



Neighbors

Meet Sun City West's 'Tributes' radio host; **11**



INDEPENDENT

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Proper disposal, storage of hazardous waste can keep residents safe

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Residents in Sun City West should safely dispose and store household hazardous waste items.

Storing hazardous materials can be safely stored inside a garage or storage shed by using a flammable liquid cabinet.

According to Deputy Chief Robert Olmstead with the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority, these are located in every fire station and where all oils and compressed gases are held because they are flammable and can catch fire.

"They make those for homes and most people just throw these materials inside in a cabinet," he said.

If the cabinet has Underwriter Utilities (UL), it will contain the fire. He said it is not a fire cabinet, rather thick and sturdy enough to

• See **Waste** on page 5



Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Lt. Scott Keller addressed the Sun City West Posse volunteers during the general meeting. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

Posse, MCSO aware of vandalism happening in the Sun Cities

Report all instances, turn over any video from home cameras

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A few weeks ago, the Sun City West Posse and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office began taking calls from residents whose homes and cars have been vandalized by someone throwing eggs.

Posse volunteer Roger Quan said

July 20 the Posse received eight calls from residents reportedly getting egged. Volunteers at the posse have been instructed to document everything and provide as much detailed information as possible, as this is happening all over Sun City West. Cmdr. Carolyn Patterson is keeping a list, according to Quan to report to MCSO.

"We have been getting a lot of these calls on the weekends and any-

one who has cameras on the property and have captured anything, they should share it," he said.

They have been unsuccessful in identifying a license plate, but recently in the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center parking lot near the Automotive and Restoration Club, posse volunteer Rob Barron was on patrol and came in contact with a blue SUV

• See **Crime** on page 5

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SENIORS

Seniors Helping Seniors opens to show continued care

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Seniors Helping Seniors Sun City is open and serving individuals and hoping to be a good fit for someone in the community or their families.

President and owner Julie Vasquez is already working with individuals in Sun City, Sun City West, Peoria, El Mirage and Surprise.

"A couple of things inspired me personally including watching my own parents move into a 55 and older community and really wanted friendship with people they could relate to," said Vasquez.

Also, watching her mother-in-law visit from Colombia at 86-years-old and was accompanied by her daughter-in-law and never left her side. This provided her a look into what

could possible for other seniors in similar situations, with a little extra assistance.

There is no physical office for this business, as Vasquez said they operate wherever individuals need them such as in the home or independent living facility.

"I was drawn to the business model of Seniors Helping Seniors, especially in Sun City. It is a community filled with volunteers and neighbors helping neighbors. When I was looking into starting a business this seemed like a good fit," said Vasquez.

Vasquez's background includes understanding customer needs and how to meet those and understand challenges. Rather than sitting around conference tables, Vasquez said she is not sitting around board room ta-



Seniors Helping Seniors Sun City Owner Julie Vasquez. (Submitted photo/Julie Vasquez)

bles any more helping meet customer needs, instead she is at kitchen tables helping individuals build their medical plans.

Individuals whose needs are increasing and life is getting more diffi-

cult can seek the assistance of Seniors Helping Seniors.

"Many folks have us come out for a few hours a week to meet initial needs, such as keeping things clean or meal planning," said Vasquez.

Transporting individuals to appointments and personal care assistance are also services offered.

Vasquez said there is a growing need in the community as people evolve and want to remain in their home, while having the assistance needed to make it possible.

Call 480-480-5815 or visit suncityshs.com.

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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This publication is offered free of charge in an effort to keep our neighbors informed, as well as to support the local business owners who make up our community. Please support their business. Every effort is made to avoid errors, misspellings and omissions. If an error comes to your attention, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us.

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Waste

• From page 1

contain any fire that occurs inside. The cabinets located in the fire stations are over five feet tall and smaller ones, but there are smaller ones that hang on walls and are perfect for a garage, Olmstead added.

There are dangers that go along with storing compressed gas. Olmstead said when there is a compressed and pressurized cylinder and there is something flammable nearby, it can cause a fire.

"Even when a paint can runs out of aerosol, 10%-20% of the paint remains in the can but is not coming out because there is no aerosol remaining. These are not as dangerous and will not blow up, but when they are heated up, they can still pop and we see that a lot in residential fires and can hear the popping," said Olmstead said.

Sun City West resident Lisa Gregory said she spent more than a year trying to find out how to properly dispose of some items she has.

The United State Environmental Protection Agency suggest using aerosol sprays and cleaning supplies until those are gone and then properly dispose of the containers. The agency also suggests purchasing alternatives rather than hazardous household items. This includes



(Submitted photo/Arizona Fire & Medical Authority)

using a plumber's snake rather than drain cleaner, mixing one tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice in one quart of water and use newspaper to dry for window cleaner. Furniture polish can be made with one teaspoon of lemon juice in one pint of mineral or vegetable oil.

Olmstead said Maricopa County does host hazardous waste collections events, but there are none taking place this calendar year in Sun City West.

"A couple of times a year churches or groups in this area will host events and people should bring those items then," he said.

However, Olmstead said residents should avoid accumulating huge stacks of hazardous waste in the garage. Other dangers include items collected that are used for a hobby, such as model paints that can build up on a closet shelf.

Lithium batteries pose a big danger for residents, and Olmstead said when these batteries are past their lifecycle and not properly recharging anymore, those should not be thrown out. If there is a fire, those batteries add to the flammability of the fire.

Surrounding cities such as Surprise, Glendale and Peoria host hazardous waste collections, and Maricopa County hosts six green waste recycling center drop offs. During these events, Olmstead said often oil and antifreeze are accepted, but it depends on the collection.

Batteries Plus locations accept recycled batteries, but he suggest calling ahead to see if there is a fee associated.

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.

Crime

• From page 1

filled with younger girls, which fit the description and the windows were down as the posse patrol car camera caught video of the individuals in the car.

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Lt. Scott Keller said they do know vandalism is going on, and it is not just happening in Sun City West. It is also happening in Peoria, Surprise, Glendale and Sun City.

Sun City Posse Cmdr. Arlene Kluzenaar said through the years, Sun City has had areas that had sudden strings of vandalism such as stealing or breaking potted

plants and lawn ornaments or damaging vehicles. These incidents would last a few days to weeks and would stop as suddenly as they started.

"We are getting calls this week, starting with messages that were left on our answering machine over the weekend regarding the current string of vandalism including egging of houses and vehicles. We are increasing patrols in those areas," she said.

Kluzenaar said those impacted should call MCSO non-emergency number to report these incidents and any other suspicious activity, at 602-876-1011.

In addition, she said they are asking

Sun City residents who have security cameras to check their cameras to see if they have a record of these vandals.

