

REC CENTER NEWS

Citizens Academy is here!
TORCH 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

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Inside this issue

Theater

Sun City West theater earns several arizoni nominations; 4

SUN CITY WEST
INDEPENDENT

August 26, 2026

Volume 66 Issue 34

Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Resident credits program for aiding in health emergency

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

During an emergency medical situation with a loved one having critical information ready, can help save a life.

After her husband passed out on the kitchen floor, Sun City West resident Maryann Jefferies thought the worst. She lied down next to him, calling 911.

“I did not know what to do. I was just beating on his chest and when paramedics got there I was not able to say anything,” she said.

Jefferies also has a lock box on the outside of her home but does not remember how emergency personnel got inside. Crews knew

• See **Life** on page 5



Lara Petrin and Bob Wilson register residents for the upcoming Sun City West Citizens Academy. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

Community can learn more through Citizens Academy

This program is a new generation of TORCH

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Going back to 2010, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West offered a program to help residents understand how the community operates.

TORCH, which stands for “Tapping Our Resources, Citizens and

Heritage,” made it challenging for residents to understand what the program was designed for.

The program was changed and is now called the “TORCH Sun City West Citizens Academy.” This is a new three-tiered system that offers a more convenient way to learn about Sun City West.

“Previously, we would get people taking the class who want to be involved, on the governing board or at

the committee level or just ordinary people who want to learn about the community they live in,” said Bill Wilson, Citizens Academy chairman.

The three tiers include TORCH 1 Essentials, which covers the basics of living in Sun City West. Some of these topics include the difference between Sun City West and

• See **TORCH** on page 6

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R-151st., L-Deer Valley, R-Executive
Way, L-Black Gold Ln.

**SUNDAY, AUG 30TH
10:00AM-NOON**

**14114 W. Whitwood Dr.,
SUN CITY WEST**

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ,
R-Meeker, L-Echo Mesa, L-Whitewood Dr.

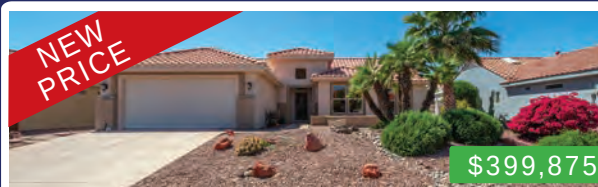
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15357 W. Black Gold Ln., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7002574

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

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



\$444,875

15192 W. Las Brizas Ln., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7059982

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-151st, L-Corral Dr., R-Acapulco. L-Las Brizas Ln.

Highly desired Prescott model is located on the 7th fairway of Desert Trails GC. This 1856 sq. ft. home has 2 Bdrms (split), 2 baths plus a den. New roof underlayment 2022, HVAC in 2020 & kitchen appliances 2019. Quick close of escrow is possible. Home has been well maintained. This one is one you'll want to see! Call today to view!

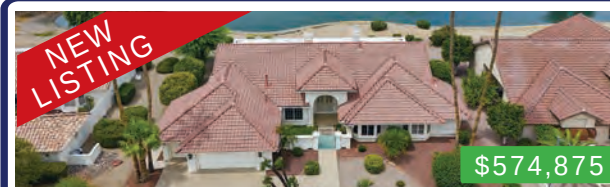


\$244,875

12759 W. Ballad Dr., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7064685

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

Nicely maintained Gemini/Twin home just a half a block from SCW's Stardust GC club house. 1419 Sq. Ft., 2 Bdrms, 2 baths plus a large, screened patio. New HVAC 2023. Guest bath updated. Porcelain plank tile flooring. HOA allows pets (max 2) & rentals. Quick close of escrow possible. This one is one you'll want to see! Call today to view!

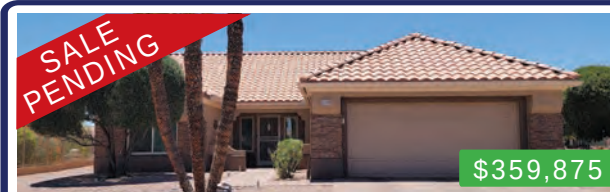


\$574,875

14114 W. Whitewood Dr., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7068961

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-Meeker, L-Echo Mesa, L-Whitewood Dr.

Expanded Montero model with panoramic views of SCW's Trail Ridge GC 3rd fairway/ green & lake with fountain. Approx. 3000 sq. ft., 2 Bdrm suites, 3 baths plus a den/office & golf cart garage. The large, covered patio, dining/family/living Rm combination is designed for formal/casual entertaining. Quick close of escrow is possible. Centrally located & in SCW's lower tax area this home is one you'll want to see. Don't hesitate! Call today to view!



\$359,875

23100 N. Drifter Way, SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7062138

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-Meeker, L-135th, L-Deer Valley Rd., R-Dusty Trail Blvd., R-Drifter Way

Popular Rio Verde model (expended). This 1612sq. ft. home has 2 Bdrms (split), 2 baths plus an added den/office/craft studio. Both bathrooms updated including walk in/roll in showers (2023). Paid off solar lease. Quick close of escrow is possible. No neighborhood HOA fee. This one is one you'll want to see! Call today to view!



\$654,875

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!



CLUBS

Meet Sun City West Mac-Cro-Knit librarian Linda Flathau

How long have you been a member of Mac-Cro-Knit? I have been a member of the club for about six years. I was encouraged to join by a previous president and it has renewed my interest of yarn and creating with yarn. I was born and raised in Northfield, Illinois, a small town near Lake Michigan where I lived during the summers. Winters, however, could be brutal with snow, wind and wind chills so many days were spent indoors. My mother was skilled at many things: needlepoint, knitting, cross-stitch and crossword puzzles. She tried to teach me to knit, but she was left handed and I am right handed so I never learned that from her. I do remember making latch hook rugs.

Do you crochet, knit, or loom knit? What do you enjoy making? I can now knit, crochet and create on a loom. Our club participates in charity work for the hospital so I enjoy making smaller projects like baby hats and booties. I learned to crochet while in nursing school, in between watching "General Hospital" in the afternoons and "Medical Center" at night.

How long have you been the club librarian? Our current club president announced that the library position would be open as the past librarian was leaving the club so I volunteered to take on the position about nine months ago. The library has great resources, but I could see at a glance that it needed to be down-sized, thinned, cleaned, organized and straightened just a bit as the shelves were packed very tightly.

What do you enjoy most about the position? I have always liked the library and my thoughts are that no matter where you live, if your town has a good cafe, an ice cream parlor, a church and a library, that's all you need. When I was a young girl, I possessed all the Nancy Drew mystery books. I would start to read, got into the story and could not put the book down. That is the joy of reading! You can travel the world in a simple book. That trip to Paris may never happen, but you can see and learn about the Eiffel Tower or the Louvre Art Museum or how to make a beignet (delicious French pastry). I own a Nook and do enjoy reading from it, but it is not the same as a real book that you can touch, feel and smell.

How has the library changed since you've become the Librarian? My hope was that the changes I made to the library would make it easier for people to find what they are looking for or just peruse through the books and patterns to get inspired by all the lovely creations.

