



Neighbors

Resident keeps community moving; **13**



SUN CITY WEST

INDEPENDENT

Sports

Patriotic pickleball in Sun City West; **19**



July 15, 2026

Volume 66 Issue 28

Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Board president looks back on goals for the last fiscal year

Resident questions surround Johnson Pool deck replacement

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

As of June 30 the 2025-26 fiscal year has wrapped and the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board President Christine Novello and director Kay Williams completed their terms.

Novello spent time during the recent annual owner-member meeting to explain to residents what the governing board does. Around the beginning of September the new governing board will gather to set five key goals. She described the board as fiduciaries and the needs

• See **Board** on page 21

Foundation officials partner with Arizona Attorney General's Office on scams



Residents focused on how to protect themselves

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Sun City Foundation officials partnered with the Arizona Attorney General's Office to keep residents educated on the latest scams victimizing individuals and ways to protect themselves.

Sun City West Foundation Marketing Coordinator Teresa Brown said this organization is working behind the scenes to help organizations around the community "do what they do." The organization gives away more than \$92,000 in free space for organizations a year. Part of the service work includes a scams presentation.

Kevin Brozek, community engagement officer at Arizona Attorney General's Office, said in Arizona online and romance scams are two that hit residents

• See **Scams** on page 5

Kevin Brozek, community engagement officer at the Arizona Attorney General's Office, speaks to Sun City West residents about scams. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)



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We seek the truth because it's so important that we, the people, know our rights and obligations to make our communities a better to place live, work and play. We won't give up on the notion that we, as nonpartisan, independent journalists, must be vigilant community watchdogs for our readers.

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

We stay in a profession that is often criticized, but we remain hopeful because we believe knowledge promotes a stronger democracy.

I am grateful that the First Amendment remains today.

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

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

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

It's humbling to see INI long-timers Jeremy Carr, Richard Dyer, Richard Smith or Steve Stockmar, to name a few, continue our love for celebrating and connecting our communities year after year with political, business and neighborly news. We welcome Brittany Bowyer to our Central and North Valley teams to cover high school sports thanks to a grant from Report for America.

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

We are thankful for our Arizona readers for supporting Independent Newsmedia since 1970.

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Charlene Bisson 

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IRIS FOLDING KEEPS MEMBER BUSY

Artistic Hand Lettering, Cards & Mixed Media Club of Sun City West has been busy playing with stencils, butters and pastes and learned Iris folding. Linda Miller created stencils with pastes, and Deb Helgeson shows off her Iris folding project. In July, the club kicks off the annual holiday card-making event for the Military Order of the Purple Heart on Friday from 1-4 p.m. Friday, July 24. Stop by and make a card or two for the veterans in VA hospitals, nursing homes and transitional housing. The club pledges a minimum of 500 cards every year. Last year they collected about 3,000 gifts and each included a handmade card hand signed by the coordinators. The club is also making cards for the Valley View Thrift Store from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, July 13. Each card they sell buys one meal for a hungry person. On Friday, July 31, the club holds the Fun Fold Friday with Judy Ross event to learn a new unique way to fold a paper card. The club meets in the Pueblo Room at Kuentz Recreation Center from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Friday and 6-9 p.m. Wednesday. Call Dottie Schmit at 602-758-9854, email ahlcandmm@gmail.com or visit artistichandlettering.scw-clubs.com/. Club membership is \$10 a year. (Submitted photo/Gary Reynolds)



(Metro Creative Graphics)

Local Knights Council hosts water drive to support food bank

Knights of Columbus Council 11809 will host its annual water drive supporting Valley View Community Food Bank 8 a.m.-noon Thursday, July 16, in the Our Lady of Lourdes Church parking lot, 19002 N. 128th Ave., and the Sun City West Foundation parking lot, at R.H. Johnson and Stardust boulevards. Monetary donations are also welcome.



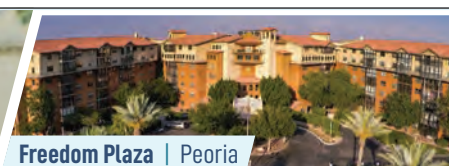
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Scams

• From page 1

the hardest.

The medium amount of loss in the age groups of 70-79 and 80 and over is between \$1,000-\$2,000 per scam, while those 18 and under report an average loss of \$150 per scam.

"There is more money in our senior communities to be taken advantage of, and that means there is more risk for larger scams," said Brozek.

In 2025, Arizona was the fourth largest in losses in consumer scams with the three largest states on top, including California, Texas and Florida. He said the fact that Arizona is in the top five based on population is alarming, and it continues to increase.

The Arizona Attorney General's Office received 210,000 consumer complaints and more than \$4 million was recovered and returned to residents.

Brozek explained common elements of most scams include the scammer contacting an individual first. This happens by phone, email, text and even pop-up ads or warnings on a computer. He warned residents should be skeptical if someone is contacting the individual first without being contacted first.

"Another big one here in Arizona is the Internal Revenue Service scams. The IRS will never reach out, other than by mail, but never call back the number on the mail you receive. Look it up yourself to verify it is actually the IRS," said Brozek.

Scammers will also heighten the individuals' emotions and cause people to fear the loss of an opportunity. Brozek suggests hanging up and taking time to think. A lot of people hear about investment opportunities, and Brozek said if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Running it by trusted friends and family will also help to avoid scams.

