



Resident writes bill, Pingerelli gets signed into law by governor

Caroline Trotter pursues
legislation topic after
challenges with
neighbor, HOA

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Sun City West resident Caroline Trotter was prompted to write a bill after dealing with challenges with neighbors and her own homeowners association.

"The problem with my own board was they refused to enforce the rules I complained about, and I was forced to file lawsuits on my own, even though they claim this is a service they offer to all members and are legally required to enforce equally," said Trotter.

• See **Bill** on page 6

Church offers free food pantry, soup kitchen for anyone in need



Several of the 30 Church on the Green food pantry volunteers gathered at the end of the Sept. 10 shift to hand out food boxes. (IndependentNewsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

Professional chef prepares meal every week

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A church in Sun City West is back to operating a food pantry and soup meal one day a week.

The "Soups On" ministry of Church on the Green, 19051 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd., previously known as "The Soup Kitchen," is now open Thursdays through May 2027.

"Soups On" provides a soup lunch in the church's dining room 10:30 a.m.-noon at no cost. Chef Kathy Spinelli arrives at the church commercial

kitchen to start cooking the meal at 2:30 a.m. Then she is joined by volunteers to begin preparing to serve individuals as they walk in for the meal.

"We have been running this soup kitchen for nine years and are only closed for the summer months. This was never intended to just feed people in need," she explained.

People come to enjoy a cooked meal and want to be with other people. For some, that is the only time of the week when they are not eating alone.

Each person gets soup, salad, bread, dessert and a beverage.

The food pantry is also open to the

public 7:30-10:30 a.m. Thursday.

Spinelli said she wanted to start this soup kitchen because she knew there were people out there who were lonely and needed someone to be with. She said she just knew they had to get it going and when people came and just ate the meal right up.

"We are fully licensed with the health department and full insured and the health department comes about every three months for inspections. They tell me this is the cleanest kitchen in the Valley," said Spinelli.

As a professional chef who also

• See **Food** on page 5



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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!



SOLD



\$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!



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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!



SOLD



\$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!



SOLD



\$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!



POSSE

Donations support posse members who dedicate time to the community

Organization runs completely on donations

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Sun City West Posse Commander Carolyn Patterson encouraged posse volunteers about the health of the organization.

She said during the August general meeting the community continues to be generous and grateful for the work the posse contributes to the community. Patterson referenced occasional large donations that have come in to the organization from bequests, adding the community really likes the posse.

“And that makes me say to you, thank you so much for all that you do, for the people of Sun City West, for our community and for those around us,” she said.

Patterson said there are some big project plans coming up. Throughout the year, she said individuals will go into the posse headquarters and ask what the posse is working on. She will mention a project and will often receive the funds to apply toward the task. From there, she asks whether this is a general donation or to a specific project.

“This is all because of what you (posse volunteers) do. Not what I do. What you do makes Sun City West residents happy,” she said.

Sun City West Posse Treasurer Dennis Dionne said donations for July were substantially less than budget by 79%. However, the true donation numbers for July was pushed into August due to one week missing while he was away on holiday.

Operating expenses for July were 134% of the budget and compared to



Sun City West Posse Commander Carolyn Patterson and Posse Volunteers Corinne Carlson and Stephen Carlson during a general meeting. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

last year, they were 111% of operating expenses for July of 2025, according to Dionne.

Those expenses were highest in the areas of air conditioning, tires and fuel expenses, plus building and grounds expenses. He said communications had higher expenses also due to the purchasing of microphones for the cars.

Dionne said he is also waiting on the utility expenses for the solar production for the last three months.

Additionally, the organization is waiting on the Swipe Simple program to use for credit card donations. This will include credit card transaction processes taking place on the Sun City West Posse website.

Visit scwposse.org/donate/

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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RADIO



Ruth Ann Peirona and Deborah King host a 10 minute show twice a week on 103.1 FM KSCW. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

Meet the hosts of 'The Adventures of Molly and Bess Sensational Situations'

**This 10-minute show airs
twice a week**

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Every Friday at 9 a.m. and Sunday at noon, Sun City West residents can tune into radio station 103.1 FM KSCW to hear "The Adventures of Molly and Bess Sensational Situations."

Residents Ruth Ann Peirona and Deborah King host this show together.

"This is a show about two more mature women in their adventures, mostly traveling in the car and running dead bodies at times," said Peirona.

Peirona writes the scripts and King executes the engineering., which began about 10 years ago.

The pair met in theater and talked about producing this show, then finally came together to bring it to fruition, according to King.

The stories are all made up in Peirona's mind.

"I have to have a hero and a villain. Miss know-it-all I call 'Miss Dictionary' a lot of times," said Peirona.

This character uses big words for no reason and the other character is ditsy, which the pair says balances them out.

The 10 minute show shares a tale of the adventures. The show began running for five minutes, but Peirona said the stories got more powerful and it was decided the show could be extended for five additional minutes.