Kellar said this happened to his home in Glendale and while it is ideal to catch a license plate number, facial recognition can be used alongside a driver's license to help MCSO.

Quan said a recent "little library" built by a resident's husband who has since passed, was recently destroyed, so the vandalism is going beyond egging.

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HISTORY

50-year-old time capsule to be cracked open

By Zev Black
and Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, in collaboration with the Recreation Centers of Sun City, will be opening a time capsule from 1976 in a celebration that run 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, at the Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

While the capsule is concealed underneath the Liberty Bell at the Bell Recreation Center, it will be opened at Sundial because it has an overhead that will show those in attendance the contents of the capsule when it opens.

Andy Kindler, museum president, said he thinks 150 people or 1,500 people could be in attendance.

Not much is known about the contents of the capsule. One thing the museum does know is inside are letters from 1976 to residents of today.

"We don't know how many," Kindler said. "We don't know what else, if there's anything else. We don't even know how big the space is because it's under the Liberty Bell and that's heavy."

Bret McKeand, with the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, said the

assumption is national newspapers and magazines may be inside and other items surrounding those moments in time.

Kindler added he doesn't even know if the contents are preserved.

"We're mentally being prepared if there's nothing," Kindler said. "I mean, it's there but if there's nothing ... We're also prepared that part of it did survive or all of it did survive."

McKeand wonders about the condition of the items placed inside 50 years ago.

"The biggest challenge is these types of capsules leak and water and humidity kills the things inside," he said. "But here in Arizona, you just never know and that is the biggest mystery."

The museum is hoping an archivist from one of the Arizona universities will assist with preserving the contents.

Whatever is in the capsule will go into a cabinet set up at the museum.

In addition to opening the capsule, festivities will include the "Pledge of Allegiance," the "Star Spangled Banner," various speakers, music from 1976 and food trucks.

"I want people to think of it as a fun day and go with whatever happens," Kindler said. "Hopefully, there's stuff



Sun City officials put the original time capsule underneath the Liberty Bell in 1976. (Submitted photo/Bret McKeand)

we can see. But if not, we'll still party but we'll talk about what's going in the next one."

A new time capsule to be opened in 2076 will also be going in the ground.

"What we want to do is make it all about Sun City," Kindler said. "What's going on in Sun City today that people can capture for the people in 2076."

Residents are encouraged to email timecapsule2076@gmail.com with ideas.

Instead of letters, the museum will put video messages from current residents into the capsule.

Reporter Zev Black can be reached at zblack@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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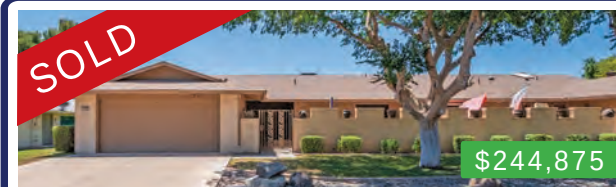
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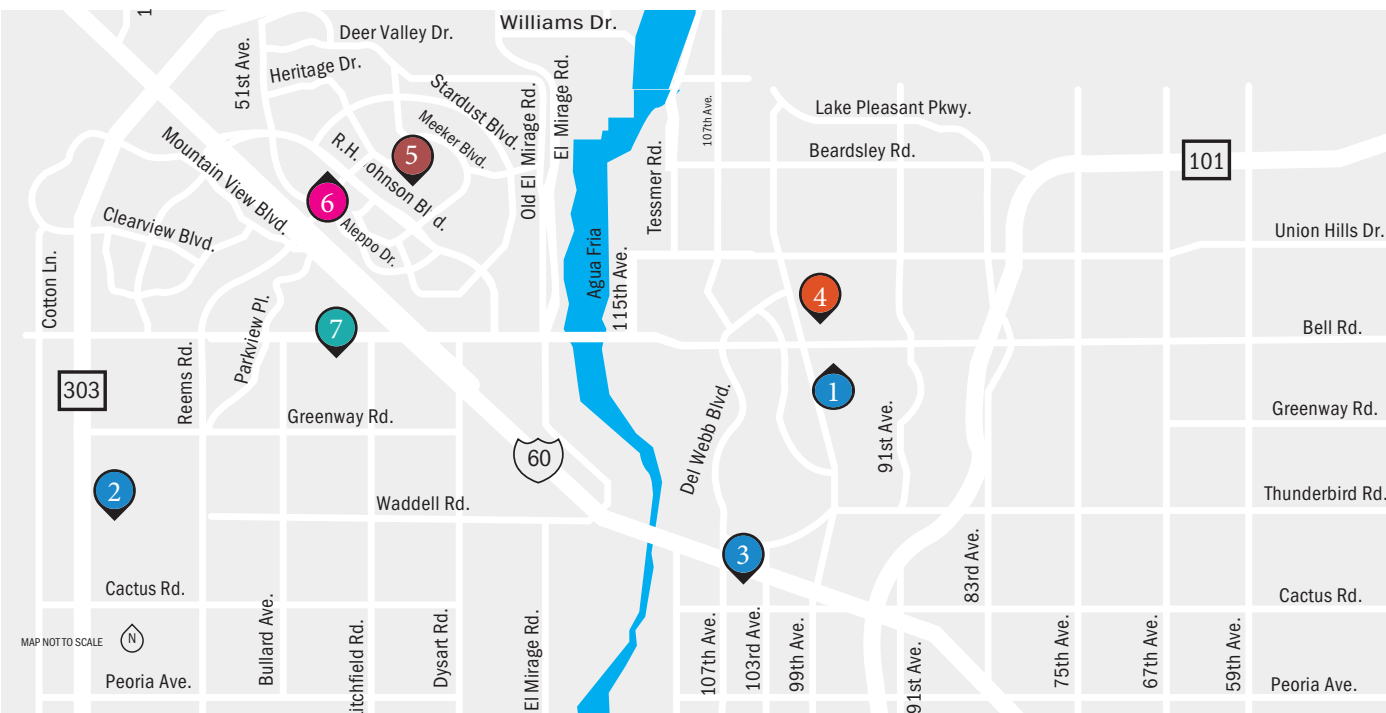
12727 W. Copperstone Dr., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7024624

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!



BUSINESS MOVES



OPENINGS



Taco Boy's has opened its doors at 9801 W. Bell Road (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

1 Taco Boy's has officially opened its doors at 9801 W. Bell Road, moving into the space formerly occupied by Coco's. The restaurant is open 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m.–midnight Friday and Saturday.

2 Men's Wearhouse held a soft opening June 4 and officially celebrated the opening of its location at 16340 W. Waddell Road, Suite 104, June 12 with community partners, supporters, elected officials and customers. Visit menswearhouse.com/store-locator/2518.

