.

Elections are, according to the Constitution, to be conducted and regulated by the individual states, and not dictated by the whims of this incompetent and corrupt scion of late night social media.

The U.S. Postal Service is a respected and very well-run organization and has for over 200 years been our most reliable government institution. Americans have always put their trust in the postal service to do their duty.

Sadly, the same cannot be said the same for the current administration.

If postal service employees willfully and deliberately delay and/or withhold delivery of mail they are guilty of breaking federal laws and subject to prosecution.

At this point in Trump's second term in office, I think it might be time to question not only his knowledge of the Constitution, but maybe we should be taking a closer look at his oft repeated claims of outstanding cognitive ability.

Philip Eller
SUN CITY WEST

LETTERS

**Please send your comments to
AzOpinions@iniusa.org.**

We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

Why we love living in Sun City West

My name is Roberto. My wife and I absolutely enjoy living here in Sun City West. We enjoy everything about our home, our wonderful neighbors, plus all the activities offered in our new neighborhood.

I enjoy walking every day, even in the heat. During the first two weeks after moving in, one year ago, I planned my walking route. I decided to stop and check out numerous facilities, clubs, businesses and two recreation centers along my route.

I felt great when everyone in these places was friendly and said "welcome." Everyone except one, where a man only asked who I was looking for or if I was looking for the bathroom. I walked out!

Within the first two months, we joined tours of the four recreation centers and they were wonderful and informative. Every club leader welcomed us and invited us to come back.

This first year of living here has been marvelous because of the people who have made us feel welcome.

I wish I could mention and thank some of these people who have helped make this year extra special, but I will do it in person.

Roberto Calderon
SUN CITY WEST

Corporation Commission members aren't our friends

In the world of utility rate cases, the main players are the utility companies and the Arizona Corporation Commission, the ACC. After careful review of the pros and cons of the application, the final determination is made by the ACC.

A recent letter by Jim Scanlan in the Independent, EPCOR's rate hikes unacceptable, is spot on regarding the proposed hike of 20% for Sun City West.

Remember the wastewater rate case a few years ago? We thought our proposal of a three-tiered system: Residential, industrial and commercial, would keep the Sun City West wastewater rate increase at about 9% instead of the proposed 20% increase. Well surprise, surprise, not only did commissioners agree with the three-tiered system, they increased our rate by 20% in favor of the utility!

As Mr. Scanlan noted, two of the commissioners that voted for the outrageous 20% hike are now on the ballot for reelection. Commissioners Myers and Thompson are not our friends.

David Hunter
SUN CITY WEST

Photoshoot raises questions about Hamadeh

As a resident of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I was embarrassed to see Congressman Abe Hamadeh recently become the subject of national ridicule.

National media outlets mocked a series of highly staged photographs from Hamadeh's congressional office that looked more like a fashion shoot than the workplace of a

• See **Letters** on page 11

COMMUNITY FUND IS READY TO HELP

Residents worried about the rising cost of utilities this summer or if an individual cannot pay their APS bill this month and a mortgage, may get help from the Community Fund of Sun City West. Call the hotline at 623-546-1122, leave a detailed message and a volunteer will call you back. Residents who have lived in Sun City West for over one year and meet other financial qualifications can get help. Information is always confidential. The organization continues its mission to provide a safety net for local neighbors facing unexpected hardships. Founded in 1982, this all-volunteer, non-profit charity operates with no paid staff, no office and minimal expenses. Donations go directly toward supporting the vulnerable members of the community. Residents wishing to donate can mail a check to Community Fund of SCW, 13940 W. Meeker Blvd., #115, PMB 613, Sun City West, AZ 85375. Visit communityfundsuncitywest.org



Letters

• From page 10

member of Congress.

Rather than drawing attention to his work on behalf of Arizona, Hamadeh generated headlines that raised serious concerns about his judgment and priorities.

Unfortunately, this was not an isolated incident.

Over the past year, his official social-media presence has repeatedly produced distractions ranging from peculiar photo opportunities and questionable intern content to posts that appear designed to attract attention rather than inform constituents.