"My primary thing when I moved here was theater and I am still very active in it, but this is as much fun and as much work as working over there, too," said King.

Peirona said they will continue to work on stories to share with the community and head out on more adventures to experience.

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

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Food

• From page 1

owns a catering company in Sun City West, she is constantly looking for new recipes to make, saying every week she tries to make something different. On average the soup kitchen is serving between 200-250 people every Thursday with nine volunteers taking part in the ministry.

"Most of the people that come to our pantry or soup meal do not attend our church, they just come from the community," said Doris Knoles, executive administrator.

She said volunteers in the pantry put in many hours, including this week when two weeks worth of deliveries were brought in due to the holiday.

According to Chuck Rainwater, who runs the food pantry, the food changes as it comes in from St. Mary's Food Bank each week. The church created a space dedicated to the food pantry with commercial grade freezers and refrigeration. The food boxes include canned foods, most of which are donated by church members, bread and water.

"People can drive up and we have volunteers who check them in and get their name, the number of people in their household and zip code and then runners grab the food that was boxed inside and deliver it to the waiting vehicle," said Rainwater.

He said approximately 300 boxes a week handed out.

Every Monday there is a church member Rainwater meets at WinCo to purchase \$100 worth of items for the pantry. This is the fourth year the pantry has been open and is a part of the ministry program at Church on the Green.

"We had a food drive for a local food bank and we had such a good turnout of food, we decided we would start our own food bank and negotiated with St. Mary's," said Rainwater.

Three years ago, 50 boxes were going out each Thursday, then increased to 100 and now has tripled.

Rainwater said members want people who visit the pantry and soup meal to know this is more about filling their stomachs.

"We want them to know that God cares for them and they are not alone with the battles and struggles they are going through," said Rainwater.

Coming up this Thanksgiving, at 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 26, a full meal made from scratch will also be served, and anyone is welcome. Donations are accepted.

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Bill

• From page 1

She said the rules violated by her neighbors devalue her property by blocking the golf course view, among other violations.

Trotter moved to Arizona after a career in international business as a senior executive, president and CEO of several companies and has lived in the community for the past eight years.

Arizona House of Representative for District 28 Republican Beverly Pingerelli introduced Arizona House Bill 4011 with bipartisan support this year. It passed in both the House of Representatives and Senate and was signed into law by Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs on June 4.

This bill requires by statute for HOAs to “act reasonably” in the exercise of its discretionary powers. This includes the duty to exercise discretionary power neutrally, fairly,



Arizona House of Representative for District 28 Republican Beverly Pingerelli and Sun City West resident Caroline Trotter worked together to get House Bill 4011 passed. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

without favoritism and in a non-arbitrary fashion.

Trotter admits this cannot help her now in her lawsuit with neighbors over a masonry wall added on

what Trotter calls her property line and obstructs her golf course view. She wrote the bill and presented it to Pingerelli who modified the language with Trotter.

She said now she hopes to educate homeowners to understand the need to start reading their CC&R's very carefully and look up the state statutes.

“There is a legal duty to do this fairly and honestly and without biases. It gives homeowners a lot more leverage and is a great starting place,” said Trotter.

Pingerelli admits not all boards have issues or problems.

Trotter said homeowners cannot and should not expect HOA board member volunteers to know everything.

Pingerelli said bringing this bill to the floor with the right language, she thought would appeal to everyone and said not one person voted no.

“Many of the bills I bring forward

come from people that bring things to me and sometimes lobbyists bring things to me,” she said.

Trotter said the year-long process began with a massive investigation to learn how it works and took multiple hours at the law library in downtown Phoenix.

Pingerelli said she tries to get behind bills that can impact everyone.

“Carolyn is a friend and when she came to me, if it was something I was not passionate about or think represented everybody, I would have said no,” she said.

She said she was happy to carry it forward for Trotter.

Trotter plans to continue to serve her community and help educate seniors on the detrimental impact boards can have monetarily and otherwise on homeowners.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West covenants, conditions and restrictions state on the website those

• See **Bill** on page 8

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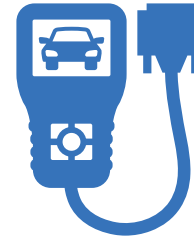
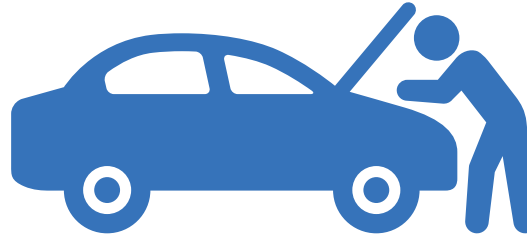
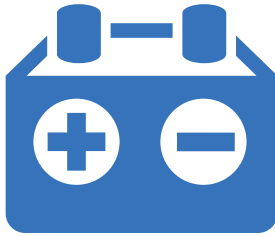
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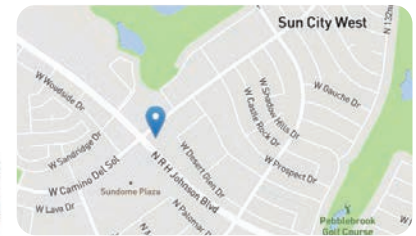
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Dr. Kirby Kennedy, Senior Pastor



This photo represents the issue of the masonry wall added between Sun City West resident Caroline Trotter and her neighbor, showing the golf course view before and after installation. (Submitted photo/Caroline Trotter)

Bill

• From page 6

are in place to protect, preserve and ensure property values remain high.