3 KFC is expanding with the opening of its newest restaurant in Sun City, at 10801 W. Grand Ave., near Plaza de Grande. The restaurant is owned and operated by Pak Foods, LLC, a multi-unit, multi-brand operating group with locations across the southwest. Leadership team members Tanweer and Rehman Ahmed are spearheading operations in Sun City. Visit kfc.com.

LICENSE

4 The Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association filed a Class B Bingo License to be used at 19801 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd. The Board of Supervisors will recommend approval or disapproval of the application and forward the original application endorsed with its approval or disapproval to the Arizona Department of Revenue.

CLOSINGS

5 The Pizza Hut at 10050 W. Bell Road, has permanently closed. The closest Pizza Hut to Sun City and Sun City West is now at 13706 W. Bell Road, in the Surprise Towne Center & Marketplace.

RELOCATIONS

6 Alliance Dermatology, 13847 W. Meeker Blvd., has moved to a new location in Sun City West as of July. The hours are 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday-Friday and the office is closed for lunch noon–1 p.m. Availability to schedule appointments online is available at alliancedermatology.com or call 602-971-0268.

MEDICAL

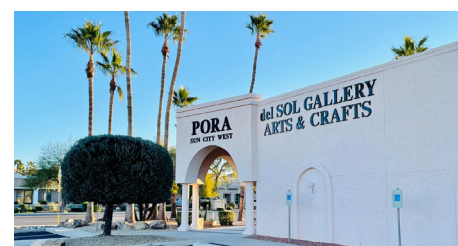
7 Magnolia Sage Psychiatry, 14239 W. Bell Road, Suite 203, a new psychiatric and mental health clinic, is now taking patients. The office specializes in providing psychiatric care and medication management services for adults and older adults. Call 623-356-1560.



KFC is opening its newest restaurant in Sun City, at 10801 W. Grand Ave., near Plaza de Grande. (Metro Creative Graphics)



Men's Wearhouse celebrated the opening of its location at 16340 W. Waddell Road, Suite 104, June 12. (Submitted photo)

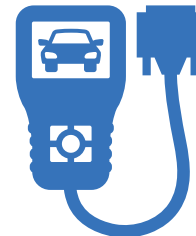
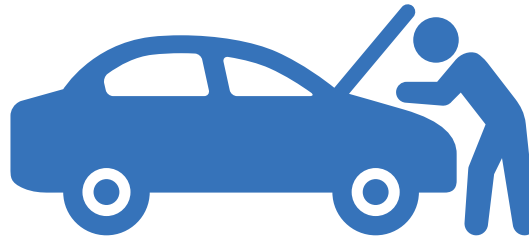
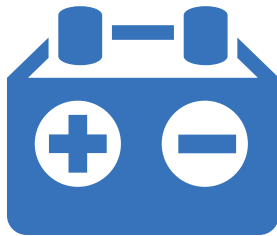


The Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association filed a Class B Bingo License. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)



Alliance Dermatology, 13847 W. Meeker Blvd., has moved to a new location in Sun City West. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

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

Speak Up

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

Corrections

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

Valley's too hot, parched for AI data centers, reader says

Arizona is being asked to absorb a wave of new artificial intelligence and data center plants, each one consuming massive amounts of electricity and releasing equally massive amounts of waste heat.

These facilities run continuously, and every megawatt they use becomes heat that must be expelled into the surrounding air. In cold climates, that heat is an asset. In greater Phoenix, it is a direct threat to public health.

The core principle is straightforward: AI plants should be built only where their waste heat can be used.

Cold-weather cities with district heating networks can capture this heat to warm homes. Industrial zones can use it for process heat. Coastal desalination hubs can use it to preheat seawater. Greenhouse agriculture can use it to extend growing seasons.

In those locations, AI plants become part of a larger energy system, and their heat is recycled instead of wasted.

In Arizona, none of that is possible. The heat is simply dumped into the air. Studies from Arizona State University show that neighborhoods downwind of a single data center warm by 1.3 to 4 degrees.

With dozens of facilities proposed across the Valley, the cumulative impact becomes unavoidable: hotter nights, higher APS bills, increased strain on seniors and a growing urban heat island that already ranks among the worst in the nation.

Arizona gains the heat, the water consumption, the grid demand and the environmental burden. Other

LETTERS

states gain the economic value of using the heat productively. That imbalance is unacceptable.

Arizona's leaders should adopt a clear policy: AI plants belong in regions where their waste heat is an asset, not a burden. If the heat cannot be captured and used, the facility should not be built.

This is not anti-technology. It is responsible siting. It protects seniors, protects neighborhoods and protects Arizona's future.

Trish Mormon
SUN CITY WEST

Hamadeh protesters not crazy, nor communist

Re: your article, Hamadeh labels protesters 'communists' at Sun City West GOP meeting. First, there were well over 50 protesters there, not sure why your count was so wrong. Second, why did Hamadeh feel the need to label the protesters as crazy and communist?

He's not spoken to us, he doesn't know us, he has no idea why we protest, except that he does know we do not support his views. He has had plenty of opportunities to meet with us, through town halls that have been requested, or by just coming out to see what a good number of people think about his policies.

If he truly was our representative, he should talk to all of the people in his district, not just his supporters. Let's have less name calling and more direct communication.

As for the communist label, it appears he only started using that after his leader started calling his opposition that. It would be appreciated if our representative was able to think for himself, and not just reiterate the words of another.

I, and I'm sure I speak for many of the protesters, are very much in favor of democracy. We just don't want autocracy, with one person acting as a dictator, ruling by executive order. We appreciate the three branches of government, acting to keep each other in line.

Right now, we have a uniform party who supports one man, one idea, with no regard for our Constitution, our laws and the will of the people. This must change. Vote for change in November.

Jan Stittleburg
SUN CITY WEST

Abe Hamadeh represents Congressional District 8, which includes parts of Glendale, Peoria, north Phoenix, Sun City, Sun City West and Surprise.

RCSCW should remove, replace R.H. Johnson pool

Regarding Jennifer Jimenez's article, Directors meet a consensus to move ahead with pool deck repair: RCSCW built a swimming pool I believe most residents did not want.

R.H. Johnson pool is the type found in resorts and hotels with \$100 million-plus in annual revenue. Fixing the pool is peanuts; it's designed to suck all the cash out of our budget.

For years the man living next door to me was a municipal water treatment superintendent; one of the few experts in Arizona.

Every home in Sun City West will experience sewer and water lines, walls, foundations and driveways that are dropping down. The pool is no exception.

Seal coating is the best option because we don't know what will break next. Concrete's easy to repair.