What types of materials are available to the club? The club offers crochet, knitting and loom



Linda Flathau (Submitted photo/Lisa Capriotti)

books with patterns; many "how to" books (learn crochet, knit step by step); single patterns to check out; club patterns specific for our charity work, like baby hats, booties, chemo caps, chemo capes, small lap blankets etc; some instruction on macrame and tatting. The library contains about 200-300 patterns, books, and pamphlets. It is fun to create something just for yourself, too. The club receives yarn donations and they are placed in bins by color. If you are working on a charity project, the club yarn is free for you to use; there are also supplies available to purchase: knitting needles, crochet hooks etc. **Are there any unique or vintage resources in the collection?** The library does contain some vintage patterns/books: several books on macrame, some interest in tatting and some copy-writes from 1970. It is fun to look at things from "the good old days."

Mac-Cro-Knit meets 8-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Kuentz Recreation Center Pueblo Room #3. New members of all skill levels are always welcome. Contact club president Connie Ottemann at 402-499-1681 for more information.

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ARTS

Local theater earns several ariZoni nominations

Ghostlight Theatre celebrates with members

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A local community theater in Sun City West is celebrating several nominations for the ariZoni Theatre Association Awards.

Ghostlight Theatre, 13541 W. Camino del Sol, has called Sun City West home since 2013, while the non-profit began in 2010 with a dream and idea between a group of high school friends.

Now, the group is celebrating several “Zonis” nominations. These awards celebrate productions, performances and contributions to other theaters.

Ghostlight Theatre Marketing Director GinaKay Howell said these awards consider about 36 different community theaters and it is an honor to be considered for the work the group puts in.

“We have received dozens of ariZoni nominations over the past 17 years, including six wins across multiple categories,” she said.

Howell said this is a big honor considering the small size of Ghostlight Theatre. She is one of only 10 nominees in the category of hair and make-up out of the 36 total theaters.

She said this theater is a special place that is hard to compare with the level of work and amount of time that goes into any level of production. In the live performance setting, every night of the show is different.

The shows at Ghostlight Theatre vary in size with some cast and crew made up of 10 people and others have 17.



“Defying Gravity” and “The Shark is Broken” were nominated for best overall production. (Submitted photo/Ghostlight Theatre)

Howell said theater is her passion, and everyone in the theater shares that passion in their projects.

Even if she is not a performer in a production, she could be involved in design and supports every show.

Laura Vines, executive director of Ghostlight Theatre said it is always nice to be recognized by the Arizona theater community for doing quality work.

“It is always great to be recognized by the Arizona theater community for doing quality work. The nomination for “The Shark is Broken” is the fifth best overall production nomination we have received in as many years, which is rare and really speaks to the caliber of art that we are producing for the West Valley,” she said.

The awards ceremony will take place Oct. 6 at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E. Second St. Youth awards will be presented at 5:30 p.m., and the adult ceremony begins at 8 p.m.

Ghostlight Theatre is already into a new season of productions and can be found at ghostlightaz.com/up-next.

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Sun City West resident Maryann Jefferies uses the Vial for Life program offered through Sun Health because she said it is incredibly important. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

Life

• From page 1

inside the refrigerator was a Vial of Life, since emergency service professionals in the West Valley are trained to look for the sticker on the window or outside of the refrigerator, according to Staci Glass, vice president of philanthropy at Sun Health.

"The crew knew where he had to go, who his doctors were and the medications he was on, which I think is just really important," said Jefferies.

While the Vial of Life served Jefferies and her husband with more than one person in the home, she said anyone living alone should have these vials in case of a medical emergency.

Included in the vial is personal identification, medical conditions, medicine list, allergies, emergency contact and doctor information. The vial then is placed on the door of an individual's refrigerator. Plus, Jefferies has them in her husband's golf cart and their vehicle.

"When medications change, you can simply cross them out or write the name of the new doctor. If there are a lot of changes then you can fill it all out again, but smaller changes I make right on the paper and put it back in the vial," said Jefferies.

Sun Health Director of Communications Madeleine Goff said this program promotes safety for seniors and using the Vial of Life is available to anyone.

Sun City West resident Richard Gfeller said he and his wife have prepared "medical alerts," which is a document they place in the Vial of Life, as well as carry copies in their wallets.

"Having the information in the computer makes it convenient to update our documents and simply replace the ones in our wallets and the refrigerator," he said.

Glass said she has heard stories of the vials helping family members who is with someone experiencing a significant health issue.

"This speaks for a person unable to speak for themselves and can expedite

care. In some cases can help save precious minutes and dangerous drug errors," she said.

This program is made possible through members in the community and donations. The vials are free to anyone in the West Valley at [//sunhealthwellness.org/vial-of-life-and-file-of-life/](http://sunhealthwellness.org/vial-of-life-and-file-of-life/) or call 623-471-9355

"Part of what Sun Health does is go out and train first responders on how Vial of Life works," said Glass.

At the Colonnade, 19116 N. Colonnade Way, 96% of residents are using the Vial of Life program.

Glass said they are distributing about 5,000 Vials of Life a year and she said they are looking for continued support to be where they are needed and make sure they can provide the necessary training.

Visit [//sunhealthwellness.org/](http://sunhealthwellness.org/)

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

WRITING

WHAM seeks authors for annual Walking Through Words exhibit

Through Oct. 13, WHAM Art Center is accepting submissions for the second annual Walking Through Words.

Authors selected for the exhibition will be notified within five days of submitting the application.

Published and self-published authors from throughout Arizona, representing all genres, are invited to submit their books for the opportunity to be featured in this gallery experience, scheduled to be on display Nov. 3–28.

The exhibition offers Arizona authors an opportunity to introduce their work to new readers, connect with fellow writers, and become part of a growing community that values creativity.

“Walking Through Words is a unique opportunity to celebrate both the authors and the artistry behind their books,” said WHAM Art Center Executive Director Connie Whitlock, in a prepared statement.

“This exhibition gives writers the chance to share their stories in a gal-

lery setting while connecting with readers, fellow creatives, and the community.”

Unlike a traditional book event, Walking Through Words changes book covers in to framed display posters exhibited alongside the corresponding books, stated the release.

Each accepted author will also share an author biography and book summary, giving visitors a chance to discover the stories, inspiration, and creative journeys behind each publication. Books will be available for

purchase during the exhibition.

Whether you published your first novel, a collection of poetry, a children’s book, a memoir, a mystery, science fiction, fantasy, romance, historical fiction, nonfiction, or a book in any other genre, Walking Through Words celebrates the “passion, perseverance, and imagination that bring stories to life,” noted the release.

Submission guidelines, the prospectus, and application materials are available at wham-art.org.

TORCH

• From page 1

the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, what being a RCSCW member means, budgeting and dues, information about the organization and question and answer sessions with the governing board president and general manager.

TORCH 2 The Conference goes into more details with a wider variety of speakers that participants can choose that interest them the most.