The website states, "Please take time to read your CC&Rs. If you have specific questions, concerns or would like a copy of the CC&Rs spe-

cific to your property, please contact the CC&R Department and we will be happy to help."

Residents can get specific CC&Rs at [//suncitywest.com/ccr/](http://suncitywest.com/ccr/)

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Speak Up

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



Corrections

In the Sept. 9 issue of the Sun City West Independent, Bob Oram was misidentified in the photo associated with the article "Meet the host of Bob's Requests Show on 103.1 FM

KSCW."

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.

Not a fan of retailers' 3% credit card fees

A small local retail shop here in Sun City West has started charging 3% for credit card transactions. When I was told, "several other places are doing it," I got a little upset about my purchase.

Was it really worth it? When I got home and started thinking more about it, I realized that most of the larger grocery stores and big box stores do not charge 3% for credit card fees.

I'm not even sure why restaurants charge extra; they should just raise prices a little more. I understand businesses need to cover costs of insurance, utilities, taxes and rent, but so do we!

Jeff Settell
SUN CITY WEST

Arizona deserves the full story on Abe Hamadeh

As an Arizona citizen, I believe we should recognize public officials who demonstrate genuine servant leadership. Congressman Abe Hamadeh deserves that recognition.

We deserve to know what our elected officials actually accomplish — not simply what political opponents or partisan commentators say about them.

Hamadeh has brought energy and initiative to Congress and pursued concrete results for Arizona. He helped advance more than \$7 million in federal funding for Arizona priorities, including police and public-safety equipment in Peoria, Phoenix, Surprise and Glendale, as well as veterans' legal services through Arizona State University.

Hamadeh also advanced \$1.5 million for the Phoenix Fire Department to support first responders and their families. Two veterans' bills he introduced passed the House unanimously. He also fought for Arizona's military installations, the National Guard and defense-industry jobs vital to our economy and national security.

His service extends beyond legislation. His office resolved more than 600 constituent cases and returned nearly \$2 million to constituents. That is public service in action, yet the public rarely hears this side of the story. That should concern all of us.

The press has a fundamental responsibility to

practice journalism — not political advocacy. When journalists let political leanings determine which facts they report and which accomplishments they omit, they fail the public. It is disgraceful when legitimate accomplishments receive little attention while controversy and partisan criticism dominate coverage.

Readers deserve the whole record. Journalists do not have to praise Hamadeh or agree with him. They should report what he's actually done.

The truth matters. A free press should challenge everyone. We deserve journalism that informs rather than filters the news through partisan narratives.

Journalists can debate Hamadeh's policies and votes, but should not minimize his accomplishments simply because they do not fit a preferred narrative.

Congressman Hamadeh deserves credit for serving Arizona with energy and purpose. Arizona deserves a press corps willing to tell the complete story — the good, the bad and everything in between.

That is not partisan. That is journalism.

Analyn Megison, J.D.
PHOENIX

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

Why I'm voting for Bernadette Greene-Placentia

When I read Abe Hamadeh's recent newsletter, I see that he has been very helpful to individuals struggling with the bureaucracy (otherwise known as our hardworking, understaffed Civil Service) and supportive of the military and police. But what about the 400,000 Arizonans who lost their SNAP food benefits and those who will not be able to afford health insurance after the election because of the Big Beautiful Bill his vote helped put into law?

What about his vote against the War Powers Act that might have stopped our war on Iran that is bringing suffering to people here and all over the world?

• See **Letters** on page 11

Letters

• From page 10

He refuses to engage with his Congressional District 8 constituents unless they are known supporters.

Take a look at the website of Abe's opponent Bernadette Greene-Placentia. She is a woman who has struggled with real-life problems, supported her family as an interstate truck driver, built it into a business and is now able to serve her country.

She is out talking to Democrats, Independents, Republicans, ready to work with all of them, wanting to earn your vote so she can help find solutions to the real problems of Arizonans — housing and healthcare, jobs and education.

Check out both of these candidates and see which one will do you the most good.

Carole Parnell
SURPRISE

Bernadette Greene-Placentia is seeking to unseat incumbent Abe Hamadeh in CD 8, which includes parts of Glendale, Peoria, north Phoenix, Sun City, Sun City West and Surprise.