At the same time, comments are frequently blocked or restricted on his official congressional Facebook page, preventing constituents from publicly responding to much of the content he publishes.

Residents of AZ-08 deserve to be known for our communities, businesses, military veterans, retirees, workers and families — not for becoming the latest source of internet mockery.

Whether one agrees with Congressman Hamadeh's politics or not, surely we can agree that the goal of a congressional office should be effective public service, not social media stunts.

Arizona faces serious challenges. Residents of AZ-08 deserve a

representative focused on solving problems and exercising the sound judgment required of a member of Congress.

As voters evaluate who deserves to represent AZ-08 in the future, they should ask themselves a simple question: Is this the judgment, seriousness and leadership they expect from a member of Congress?

Anne Whitmore
SUN CITY WEST

This writer is using a pen name. Congressional District 8 includes parts of Glendale, Peoria, north Phoenix, Sun City, Sun City West and Surprise.

Why I'm no longer spending money in nearby Surprise

I live near Surprise. I shop, dine out, take visitors to baseball games and enjoy the arts in Surprise.

I am disappointed that Surprise would host a concentration camp (the regional U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement intake and processing facility that is coming to Surprise).

I am discouraged at the apathy of my neighbors.

The true outsider, in my opinion, is Turning Point USA, with its undue influence on the city administration.

I will take my money elsewhere.

Skip Porter
SUN CITY WEST

This writer is using a pen name.

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FROM THE COVER

Concern

• From page 5

said slow down and if at all possible, avoid the area entirely. In fact, he said driving “as normal” past emergency scene is incredibly dangerous. In addition, if individuals hear of a blocked intersection, he said taking a different route is helpful because it keeps the perimeter clear so fire engines, ambulances and police cars can maneuver quickly.

“The absolute best way passing drivers and pedestrians can help us is by focusing entirely on their own safety and giving us the room to do our jobs. I know our community is incredibly caring, and people naturally want to see if they can lend a hand, which is a beautiful trait of Sun City West. But an active emergency scene is a complex, high-risk work zone,” he explained.

The exceptions are if individuals are directly involved or have a specific medical skill and witnessed the crash.

“Arizona law requires drivers to exercise caution whenever they approach a stationary vehicle displaying flashing or warning lights,” MCSO Sgt. Joaquin Enriquez stated in an email. The best thing a driver can do is change lanes to move away from a vehicle on the side of the road. However, should this not be possible, it is acceptable to maintain a safe speed under Arizona’s Move Over Law. “This law helps protect law enforcement (MCSO) firefighters, EMS personnel and stranded motorists who may be working or standing near moving traffic,” Enriquez stated. He added that personal safety is the number one priority should someone witness a crash. After that, she advised to call 911 if there are “injuries, vehicles blocking traffic, fire or other hazards.”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What is your opinion on this issue?

Send letters, 300 words or less, to jjimenez@iniusa.org.

When calling 911, individuals should provide the location, number of vehicles involved, any injuries and immediate danger. Enriquez added that people should not place themselves in danger trying to help others unless it is “an immediate life threatening emergency and it can be done safely.

“Unless you are trained to provide emergency medical care, please avoid moving injured persons unless they are in immediate danger, such as from fire or oncoming traffic,” she stated. “Witnesses often provide valuable information that helps MCSO accurately determine what occurred. However, the public should avoid interfering with investigations or remaining at the scene longer than necessary once their information has been provided.”

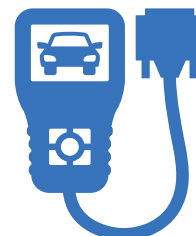
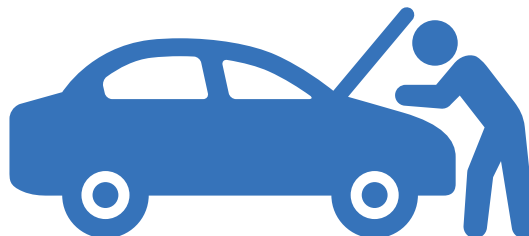
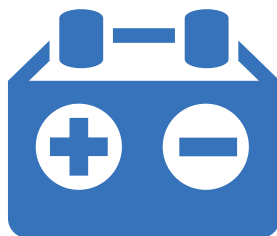
Nixon said residents can protect emergency personnel by treating their workspace with the same caution as a high-risk construction zone. Put cell phones away, eliminate distractions inside your car and pay close attention to the firefighters or police officers who are directing traffic.