This will cover information from the Sun Cities Del Webb Historical Society, various topics on getting involved, crime and safety

with Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Bill Cornwell, as well as information on the master plan and what role the Property Owners and Residents Association plays.

For residents who are interested in serving in a leadership role on a committee, club or the governing board, TORCH 3 The Future is recommended.

“With sessions happening at the same time, people will have to select those they are most interested in and then sign up again for a different topic,” said General Services Officer Katy O’Grady.

Residents who have taken TORCH often share anecdotes about dispelling rumors heard at

the pool or in a club and knowing who to contact to get the right information.

Also, historically this has been a seven-week program, which made it difficult for people to commit, and it was always offered on the same day. Now different days will be offered for some classes, and the topics will change.

Lara Petrin handles the scheduling and said this new format makes that portion of the academy easier.

She said TORCH 1 is nearly at capacity and is being offered Monday, Oct. 12 and Tuesday, Oct. 27. The cost is \$5.

Registrants can also register for TORCH 2 at the same time.

Previous TORCH Citizens

Academy graduates are also welcome to register for the second class. The cost is \$10 and will take place Friday, Nov. 6.

To register for TORCH 3, the prerequisite is TORCH 1 and 2 or a previous TORCH Citizens Academy graduate from within the past five years. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch and tours. These dates will be announced at a later date.

Visit suncitywest.com/citizensacademy.

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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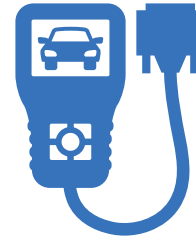
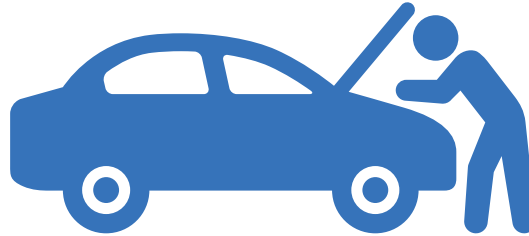
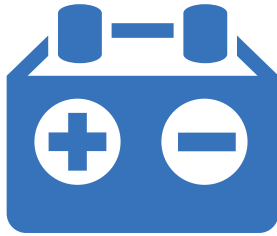
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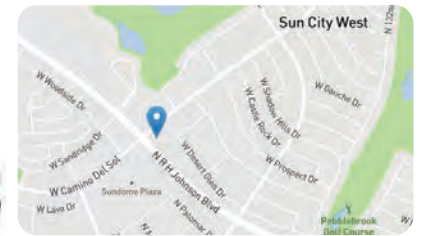
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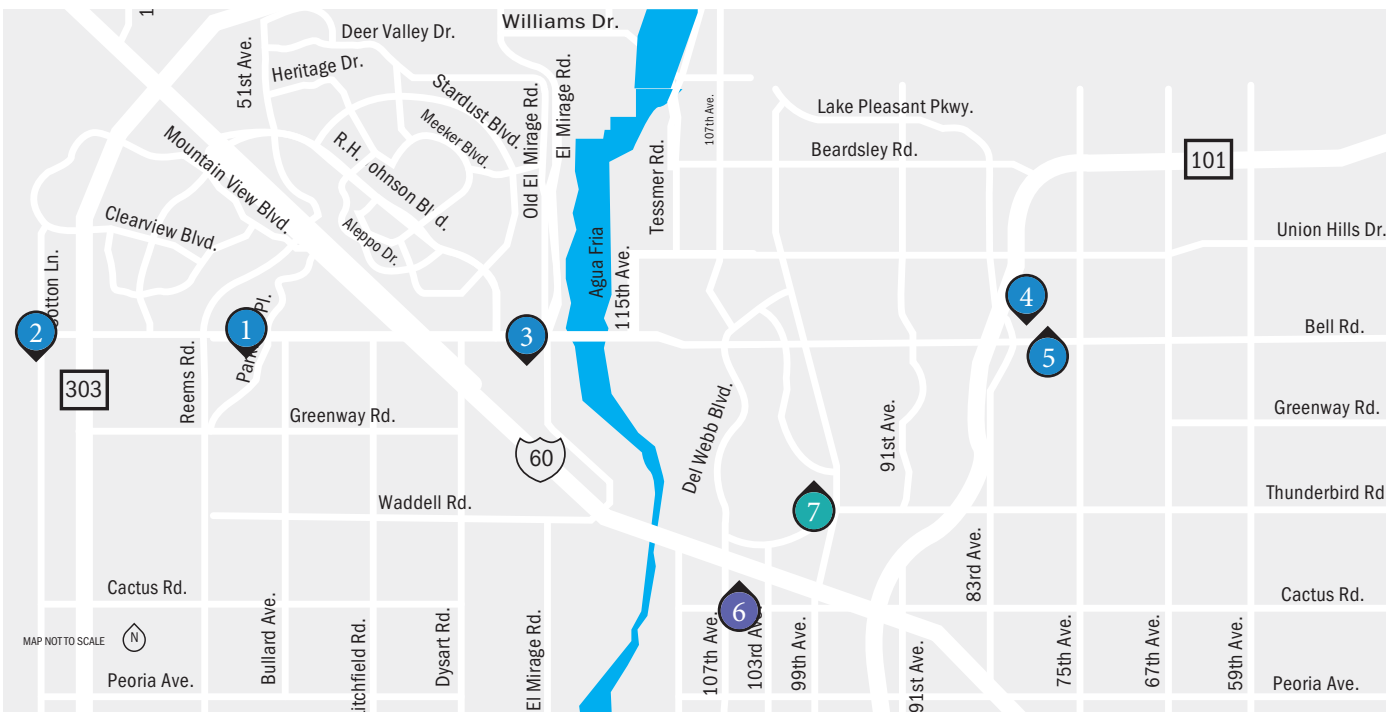
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BUSINESS MOVES



OPENINGS

1 Southern Steer Butcher experienced a milestone day Aug. 6 for the grand opening of its location at 16853 N. 145th Ave., Suite 161. Owner Scott Strelitz and General Manager Damon Anderson helped cut the ribbon in a ceremonial event with city leaders. Visit facebook.com/p/Southern-Steer-Butcher-Surprise-61584567974316.

2 Take 5 Oil Change recently announced the grand opening of three new Arizona locations, including new spots at 16771 W. Bell Road and 16590 W. Cactus Road. Each location has three service bays, and customers can remain comfortably in their car and receive a high-quality oil change in about 10 minutes. Visit take5.com/locations.

3 Following its June soft opening, **AZ Turn & Burn RC** got the official ceremonial opening treatment Aug. 5 with a ribbon cutting. AZ Turn & Burn RC celebrated the expansion of its business into the adjacent suite at Crossroads Towne Center at 12851 W. Bell Road, Suite 114. Visit azturnandburn.com.

4 PartyZona, 8026 W. Bell Road, is now open in Arrowhead Plaza. The store, which is taking over the old Party City store, sells all sorts of celebration needs. The store opens at 9 a.m. every day while closing at 8 p.m. Monday–Thursday, at 9 p.m. on Friday, at 7 p.m. on Saturday and at 5 p.m. on Sunday.