Disappointed in Hamadeh's voting record

In preparation of the forthcoming midterm election, I reviewed the voting record of my 8th District Congressman and disappointingly found he had voted or "rubber-stamped" every Trump-backed expenditure.

The Republican party has repeatedly emphasized the need to curb reckless federal spending and address the national debt, but my congressman and all Trump Republicans voted for the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which in fact reduced federal income by cutting taxes for the extreme wealthy. Since the vote, the national debt has reached \$40 tril-

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lion. So much for slowing the debt.

Here are a few things that the federal government has spent lavishly on with the full support of the MAGA Republicans — the Iran war (an estimated \$50 billion and counting), "beautification" of D.C. (ballroom, pool, arch, building fountains) to the tune of over \$1 billion and counting, bulldozing inside Big Bend National Park (\$1.7 billion), ICE operations (\$113 billion directed to the agency), \$12 billion in direct payments to farmers to offset losses incurred as a result of tariffs, \$46.5 billion for border wall construction to which Mexico has not contributed a dime.

Trump famously bankrupted casinos; now he's apparently using the federal treasury as a personal piggy bank and MAGA republicans, the supposed conservative stewards of our money, rubber-stamp what I believe is a wanton mismanagement of our tax dollars.

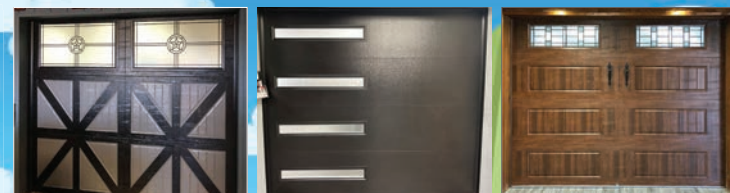
I believe a vote for the MAGA Republican really is a vote to continue this robbery and raise the national debt further. I encourage all voters, especially independents, to listen to all candidates, explore your values, the importance of our democracy and your conscience when voting. Vote what you believe is right, not what this Republican administration is forcing on us.

Karen Jones
SUN CITY WEST

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

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Goodyear AZ 85395
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Surprise, AZ 85374
(623) 200-5441

Peoria

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Ste 102, Peoria, AZ 85383
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CLUBS

Meet Mac-Cro-Knit president Connie Ottemann

How long have you been a member of the Mac-Cro-Knit? Summer of 2023

Do you crochet, knit or loom knit? Crochet, loom knit and sewing. I make friendship bags, shawls, bibs/burp rags and receiving blankets.

How long have you been club president? Almost one year.

What do you enjoy most about being club president? Getting to know members of the club.

Who taught you to crochet? My mom taught me how to crochet when I was in the fourth-grade. I crocheted while involved in Bluebird Troop Girl Scouts.

Do you have a favorite project that you've completed? My Christmas tree skirt and the two afghans I crocheted for my sons.

How does it feel to donate handmade items? Wonderful!

How did you hear about the club? I've known about the club for many years. Just didn't know what it was called or where it met.

What makes Mac-Cro-Knit special? Friendships that have led to other clubs and more friendships.



(Submitted photo/ Mac-Cro-Knit)

Mac-Cro-Knit meets 8-10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Pueblo Room #3 at the Kuentz Recreation Center, 14401 R.H Johnson Blvd. New members of all skill levels are always welcome. Call Connie Ottemann at 402-499-1681 for more information.



FITNESS CLUB HOSTS A ZUMBA PARTY

The Sun City West Fitness Club is offering a fitness dance party called Zumba. Instructor Sherry Posner has been teaching in Sun City West for 13 years. Classes are at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, at the R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. This class works on cardio, muscle conditioning, balance and flexibility. The first class is free. Visit fitness.scwclubs.com. (Submitted photo/Fitness Club)

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THURSDAY 9/24 THORN & THE ROSE Halfway to St. Patrick's	FRIDAY 9/25 VINYL REWIND	SATURDAY 9/26 SUN CITY STOMPERZ 6-8 PM

All weekend entertainment 5:30pm-8:30pm unless noted otherwise.
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THURSDAY 9/17 Cabbage Rolls with two sides \$9.99 (plus tax)		FRIDAY 9/18 2-Piece Fish Fry with fries and coleslaw \$9.99 (plus tax)		SATURDAY 9/19 BBQ Ribs with 3 sides \$13.50 (plus tax)	
SUNDAY 9/20 Turkey Dinner with mashed potatoes, green beans & stuffing \$9.99 (plus tax)					

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SCORES

GAMES

Monday Night Bridge Scores

Aug. 24

1st - Ray and Carolyn Murphy 5370
2nd - Marilyn Dumond and Barb Sumner 4730
3rd - Bill Cooper and Barb Carl 4310
4th - Ann and Peter Rowilson 4130
Small Slam
Barb Sumner and Marily Dumond
Karen Oveson and Gene Hopp