Scams often ask for payment over the phone or personal information and Brozek warned individuals to avoid doing that because you never know who

you are actually talking to.

Sun Canyon Bank Associate Branch Manager Gloria Petersen said a bank should never call a customer asking for any personal info like accounting numbers or anything like that. The bank should have that if they are calling the customer.

"Customer should hang up and call their bank and let them know about the call and verify it was not the bank," said Petersen.

She said bank officials do call customers if there are any questions that the call is legitimate, including security questions that the customers set up to ask.

Petersen said officials try to educate the community about scams, including handouts on how to protect themselves.

She has had non-customers come in to get help with the scammers on the phone and she said they were scared and didn't know what to do and bank officials helped them.

"Do not trust caller ID or answer unexpected calls. Legitimate businesses will never require personal information on that first initial contact," Brozek said.

Friends and family voice cloning is something scammers can easily duplicate and the person on the other end thinks they are speaking to a grandchild in trouble, but it is just a voice clone. Brozek said hang up and call the person directly or someone who would know whether this person is in danger. Creating a safe word or phrase can help to avoid falling victim to this scam, according to Brozek.

Romance and friendship scams often target seniors and Brozek said it is best to get another set of eyes on the situation that can be trusted. Asking for help, can help decipher if this is real.

In 2025, social media was the top way scammers contacted people for more than a \$2.1 billion dollar loss. Social media can be tracked easily by anyone, and Brozek said the recommendation is to turn off location tracking and if there is a handsome or beautiful person trying to contact you out of nowhere, just block

that account or report on social media.

Other popular scams include fake websites, tech support pop-ups and government and shipping carrier impostors. Looking into these accounts directly, without clicking on the link or message can help people avoid scams.

"Another thing we have noticed here in Arizona is improper insurance companies selling policies out of county. The companies are legitimate, but could potentially be selling for another state or county and when you purchase it, you will have to go there when an appointment is needed," said Brozek.

Brozek said pausetake9.org offers resources to individuals who feel like they have been scammed or to get more information. Updated software, password changers and restarting devices weekly, can help to avoid fraud.

Passkeys help to set up two-factor authentication and makes it difficult for scammers to intercept that number provided to a phone. Secured websites do not always mean they are legitimate because those can be purchased, so Brozek said go to the site directly.

Now, password phrases are suggested that are usually 16 or more characters with random words, numbers and symbols and unique for each account someone is signing in to. Brozek said changing a password every 30 days can also help.

Individuals can freeze credit accounts at all three credit bureaus, including Equifax 866-349-5191, Transunion 800-916-8800 or Experian 888-397-3742. Residents can sign up for the Do Not Call Registry at donnotcall.gov or call blocking at fcc.gov/call-blocking. Fraud can be reported by calling 911, going directly to the banks where the fraud occurred or by calling the Arizona Attorney General's Office 602-542-5763 or by email consumerinfo@azag.gov.

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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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THEATER

Theatre West to offer 'Page to Stage' workshop

Theatre West will present "Page to Stage," a two-session theatre workshop led by guest instructor Helene Benigno, 10 a.m.-noon Aug. 22 and 29 at the Stardust Theatre, 14401 W. R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Participants should enter through the Stardust performers door in the Back40. The fee for the two-session workshop is \$10.

Designed as a hands-on theater experience, the class will give participants the opportunity to help turn a partially written one-act play into a finished production. During the first session, actors will work in two groups to complete an unfinished script while exploring plot, character development and performance choices. Each group will then cast its production.

In the second session, participants will rehearse with their group and director before presenting the completed pieces in a live performance for family and friends.



Instructor Helene Benigno (Submitted photo/Marla Peters)

Benigno holds a bachelor of science degree from SUNY Brockport, where she studied broadcast journalism with minors in theater arts and criminal justice.

She has taught and directed throughout the greater Phoenix area with Ghostlight Theatre, Phoenix Center for the Arts, Sun City Players, Goodyear, Avondale and Phoenix-area Girl Scouts.

Her plays have also been staged at Arizona Broadway Theatre.

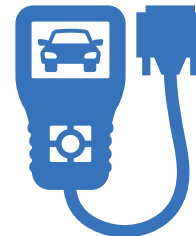
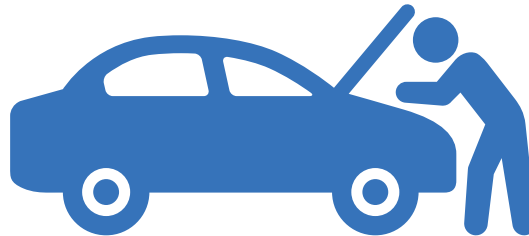
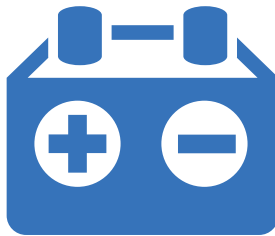
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SUN CITY WEST HIKERS TREK PHOENIX TRAIL

Five Sun City West hikers went to the Phoenix Sonoran Desert Preserve, Apache Wash Trailhead in Phoenix, July 2. The loop hike covered the trails of Ocotillo Trail, Ridgeback Trail, Ridgeback Overlook, Sidewinder Trail, Apache Wash Loop Trail and back to parking lot. It hike covered 4.5 miles with an elevation change of 410 feet and 535 feet of total gain. The total time was two hours and seven minutes with a move time of one hour and 48 minutes, for an average of 23.4 minutes per mile. Hikers were John Mitchell, Jeanette Martin, Kurt Weber, Michael Weingarten and Michael Anenen (not pictured). (Submitted photo/Michael Anenen)

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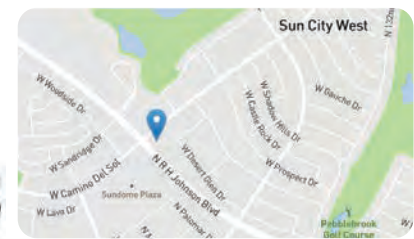
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SOFTBALL

Senior women's travel softball team returns from nationals

Places second overall

By Jennifer Jimenez
and Zev Black

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Sun Cities 75 and older travel women's softball team returned from Colorado Springs after competing in the National Senior Softball Women's tournament.