• See **Letters** on page 20

RADIO

Meet Linda Marek, host of 'Tributes' on the radio

KSCW radio in Sun City West features unique shows, personalities

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Music is celebrated in this one hour program that can be heard on the airwaves of KSCW 103.1 FM.

"Tributes" host Linda Marek has spent nine years with the Sun City West Broadcast Club and has a passion for music.

She enjoys research and writing and has done a lot of that throughout her previous career and in college. Through her work as a school psychologist, she conducted case studies and wrote reports, which prepared her for the show she now produces.

"Tributes" is a show featuring topics that applaud something valued in music. Topics can include styles of music, musical instruments, awards, as well as unique ideas Marek comes up with. She once produced a show based on songs that have whistling in them.

"I give a little background about the subject and play the music that goes along with each topic from mostly the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s," she said.

The show is a one-hour recorded program that airs at 1 p.m. Saturdays and repeats at 3 p.m. Wednesdays.

The idea for her show came about after Marek read a book about a musical genius in 2017. This sparked her interest in sharing these same type of stories with the community. From there, she learned how to put together a show and include music, and she said "the rest is history".



Sun City West residents and Broadcast Club member Linda Marek hosts a show on KSCW 103.1 FM called "Tributes." (Submitted photo/Linda Marek)

Marek said her shows require a lot of research and some topics, like the Grand Ole Opry required 40 hours of work to produce.

She has 148 shows she has produced and is still coming up with new ideas. Marek has a studio to complete her work in both her Sun City West and Idaho homes.

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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- ▶ Why is the return on investment for industry leaders and the rich and famous just 5 years? What's the secret they know that you don't?
- ▶ Why do they get a 6.5% increase in home value but no increase in property taxes?
- ▶ For those who already have solar panels installed, can you explain how certain privileged individuals manage to acquire a \$16,000 Tesla Powerwall 3 for less than two-thirds of its price or pay approximately \$7,000 for Powerwall 3 with new solar installations.

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COLORS POP AT SHOW AND TELL

Colors popped like fireworks at Rip 'N' Sew's July show and tell. Eleven members of the Sun City West club brought in their projects to display. Robyn Reynolds' bright yellow gold tote bag printed with chickens in outrageous hues was one of three she brought. She also displayed a purse and two other bags. Susan Steffan finished Rose Waldon's blue and purple quilt and showed it off. Waldon had a four-circle bag and snap basket. Melissa VanDyken, Janet Thrush and Eva Welsberg brought items they had made in Rip 'N' Sew classes. Lynn Craig sewed bells along the bottom of her reindeer wall hanging in icy blue. Also blue were Maureen Platt's mug rugs. Ruth McCullough embroidered brightly hued towels with summer scenes. Also doing embroidery but on a blue T-shirt was Diana Smith, who wore her project. Connie Province showed off a matched table runner and casserole cozy in yellow and red. Pictured are Reynolds and Craig. (Submitted photo/ Gary Reynolds)



CLUB CREATING CARDS FOR VETERANS

The Artistic Hand Lettering, Cards & Mixed Media Club has been busy in July. The theme for the month is "Christmas in July" and several recent workshops have involved using old cards to make something new, scraps to make holiday cards, recycling materials to make beautiful new cards a the veterans holiday card project kicked off July 24. The club meets 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Friday and 6-9 p.m. Wednesday in the Kuentz center Pueblo Room. Contact Dottie Schmit (602-758-9854) or Kat McGinnis (480-806-8053), visit artistichandlettering.scwclubs.com or email ahlcandmm@gmail.com for more information. Club membership is \$10 annually. Pictured, Margie Neumiller preps donated cards to give to veterans. (Submitted photo/ Melanie Harrison)



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CLUBS



Pictured, standing, are Julie Eide (instructor), Sharon Smith, Angie Bookout, Tammie Frazier, Cindy Fink, Pat Davis and Anita Kratzer. Seated are Linda Cherry and Lynne Marion. (Submitted photo/Christina Hecht)

Club members reconfigure quilt design into cards

The arts are a creative medium and oftentimes overlap with one another as concepts in one form are adapted to suit another. Such was the case in a recent greeting card class taught in Scrapbooking, Papercrafts & More club.

Taking a cue from traditional fabric quilting, member Julie Eide taught members how to make the "Road to Tennessee Quilt" card. The pattern was recreated using paper strips cut from varying colors and patterns of designer paper.

Much like quilting, the card makers had to pay close attention to the placement and order of each color coordi-

nated strip. As in quilting, each card possessed a unique appeal due to the different colors and patterns of coordinating papers used to create the interlocking criss-cross pattern. As a final touch the cards were embellished with a stamped or die cut sentiment.

SPAM meets in the Beardsley center's Agave Room on Wednesdays (4-9 p.m.), Thursdays (9 a.m.-3 p.m.), Fridays (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) and Saturdays (9 a.m.-5 p.m.).

Call Sandy Cryer, president, at 623-640-9387, visit scwclubs.com or email scwscrapbook@gmail.com for more information.

Residents can take advantage of PORA trips

Sun City West residents can take a trip with friends through the Property Owners and Residents Association. The next outing is to Organ Stop Pizza, 1149 E. Southern Ave., where individuals will receive a pizza buffet plus a small salad and unlimited soft drinks. There will also be ice cream and alcoholic drinks for sale. The cost is \$55 per person. Two busses will provide transportation, leaving at 11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, from PORA, 13815 Camino del Sol. Music will be played on the Wurlitzer Organ, which is the largest of this kind in the world. Cutoff for final payment is due Wednesday, Sept. 16. Call 623-584-4288 to join the list. PORA is open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays.

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PICKLEBALL CLUB HOSTS BRATS AND BRUNCH EVENT

More than 50 members and guests of the Sun City West Pickleball Club gathered July 18 at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center's Liberty Courts for a special brats and brunch event. The outing featured a morning of pickleball competition, food and camaraderie. A team of volunteers kept everyone fed, grilling brats on the Blackstone grill while attendees could choose from an assortment of baked goods, breakfast dishes and brunch favorites contributed by club members. Visit scwpickleballclub.com/contact-us for more information. (Submitted photo/Marla Peters)



STITCHERS KEEP BUSY

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

HEALTH



(Metro Creative Graphics)

Church slates hospice care presentation

The community is invited to join Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd., for a presentation 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, in the Fellowship Hall Meeting Room.

This free educational program, presented by Hospice of the West, will explore the many myths and misconceptions surrounding hospice care while offering clear, compassionate information about the support hospice can provide for patients and their families.

Many people mistakenly believe that choosing hospice means giving up hope, that it is only available for cancer patients or that hospice is a place someone must go. In reality, hospice is specialized care focused on comfort, dignity, and improving quality of life for individuals facing serious illness, while also providing emotional and practical support for

loved ones.