In addition, drivers should never drive over a fire hose lying across the road. Nixon said it is an absolute lifeline for putting out fires and protecting crews.

“If the community focuses on protecting us, we can focus 100% of our energy on the emergency,” he added.

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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PICKLEBALL



Pattie Carberry, Marla Peters, Paula Amaya and John Sears test their skills on the indoor court. (Submitted photo/Michelle Tissot)

Club experiences indoor pickleball

More than 100 members of the Sun City West Pickleball Club accepted an exclusive invitation from Center Court Pickleball in Glendale for a day of free indoor pickleball.

The experience included pizza and soft drinks along with full access to the facility and pro shop. Many participants expressed how wonderful it was to enjoy air conditioning, to play on high quality courts and be able to comfortably watch friends

play from the lounge and social areas.

"I'm really grateful that Center Court was so gracious in opening up their facility for us so we can experience what indoor pickleball is like. What fun we all had!" said Tom Bortorf, club member. "And it's really great that they're offering some special deals to our Club too."

For information about joining the Sun City West Pickleball Club visit scwpickleballclub.com/contact-us.

Badminton

• From page 8

she said.

Tracking the birdie in this sport can also be challenging to learn according to Carol, because the ball goes up and then straight down because it is weighted. She said it is a fun sport and there are different skills to learn, but anyone who plays will get a lot of activity. Carol said getting to know the group and playing with friends makes it easy to learn.

Pattie Carberry is new to the sport and club and has been playing for five months. She saw the club promotion on a flyer and thought it would be a good opportunity since she cannot play pickleball anymore, due to a knee injury.

"I can play this because it is walking and mostly staying in one area and just reaching with your

racket, while your partner plays in the other area," she said.

Carberry said it is good physical activity and also improves her strength reaching down to grab the birdie. She said the people are what makes the experience so wonderful and a great way to reconnect because she missed all of her pickleball friends. Carberry encourages new players to join because she said at first she struggled to serve, but was taught a new way and just never gave up.

Membership is \$15 a year for residents. Specific club days and times include 12-2 p.m. Sundays, 2-4 p.m. Mondays, 12-2 p.m. Wednesdays and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays.

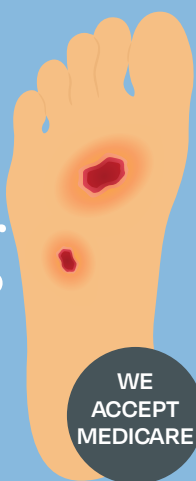
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Meals on Wheels in Sun City West forced to stop service

Organizer looking for a new contract option

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

At the start of June, Meals on Wheels Sun City West officials received a letter indicating 30 days later, food service would no longer be available.

Meals were prepared in the kitchen at Sun Health's Grandview Terrace in Sun City West.

Volunteer June Hell said her first priority is to Sun City West Meals on Wheels clients, but she had to start with confirming she received the notice and then prepared a letter for clients.

The last day of delivery was June 26.

"It is my intention to seek out another provider and that is not going to be easy because it has to be in a medical facility or a place where it is regularly inspected and has a dietitian," she explained.

Keeping the price at an affordable level is also a concern for Hell.

Previously this program offered two meals for \$10.50 for a hot and cold meal, which is very inexpensive, according to Hell. She has no expectations of being able to get that price again and even offered to pay more for the service to continue to Grandview Terrace.

"That did not seem to be a part of the equation, and they did not give me a reason," said Hell.

Sun Health officials did not respond to inquiries from the Sun City West Independent by press time.