The Angels of Liberty is sponsored by Liberty Buick in Peoria and Encore Hospice, who Sun City West resident, manager and player Bev Burger said makes it possible for these seniors to continue to travel and play together.

Burger said the team's top hit is Christie Nunes.

"I work hard at it," Nunes said. "I try to do my best for the team."

She recently competed in the home run derby and took third place, with seven home runs.

"It was fun to represent our team in the home run derby," she said. "They all came out to root me on. I think I did a good job entertaining and representing them."

Nunes, who has been playing for 50 years, said she's always loved the game.

"I'm just happy I can still play," she said. "It's the love of

the game."

The Angels of Liberty were the number one seed in the tournament and sent 16 members of the team to the tournament.

During the tournament, the team played five games on the final day, three of which were played in a row.

"We beat two of the top teams and came in second and in the championship game against Grey Power from Canada, we were tied 15 all in the last inning," said Burger.

The other team scored the winning run, despite the Angels of Liberty fighting for the win.

The team included Burger, Nunes, Kathy Hawk, Lisa Tarranto, Sylvia Salazar, Barb Siege, Pauline Robinson, Stella Varela, Evelyn Evans, Mara Murphy, Janet Jones, Kat McComb, Susan Thompson, Nancy Boggs, Ina Bealer and Atomi.

More than two years ago, Burger formed the team and also manages approximately seven teams a year in Sun City West.

She also has a background in umpiring.

Burger continues to enjoy the game and being involved with the sport. She is proud of forming this senior women's team.



The Sun Cities 75-plus women's travel softball team competed in the National Senior Softball Women's tournament. (Submitted photo/Vinnie Taibbi)



Terry Atomi was in the "fastest to first" competition and finished second and Christie Nunes finished third in the home run derby. (Submitted photo/Vinnie Taibbi)

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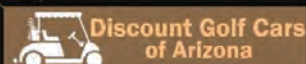
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Speak Up

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

An incorrect email address was printed in the article "Badminton offers residents physical activity, friendship" (July 8, 2026 Sun City West Independent). Residents can reach the Sun City West Badminton Club by emailing Jan Bowden janbowden01@cox.net.

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.

Reader agrees ICE facility will be a 'concentration camp'

In response to Skip Porter's letter, Why I'm no longer spending money in Surprise: "Concentration camp" is the right phrase for the Surprise ICE detention center.

Us kids asked my step-grandfather, who got out of eastern Europe before World War II, why the Jews did nothing when the Nazis were building "detention centers."

He said the Jews thought the Nazi detention centers were being built for somebody else!

I think people should think about who may be the next Surprise detention center residents.

Scott Mitzner
SUN CITY WEST

Homebuilders Association suit threatens our water allocations

"A race to the bottom of the aquifer," and "Water governance aligned with corporate interests."

The two quotations above are from the book, "Running Out: In Search of Water on the High Plains," by Lucas Bessire. It is available in the Sun City West Library as well as others in the Valley and online.

In his book, Bessire describes the depletion of the giant Ogallala Aquifer that underlies much of the U.S. Heartland. Specifically, he describes the effect of this depletion on his family homestead and nearby farms in Southwest Kansas.

I have referenced this book

LETTERS

because I believe it is a forbearer of the future of Arizona's water if corporate interests are allowed to overrule scientific facts.

Consider the lawsuit brought against the Arizona Department of Water Resources by the Homebuilders Association of Central Arizona and supported by Steve Montenegro, speaker of the Arizona House and Warren Petersen, state Senate president.

This action is to force the ADWR to revise water allotment regulations for the Homebuilders Association to access water that is already allocated to others, including Sun City West.

Think about it: our 100-year assured and adequate water supply may become a much smaller asset and may run out much sooner than projected if the Homebuilders Association is ultimately successful with the lawsuit.

When the water runs out in 30, 40 or 50 years from now, these corporate entities will be long gone and not around to help the homeowners and others with huge water restrictions, or no water at all.

Remember these names: Steve Montenegro and Warren Petersen, our elected officials siding with corporate profits over science.

David Hunter
SUN CITY WEST

New Maricopa County option may speed early-ballot count

Many Arizona voters may not realize that Maricopa County

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has introduced a new option for returning early mail ballots that could significantly speed up the counting process.

If you receive an early ballot by mail, you can still return it by mail or at a secure drop box. However, beginning this election, you also have the option of taking your sealed ballot to a Vote Center, presenting a valid photo ID and having your identity verified onsite.

Before Election Day, a poll worker will verify your ID, stamp your sealed ballot envelope and place it in the secure ballot box. Because your identity has already been verified, election officials won't need to perform the usual signature verification later, allowing your ballot to move directly into tabulation after it reaches election headquarters.