5 Marshalls, 7974 W. Bell Road, has opened its doors in Arrowhead Marketplace, replacing the former OfficeMax space. It is three doors down from the Trader Joe's.

ANNIVERSARY

6 Pinnacle Mobility Scooters, 10659 Grand Ave., suite 9, is approaching its one-year anniversary Saturday Aug. 29. Bill and Amy Kremer first started the business to help Sun City's residents stay mobile, independent and confident.

SPECIAL EVENT

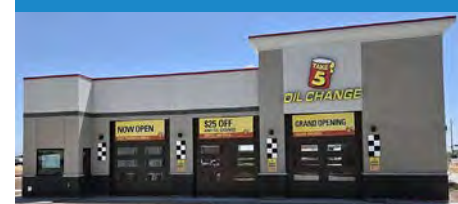
7 Independent Newsmedia's Sun City Senior Expo is 9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. Explore a selection of products and services, access essential health screenings, connect with local and national vendors and enjoy free giveaways, door prize drawings and entertainment. Businesses interested in a sponsorship can call 888-665-3848 or email AZADS@iniusa.org.



Southern Steer Butcher



AZ Turn & Burn RC



Take 5 Oil Change



Pinnacle Mobility Scooters

CLUBS

Club members create unique greeting cards

Members of Scrapbooking, Papercrafts & More club have weekly opportunities to attend crafting workshops, and the most popular classes entail learning how to create unique styles of greeting cards.

During a recent workshop, member Lavonda Beukers showed participants how to cut and crease cardstock to create a base card with overlapping triangles. Coordinating colors and patterns of printed paper were then layered over each geometric section of the card.

Members personalized their double folding triangle cards decorating the card with stamped images, die cut shapes, and other eye-catching embellishments.

Those interested in papercrafts, cardmaking or scrapbooking can visit the club 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.). For info call club president Sandy Cryer at 623-640-9387, visit scrapbooking.scwclubs.com or email scwscrapbook@gmail.com.



In back are Char Radous, Lavonda Beukers, Linda Cherry, Sandy Young and Sandy Cryer; in front are Sandy Bauer, Beverly Giller, Cindy Cassara, Lynne Marion and Lisa Cannon. (Submitted photo/Christina Hecht)

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OPINION

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Your Opinion

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

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

Speak Up

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

Corrections

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

Godspeed, America — our national debt crisis is serious

America's debt crisis is a real threat and I'd like to thank Mr. Savage for his recent comments. After volunteering full-time over the last 13 years and publishing a book on this topic, I can assure you that America is rapidly approaching the cliff without a plan.

The speaker of the U.S. House recently publicly stated that Congress doesn't have the political will to fix the debt problem and suggested the states would have to sue them.

The United States nearly collapsed in the 1780s due to approaching bankruptcy as the Constitution was conceived by the states using their 170-year-old tool, the convention. America began life in June 1788 and accepted its huge \$71 million debt. That debt fluctuated at about 3% of GDP until the 1970s. Today the debt has exceeded 100% of GDP and is approaching \$40 trillion with deficits over a trillion and the interest payment at just under a trillion ... the largest budget item for Congress's consideration.

A few decades ago, economists and financial folks warned us of the coming problem, but we and the politicians said, "this is America ... what could go wrong?" The debt crisis clock just moved from 3 minutes to midnight to 2 minutes.

In March, the Treasury quietly declared the U.S. was insolvent. Our Congress cannot raise a nickel for its budget without borrowing it.

The problem worsens. The shrinking U.S. credibility in the bond market and the falling dollar is seen by lenders as a dangerous place to be.

LETTERS

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

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

The solution lies with state legislative leaders to call a balanced-budget-amending convention, and attorney's general to sue Congress for failing to allow the states to propose a solution using the prepared lawsuit. Godspeed, America.

Mike Kopic
SUN CITY WEST

Reader disagrees with ICE, Surprise facility opponents

I read the opinions of Dudley Gibson, Chris LaHaie and Lori Lux, and I disagree with their positions.

First of all, ICE would not even be necessary if the previous administrations, both Democrats and Republicans, had secured the borders as the law is written. But because the past administrations failed, and especially the Biden administration, we have a major illegal immigration issue.

I lock my doors. Not to keep me in, but to keep undesirables out.

There are a lot of Americans available to take jobs that some of these people come to America to take because the Americans that don't want to do those jobs are sitting at home taking taxpayers' money.

If I were in charge of ICE, I would call Sheriff Joe Arpaio to build tent cities as temporary detention centers. Day-old bread with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Legal immigration is good. Illegal immigration is wrong and against

our laws, and lawbreakers need to be punished, not rewarded.

I pray that all illegal immigrants are deported today! I believe that would also change election fraud. I am angry, not at the current administration for doing the right things and doing things right.

Ron Moe
SURPRISE

Kudos to Hamadeh for Stop Insider Trading Act support

After years of hearing politicians pay lip service to fighting corruption only to sell out to the highest bidder the minute they reach Washington, I can't tell you what a breath of fresh air it is to see Congressman Abe Hamadeh of Arizona's 8th Congressional District deliver on that promise.

Instead of focusing on his own stock portfolio, he chose to invest in the people of his district. He stood up to colleagues more interested in personal gain and voted for H.R. 7008, the Stop Insider Trading Act.

The U.S. House passed the bill on July 22. It bans members of Congress, their spouses and their dependent children from buying individual stocks while in office, requires advance public notice before any sales and imposes meaningful penalties for violations.

Congressman Hamadeh didn't just talk about cleaning up Washington; he actually took action to make it happen. In an institution too often driven by self-interest, he put principle first and voted to stop members of Congress from enriching themselves at the public's expense. That kind of integrity deserves recognition.

• See **Letters** on page 14

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HEALTH

Church hosts dementia workshop

Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd., will host Dementia Tidbits, a free educational program presented by Hospice of the Valley at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 10.

Attendees will learn practical techniques that can improve communication and reduce frustration, including how to use short, simple phrases, gain a person's attention respectfully, incorporate visual cues and gestures and avoid interactions that may create anxiety or confusion.

"Many people are surprised to learn that dementia affects much more than memory," said Julie Kilbrew, MSN, Health Education Facilitator at Shepherd of the Hills. "When families understand what's happening and learn a few simple communication techniques, they often discover ways to reduce frustration and create more positive interactions with the people they love."

The free program is open to all. To register, call 623-584-2280 or online at shepherdumc.org.



ENCORE IS MORE THAN YARN AND FABRIC

ENCORE members Kathy Klas, Mary Ann Kinser and Gwen Urcia made and donated many walker bags for people in the community. The walker bags are available free of charge at the PORA Visitors' Center, 13815 W. Camino Del Sol, for anyone who needs one. Available to pick up from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. These provide a convenient place to carry personal items while keeping their hands free to safely use the walker. (Submitted photo/Nancy Jerosi)



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FITNESS

Benevilla to hold Benefitness Adaptive Gym Boxing Room celebration

Benevilla will celebrate the “re-grand opening” of Benefitness Adaptive Gym’s expanded Rock Steady Boxing Room and new personal training suite 9–11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, at 16752 N. Greasewood St., in Surprise. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Rock Steady Boxing room was made possible through a Ken Kendrick Grand Slam Award grant from the Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation, allowing the nonprofit to better serve individuals living with Parkinson’s disease.