Participation will play a key factor in locating a replacement. Hell said she is not certain how long it will take to locate facilities, prepare bids and work out all the specifics, but she said Sun City West Meals on Wheels



Meals on Wheels in Sun City West will no longer be offered until a new food preparer can be found. (Independent Newsmedia/File photo)

will reopen. Hell said this is a huge disappointment as she has done this work for more than 15 years, six days a week, and this has been offered since 1986. The partnership with Sun Health has existed for at least 16 years, she said. Hell said the relationship has always been very good with Sun Health.

Everyone working with the program is a volunteer with about 50 in total, and Hell said it has been an honor to serve the residents of Sun City West.

"My worry is we are unable to meet the needs of the community," she said.

Sun City West Meals on Wheels is a 501(c)3 and accepts donations. Checks are accepted, made out to June Hell, 14951 W. Buttonwood Drive, Sun City West 85375.

Call 623-214-1032.

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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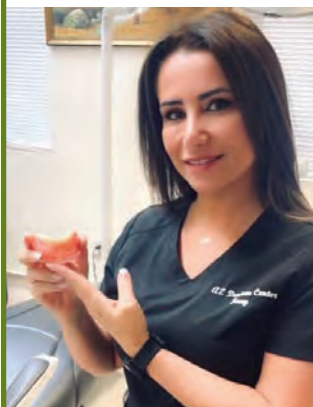
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Sun Canyon Bank Relationship Banker Cole Warnack, Associate Branch Manager Gloria Petersen and Relationship Banker Brandon Sandmoen celebrate their seven year anniversary. (Submitted photo/Sun Canyon Bank)

Sun Canyon Bank celebrates seven years serving residents

Summer months have been busy due to rates

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Sun Canyon Bank moved to Sun City West inside Safeway seven years ago.

Relationship Banker Cole Warnack, Associate Branch Manager Gloria Petersen and Relationship Banker Brandon Sandmoen celebrated the success of the business alongside residents and clients.

Iced tea and cupcakes were offered to anyone who stopped by to celebrate.

"This summer has been extremely busy with the best rate in the area at 4% and that is a great rate right now. It has been busy with new customers," said Petersen.

Bank officials have been involved with the community for the past seven years, including the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, Relay for Life, Property Owners and Residents Association, the Community Fund of Sun City West and the Sun City West Posse. Petersen said as a privately-owned bank, they are involved with many community organizations.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What is your opinion on this issue?
Send letters, 300 words or less, to
jjimenez@iniusa.org.

Peterson said the bank and community feels like one big family, with some coming by in need of a hug. One 92-year-old client came in with a stack of mail after her husband passed away and knew nothing about their accounts. Peterson said she sat with her and went through the mail one piece at a time.

"This has been a wonderful experience, and it is not only customers. It is the people we come across in Safeway. They too bring questions about scams and ask questions," said Peterson.

Peterson said she loves her job and her goal is to make sure she can help keep seniors safe while helping take care of any banking needs.

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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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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Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley, 13702 W. Meeker Blvd., will host an upcoming open house and ice cream social 1-4 p.m. Sunday, July 12. (Submitted photo/Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley)

Beth Emeth Congregation welcomes all to upcoming open house

Opportunity to meet members, public

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley is hosting an upcoming annual open house and ice cream social.

The community is welcome to attend from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, July 12, at Beth Emeth Congregation, 13702 W. Meeker Blvd. Residents can meet the rabbi and board members. During this event, 2026 High Holiday tickets

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What is your opinion on this issue? Send letters, 300 words or less, to jjimenez@iniusa.org.

will be available for purchase and a sing-along with Judy Hamer will take place.

Community members can tour the synagogue and get to know the board members and members of the con-

• See **Open House** on page 19



CLUB CELEBRATES NATIONAL DONUT DAY

The United States celebrates National Donut Day in June and Rip 'N' Sew members took part this year. The Salvation Army began the event in 1938 to honor the "Donut Lassies." They were female volunteers who made and served warm donuts to U.S. soldiers on the front lines during World War I. The Salvation Army used proceeds to help those in need during the Great Depression. Rip 'N' Sew's co-presidents Angie Claudon and Eva Weisberg hosted the Sun City West club's event. Twenty-five Rip 'N' Sew members signed up for the club's Donut Day. (Submitted photo/Gary Reynolds)

Open House

• From page 18

gregation, according to Natalie Morrison, co-president. She said people can take a welcome packet and learn more about all that takes place with the congregation inside the synagogue.