During this presentation, attendees can gain a better understanding of what hospice truly is, who can benefit from its services and how early access to hospice care can make a meaningful difference for both patients and families. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and receive reliable information from experienced professionals.

Hospice of the West is committed to educating the community through programs that address topics such as healthy eating, palliative care, end-of-life planning, and caregiver support. This presentation offers a welcoming environment to learn, ask questions, and replace common misconceptions with facts that can help families make informed decisions.

This free event is open to the public.

Sign up at shepherdumc.org.



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AAA

Senior center offers upcoming tech talks

Banner Olive Branch Senior Center offers free tech talks for seniors. The first event Tech Talk with Steve runs 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 13049 N. 103rd Ave. Tech Talk AI Intro part one is 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11. Tech Talk with Steve will follow 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Week three features the second part of AI Application 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18, with one-on-one Tech Talk with Steve 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Week four offers Tech Talk with Steve availability 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25.



TENNIS CLUB SUPPORTS YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

Members of the Sun City West Tennis Club supported the recent "Chase Return The Serve Day" for the PASS (Programs for After School Success) organization at The Phoenix Tennis Center. PASS provides tennis and education programs for high school age children in underserved areas of Phoenix. Chase Bank and the USTA provide funding to introduce the sport of tennis so children can experience the "sport for a lifetime." Approximately 100 children took part in a morning of drills and financial basics. Then it was pizza, watermelon and popsicles. "The help from senior citizens is priceless. It demonstrates to these kids what community and volunteering is all about," stated Tony Reyes, executive director of PASS. Students in the blue and burgundy shirts are the PASS high school students who organized and ran the entire day. (Submitted photo/Vinnie Taibbi)

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Sun City crossing gets safety upgrade

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation is installing an enhanced pedestrian crossing and making other improvements at the intersection of 111th and Connecticut avenues in Sun City, near the border with the town of Youngtown.

Work started July 15 and is expected to continue through late August. It will be done 5 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. No weekend or holiday work is anticipated.

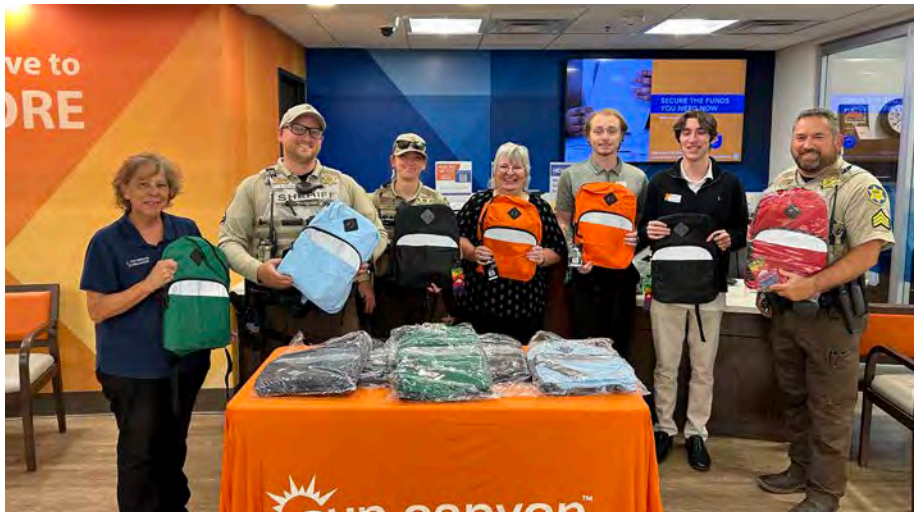
The new crossing will feature a warning device that uses high-intensity, rapidly flashing yellow LED lights to alert drivers that a pedestrian is crossing or is about to cross the

roadway. At the same time workers will upgrade existing Americans with Disabilities ramps to current federal standards, and remove and replace sidewalks, curbs and gutters where necessary.

Access to residences will be maintained at all times, but drivers can anticipate lane restrictions for the length of the project. Workers will be on hand to assist pedestrians and others wishing to cross. This work is expected to take approximately five weeks.

Schedule is subject to change for reasons beyond MCDOT's control, including weather, equipment failure, illness or other circumstances.

SUPPORT



Sun City West Posse Commander Carolyn Patterson, alongside Maricopa County Sheriff's Office deputies, Sun Canyon Bank Associate Branch Manager Gloria Petersen, Sun Canyon Bankers Cole War-nack and Brandon Sandmoen. (Submitted photo/Sun Canyon Bank)

Bank joins Posse, MCSO to donate backpacks

Sun Canyon Bank partners with community organizations

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Every year the Posses of Sun City West work alongside the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office District three on the backpack drive.

Gloria Petersen, Sun Canyon Bank associate branch manager, said they wanted to partner with the Sun City West Posse by donating 24 backpacks filled with school supplies for students in need.

MCSO Dep. Bill Cornwell said this year they are trying to collect donations for 1,060 students.

MCSO officials will go through all the donations collected from the district and distribute them to the students.

Donations will go to Aguila Elementary School in Aguila, an unincorporated community along U.S.

60 approximately 25 miles west of Wickenburg.

"The drive itself seeks to acquire hundreds of backpacks for children in nearby schools such as the Wittmann School District in order for these children to have a fresh school supplies start and a backpack to carry them," said Peterson.

Patterson said the residents and businesses of Sun City West are wonderful and generous.

She said Sun Canyon Bank officials contacted them to say they wanted to help with this project.

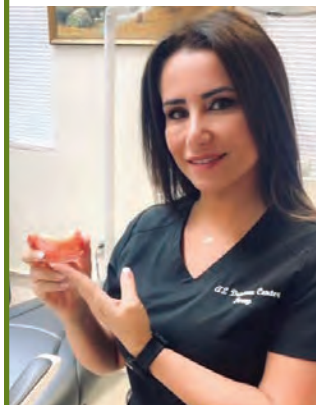
"Sun Canyon Bank has demonstrated to our community their generosity not only to the Posses of Sun City West but also to other community organizations," said Patterson.

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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Letters

• From page 10

Hopefully the board preserved copies of the RHJ pool engineering drawings. Before any repair, the soil should be tested, and all pipelines, pool walls and bottom inspected.

Is the pool insured? In SCW, we see almost daily TV ads for home concrete repair and wall repairs. Now we get ads in our mail for concrete, brick and wall repairs.

Every new homebuyer should have foundation, walls, sewer and water lines (especially under the house) inspected. Cracks in your walls, footing, floors are termite super highways.

Walk around your home and watch for cracks. Finally, call your homeowner insurance. Ask if they offer "earth movement insurance" (formerly earthquake insurance). Some Arizona companies no longer provide coverage, or your insurance may be worthless or crazy expensive. Old-timers who bought earth movement insurance years ago should be grandfathered in.