The event will also celebrate the opening of Benefitness’ Personal Training Suite, located in the former boxing room. The larger space will offer one-on-one adaptive fitness training tailored for ages 12 through adulthood, from athletes to beginners, and from those with physical limitations or neurological conditions to those who wish to achieve their fitness goals.

“Benefitness continues to grow to meet the needs of our community,” stated Benefitness director Lorrie Karn, in a media release. “...

These new spaces allow us to expand life-enriching programs that help people improve strength, balance, mobility, confidence, and overall quality of life while creating an even better experience for our members.”

Benefitness is an adaptive gym specifically designed for anyone 12 years old and up who want to achieve their fitness goals, especially those living with neurological conditions and other physical challenges. An official Rock Steady Boxing affiliate, Benefitness offers evidence-based Parkinson’s boxing classes led by coaches trained and certified through Rock Steady Boxing.

This non-contact fitness program is said to help participants fight back against Parkinson’s disease by improving physical function and enhancing quality of life.

The expansion enables Benefitness to accommodate more class participants while continuing to strengthen its specialized adaptive fitness programming and personalized training services.

Letters

• From page 10

Thank you to Congressman Hamadeh for showing what real public service looks like

Nikki Colletti
GLENDALE

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

Will midterms return America to glory?

In May 2025, I expressed my human characteristics preferred of a leader. It was 100 days into Trump’s second term, and his performance at the time was graded poor.

Today, less than 75 days until the midterm election, my grade for him is off the scale, on the low end. Many recent polls rate him among the worst presidents ever.

The characteristics I assessed were being truthful, ethical, compassionate, respectful and objective.

A look at the antonym of each characteristic now better assesses this president:

- Truthful — dishonest/deceitful
- Ethical — immoral/amoral
- Compassionate — callous/merciless
- Respectful — rude/insulting
- Objective — emotions/feelings

I believe these not only better describe the president’s character, they also describe the character of many of

his cabinet members.

The result of the 2024 presidential election was a black mark on American history, in my opinion. Looking forward, will we make the same mistake in November 2026, or will the people vote to make right an election wrong?

Almost two years since Trump became president, we have high inflation, particularly for food and fuel, war with Iran, billions spent on a ballroom, gold-leaf trimmings throughout the White House and — per Trump — “a booming economy.”

Data says not. His only quantitative measurement defining his “booming economy” is the stock market.

Only the richest 10% of earners own over 90% of the value of all shares of stock. Big gains in the market reflect a booming economy from their perspective. How about the other 90% of earners?

Credit-card debt is the highest ever, auto repossessions and credit-card delinquencies are rising among lower-to-middle income borrowers.

Where we are today compared to November 2024 is essential to making a voting choice this November. Will “We The People” vote to return America to glory, or to allow the current administration to continue dishonest, immoral, callous, rude and subjective ways to drag our democratic republic down even further?

Thomas Richard
SUN CITY WEST

This writer is using a pen name.

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Lesko meets with Posse

Supports removing the court injunction

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Sun City West Posse Cmdr. Carolyn Patterson wanted the opportunity to get county officials in front of volunteers from both the Sun City West Posses, and Aug. 18 Maricopa County Board of Supervisor District four representative Debbie Lesko answered the call.

Patterson said having the chance to hear from the supervisor and ask questions was an important part of having her speak to the organization.

"I want to make sure the Sun City West Posse gets a certificate of recognition from my office. Thank you for all the thing you do for your community," said Lesko.

One concern from a posse member included a recommendation to Lesko to put a "full court press to get rid of the injunction ordered by the judge."

Lesko explained this is a federal oversight of MCSO with a case that started under former Sheriff Joe Arpaio, stemming from a class action lawsuit from Hispanic groups who said MCSO was targeting Latino drivers.

"But this federal monitor that is in place costs you and me the taxpayers more than \$350 million in taxpayer money to carry out this ever changing criteria," she said.

Lesko described MCSO having to "jump through hoops" every time a traffic stop is made due to being under the federal monitor. This is compounded by paying tons of legal fees for the American Civil Liberties Union that the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors has to approve. In addition, the monitor is also getting paid millions of dollars a year,



Debbie Lesko, with Maricopa County Board of Supervisors District Four, speaks to Sun City West Posse volunteers Fran McElroy and Peter Dake during the Aug. 18 general meeting. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

she said.

"Last year we voted to hire a constitutional lawyer and filed a Rule 60 motion trying to get it out of Judge Snow court. First you have to file with judge who rules against us, then go to appeal and it cost a fortune and we have to get out from underneath this," said Lesko.

Federal Judge G. Murray Snow oversees this class-action lawsuit and Lesko said she believes he is "totally bias against MCSO and Sheriff Jerry Sheridan accusing him of all kinds of things and it is really unjust."

Lesko said on Aug. 17 she met with Sheridan and his attorneys to continue to try to figure a way out.

Another concern included the understaffed MCSO. Lesko said a salary increase was recently issued and bonus retention benefits for detention officers.

"We keep that in mind when trying to balance the budget and also make sure public safety is a top priority," she said.

Visit maricopa.gov.

CLUBS

Residents enjoy music, dancing with the Rock 'N' Roll Dance Club

New members welcome to join the group

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Residents looking for a chance to socialize and dance twice a month should look into the Rock 'N' Roll Dance Club in Sun City West.

Sun City West resident Sharon Major moved from Sun City in 2023 and joined the club with her now-fiance Tony Miller. She said the disc jockey is great and plays the music everyone loves, keeping everyone out on the dance floor.

"The Singles Club has also attended, which is nice to have them join us for special dances," she said.

Candace Hodson with the Sun City West Singles Club joined the fun as guests at the last dance. She said many of the members of the club love to get out and dance and want to be a part of these events.

"Several of the Singles members are also Rock 'N' Roll members who regularly attend the dances. At one of the dances, the two club presidents got together and came up with the idea to join forces for a fun time," she said.

The group hopes to be invited again for another dance.

Major said the atmosphere at these dances makes it fun to dance and socialize for three hours. There is also a photo booth set up for individuals to take photos and make memories during these dances.

Debbie Gould, Rock 'N' Roll Dance Club president, said the club



LuAnn Leavit, Tony Miller, Sharon Major, Candace Hodson, Dennis Lund and Carri Garvey attended the Rock 'N' Roll Dance Club event. (Submitted photo/Debbie Gould)

has continued to get new members through the summer months, which is unusual, but said it is great the club continues to grow.

Currently, there are 130 members in the club, but Gould said many people do not know this club exists, and she would love for people to try it out as a guest, up to two times.