Member Gary Cohen said this open house is coming in advance of big things happening at Beth Emeth.

Co-President Arnold Becker said there are several different groups among the Jewish religion.

"There are groups that need just a little more flexibility and are Conservative, which is what we are," he explained.

The other two groups are Orthodox and Reform. Becker said often times people use the wrong termi-

nology when referring to a synagogue and congregation. Adding, a congregation refers to what the people are doing and a synagogue is the building.

He said members, new members and anyone interested in learning more about Beth Emeth should come by, saying often people have no idea one exists in Sun City West.

"We want to get the word out and let people know we are here, and we have people come to us from Peoria, Surprise, Sun City, Sun City West and have heard of people looking even from Buckeye," he said.

Call 623-584-7210 or visit bethemethaz.org.

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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Book club meets monthly in Sun City

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Banner Olive Branch Senior Center is now hosting a book club once a month in Sun City.

In April, the Page Turners Book Club met in a private room for one hour to discuss the latest read, "All the Colors of the Dark" by Chris Whitaker.

Sun City resident Cynthia Hardin started this book club as a full-time resident. Previously, the group was meeting in Surprise, but she said the location was no longer available.

"I looked for a different place and called Olive Branch and they were more than gracious to accept us after the board approved," she said.

Jennifer Lawless, director of Banner Olive Branch Senior Center, 13049 N. 103rd Ave., said the request came in to start this club and without one already existing, she agreed it would



Visitors of the Banner Olive Branch Senior Center started a book club after the board approved the group to use the center as a meeting location. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

be a good way to get more people involved in the center.

Hardin first started a book club back in Illinois where she is from, called "Inaugural Book Club" and it continues 17 years later.

She said the whole idea of this book club is to teach people to read outside of a typical genre and different types of books. Hardin said she thinks readers can learn something from every book they read.

Prior to starting this book club, Hardin worked at the library in Sun City for 11 years.

The Page Turners each take turns choosing a book each month for the group to read outside of the meeting time. Then, the group gets together the first Tuesday of the month from 1:30-2:30 p.m. The person who chooses the book provides an overview of the book and each person will ask questions or share input on the

book during the meeting.

"We are going to try to choose the books at least six months out so people have a chance to check them out at the library or through the Libby App. People also find books at thrift stores or borrow from neighbors," said Hardin.

The goal is to bring approximately 12 club members together to take part in this group. Currently, there are six who attend this group. Hardin said she has a book in mind that takes readers on a journey through the Appalachian trail and the adventures the character goes through.

Physical books, e-books and audio books are all welcome in the group. Hardin said everyone enjoys books in a different way and her hope is to gather together other book lovers like herself.

For more information on the book club, call 623-465-6000.

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FUSED GLASS AND ENAMELING CLUB WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Fused Glass and Enameling Club is ready to welcome new members. Residents can create art pieces and stay out of the heat, learning from instructors ready to teach two classes for beginners. Class sizes are kept small to allow personal interaction with each student. The newest glass artists include Darcy Weirich, T.J. Kendall, Carol Goff and instructor Meg Bakke. Hours for the club are 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call 623-544-6532 or the club president Lisa Vine at 702-278-0955. (Submitted photo/Fused Glass and Enameling Club)



MODEL RAILROAD CLUBS MOVE INDOORS

Summer is here and the model railroads has moved indoors for the next few months. The club normally has two locations operating, but the G Scale layout at Beardsley Recreation Center is closed until October, due to the summer heat. The reopening date will be announced later this fall. The indoor layouts at the R. H. Johnson Recreation Center, 19803 R. H. Johnson Blvd., are open year-round for club and visitors. Two different scales, HO and N are run on the tracks. Both are scenic with many trains operating most of the time. The trains run 9 a.m.-noon Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Members may operate the club equipment or bring their own if they meet club rules. The public is always welcome. Membership is \$20 to join, including a name badge and then \$10 each year after. (File photo/SCW Model Railroad Club)