My solution: RCSCW should sue the planners, engineers, contractor and board members who approved the RJH pool.

Remove the RHJ pool, redesign it and build a disaster-proof pool system for active seniors, not people living in a fantasy world.

Scott Mitzner
SUN CITY WEST

Hamadeh should learn definition of 'communism'

At a recent town hall, our Congressional representative, Abe Hamadeh, characterized nearby protesters as communists.

The definition of communism is: "a political and economic philosophy advocating for a classless, moneyless and stateless society. All major means of production — like factories, farms and resources — are publicly owned rather than privately held."

Can he identify any protester that advocates this position?

There is a Republican that has invested taxpayer dollars in companies. That would be Donald Trump, whose administration has invested in or used tax dollars on behalf of the U.S. government to acquire an ownership interest in at least 20 U.S. companies, including Intel, U.S. Steel, Westinghouse Electric and IBM.

A U.S. representative should know this.

David Tomasi
SUN CITY WEST

Abe Hamadeh represents Congressional District 8, which includes parts of Glendale, Peoria, north Phoenix, Sun City, Sun City West and Surprise.

My suggestion for solving the national debt crisis

There is an imminent threat to our country and it isn't illegal immigra-

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tion, woke policies or any of the other distractions. It's a disaster in the making I believe could bring down our country as a world power.

Our national debt is so large that paying just the interest on the debt is the third-largest expenditure we have — larger than even defense spending. It only trails Social Security and Medicare in budget spending.

That huge interest payment doesn't reduce the debt itself, it just maintains it. This is not sustainable and the only real solution is to make drastic changes by cutting programs and increasing revenue.

The best solution would be to do both increasing revenue (taxes) and moderate changes to the entitlement programs. That way, no one group will face severe cuts.

However, I don't think Congress has the courage to increase taxes — even to those who could afford it. That means reducing the largest programs is the only option left

The only programs large enough to impact real debt reduction would be Social Security, Medicare and defense. Given that our defense budget is larger than the next three countries combined, it would make sense to focus there, but any suggestion of cutting that budget would not be taken seriously.

That leaves Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson said as much in a recent interview when he said Congress will be looking at those programs in this next session.

All of us need to be prepared for this looming crisis, and we need to be vocal in demanding that cuts be supplemented by increase in revenue (taxes) by rescinding tax cuts to the highest earners.

Alan Savage
SUN CITY WEST

Senior center offers upcoming tech talks

Banner Olive Branch Senior Center offers free tech talks for seniors.

The first event Tech Talk with Steve runs 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 13049 N. 103rd Ave.

Tech Talk AI Intro part one is 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11. Tech Talk with Steve will follow 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Week three features the second part of AI Application 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18, with one-on-one Tech Talk with Steve 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Week four offers Tech Talk with Steve availability 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25.

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RESOURCES

New outreach rep making connections with seniors

Resources available for various services

By Jennifer Jimenez
and Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Banner Olive Branch Senior Center has a new community outreach representative ready and eager to help assist seniors in the Sun Cities.

Heike Newman will replace Julie Ash, who retired this summer and left her mark in the community.

According to Jennifer Lawless, director Banner Olive Branch Senior Center, Ash helped thousands of seniors save tens of thousands of dollars by helping members apply for support services.

"Julie leaves behind a legacy of giving time and resources to our members to ensure all those we serve have all they need," Lawless stated in an email.

She added that this is an important service because "for some folks, saving a little money on monthly bills and having a place to get a free meal is a lifesaver — literally."

Newman has been working with community members in this capacity since the start of July. However, she is no stranger to Banner Olive Branch. She spent time with Ash while training, according to Lawless.

Newman began volunteering as a chair yoga instructor twice a month for almost two years. When she heard Ash was retiring she went through the appropriate channels to apply and landed the job.

"Now I am connecting the community with the resources that are available to them or finding resources



Heike Newman, Banner Olive Branch Seniors Center community outreach representative. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

that we might not even know about yet," she said.

Newman has been scheduling appointments with individuals and also accepts walk-ins.

She can help with benefit reviews and provide resources if seniors have financial restraints or emergencies. She can connect individuals to utility reduction programs and food security resources. She can also help people apply for AHCCS.

Various types of scenarios with clients come across Newman's desk. Some have a lot of concerns and do not know where to turn for help and others do not use a computer, but they are so worried about not being able to pay their bills or not having enough food, according to Newman.

As she begins her new journey, Newman said she is looking forward to leading with love and compassion, regardless of if she can help or not and hopes when people leave they feel cared for after working alongside her.

"If I can help one person a day, big or small, I feel like I accomplished something today and that is a good day," said Newman.



Jared Gough

JoAnn Regan

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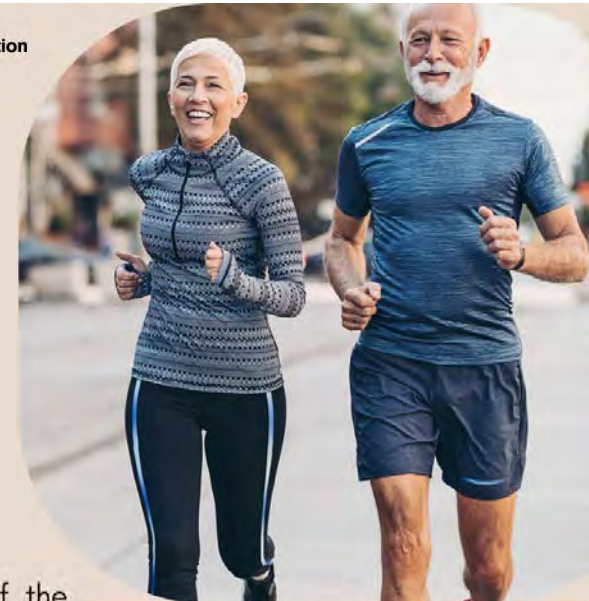
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SUPPORT

'Peanut Butter People' support Justa Center

Every Monday morning at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd., something special is happening — and it starts with peanut butter, jelly and a whole lot of heart.

Known as “The Peanut Butter People,” more than 40 volunteers gather each week at 8 a.m. to prepare hundreds of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Justa Center, a Phoenix nonprofit dedicated to serving older adults experiencing homelessness.

Shepherd of the Hills was recently honored to welcome Rudy Soliz, director of operations for Justa Center, who visited to recognize the Sandwich Makers ministry and thank volunteers for their partnership in supporting some of the community's most vulnerable neighbors.