The cost is \$10 for a one-year membership and \$6 to attend the dances for members or \$8 for guests.

"It is a smaller club more like a little family. Everyone looks out for each other and I have some wonderful people in this club and that have stuck with me," said Gould.

The club has two dances a month and one has a theme to go along with it.

Dances run from 6 to 9 p.m. the first and third Saturdays of the month. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

September dances will be Saturday, Sept. 5 and Sept. 19, at Palm Ridge Recreation Center, 13800 W. Deer Valley Road.

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CLUBS

Theatre West returns with a new show in October

Theatre West will return in October with another Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope & Jamie Wooten comedy: “The Wild Women of Winedale,” directed by Deb Neuroth and Bonnie Valero.

The production follows a trio from Winedale, Virginia — women who have supported one another through decades of life’s ups and downs.

Audiences can expect the trademark Jones Hope Wooten blend of laughter, heart and relatable life wisdom.

The cast will feature familiar faces from past Theatre West productions along with new additions.

Tickets are \$15 each and go on sale at 8 a.m. Monday, Sept. 7.

Purchase tickets at suncitywest.com/tickets or in person at the R.H. Johnson Rec Center main office, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.



The “Wild Women of Winedale” trio. (Submitted photo/Theatre West)

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CLUB MEMBERS ATTEND CERAMIC WORKSHOP

Eight members of the Ceramics West club traveled to Laughlin, NV to attend a ceramic workshop presented by Southern Star. The attendees were introduced to five different ceramic projects and look forward to sharing what they learned with the rest of the club. The projects included four coasters, cascade bowl, lemon transfer plate, hand built flowers and cherry plate. Cherry plates are held by Barbara Carneiro, Deena Luce and Susan Bedker. Ceramics West located in the R.H. Johnson center, next to member services. Hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, 4-8 p.m. Thursday and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday. (Submitted photo/BK Pritchett)



BASKETEERS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN JULY

It was Christmas in August for the Sun City West Basketeers as members wove holiday baskets, ornaments and decorations. They listened to Christmas carols and ate Christmas cookies. Members Patti Flynn and Gail Riley wove Christmas bells. Visit the club Monday and Thursday mornings in the Kuentz center's Mesa Room. (Submitted photo/Jill Zine)

SCORES

GOLF

Echo Mesa Women's Golf Club

Aug. 11

Even Holes
Flt. 1 24 - 38 Game Score

Carolyn Lopez 24
Ginger Emerson 24
Barb Hoolehan 25
Peggy Stowell 25
Teri Follin 25
Colleen Zarate 25
Nine Holers
Joanne Honce 46
Jeanne Pribnow 47

(Low Net) 54
James Dunn-56 Rich McAndrews-58
Joe Petrocelli and John Vignatti (Tied at 59)

Echo Mesa Women's Golf Club

Aug. 18

Mystery Nine
Flt. 1 19 - 37 Game Score
Eileen Fargher 26.5
Janet Eriksson 28.5
Ginger Emerson 29.0
Berne Dybas 29.0
Nine Holers
Joanne Honce 43
Kay Grossman 50

Desert Trails Ladies Golf

Aug. 11

Flight 1 Low Gross K. Wallace 75 Low Net L. Vandever 56
Flight 2 Low Gross K. McDonald 82 Low Net J. Heydt 53
Flight 3 Low Gross C. Wendling 95 Low Net D. Peck, J. Martin 58

DT Winners

Played at Echo Mesa

Game played was T.E.N. (Count Only Holes 2,3,8,9,10,11,12,13 and 18)
First Flight: (Handicaps 2-16)
Scott Klein-25 Robert Pape and John Evans (Tied at 26)
Rich VanVulkenburg, Jim Haaland, and Wayne Hendrickson (Tied at 28)
Gary Smith and Ed Lewton (Tied at 29)
Second Flight: (Handicaps 17-27)
John Mollenkamp and Joe Petrocelli (Tied at 24)
Dave Gearhart and Randy Giedt (Tied at 28)
John Mitchell and Michael Anastasio (Tied at 29) Jim Meier-30
First flight: (Handicaps 5-16)
Steve Wolf (Low Gross) 65 Rob Pape (Low Net) 57
John Evans & Scott Klein (Tied at 58) Burton Murray-59
Second flight: (Handicaps 17-27)
Ron Stallbaum (Low Gross) 72 Don Giese

GAMES

Monday Bridge

Aug. 10

1st - Bill Hoenig and Tim Archer 5060
2nd- Susan and Roger Anderson 3960
3rd - Larry and Rita Hughes 3860
4th - Chris Lee and Mary Vraney 3410
Small Slam
Susan and Roger Anderson

Social Bridge

Aug. 17

1st Darlene Jenks and Brenda Zeimet 5120
2nd Ray and Carolyn Murphy 4360
3rd Dianne Wuethrich and Marylou Hindal 3740
4th Sharron Riebe and Dale Offenberger 3350
Small Slams
2x - Ray and Carolyn Murphy
Darlene Jenks and Brenda Zeimet
Bill Cooper and Barb Carl
Karen Oveson and Gene Hopp
Dennis Hemmer and Rosemary Dougherty

SCWCBC Tuesday Scores

Aug. 18

1 Mary Vraney 5370
2 Rosemary Dougherty 4450
3 Barb Carl 4220
4 Larry Hughes 3910

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Indoor farmers market every Friday

The Sun City West Summer Indoor Farmers Market and Craft Show has moved inside the Sun City West Foundation, 14465 W. R.H. Johnson Blvd. The market is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parking, entry and samples are free. The market is open to the public and is service dog friendly.

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COFFEE

Briar Bean Coffee Lounge gathers community residents

Briarwood Country Club adds a new feature open to the public

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A new gathering place for Sun City West residents is up and running.

The Briar Bean Coffee Lounge is open to the public at Briarwood Country Club, 20800 N. 135th Ave.

The newest addition took over the space behind the counter inside the building was originally a bar, according to Social Membership Director Maureen 'Mo' Almazan, the coffee lounge was renovated in June.

This idea was part of the vision of the owners and after discussions the decision was made to open the place up to the entire community.

"To give folks a chance to see the club, but also because we realized there really isn't a place in Sun City West that is comfortable where folks can sit for a while and enjoy some coffee and conversation," she said.

Residents who visit the lounge will see Alex Lundgren behind the counter ready to serve, and as the busy season approaches more staff will be added.

Currently, The Briar Bean Coffee Lounge is open from 7 a.m. to noon, everyday except Mondays.

"We have coffee and non-coffee drinks, as well as little snacks and sweet treats. We are also waiting on soda lines to be added to offer that, too.

Lundgren said the owners came to her and asked her to take this position, as her personality was fitting to serve customers. She received training and is excited to create a welcoming space for everyone to visit.

The del Sol Gallery, 13815 W. Camino del Sol, in Sun City West is working with The Briar Bean Coffee Lounge to have several art pieces for sale on display on the wall.

"They set it up and made it look nice, and we will be rotating the art pieces on the wall," said Lundgren.