On Election Day, voters who choose this option can go one step further. After checking in with photo ID, they may remove their ballot from the affidavit envelope, deposit the envelope in a collection box and feed the ballot directly into a tabulator designed for early ballots. Their vote is counted along with all other Election Day ballots, eliminating the wait associated with post-election signature verification.

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Apache Junction • January 6, 2027 • Central Arizona College
Surprise • January 19, 2027 • The Colonnade
Litchfield/Goodyear • February 17, 2027 • Tuscany Falls Clubhouse(Pebble Creek)
Chandler • February 23, 2027 • Sun Lakes Country Club
Peoria • March 25, 2027 • Westbrook Village
Sun City West • April 13, 2027 • SCW Foundation Center
Sun City • May 3, 2027 • Sundial Recreation Center

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CLUB'S CAMP FOCUSES ON KIDS SEWING

Everybody has to start someplace and for three siblings, that place was Rip 'N' Sew. They attended the Sun City West club's Summer Kids Sewing Camp. Campers played sewing bingo and chose bingo prizes, which included club member-donated bookmarks plus both zippered and drawstring bags. The children also practiced sewing straight and curved lines on printed papers and using their creative skills to design their tote bags. Rip 'N' Sew provided canvas bags and campers chose fabric and ribbon for their individual creations. The children used an AccuQuilt Go! machine to cut fabric shapes, then fused and sewed those shapes to their bags. The siblings also sewed ribbon to the top of their totes. Camp closed with picture-taking, sharing time and snacks. The campers shared that their favorite activity was using the AccuQuilt Go! machine. They also said they enjoyed practice stitching on paper with and without thread. Rip 'N' Sew member Jean Heinen is the campers' grandmother. The day after camp, she machine embroidered each campers' name on the child's tote. Club volunteers Susan Steffan and Lilette Suva aided co-chairmen Sally Kinzel and Connie Province to host the one-day June camp. Pictured with their adorned bags are, from left, siblings Parker, Kennedy and Peyton Heinen. Parker and Peyton are twins. (Submitted photo/Connie Province)



MAC-CRO-KNIT CELEBRATES JULY 4

Members of Mac-Cro-Knit gathered to celebrate the Forth of July. The club is open to Sun City West residents and meets 8-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Pueblo Room #3 at the Kuentz Recreation Center. Contact club president Connie Ottemann at 402-499-1681 for more information. (Submitted photo/Lisa Capriotti)

NEIGHBORS

Resident keeps community moving, one small task at a time

Every community has someone who quietly holds things together, and at Sun City West Assisted Living and Memory Care, 13810 W. Sandridge Drive, that person is Jean King.

King is a member of our welcoming committee, but her role in daily life here goes well beyond that title. Each morning before exercise class, she sets up the circle of chairs and hands out the weights and bands so everyone's ready to go. After the morning walk, she's the one passing out water to her neighbors. She shows up to every activity on the calendar, and she's always the first to lend a hand to someone who needs it.

There's no fanfare in any of this. It's just King doing what she does, day after day, and making the community feel a little more like home because of it.

"Jean is a ray of sunshine in our community," said Carrie Kaye, director of engagement at Sun City West Assisted Living and Memory Care. "She's always pleasant and kind, and she genuinely loves help-



Jean King (Submitted photo/Peyton Reese)

ing others. Whether she's setting up chairs for morning exercise, handing out water after our walks, or simply showing up to support her neighbors at every activity, Jean shows us what it means to care for the people around you. She's a terrific helper, and we're grateful for her every single day."

Visit pegasus seniorliving.com/sun-city-west for more information.



AQUACIZERS GATHER FOR JULY 4 CELEBRATION

Members of Aquacizers recently gathered to celebrate the Forth of July. The club meets 9-10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at the Beardsley Pool and is open to Sun City West residents and/or a current club member and their invited non-resident guest. A licensed physical therapist leads the group Saturday mornings and is available to club members for consultation. Contact club president Connie Ottemann at 402-499-1681 for more information. (Submitted photo/Lisa Capriotti)

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GOLF

DT Winners

Played at Echo Mesa
Game played was O-N-E-S (Count only holes 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17, 18)
1st flight: (Handicaps 6-18)
Jim O'Neil-27 Fred Preston-28
Glenn Warrington, Doug Kooyman and Steve Guthrie (Tied at 29)
Michael Anenen, Mike Dmitriev and Burton Murray (Tied at 30)
2nd flight: (Handicaps 19-30)
James Dunn-25 Doug Smith-26 Mike Byers-27 Wayne Hendrickson-29
Joe Holbrook, John Mollenkmap and Michael Anastasio (Tied at 30)

1st flight: (Handicaps 5-18)
Glenn Warrington (Low Gross) 61
Mike Bashaw, Scott Klein and Fred Preston (Low Net Tie) 55
Richard VanVulkenburg, Mike Dmitriev, Everett Dorsey and John Evans (Tied at 58)
2nd flight: (Handicaps 19-29)
Don Bols (Low Gross) 69
Wayne Hendrickson and Michael Anastasio (Low Net Tie) 51
James Dunn-56 Mike Byers, Jim Meier and Rich McAndrews (Tied at 59)