Since opening in 2006, Justa Center has been the only day resource center in the Phoenix area focused exclusively on adults age 55 and older who are experiencing homelessness. The organization provides a safe and welcoming environment where seniors can access critical services such as housing assistance, transportation coordination, benefits support, healthcare referrals, replacement identification and individualized case management.

This summer, the need has grown even greater. Justa Center was recently designated as an official cooling station, providing older adults with a safe, air-conditioned refuge from Arizona's extreme temperatures. As more people seek shelter and support, the demand for meals has risen significantly. The Peanut Butter People didn't hesitate to answer the call. To help meet the increased need, the team of volunteers recently increased its weekly production



Rudy Soliz, director of operations for Justa Center, visited Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church to recognize the Sandwich Makers ministry and thank volunteers for their partnership in supporting some of the community's most vulnerable neighbors. (Submitted photo/Luna Lorenzano)

from 760 sandwiches to 960 sandwiches each week.

During his visit, Soliz shared updates about Justa Center's expanding services and the growing number of seniors turning to the organization for help.

“Hearing directly from Rudy about the impact these sandwiches have on the lives of those Justa Center serves reminds us that even simple acts of kindness can make a lasting difference,” said Pastor Daniel Gomez. “We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our neighbors and support the incredible work being done at Justa Center.”

The Sandwich Makers meet every Monday at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church. New volunteers are always welcome, and no experience is required.

The ministry is also seeking donations of 30-ounce jars of grape jelly, 48-ounce jars of creamy peanut butter (chunky and organic varieties are difficult to spread), sandwich-size zipper storage bags and snack-size zipper storage bags.

Donations may be brought to the church office 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

POLICE REPORTS

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

JULY 2

- A theft was reported at 5:03 p.m. in the 13400 block of West Tether Trail.
- An assault was reported 5:21 p.m. in the 13900 block of West Meeker Boulevard.
- A vehicle crash with injuries was reported 3:39 p.m. at the intersection of North Del Webb Boulevard and West Santa Fe Drive.
- A fraud or con game was reported 11:46 a.m. in the 13500 block of West Sky Hawk Drive.
- Identity theft was reported 8:58 a.m. in the 17300 block of West Sunnyslope Lane.
- A theft was reported 7:16 a.m. in the 16000 block of North Del Webb Boulevard.

JULY 3

- Criminal damage was reported 11:01 p.m. in the 13000 block of West Caraway Drive.
- An assault was reported 8:04 p.m. in the 10700 block of Northwest US60 Grand Avenue.
- An animal problem was reported 3:26 p.m. in the 11100 block of West Montana Avenue.
- A theft was reported 11:50 a.m. in the 10700 block of Northwest US60 Grand Avenue.
- Trespassing was reported 11 a.m. in the 11000 block of North 109th Avenue.

JULY 4

- A fire was reported 11:12 p.m. in the 10700 block of West Peoria Avenue.
- An assault was reported 7:53 p.m. in the 18300 block of west Caminito Drive.
- Criminal damage was reported 10:14 a.m. in the 13100 block of West Spanish Garden Drive.
- A theft was reported 9:47 a.m. in the 10000 block of West Peoria Avenue.
- A burglary was reported 7:09 a.m. in the 10800 block of West Coggins Drive.

JULY 5

- A vehicle crash with no injuries was reported 7:49 p.m. at the intersection of North Del Webb Boulevard and West Bell Road.
- A fraud or con game was reported 7:30 a.m. in the 14200 block of North 71st Avenue.

JULY 6

- A fraud or con game was reported 12:54 p.m. in the 10600 block of West Manzanita Drive.

- An assault was reported 5:29 p.m. in the 11000 block of West Timberline Drive.
- An assault was reported 4:27 p.m. in the 14500 block of west Granite Valley Drive.
- Trespassing was reported 3:52 p.m. in the 11300 block of West Duluth Avenue.
- An assault was reported 2:17 p.m. in the 13300 block of West Copperstone Drive.
- A burglary was reported 12:19 p.m. in the 14500 block of west Granite Valley Drive.
- Identity theft was reported 10:43 a.m. in the 16000 block of West Huron Drive.
- Illegal dumping was reported 10:21 a.m. in the 11400 block of North 114th Avenue.
- A traffic violation was reported 9:26 a.m. at the intersection of 111th Avenue and Mountain View.
- A abandoned vehicle was reported 8:19 a.m. in the 15300 block of West White Horse Drive.
- A burglary was reported 5:17 a.m. in the 14400 block of West R.H. Johnson Boulevard.

JULY 7

- A theft was reported 8:01 p.m. in the 10800 block of West Cameo Drive.
- A theft was reported 3:58 p.m. in the 13600 block of North Del Webb Boulevard.
- Trespassing was reported 4:42 p.m. in the 10500 block of West Thunderbird Boulevard.
- Suspicious activity was reported 12:51 p.m. in the 11022 West Bluefield Court.
- A fraud or con game was reported 9:43 a.m. in the 11100 block of West Emerald Drive.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 9:49 a.m. at the intersection of North 99th Avenue and North Cameo Drive.

JULY 8

- Neighborhood trouble was reported 7:09 p.m. in the 18100 block of West Mission Lane.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 8:32 a.m. in the 10600 block of Northwest US60 Grand Avenue.
- Threats to commit an offense was reported 5:39 p.m. in the 11200 block of West Duluth Avenue.
- A fraud or con game was reported 1:30 p.m. in the 14500 block of West Granite Valley Drive.
- Found property was reported 6:40 p.m. in the 13000 block of West Bell Road.
- A fraud or con game was reported 5:25 p.m. in the 11700 block of West Foothill Court.
- A burglary was reported 3:27 p.m. in the 14500 block of West Horizon Drive.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 12:05 p.m. at the intersection of North Camino Del Sol and North 133rd Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with injuries was reported 1:13 a.m. at the intersection of North 99th Avenue and Ironwood Drive.

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

Mesa • November 13, 2026 • Mesa Marketplace Swap Meet

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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Leland (Lee) A Schlabach

Leland (Lee) A Schlabach passed away on June 22, 2026, in Surprise, Arizona. He was born on September 12, 1931, and grew up in Arthur, Illinois, a small farming and industrial community in central Illinois. After graduating from High School in 1949, he worked as a machine operator for Caterpillar in East Peoria, Illinois, for 1 year. Lee enlisted into the military in September of 1950, and served 4 years in the USAF during the Korean War. He trained as an aircraft mechanic and taught in aircraft electrical repair schools for 3 years at Chanute AFB. He was Honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant in September of 1954. He was married to Lucille Anna Reagin in Lake City, Illinois on June 30, 1954. He then attended the University of Illinois, completing

a BSEE in 1958, after which he worked for Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for 12 years. While there, he worked on the development of Power Electronic Equipment, and with financial help from Westinghouse, earned an MSEE and PhD Degree. He was awarded 5 patents for new inventions, and some of the developed equipment was used on Nuclear Submarines and smaller research and rescue submarines.