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READERS THEATER SERIES WRAPS

Theatre West club in Sun City West recently wrapped up the fourth class in its readers theater series, led by guest instructor Ray Schiel from the Sun City Players group. Each class had 20-24 people who enjoyed a way to explore performances without memorizing lines. Throughout the sessions, participants read from scripts. The classes included seasoned actors, past readers theater participants and first-timers. Theatre West membership was not required. During each class, students worked in pairs or trios to rehearse different scripts, then read one aloud for the group at the end of the session. For the final class each participant had a chance to contribute to a shared performance while still reading from the page. Theatre West will present a full readers theater production "Miracle on 34th Street," during Thanksgiving weekend. All proceeds from the production will be donated to local charities and food banks. Auditions will be in September. Visit theatrewestscw.com. (Submitted photo/Theatre West)



NICU SEWING PROJECT WITH THE PALO VERDE PATCHERS

Palo Verde Patchers Club members Linda Miller, Heidi Hausmann, Pam Boley, Kathleen McCulloch, Pam Sievers, Judy Castle, Linda Gagnon, Kathy Pals, Debi Haupt, Mary Egan, Victoria Palmer, Sue Ward and Mary Lou Hindal took part in the NICU sewing project. The group gathered June 20 to sew, eat and listened to a book review. Fourteen large blankets, five large fleece blankets, six medium blankets, 32 bead bags and 57 hearts were created. Many club members donated fabric, ribbons and time to this project. (Submitted photo/Palo Verde Patchers)



TWIN ANTS FEATURED BY CERAMIC WEST CLUB

Barbara Carneiro is a friend to many in the Ceramic West Club. She is also a member of the Decorative Art, Clay Club and she draws inspiration from all three clubs for ceramic projects. This ant project was painted with acrylic paints, which she loves because she can embellish her projects with eyelashes, wire for antennas and liquid varnish for "realism." She said this kind of pain is forgiving. Ceramic West Club offers hundreds of available wares to choose from for acrylic or glaze painting. (Submitted photo/BK Pritchett)



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Sun City church sets \$3 million expansion project

By Zev Black

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Over the past five years, Bellevue Heights Church, 9440 W. Hutton Drive, has grown from 300 to 1,000 people. Now, its facilities are catching up with a \$3 million expansion project.

Rob Boyd, the church's lead pastor, said the project started three years ago, adding he hopes to break ground by the end of June and finish by Christmas. The worship center was renovated three years ago while the office was upgraded two years ago.

Boyd believes this will set the church up for years to come.

"I think the facility will be set for the next 50 years," he said. "That's the legacy to go forward. You never know. Churches go up and down, but as far as facilities go, we're set

for a long time."

The project will be funded by the over \$3 million raised by donations from around 550 individuals. Boyd said donations ranged anywhere from \$10 to \$100,000.

"We don't believe in debt," he said. "We don't believe in taking out loans. We had a four or five week campaign and raised \$3 million. We're gonna stop when the money runs out."

He added he hopes the project will cost less than that, saying there's a buffer zone of \$200,000 to \$300,000 in either direction.

If it costs less, the money will be spent on other things for the renovation like better chairs or new lighting fixtures.

"People gave money to the building project so every penny has to be spent on the building project," he

said. "We would not spend that on food, donuts, salaries or anything like that."

The project will almost double the worship building foyer from 1,600 to 3,000 square feet, creating overflow seating for an additional 150 people through sliding glass doors along the back wall.

The fellowship building will also expand by 4,500 square feet, doubling the hall's seating capacity from 200 to 400.

Boyd said people are excited about the project.

"Anytime you grow, people come out," he said. "There's people here all the time... They're going to love the new additions."

To learn more about Bellevue Heights Church, go to bhcsuncity.com.

Reporter Zev Black can be reached at zblack@iniusa.org



Jim Cleaveland, associate pastor of administration, and Rob Boyd, lead pastor, stand together. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

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Joseph K. Sandberg Jr.