July 1
Game played was Red, White and Blue
1st flight: (Handicaps 5-19)
Richard VanVulkenburg and Glenn Warrington (Low Gross Tie) 66
John Evans (Low Net) 55 Jim O'Neil-56 Burton Murray-57
Mike Griffith and David Kuhlman (Tied at 59)
2nd flight: (Handicaps 20-27)
David Gearhart (Low Gross) 74 Doug Smith (Low Net) 56
Don Giese, Wayne Hendrickson and Ron Stallbaum (Tied at 58)
John Mitchell and Michael Anastasio (Tied at 59)

Echo Mesa Women's Golf Club

June 23
High/Low
Flt. 1 23 - 36 Game Score
Ginger Emerson 23.5
Berne Dybas 24.5
Carolee Randel 25
Veda Barganier 26.5
ReNae Keuck 28
Eileen Fargher 28
Nine Holers
Joanne Honce 39

Desert Trails Ladies Golf

June 23
Flight 1 Low gross D. Craig 70 Low Net K. VIC 55
Flight 2 Low Gross S. Ambrosius 80 Low Net J. Rick-er 59
Flight 3 Low Gross K. Carter 85 Low Net J. Relyea 59
Flight 4 Low Gross C. Wendling 87 Low NET M. Judd, J.moore 56

Echo Mesa Women's Golf Club

June 30
Low Gross
Flt. 1 23 - 36
Linda Geyer 77
Sue Anderson 80
Ginger Emerson 80
ReNae Keuck 82
Nine Holers
Joanne Honce 44

Desert Trails Golf

July 7
Flight 1 Low Gross D. Craig 71 Low Gross C. Ellis 54
Flight 2 Low Gross P. Ferrell 78 Low Net L. Bunn 60
Flight 3 Low Gross J. Relyea 82 Low Net D. Phillips 56
Flight 4 Low Gross M. Doucette, M. Judd 87 Low Net J. Martin 51

Echo Mesa Women's Golf Club

July 7
Low Gross/Low Net
Flt. 1 22 - 33 Low Gross Low Net
Veda Barganier 72
Linda Geyer 51
Carol Weinberg 52
Carolee Randel 54
Nine Holers
Kay Grossman 55

GAMES

Monday Night Bridge

June 22
1st Susan and Roger Anderson 4610
2nd Ray and Carolyn Murphy 4090
3rd Bill Cooper and Barb Carl 3880
4th Liz and Gene Mitofsky 3860
Small Slam
Ray and Carolyn Murphy

Tuesday Division Bridge

June 23
1 Marion Hare 4410
2 Dennis Hemmer 4050
3 Marilyn Torgrimson 3700
4 George Nelson 3650

SCWCBC Tuesday Division Bridge

June 30
1 Dennis Hemmer 3970
2 Michael Agresto 3900
3 Marion Hare 3860
4 Marilyn Torgrimson 3340

One Partner Contract Bridge

July 6
1st place - Bill Cooper and Carl Ramsey 4,270
2nd place - Dianne Wuethrich and Mary Lou Hindal 4,150
3rd place - Barb Sumner and Bonny Yamashita 3,980
4th place - Roger and Susan Anderson 3,860
Small slam bid and made: Jackie Burrell and Lynda Strobel



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Dog expert warns tethering dogs can be dangerous

By Mark Carlisle
and Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A Sun City West dog expert and award-winning trainer is warning residents about the dangers of keeping dogs tethered.

Kristine Hayes Nibler, Balanced K9 of Arizona owner, said tethering a dog is definitely not an ideal way to leave a dog, especially outdoors and unsupervised. Entanglement is an immediate danger and can easily wrap the chain or rope around trees, posts, lawn furniture or their own legs.

"If they panic and try to jump a fence while attached to a tether, it can result in severe injury or fatal strangulation," she said.

The constant pulling or sudden lunging against a tie-out can cause damage to the dog's trachea and neck, according to Hayes Nibler.

In Arizona, the extreme weather can cause dogs to quickly succumb to heat stroke or dehydration if the water bowl is tipped over, which she said is a common occurrence with dogs that are tethered or if the sun shifts and moves them out of the shade.

"One should never leave a dog outside in the extreme heat or without adequate sources of water and shade in a kennel or otherwise," said Hayes Nibler.

Phoenix City Council made it illegal last month to tether a dog outdoors on private property in any weather, not just extreme weather, unless it is being directly supervised by its owner.

Kate Sivoletta, founder of the nonprofit Poverty's Pets, spoke before the city council and said her group has advocated for this change for more than a decade. She said Poverty's Pets once reported

to the city they had seen a dog tethered in 99-degree heat. The response was that there was nothing the city could do because the temperature had not reached 100 yet.

"The dog's suffering did not change when the temperature changed one degree. Cruelty cannot be measured by temperature alone," Sivoletta said.

The previous ordinance, still in effect until July 17, bans tethering on private property only during extreme weather conditions, which are defined as the temperature being below 32 degrees or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, during a heat advisory, or if a monsoon, hurricane, tropical storm, dust storm or tornado warning has been issued.

Sherri Hoffman, a board member of Poverty's Pets, said she and her team have seen the "horrific effects of tethering: dogs standing in their own feces and urine, covered in flies, behavioral deterioration, heightened aggression, severe psychological distress and vulnerable to extreme weather."

Another safety concern includes dogs having no escape from threats. Hayes Nibler said a tied-up dog cannot flee from predators, such as coyotes, aggressive stray dogs, stinging insects or malicious humans. She said they are entirely defenseless.