Additionally, she said if there are people from the community who want to showcase their art pieces, that is also an option.

LeAnne Parsons and Shelly Schornick said they are not members of the club, but were eager to visit and have a new place to socialize in Sun City West. Schornick said she is looking for things that are inclusive and this lounge is a great place

"This is a safe space and a common space, and I took the day off work to come over," said Parsons.

Parsons described several areas around the community where people gather and she often sees people at the wine bar inside Fry's or at Starbucks, but this place is different. Adding, even men were in the lounge enjoying coffee and camaraderie.

"I have been wanting to be involved with something that brings the community together, and you do not have to be a member of the country club to order," said Parsons.

Schornick said as a younger resident having a place like this is Briarwood Country Club is a great addition for friends to get together in the community.

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

SAFETY

R.U.O.K. Program can save lives

By Zev Black and Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The R.U.O.K. (Are You Okay) Program is a simple way for residents to remain safe inside the home, and all it takes is one scheduled call a day from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

According to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department Communications Division, the program "provides peace of mind for both participants and their families."

This program ensures a resident enrolled in this program will get a call at the same time everyday. This includes an automated message asking the recipient to press a certain number if they are okay. If the resident doesn't answer on the first call, the computer will try two more times.

If there is no response then a live person will call the number. From that point, with no contact made, a deputy will be sent to the address.

A resident in Sun City West participates in this program and has a wellness check done by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Posse R.U.O.K. team every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. Earlier this year, the team celebrated her 102 birthday.

"The various agencies do the ground work for the program and we have the forms and tell people all about it," said Sun City West Posse Cmdr. Carolyn Patterson.

The team turns the forms over to MCSO and the automated calls begin. Patterson said individuals who sign up can pick the time that works for the individual's schedule.

Patterson said even within the posse organization, there are a few people who live alone and utilize this program as a safety mechanism. In some instances, spouses who recently lost a husband have filled out the



Sun City West Posse volunteer Kip Stumbough, resident Jane T. and Posse volunteers Nancy Jarosi and Dave Jamieson celebrate while on an R.U.O.K. check. (Submitted photo/Sun City West Posse)

forms to be added to the system since they did not have anybody close by to check in with.

While signing up is important, the next step is making sure the call is answered.

According to Patterson, when the call comes in, callers are asked to respond by pressing specific numbers, and no response after answering or not answering the call will prompt a deputy to stop by.

"This program works really well for the residents and is a good idea for everyone to sign up and use," she explained.

Patterson said working alongside MCSO with this program helps promote community safety, which is most important for everyone involved.

"While the call itself is simple, it can quickly identify when someone may need assistance, whether it's due to a medical emergency, a fall or another unexpected situation," the

• See **Safety** on page 24

Save the Dates

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INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA



Sun City - September 23, 2026 - Sundial Recreation Center

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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June L. Fredericksen

June L. Fredericksen, 92, passed away on Friday, August 7, 2026, at her home in Sun City West, AZ. June was born in Crookston, MN. She was a graduate of North Dakota State University and the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point obtaining her master's degree. June worked in several different

areas at North Central Technical College and was the Director of Marketing and Public Relations when she retired. Memorial services will be held later in November 2026 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church with burial at the National Memorial Cemetery of AZ. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bob & June Fredericksen Scholarship Fund at North Central Technical College, 1000 W Campus Dr, Wausau, WI 54402-1899.



Eugene Czarny

Gene Czarny died on 8/13/26 in Sun City, Arizona. He was married to Nancy Czarny for 43 years.

He enjoyed golf and bowling. Burial will be at Sunland Cemetery after a funeral mass at St. Clement Church.

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CLUB SLATES CALLIGRAPHY CLASSES

The Artistic Hand Lettering, Cards and Mixed Media Club is offering Introduction to Calligraphy classes 10 a.m.-noon Fridays, Oct. 16, 23, 30 and Nov. 6 in the club room. Cost is \$40, payable by check made to instructor Char Cash, and all participants must be pre-registered to ensure materials are available. To register, stop by the club during regular hours or contact Debby Fradette at djfradette@gmail.com. In addition, "Big Shot" cutting machine training will be 10 a.m.-noon Monday, Aug. 31. Contact Fradette (228-337-0097 or djfradette@gmail.com) to sign up. The club meets 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Friday and 6-9 p.m. Wednesday in the Kuentz center's Pueblo Room. Contact Dottie Schmit (602-758-9854) or Kat McGinnis (480-806-8053), visit artisticahandlettering.scwclubs.com or email ahlcandmm@gmail.com for more information. Club membership is \$10 annually. (Submitted photo/ Melanie Harrison)

Safety

• From page 23

MCSO Communication Division stated in an email. "Sometimes just knowing that someone will notice if they don't answer provides a tremendous sense of security."

The MCSO Communication Division stated in the email there have been "numerous occasions" in which a participant didn't answer the scheduled call.

One of those times resulted in a welfare check where the on-scene deputies saw the resident's feet sticking out between the bed and the wall. They had fallen out of their bed and were unable to get up or call for help. The deputies called for medical services.

"It's a powerful reminder that what starts as a simple daily phone call can ultimately become a lifesaving intervention," MCSO stated.

According to MCSO officials, there is currently no system to allow deaf residents to use the program.

MCSO stated it is "always interested in ways to make our services more accessible and inclusive."

That said, there are no immediate plans to implement this into the program.

"However, as communication technologies continue to evolve, we remain open to evaluating options that would allow more members of our community to benefit from wellness check programs like R. U. O.K.," it stated.

Call the Posse at 623-584-5808.

POLICE REPORTS

West Coggins Drive.

JULY 31

- Forgery or bogus checks were reported at 2:41 p.m. in the 13600 block of West Gemstone Drive.
- A theft was reported at 5:42 p.m. in the 12200 block of North 113th Avenue.
- A fight was reported at 3:19 p.m. in the 16000 block of West Cheryl Court.

AUG. 1

- Civil action was reported at 8 p.m. in the 13600 block of West Pyracantha Drive.
- Civil action was reported at 2:58 p.m. in the 12800 block of West Paintbrush Drive.
- A fight was reported at 12:43 p.m. in the 10400 block of West Sun City Boulevard.
- A burglary was reported at 11:17 a.m. in the 11100 block of West Arizona Avenue.
- An assault was reported at 9:28 a.m. in the 11100 block of West Alabama Avenue.

AUG. 2

- A missing person was reported at 2:04 p.m. in the 10400 block of West Thunderbird Boulevard.

AUG. 3

- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 10:10 p.m. in the 10700 block of Northwest US60 Grand Avenue.
- A burglary was reported at 8:58 p.m. in the 18000 block of North Highwood Court.