SCWCBC Tuesday Scores

Aug. 25

1 Marilyn Torgrimson 3880
2 Barb Carl 3230
3 Chris Lee 3190
4 Linda Chattin 3010
5 Jack Michels 2990

Sept. 1

1 Marilyn Dumond 3860
2 Pauline Maxwell 3650
3 Dennis Hemmer 3220
4 Marilyn Torgrimson 3050

August Pinochle Tournament

1st - Mary Callaghan - 853
2nd - Gail Walikainen - 845
3rd - Tracie Zeissel - 819

Bridge Results - Aug. 31

Marilyn Dumond and Barb Sumner 6380
Tim Archer and Bill Hoeing 5530
Anne and Peter Rowilson 4720
Chris Lee and Mary Varney 4020
Small slam: Marilyn Dumond and Barb Sumner

GOLF

Echo Mesa Women's Golf - Easiest Nine

Flt. 1 19 - 37 Game Score
Peggy Stowell 19.5
Ginger Emerson 21.0
Charlotte Engel 21.5
Linda Geyer 21.5
ReNae Keuck 21.5
Carolyn Lopez 21.5
Nine Holers
Joanne Honce 46
Jeanne Pribnow 51

Desert Trails Ladies Golf

Aug. 25

Flight 1 Low Gross D. Craig 72 Low Net K. Davis
53

Flight 2 Low Gross L. Saelens 80 Low Net L.
Bunn, S. White, S. Light 56
Flight 3 Low Gross H.. Fix 88 Low Net J. Martin
56

DT Winners at Echo Mesa

Aug. 26

Best nine (front or back)
1st Flight: (Handicaps 5-15)
Mike Bashaw-27 Ed Lewton, Lance Brown and
Jack Johnson (Tied at 29)
Gary Smith-30
2nd Flight: (Handicaps 16-27)
Ron Stallbaum-27 Gary McGrath and Dave
Gearhart (Tied at 29)
John Evans, John Mitchell, John Vignatti, Ran-
dy Giedt and Tom Flaherty (Tied at 30)

Echo Mesa Women's Golf Club

Sept. 1

Low Gross/Low Net
Flt. 1 19 - 37 Low Gross Low Net
Carolyn Lopez 74
Linda Geyer 77
Eileen Fargher 50
Ginger Emerson 53
Sue Anderson 56
Janet Eriksson 56
ReNae Keuck 57
Peggy Stowell 57
Nine Holers
Joanne Honce 50
Kay Grossman 60



**Eileen Fargher had a hole in one Sept. 1, on #6
at Echo Mesa. (Submitted photo/RoseAnn Wish-
ner)**



CLUB NOTES UPCOMING CLASSES, OPEN HOUSE

The Artistic Hand Lettering, Cards & Mixed Media Club is offering Introduction to Calligraphy classes 11 a.m.-noon Fridays, Oct. 16, 23, 30 and Nov. 6. Cost is \$40, payable only by check directly to instructor Char Cash and all participants must be prior registered to ensure we have materials for all. To register stop by the club during regular hours or contact Debby Fradette at djfradette@gmail.com. A card swap is 12:45-1:30 p.m. Sept. 18 (make three identical cards: one to share, one to post on the bulletin board and one to donate to the Valley View Food Bank Thrift Store). A workshop on coloring and blending is 10 a.m.-noon Sept. 21 and Fun Fold Friday is Sept. 25. The club's annual open house is 1-4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2, and Gelli printing is 6-8 p.m. the second and third Wednesday of the month. 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. Call Dottie Schmit (602-758-9854) or Kat McGinnis (480-806-8053), visit artisticandlettering.scwclubs.com or email ahlcandmm@gmail.com for more information. Club membership is \$10 annually. Pictured are Card Swap cards from August, with the theme "All Things Plaid." (Submitted photo/Melanie Harrison)



SEWING SKILLS SOLVE MYSTERY

Rip 'N' Sew Club instructors Robyn Reynolds and Joan Hardy used to offer a mystery class one Saturday a month. The most recent mystery class produced cloth baskets, each with a handle. Showing off their completed baskets are from left, Jolene Piaskowski, Natalie Blackshear, Linnea Shulman, Linda Logan, Eva Weisberg and Connie Province. The instructors made the three baskets in front as samples for the students. (Submitted photo/Joan Hardy)

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PLANT SALES BEGIN IN SUN CITY WEST

Harvesting and planting activities at the Beardsley Rec Center greenhouse are in full swing in preparation for the Sun City West Desert Garden Club plant sales which return Saturday, Oct. 3. First Saturday plant sales will continue every first Saturday of the month through May 1, 2027. The sale will run 8 a.m.-noon, at the Beardsley Recreation Center, 12755 W. Beardsley Road. Thursday Plant Sales will be open 9 a.m.-noon, Thursday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m.-noon and will be held every Thursday from October-April, except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Gardening in a low-desert environment can present unique challenges and September and October is an excellent time to explore planting options and learn about sustainable desert landscaping. Visit garden.scwclubs.com/. (Submitted photo/Desert Garden Club)

News in Brief

Spend football Saturday mornings at Lizard Acres

Lizard Acres Pub will be open 9 a.m. Saturdays, beginning Sept. 19, for patrons to watch college football.