Hayes Nibler said a "flight or fight" trap is set in these situations because when a dog feels threatened but is physically prevented from fleeing, their only remaining option is to fight. Dogs that are tethered often become highly protective of the very limited radius of their tether, she said.

Visit balancedcanineofarizona.com/.

QUILT

Patriotic quilt on display at Sun City West library

"Patriotic Rose," made by Pam Boley, is now on display at the R.H. Johnson Library, 13801 W. Meeker Blvd.

The pattern for this quilt was given to Boley by quilting friend Karen Justus. Justus found the pattern on the free giveaway table at Palo Verde Patchers. She thought this quilt would be great for the club's honor quilt program.

Boley's selection of the fabrics for this quilt were easy with the red, white and blue theme.

She used three methods to make this quilt: hand applique, machine piecing and hand quilting.

Boley stated that the hand appliqued stars were a challenge. She said she had to dig deep into her applique skills to make the stars. It took five

months to make the quilt.

This quilt is used as a display quilt for the honor quilts presentations, which are held once a month in October and November and January through April. Veterans who have served in a combat area are presented with honor quilts made by the PVP quilt group.

Boley stated that when the group is tired of using this award-winning quilt, it will return to her home.

Boley has been quilting for 53 years. Her inspiration to start quilting was her first born.

Boley belongs to Palo Verde Patchers as well as the Cheyenne Heritage Quilters

Visit patchers.scwclubs.com or call club president Mary Roberts at 541-550-9932 for more information.



"Patriotic Rose," made by Pam Boley, is now on display at the R.H. Johnson Library. (Submitted photo/Patricia Casey)





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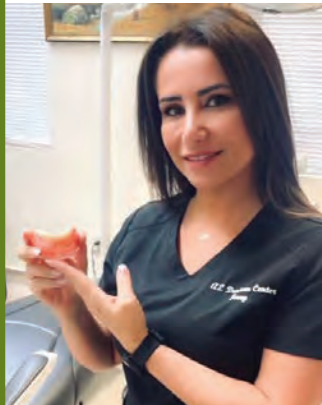


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Church to host an adult vacation Bible school

Willowbrook United Methodist Church, 19390 N. 99th Ave., invites the community to learn about different religious faith organizations. During the week of July 20-24, Willowbrook will host representatives from the Islamic, Orthodox, Sikh and LDS communities. Each session will be an hour in length, beginning at 9 a.m. when each presenter will share their group's history, theology and beliefs. There will be a time for questions and each gathering will conclude with refreshments. The schedule includes: Monday, July 20 – West Valley Islamic Center; Tuesday, July 21 – Christ the Savior Russian Orthodox Church; Wednesday, July 22 – Nishkamseva Sikh Temple; Thursday, July 23 – Sun City LDS Ward; Friday, July 24 – three pastors will be on a panel discussing how each of the different faiths are different and alike. Call 623-974-5637 for more information.

CLUBS

Club members work to complete projects half-done

The Rip 'N' Sew Club recently asked its members if "UFOs," "PIGS" and other unwanted objects taken over their sewing space. The club was asking about unfinished objects and projects in grocery sacks.

Since mid-May, 12 members are taking a UFO journey to see if they could finally finish a few PhDs (projects half-done).

Jackie Iverson leads the 12 participants on Monday afternoons through July, lending whatever help is needed to get those WIPs (works in progress) completed.

Each week at the Sun City West club, Iverson shares tips related to managing and completing UFOs. There is no fee for the UFO journey.

Participants began by making an inventory list and prioritizing items listed.

The second week they talked about why projects were left unfinished and some strategies for getting them finished. Ideas included setting daily or weekly goals, using a timer and taking breaks, working on old projects between new projects to stay motivated.

The third week they talked about what to do with the projects that they no longer were interested in finishing. Redirecting, revamping, repurposing, rejecting or rehoming were men-



Jackie Hemeon, left, shows a table topper she started 25 years ago in a class. She had to search her stash to find the coordinating fabric for the backing. She finished the table topper in June. Ginny Bignell, right, brought in two hand embroidery projects she did more than six years ago. She asked the group for advice on how to finish them for display. The group recommended professional framing. (Submitted photo/Jackie Iverson)

tioned.

In the coming weeks, participants will help each other with ideas for finishing and, of course, celebrating progress.



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JUNE ACES

Echo Mesa Women's Golf named its June aces: Sally Hamill, 73 gross; and tied at 48 net, Karen Brown, Linda Geyer and Corlean Kuhl. (Submitted photos)



PATRIOTIC PICKLEBALL IN SUN CITY WEST

Sporting their red, white and blue, the Sun City West Pickleball Club's Picklers group took to the courts July 3 to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday with play and a potluck. Nicky Hall, coordinator for the Picklers, confirmed it was a great evening for all who attended. The Picklers welcome all skill levels 7 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday (summer schedule). Stop by the courts to watch them in action. For membership information, visit scwpickleballclub.com/contact-us/. (Submitted photo/Nicky Hall)



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Letters

• From page 10

This new process is entirely optional, but it offers another secure way for voters who are willing to show ID in person to have their early ballots processed more quickly.

The official details are available from the Maricopa County Elections Department: New Voting Options for 2026, elections.maricopa.gov/news-and-information/elections-news/new-voting-options-2026.html.

General information about Arizona early voting is also available from the Arizona Secretary of State Early Voting page, azsos.gov/elections/voters/early-voting.