In 1969, he went to work for the Robicon Corporation as the manager of the group of Engineers designing and developing Power Electronic Equipment for the industrial market and continued there until retirement at the end of 1994. Most of the products were used to control the speed of DC motors in the production of steel in Steel Mills, including rolling mills and the positioning of electrodes in Arc Furnaces. In addition, speed controls were provided to an electrically driven front end wheel loaders used in mining operations and built by LeTourneau Corporation, now Komatsu Corp., of Longview, Texas. Follow up on the various equipment included travelling to many places in Europe,

South Africa, Malaysia, and China, as well as most states in the U.S. He continued with consulting work for a few years until health problems convinced him to stop and enjoy retirement.

He was invited to, and joined several academic honorary societies, including Phi Kappa Phi, Tau Beta Phi, and Eta Kappa Nu. He was a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. and supported the Society at the annual meetings around the country by organizing and conducting many technical sessions and also wrote and presented a number of technical papers. At the local level, he was chairman of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Industry Applications Society for one year. He was also a member of the Iron and Steel Society, and is listed in Who's Who in Science and Engineering beginning in 1992.

Lee and Lucille had 3 children, Leon Arthur Schlabach of Sun City West, Arizona, Lou Ann Wilson of Niceville, Florida, and Larry Andrew Schlabach of Fort Walton Beach, Florida. He and Lucille divorced in 1977, and he married Helen Marie Lakly Schlabach in 1981. She

had 3 children from a previous marriage, John G. Furjanic of Littleton, Colorado, Deborah M. Petrina of Glendale, Arizona, and Suzanne K. Furjanic of Santa Ana, California. This was a happy marriage with many happy family gatherings, much travelling including annual vacations to Cancun, Mexico, and 6 ocean cruises to the Caribbean, Alaska, and Europe. They wintered in Florida for a number of years, but moved permanently to Sun City West, Arizona, in 2002. Together, they have 9 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren. Lee is survived by a sister, Lydia Marie Tester of Newton, Kansas. His younger brother, Leroy A. Schlabach of Meigs, Georgia, and a younger sister Martha Carolyn Usnick of Albuquerque, New Mexico, both passed away a few years before Lee.

His hobbies included gardening, music, and skiing, he particularly enjoyed golf and flying. While he did not get to fly in the USAF, he earned his Private and Instrument flying licenses in the early 1970's and his pilot flying time was about 700 hours. Most of his flying was in the eastern part of the U.S. but also flew to

the Bahama Islands a number of times. He started playing golf in the early 1950's but didn't have any holes-in-one until 2002 and 2003. His affection for music started with playing brass instruments in grade school and high school bands in Arthur, Illinois, and eventually took up the electronic organ.

He and Helen enjoyed travelling and attending weeklong conventions in most of the major cities in the U.S. and one to Mexico City, Mexico. They had a two-week time share condominium in Cancun, Mexico that they often shared with friends and relatives each year for about 25 years. They vacationed in Florida for a few months each year in retirement until they moved to Arizona. They also went on a number of cruises including the West Coast, the Baltic Sea, and two to the Mediterranean.

He enjoyed participating in the Pebblebrook Men's golf club, the Bandits golf club, the Engineers club, the Organ and Keyboard club, and the Computer club in Sun City West, and was President of the Pennsylvania Club for 3 years. He also enjoyed his associations with the Fraternal

Order of Elks, the American Legion, and was a 32nd Degree Mason.

He was forever grateful to so many with friendly advice and support throughout his childhood and adult life. While there were sacrifices to serve in the USAF, he greatly appreciated the freedoms we enjoy in the U.S., particularly after travelling to other countries and seeing the limitations there. The GI Bill supported him through college, and subsequent employers provided support for further education. Being one of such an interdependent people, he felt so blessed to have received so much, from so many, not only friends and mentors, but also medical, business and other professionals whose vocations led them to help others. He tried to give some too, and found the more he gave, the more he enjoyed giving.

Lee will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life is planned for Lee at the Windmill Hotel in Surprise, Arizona at 11am on Saturday, November 7th.

In lieu of flowers, contributions are encouraged to help the Salvation Army, MS Society, or the Cancer Society.



Stanley "Stan" Friedman

Stanley "Stan" Friedman, 88, of Sun City West, Arizona, passed away on July 16, 2026.

He was born April 7, 1938, in Brooklyn, New York to Joe and Sally Friedman. He was preceded in death by his grandson Bryan. He is survived by his wife of 66 years and 10 months,

Nelda, and his three children, Sally Jo (Billy), Nancy, and Lee (Trish). Four grandchildren also survive him; Kasey (David), Meryl, Sarah (Keith), Taylor (Zach) and six great-grandchildren; DJ, Kennedy, Lauren, Natalie, Margaret, and Charlotte. To view entire obituary go to www.caminodelsol.com.



Bonnie L. Slinker

Bonnie L. Slinker died Friday, July 10, 2026, the result of being struck by a truck in a shopping center parking lot. She was born in West Clarksville, N.Y. on December 7, 1934 to Emma and Elton Carlson. She was one of six children.

She attended Richburg Central School.

In 1959 she married Ronald Pratt. In 1960 they moved to Phoenix, Arizona. After that marriage ended, she married Don Slinker in 1973.

Before moving to Phoenix, she was employed by Loblaw's Grocery Store. After moving she worked for AJ Bayless Grocery for many years. After retiring, she volunteered at the Peoria Sports Complex during Spring Training for 30 years. She also volunteered at the Lutheran Thrift Store for many years where she was known as the "Christmas Light Lady". She was also a

member of the Community of Grace Lutheran Church.

She is survived by her son Randy Pratt, stepdaughters Rene Sheppard and Bonnie Khan, a brother Phil Carlson of N. Wilksboro, NC and sister Diana Chase of Glendale, Arizona. And a grandson Don Bogue.

She was preceded in death by Don Slinker, her son Larry Pratt, brother Junior Carlson, and sisters, Delores Sweet and Gretta Gram.

A Celebration of Life will be at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Macular Degeneration, Cancer Society, or American Heart Association.

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Fellowship Lunch: 11 - 12pm

Mens Prayer Time: Thurs 7:30am

Men's Bible Study: Thurs 9:00am

Ladies Bible Study: Thurs 9:00 AM

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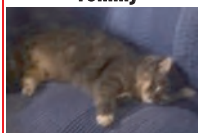
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- ☐ **Be respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment, and threats directed at another person — or that person's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully 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.

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