Call Lizard Acres at 623-544-6097.

Fifteen units of blood donated

American Legion Post 94's most recent blood drive data is in.

According to data supplied by Vitalant officials, 15 units of blood

were donated, which was the drive goal. There were 13 individuals who scheduled appointments and 13 procedures performed.

Additionally, 18 blood components were collected, which is enough for approximately 13 patients to have lifesaving transfusable medicines.

There was one first-time donor and five automated donations which counted as double units.

The next Post 94 blood drive is Tuesday, Dec. 15.

FROM STEPHEN SCHWARTZ, THE COMPOSER OF *WICKED*.

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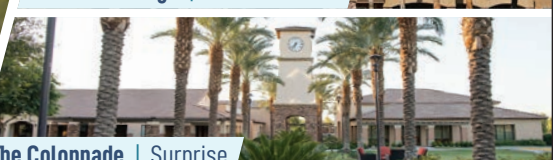
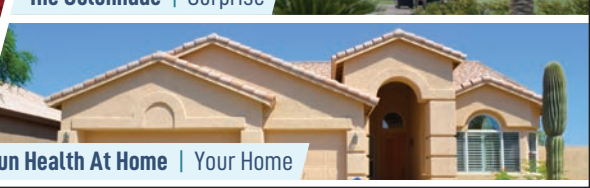
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POLICE REPORTS

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

AUG. 15

- Assault on a deputy was reported at 11:32 p.m. in the 11100 block of West Nebraska Avenue.
- Disorderly conduct was reported at 10:41 p.m. in the 11100 block of West Nebraska Avenue.
- An injured person was reported at 4:20 p.m. at the intersection of North 133rd Avenue and West Desert Glen Drive.

AUG. 16

- Found property was reported at 2:35 p.m. in the 12500 block of West Brandywine Drive.
- Trespassing was reported at 7:23 p.m. in the 11600 block of West Olive Avenue.
- An assault was reported at 6:10 p.m. in the 10400 block of West Aztec Drive.
- Criminal damage was reported at 11:56 a.m. in the 10600 block of West Thunderbird Boulevard.
- Assault with a deadly weapon was reported at 9:54 a.m. in the 17600 block of North Conestoga Drive.

AUG. 17

- Civil matters were reported at 7:49 p.m. in the 14600 block of West Colt Lane.
- A fraud or con game was reported at 2:07 p.m. in the 12700 block of West Omega Drive.
- An assault was reported at 5:48 p.m. in the 17100 block of West Lawrence.
- Threats to commit an offense were reported at 4:55 p.m. in the 12800 block of North 113th Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 12:56 p.m. in the 10900 block of West Bell Road.
- A theft was reported at 12:34 p.m. in the 9900 block of West Thunderbird Boulevard.
- A theft was reported at 10:29 a.m. in the

13600 block of North 98th Avenue.

- A vehicle crash with injuries was reported at 7:53 a.m. at the intersection of North Dachtler Drive and West Granite Valley Drive.

AUG. 18

- An assault was reported at 9:51 p.m. in the 12800 block of North 113th Avenue.
- A traffic violation was reported at 4:12 p.m. at the intersection of North R. H. Johnson Boulevard and West Parkwood Drive.
- A suspicious package was reported at 10:50 a.m. in the 12400 block of West Coronet Drive.
- Forgery or a bogus check were reported at 10:41 a.m. in the 12900 block of West Maplewood Drive.
- Harassment was reported at 9:53 a.m. in the 18600 block of West Beryl Avenue.
- Criminal damage was reported at 8:57 a.m. in the 13000 block of North 103rd Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 9:10 a.m. at the intersection of North Crozier Road and West Montgomery Road.

AUG. 19

- A stolen vehicle was reported at 8:18 p.m. in the 18000 block of West Mission Lane.
- A vehicle crash with injuries was reported at 8:20 p.m. at the intersection of West Granite Valley Drive and West Meeker Boulevard.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 1:31 p.m. in the 19400 block of North R.H. Johnson Boulevard.
- A fraud or con game was reported at 1:52 p.m. in the 13200 block of West Bellwood Drive.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 1:10 p.m. at the intersection of West Bell Road and North Boswell Boulevard.
- A fire was reported at 11:26 a.m. at the intersection of North 135th Avenue and West Deer Valley Drive.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 10:14 a.m. in the 18600 block of North 99th Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with injuries was reported at 10:59 a.m. at the intersection of North 99th Avenue and North Willowcreek Circle.