Annarose Lilly

SUN CITY

The author is chair of Arizona LD28 Democrats.

Reader fears Heap is trying to help Trump control voters

Three major election issues were fought between the Republican Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and the Republican County Recorder.

Recorder Justin Heap appears to be trying to change voting in Maricopa County by seeking the authority to control ballot drop-off locations, IT systems and his employees removed a ballot scanner from the Maricopa County Tabulation and Election Center in Phoenix during the vote counting for the Tempe jurisdictional elections.

The Board of Supervisors wasn't willing to go along with Heap's power grab. He asked the Arizona Supreme Court to review the case and rule on it; the justices sided with him July 7. Board updates and statements regarding the Shared Services Agreement negotiations are found on the Maricopa County Election

Duties Dispute page.

Our voting was checked and double-checked last election and voting was proven fraud-free.

I'm afraid that the concept of creating doubt in our elections means Trump still plans to try to retain power. He has created doubt in our elections, confusion in our government, distrust in one another, and he now owns our government agencies with the help of Musk's wallet.

He wants to control us completely, in my opinion. This is not just a personal fear. He already runs agencies like the Department of Justice, and his own personal lawyer during the Epstein era, Todd Blanche, is now acting attorney general of the U.S.

Anyone who does not believe these changes made by Trump are not designed for his personal power and financial gain can check out the attempt to mess up our own voting here in Maricopa County.

Lorie Lux
SUN CITY WEST

I am voting for Katherine Haley for state treasurer on July 21.

Katherine Haley is by far the best and most qualified candidate for the position.

Arizona citizens deserve better. Please vote for Katherine Haley.

John Matthews
SUN CITY

LD28 includes parts of Peoria, Phoenix, Sun City, Sun City West and Surprise.



Independent Newsmedia office has new hours

Beginning Monday, July 17, the Independent Newsmedia office at 17220 N. Boswell Blvd., Suite 230E, will operate under new hours. Going forward, the office will be open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and will be closed on Fridays. Please plan your visits and calls accordingly. We appreciate your understanding as we transition to this new schedule. Call 623-972-6101 for more information. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

◆◆◆ In Memoriam ◆◆◆



Janet Morris Stockton

Janet Morris Stockton, age 93, peacefully passed away on July 15, 2025, following a short illness.

Janet was predeceased by her dear husband of over 65 years, John F. Stockton; her parents, Oliver and Marjorie Morris; her three siblings, Gordon, Nancy, and Carol Jean; and all her in-laws. She is survived by her three children: daughter Margo Ottman (William); sons

Bradley (Stephanie) and Bryan; five grandchildren: Matthew (Isabella), Daniel (Logan), Aidan (Jerrod), Dane, and Drew; and six great-grandchildren: Maryrose, Owen, Winston, Briar, Sayler, and Nolan.

Following graduation from Long Branch Senior High School in 1951, Janet earned a BA Degree in Sociology from Adelphi University. After graduation, she was employed as Director of the Social Service Department at Fitkin Memorial Hospital in Neptune, New Jersey. She met Lt. John F. Stockton at a dance when he was stationed at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and they were married in 1956.

John's engineering career took them to Texas, New York, Pennsylvania, and Arizona. They were blessed to have a daughter, Margo, and two sons,

Bradley and Bryan. Wherever they lived, they always joined a church. Janet served as a Sunday school teacher, sang in the choir, and was a circle leader. In 1995, she and John joined Desert Palms Presbyterian Church where she was chairman of the Craft Group, Folders, and volunteered at West Side Food Bank. She was a member of the Sun City West Writers Group and several of her poems were published in the Daily News-Sun. John and Janet moved to Sierra Winds in 2011, where Janet was active in Reader's Theater and co-chaired DPPC Friendship Group with her husband John.

Janet believed in living life to the fullest in spite of having Parkinson's Disease. She was a loving human being, faithful wife, and devoted mother. Condolences may be offered at Legacy.com.

I'm voting Katherine Haley for state treasurer

I am a concerned voter in Legislative District 28. This is in response to the "clip and save" advertisement in the July 8, 2026, issue (page 11) about who to vote for in the upcoming primary election.

As an informed precinct committeeman in LD28, I agree with every recommended selection except one.



Taunce Mathiason

Taunce Mathiason, 85, of Sun City West, Arizona, passed away peacefully on June 24, 2026.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, banker, mentor and man of deep Christian faith, Taunce lived a life marked by integrity, service and

quiet leadership. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who knew him.

A complete obituary, memorial service information and opportunities to share condolences may be found at <https://www.caminodelsol.com/>.

Board

• From page 1

and the priorities of the community and corporation must come first. Novello explained the nine volunteers who do always agree, but the needs of the association are always prioritized.

“We have debated with each other very strongly at times but always with respect for each other and respect for fellow residents,” she said.

Novello said the notion of oversight while working with staff can often be misunderstood. This does not include day-to-day operations generally, as the board delegates much of that to its staff, but the board does monitor transparency and has a working relationship with staff.

The board deals with what is important and the priorities and then relies on staff to advise the board on how and often times there is a gray area. During this time, they must work together to problem solve.

Case in point is the R.H. Johnson Pool deck. After two warranty repairs on the deck and realizing the vendor



Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board President Christine Novello completed her board term June 30. Alongside her is current governing board president Alan Schlemmer. (Submitted photo/ Recreation Centers of Sun City West)

failed and the association was at a loss, both the staff and board had to work together quickly to make this the priority and work fast.