- An assault was reported at 8:30 p.m. in the 10100 block of West Cumberland Drive.
- Trespassing was reported at 6:02 p.m. in the 18200 block of West Ruth Avenue.
- An assault was reported at 4:51 p.m. in the 11100 block of West Montana Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with injuries was reported at 4:16 p.m. at the intersection of North 111th Avenue and West Santa Fe Drive.
- Identity theft was reported at 3:49 p.m. in the 17000 block of West Royal Palm.
- An animal problem was reported at 2:39 p.m. in the 12600 block of North 111th Avenue.
- A fraud or con game was reported at 12:49 p.m. in the 13200 block of North 98th Avenue.
- A stolen vehicle was reported at 1:37 p.m. in the 15400 block of North 99th Avenue.
- A theft was reported at 12:29 p.m. in the 10900 block of West Thunderbird Boulevard.
- A stolen vehicle was reported at 11:22 a.m. in the 11600 block of North 105th Avenue.
- A burglary was reported at 10:54 a.m. in the 14700 block of West Yosemite Drive.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported at 10:16 a.m. in the 15400 block of North 99th Avenue.
- A fraud or con game was reported at 10:01 a.m. in the 21000 block of North 135th Avenue.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported at 11:02 a.m. in the 12200 block of North 111th Avenue.
- Criminal damage was reported at 9:42 a.m. in the 13200 block of North 108th Avenue.
- Civil action was reported at 12:24 a.m. in the 11500 block of West Palo Verde Avenue.

AUG. 4

- Criminal damage was reported at 2:57 p.m. in the 18600 block of North Spanish Garden Drive.
- An assault was reported at 4:35 p.m. in the 11400 block of North 113th Drive.
- Trespassing was reported at 4:38 p.m. in the 11200 block of Northwest US60 Grand Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 4:57 p.m. at the intersection of North 111th Avenue and West Sun City Boulevard.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 3:28 p.m. in the 13900 block of West Meeker Boulevard.
- A fraud or con game was reported at 1:52 p.m. in the 12500 block of West Ashwood Drive.
- A welfare check was reported at 12:31 p.m. in the 17200 block of North Boswell Boulevard.
- A welfare check was reported at 12:23 a.m. in the 11300 block of West Alabama Avenue.

AUG. 5

- Disorderly conduct was reported at 4:46 p.m. in the 10400 block of West Aztec Drive.
- A missing person was reported at 6:54 p.m. in the 10400 block of West Thunderbird Boulevard.
- An attempted assault with a deadly weapon was reported at 6:08 p.m. in the 10600 block of Northwest US60 Grand Avenue.
- A fraud or con game was reported at 10:04 a.m. in the 10400 block of West Caron Drive.
- Identity theft was reported at 10:37 a.m. in the 17600 block of North 131st Drive.

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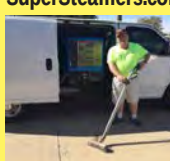
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Civility Checklist

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

☐ **Take the high road.** Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.

☐ **Be respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment, and threats directed at another person — or that person's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone's character or motives.

☐ **Be truthful.** Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes. When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.

☐ **Don't misrepresent.** Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.

☐ **Listen & learn.** It's both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don't agree with your own.

☐ **Look for common ground.** When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.

☐ **Respect privacy.** Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and, in many cases, illegal.

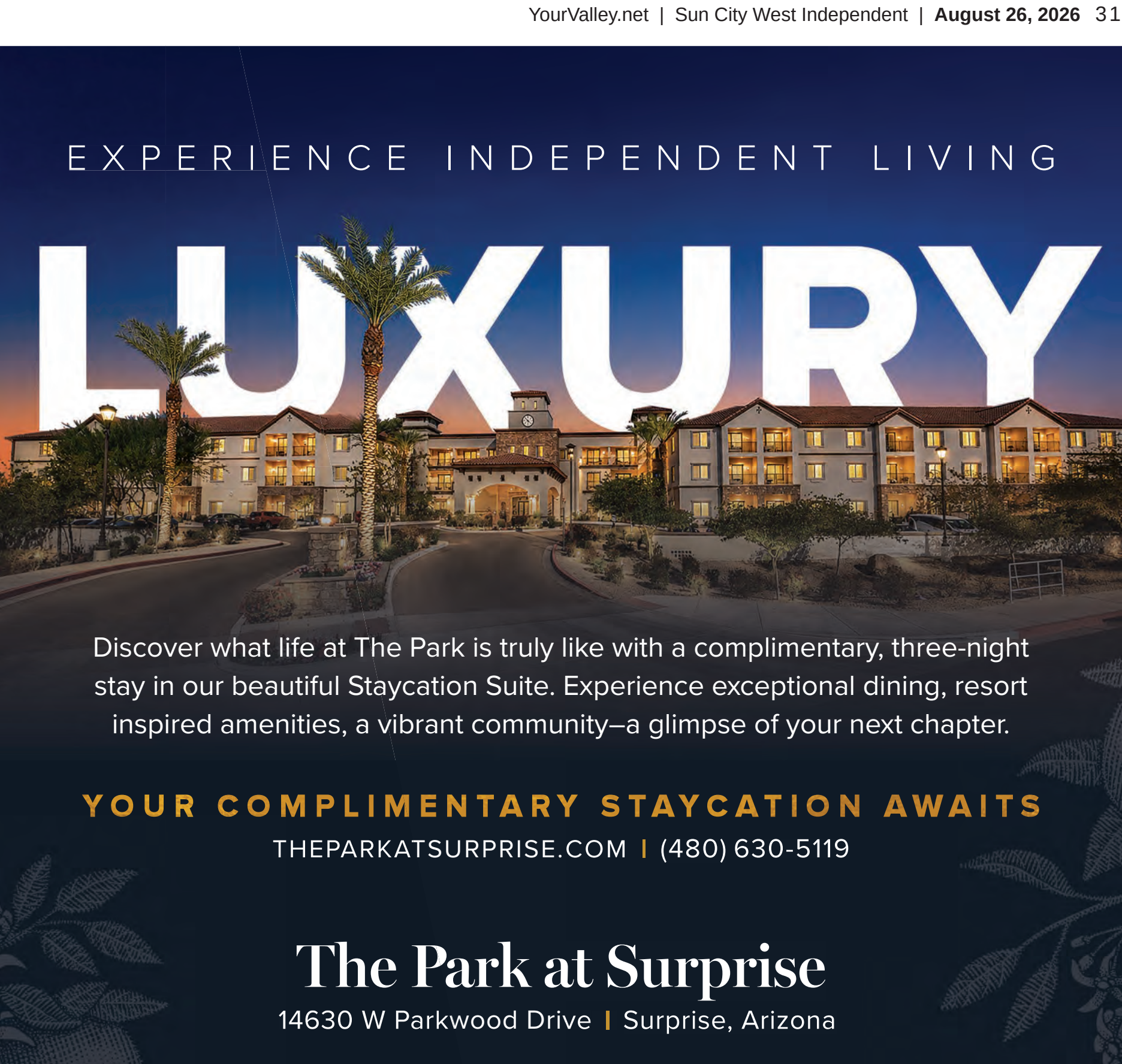
☐ **Set a good example.** Practice civil behavior online as well as in public and in your interaction with others. Encourage others to practice these civil behaviors. And it's OK to challenge disrespectful behavior — but be courteous, respectful and helpful in your approach.



*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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