A SWEET SUMMER TRADITION

SilverCraft West Social Director Robin Coursen, left, and member Jan Stittleburg enjoy ice cream sundaes during the club's annual ice cream social. The event brought members together to reconnect with friends, welcome newcomers, and enjoy time together beyond the club's jewelry-making activities. Visit the club at the R.H. Johnson Center (Submitted photo/D Wells)



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COMMUNITY

Join the parade, party to raise money for the community

Funds go directly back into the Sun City West

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A fundraising effort started in 2016 in Sun City West and has raised more than \$52,000.

The Sun City West Witches Ride for Charity has grown since Pam Chumbly took the first ride with eight residents dressed as witches. Now, there are more than 200 golf carts and bicycles joining in on the parade route, as well as spectators and many others who join the party at Beardsley Park.

All money raised from this event supports the Sun City West Foundation and Helping Hands, plus Benévilla, which serves many seniors in the Sun Cities.



Sun City West Witches Ride Vice President Ellen Persik, Sun City West Foundation Marketing Coordinator Teresa Brown and Benevillla Vice President of Donor Relations Sara Villanueva are ready for the upcoming ride. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

The parade will feature decorated golf carts, bicycles and costumes and starts along the route at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30. Then, food trucks and

the live band Still Above Ground will perform starting at 5 p.m. at Beardsley Park, 19818 N. 124th Drive. To register for the ride or make a do-

nation to this fundraiser, visit scw-foundation.org/special-events/scw-witches-ride.

Sun City West Foundation Marketing Coordinator Teresa Brown said the group approached the Foundation in an effort to do more for charities in Sun City West and as the hub of that support, she said the Foundation keeps the money in the community.

The event is free, but this is a fundraising effort to help support the charitable organizations directly serving those in Sun City West, so donations are encouraged when registration takes place for the parade.

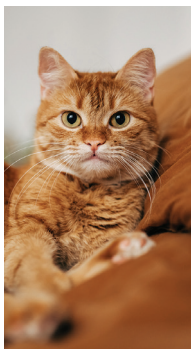
"There are 50 items that have been donated and for every \$20 donated, you will get a raffle ticket. The more

• See **Ride** on page 21

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Ride

• From page 20

you donate, the more tickets you will get,” said Brown.

Additionally, there will be three larger gift baskets eligible to win through the raffle tickets sold at the party and 10 unique hand-painted through a silent auction.

The marketing committee made up of 11 members has the community divided up for the Big Rock Drop, delivering rocks to people’s homes to find all over town from Wednesday, Oct. 14 - Saturday, Oct. 17.

The first year 300 rocks were placed throughout the community and last year there was 531, and this year there are more than 600 hand-painted rocks. Approximately 100 individuals painted the rocks and spent six months completing the project.

The rocks are placed in bags for protection and placed on various

door steps, knee walls and planters. Also, inside is the event information and parade route.

This year Arizona Rainfall, 13001 W. Grand Ave, donated the rocks. ICON Golf Car Superstore, 13525 W. Camino Del Sol, donated three six-passenger golf cars to use during the parade. The Dog House, 13505 W. Camino del Sol, is donating 100 bottles of water to the event.

In 2022, Anna Gorman took over the ride with 250 residents dressed as witches and raised \$11,320. Then in 2023 Annie Miller took the hat and passed it on to Sandra Forsey. Anne Becknell, Ellen Persik and Lorali Holt joined the leadership raising \$13,596 in charity for Benevilla. There were fewer carts in 2024, but donations increased to \$14,510, and last year \$13,000 was raised.

“For the last several years we have been blessed to be chosen as one of the charities the ride has supported,” said Benevilla Vice President of Do-



THEATRE WEST OPENS THE SEASON

Theatre West opens the season with “The Wild Women of Winedale,” and directors Deb Neuroth and Bonnie Valero present the spirited comedy written by Jones, Hope, Wooten. They have planned for nearly a year after finding an entertaining story, planned a set, gathered a talented group of people to work behind the scenes to bring it all together and selected the most talented women to present the story of Fanny, Willa and their unpredictable sister-in-law Johnnie Faye. The show opens Wednesday, Oct. 21, for seven performances. Tickets are \$15 at suncitywest.com/tickets or the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center main office, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. (Submitted photo/Theatre West)

nor Relations Sara Villanueva.

Benevilla is based in the West Valley, but the Sun Cities and Surprise are the biggest areas. In Sun City West alone, there are 4,000 acts of service a year.

She said there are many free services Benevilla has to offer and by participating in this event, residents

have the chance to learn more information and Villanueva said it is also a chance to thank those who participate in the event.

Benevilla will receive 25% of the proceeds.

This national effort began in Florida in the 1990s

Visit benevilla.org/donate.