The decision was a full replacement and an update to the five year financial plan, which includes more frequent maintenance.

Stephen Erno, Recreation Centers of Sun City West general manager said the governing gave direction for the surface using AquaFlex. He said it is found in a lot of Las Vegas resorts and hotels and has thousands of users on it daily and it has worked.

“We have not contracted officially with them, but we do anticipate the goal is to have them out in September or October, but we do not have a firm date at this point,” he said.

Sun City West resident Bruce Leas asked specifically about the vendor selection.

He stated his request on the YouTube livestream is for the R.H. Johnson Pool deck work be scheduled for late fall or the early winter months.

“We have a game plan and worked together with staff in the meeting, last week we agreed with recommendations on how to replace Johnson,” said Novello.

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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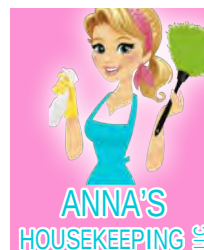
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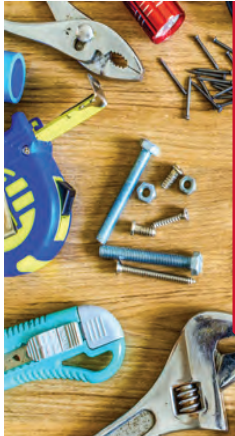
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Be a Civility Advocate!



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.



Now that you've read the checklist, take
the Civility Pledge at [yourvalley.net/
civility-pledge](http://yourvalley.net/civility-pledge).

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Valid with any paid service. Schedule today to experience a new way of car care. Price does not include oil disposal fee of \$2.50. Present offer at time of service. Cannot be combined with any other coupon. Most Cars & Like Trucks. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE TIME OF SERVICE. Offer expires 7/30/26

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Power Steering Fluid Service, Brake Fluid Service with brake inspection, Transmission Service (up to 5 quarts of transmission fluid), Cooling System Service (up to 2 gallons of coolant)

Most Vehicles. Transmission Filter is Additional cost. Does not include Shop Supplies. No cash value, must present coupon at service. Cannot be combined with any other coupon. Most Cars & Like Trucks. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE TIME OF SERVICE. Expires 7/30/26

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SATURDAY, JULY 18TH
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

SUNDAY, JULY 19TH
10:00AM-NOON

**12635 W. Eveningside Dr.,
SUN CITY WEST**

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-128th,
R-Sunglow Dr. which becomes Eveningside Dr.

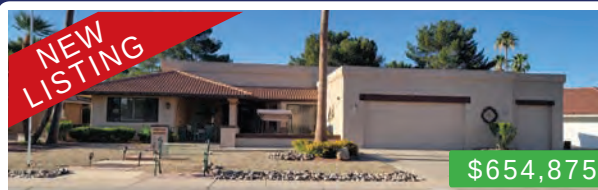
TUESDAY, JULY 21ST
9:30AM-NOON

**22202 N. Cochise Ln.,
SUN CITY WEST**

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-Meeker, L-135th, L-Deer Valley
Rd., L-Tom Ryan, R-Via Manana, L-Las Brizas, R-Pecos, L-Cochise Ln.

NOTE:

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INFORMATION ON EACH
OF THE HOMES SCAN
THEIR RESPECTIVE
QR CODE**



12635 W. Eveningside Dr , SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7040339

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-128th, R-Sunglow Dr. which becomes Eveningside Dr.
Fabulous panoramic view of Stardust GC's 4th & 5th fairways & greens. Home has 2599 sq. ft., 3 large bedrooms (split), 2 updated bathrooms, golf cart garage plus an added 175 Sq. ft. art/crafts studio or office. This home is truly special & an absolute must see! Call today to view!



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.

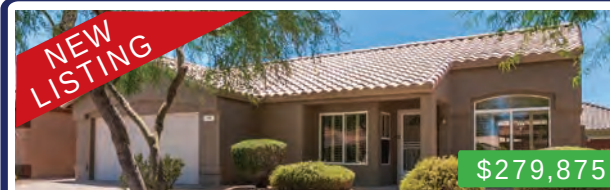
Highly sought after Prescott model. Home has 1872 sq. ft., 2 bedroom, 2 bath, den & great room floor plan. Home is located just a block & half from SCW's Desert Trails GC pro shop. Don't Wait! Call Today to View!



15208 W. Las Brizas Ln., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7000065

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 bdrms, 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!



22202 N. Cochise Ln., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7051608

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-Meeker, L-135th, L-Deer Valley Rd., L-Tom Ryan, R-Via Manana, L-Las Brizas, R-Pecos, L-Cochise Ln.

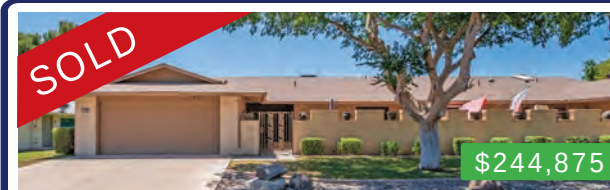
Popular La Paz model located in the Palm Ridge Rec. Cntr. area of SCW. Home has 1086 sq. ft., 2 bedroom, 2 bath, great room floor plan & a block wall fenced private backyard. New roof underlayment 2026. Neighborhood HOA allows pets & rentals. Call today to view!



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!



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!