It is with profound sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Joseph "Joe" Sandberg, Jr., a beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend on

June 26, 2026 at the age of 87. Born on October 15, 1938, in Chicago, Illinois, Joe was the son of Joseph K. Sandberg, Sr. and Florence Kiesgen.

Joe's life was woven with love, dedication, and a zest for life. He grew up in Chicago, where he graduated from Lane Technical High School in 1957, an all-boys school that shaped his early years and friendships. Shortly after, he proudly served his country in the United States Army, spending two years stationed in Germany, a period he often fondly recounted with stories of his youthful adventures abroad.

In 1966 Joe married the love of his life, Beverly, and together they em-

barked on a journey filled with love and laughter. For 58 years, they nurtured a life together, raising five daughters, Kathleen Napier, Valerie (Todd) Moderhack, Patti (Eddie) King, Michelle (Michael) Rohaley, and Cheryl (Larry) Davis, all of whom Joe adored deeply. Beverly, along with Joe's parents and his son-in-law, Rocky Napier, predeceased him, but the love and memories they shared continued to be a source of strength and comfort for Joe in his later years. Joe loved his growing family, including 12 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, (with two more great-grandchildren on the way) and 3 great-great grandchildren. He took great pride in his

role as patriarch, imparting wisdom, humor and love to each generation.

Joe spent his years working as a printer until his retirement in 2000. Joe was also a committed volunteer firefighter in Carpentersville, Illinois, serving his community with dedication for 30 years - a testament to his selfless nature and commitment to helping others. In his leisure time, Joe was an avid collector of coins, particularly cherishing his project of collecting state quarters for his grandchildren, a token of his love for family and history. A true Chicagoan, Joe was a lifelong Cubs, Bears, Bulls and Blackhawks fan. His love for sports extended

beyond the stands to the field, where he played 16-inch softball in Chicago and continued to enjoy 12-inch softball and golf into his retirement years in Sun City West, Arizona. Known for his sharp mind, Joe had an insatiable curiosity for trivia and history, always ready to share a story or engage in a lively conversation on nearly any topic. His love for card games made him a cherished friend among his card groups in Chicago, Carpentersville, Sun City West and Siena on Brendenwood in Rockford, IL. He also enjoyed bowling, shuffleboard and an occasional trip to the casino.

He is survived by his children, sister, Dianne

McGinnis, brother Tom Sandberg and numerous cousins and extended family members who will forever cherish the memories of his warmth and kindness. As we bid farewell to Joe, we celebrate a life well-lived, full of love, service and joy. He touched the lives of many and his spirit will continue to guide and inspire those who knew and loved him.

A celebration of Joe's life will be held, Sunday, July 12th at 11:00am, Carpentersville Firehouse, Station 93, 5000 Sleepy Hollow, Carpentersville, IL, where family and friends will gather to honor his legacy and share in the stories that made him such an extraordinary man.



CHURCH DONATES TO HOSPICE OF THE VALLEY, OTHER NONPROFITS

Members of Sun City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 9745 Palmeras Drive, donated stuffed hearts to Hospice of the Valley. The 50 hearts were constructed by members of the church's disciple womens group and were stuffed during fellowship after Sunday service. In addition, 50 knitted bears made by residents of Royal Oaks were also donated. Over the past year, handmade stuffed hearts have been donated to the various nonprofits the church supports, along with teddy bears, Foley bag covers, hand carrots, fleece blankets, lap quilts, fidget mats/sleeves and adult clothing protectors. The church also hosts the Caring Angels group, which makes plarn sleep mats for the homeless. Sun City Christian church has been designated a "Silver Chalice" church, recognizing the scope of their senior programming and efforts to be seniors supporting seniors. Each Wednesday starts with senior support group at 10 a.m., followed by chair exercises at 11 a.m. and a program at noon. Topics include wellness information, community resources or learning new skills. One week is game day when board and card games are played. All sessions include a light lunch. (Submitted photo/Stacy Lindauer)



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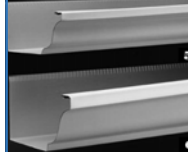
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