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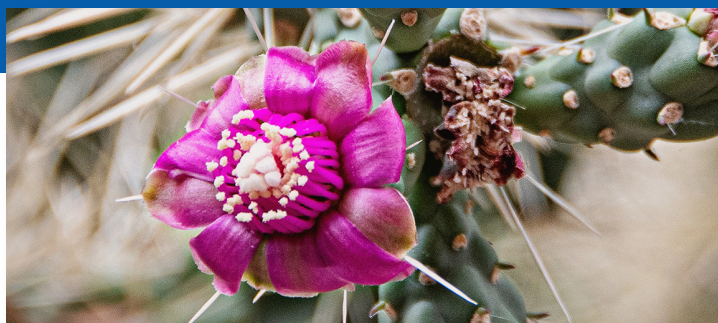
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News in Brief

Karaoke club opens its doors again

The Karaoke Club of Sun City West is now open Thursdays with singing and dancing for guests and members.

Residents do not have to be able to sing to be part of the club.

Doors open at 5 p.m., in the R.H. Johnson Social Hall, and singing is 5:30-8:30 p.m. The club provides cups and water; food can be brought to the club.

Membership fee is \$10 for the year and members must be Sun City West residents. Try for three visits before joining.

Free estate planning workshop at PORA

Eastman Trusts estate planning attorney Darren Richardson is coming to Sun City West for a free workshop.

Residents can attend 10 a.m.-noon Wednesday, Sept. 16, at Property Owners and Residents Association, 13815 Camino del Sol.

The workshop will cover what must be done to administer your estate, legal documents needed in order to accomplish the duties and steps to take today to make this efficient after you pass away.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Reserve a seat by calling Alisa Needler 602-610-1034 or email aniedler@eastmantrusts.com.

Free Find Your Ride Transportation class

Sun City West Foundation's Find Your Ride program will

host a free transportation support class 10-11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, at Sun City West Foundation, 14465 W. R.H. Johnson Blvd.

The class will help residents explore local transportation options, including rideshare services, ADA paratransit, volunteer driver programs and other resources that can support independence and mobility.

The September class will feature Cindy Quintero, operations and partnerships manager with All Thrive 365, who will provide an overview of All Thrive 365 programs with a special focus on the Volunteer Rides program.

Both the Find Your Ride class and the ongoing Find Your Ride program can assist residents with completing the Valley Metro RideChoice application.

Residents who have questions or need help with the application process are encouraged to call the Find Your Ride helpline for assistance.

To register, call 602-662-4260 or visit scwfoundation.org/programs-and-services/find-your-ride.

Support group for essential tremor patients

A support group for essential tremor patients meets in Sun City West.

The free presentation takes place 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, at the the Property Owners and Residents Association, 13815 Camino del Sol.

Meetings take place the first Thursday of the month.

Call PORA at 623-584-4288.



Shirley Mary Skelly

Shirley Mary Skelly (nee: Ingram) passed away July 31, 2026. She was 97. Shirley was born on December 16, 1928, to Marjorie Stokes Ingram and Alexander Wallace Ingram in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. She graduated at the top of her class, and was president of her class, at Lord Selkirk High School in Winnipeg. She began working as an x-ray

technician shortly after her graduation. She then married her high school sweetheart, George Alfred Skelly, on October 28, 1950.

Shirley and George emigrated from Canada to the USA upon George's graduation from medical school in 1962. Together, they raised their family of four daughters: Valerie, Gaye, Diane, and Vera.

Shirley's greatest joy was being a mother to her daughters, and she took great pride in the fact that, "they all turned out well." She was instrumental in teaching them sound money management, cooking, and sewing, as well as ensuring their participation in many activities – most notably golf, competitive swimming, piano lessons, and downhill skiing. Shirley was accomplished, herself, at these pursuits, and in particular, was an excellent golfer. She notched four hole-in-one shots during her many years of playing golf.

Shirley also was a born leader. She volunteered in many capacities throughout her life, always assuming a leadership position. As such, she chaired many committees, boards of directors, and ran multiple golf tournaments.

Shirley and George moved from Minnesota to Sun City West, Arizona in 1987, and enjoyed almost 40 years of retirement there until their deaths.

Shirley was preceded in death by her husband of 75 years, George, and her sister, Faye Ingram Payne. She is survived by her daughters: Valerie (Keith); Gaye (Sheldon); Diane; and Vera (Keith); all of whom reside in Sun City West. She leaves behind seven grandchildren: Ryan, Daniel, Trent, Tabitha, Tara, Jack, and Anne; as well as three great grandchildren: Archer, Edward, and Noelle.

Cremation was at the Camino del Sol Funeral Home in Sun City West, Arizona.

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Bonnie Shimko, CSA

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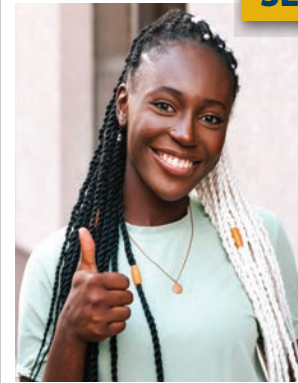
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