



Music

Sun City band prepares for concert; **6**



INDEPENDENT

Sports

Softball club opens new season; **16**



October 21, 2026 Volume 66 Issue 42 Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Sun Citians push back on online voting, forums

By Zev Black

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

As prices across the Valley continue to rise, money is on the mind of many Sun City residents.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City Budget, Finance and Audit Committee is deep in its deliberation of the 2027 budget while the board is continuing deliberation of amending its articles. All that, and more, was discussed during October's monthly exchange meeting.

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee's proposal to raise the annual assessment \$90 and the privilege card \$110 has been heavily talked about amongst residents.

Sun City residents are encouraged to give the board their input during these exchange meetings or online when the RCSC's forum

• See **Voting** on page 5

Brian Way stands with his father, Gregory Way, who demonstrates how to use his new app, Conversation Bridge. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)



Resident creates app to help him talk

By Zev Black and Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Gregory Way, a Sun City resident and stroke survivor, was diagnosed with vascular dementia in 2019. He was given five years to live, but has surpassed the estimate. To keep his brain fresh, he trains his brain with puzzles.

One of those puzzles was the creation of an app, called Conversation Bridge, designed to help people who have trouble speaking or are deaf. The program listens to an individual talk before turning their speech into text on the screen. The disabled individual can then use a suggested response which the app provides based

on the conversation.

Gregory felt the need for this because he has speech problems in his everyday life which makes talking an "exhausting hurdle."

"(I was) frustrated by the gap between knowing what I wanted to

• See **App** on page 5



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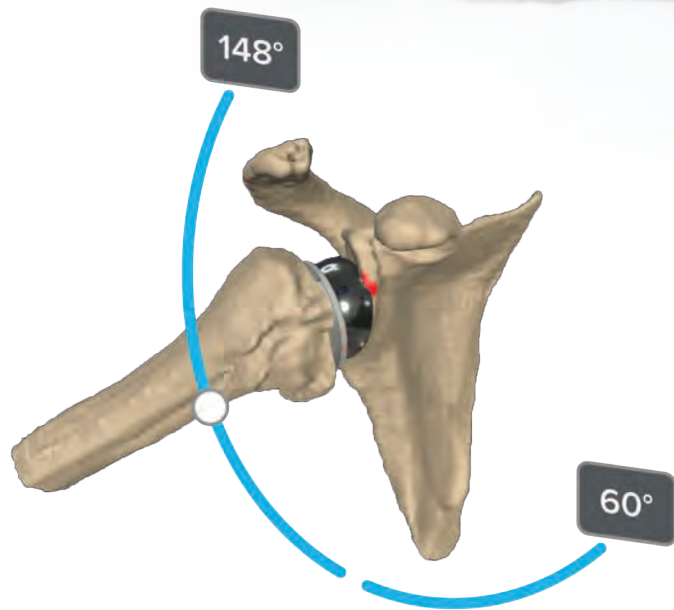
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ART

Art club honors member

Jan Oxendale has been named the Palo Verde Artists Club artist of the month for October.

She likes to paint landscapes and animals and uses oil as her main medium because she likes the buttery application of the paint on canvas. She also works in scratch board and ceramics. She enjoys traveling and paints both outdoors and in her studio. Painting outdoors has given her insight to the effect that light plays upon everything it touches, creating shadow, warm and cool colors. Her many camping trips and travels inspired her to paint the beautiful scenery abundant in nature.

After finishing a degree in health care management, she followed a different career path, while raising a family. When she experienced a cancer diagnosis in 2007, she was determined to focus more on her artwork. She earned her certification in art education. She taught art to both ele-



Jan Oxendale stands in front of one of her paintings. (Submitted photo/Dianna Parirokh)

mentary and middle school students, as well as continued to develop her painting style. Oxendale has worked continuously to improve her skills by taking classes with a professional wildlife artist, studying at the Atelier Studio of Fine Arts in Minneapolis, attending workshops and doing on-line courses with professional artists.



EL DORADO OF SUN CITY TO HOST ART GALLERY

Nancy Foulk, Linda Wilson and Eulavon Mallouf are sharing the limelight at the El Dorado of Sun City Art Gallery, 10330 Thunderbird Blvd., until January. The gallery is open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. daily to the public. Maloff's specialty is collage and glass mosaics. Her style shows an appreciation for design, color and texture. The work is three dimensional and can hang indoors or out. Wilson's style developed as she learned more about art from friends and classes. She has an eye for bright colors and whimsical subjects. Foulk has worked in oil, acrylic and alcohol ink but this show focuses on her stone and silver jewelry. All the bling is natural stone and silver. All artwork is for sale and there is no admission fee. (Submitted Photo/Deb Dahlin)

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Kevin Trovini, Myra Wisniewski, Lt Col Roel Zamora USAF (ret.) and C.M. Sgt. Jay Nelson USAF (ret.)
(Submitted photo/ Kevin Trovini)

Sun City Elks recognize JROTC cadet

The Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 awarded Cadet Myra Wisniewski with the JROTC Cadet of the Month Award for September.

Wisniewski is currently a senior at Cactus High School. She recently served as co-chair of the unit's cadet training day, making her responsible for teaching the basics of uniform wear, customs and courtesies, along with basic drill and ceremonies to 30 new cadets.

Wisniewski made a point of inviting each new cadet to make sure they knew the importance of the event. For the first time in 13 years the group had 100% attendance from the new cadets.

Wisniewski has enlisted in the Navy and will serve in aircraft maintenance after graduation. She also attends West-MEC's Law and Public Safety program, where she has been appointed to a leadership role.



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App

• From page 1

say and getting the words out fast enough," he said. "I decided to use my background in software to build a solution."

Gregory's son, Brian, is very proud of him.

"It's a testament to people," he said. "Even after 40 years of programming, as long as you stay active with it, no matter what happens to your mind, you can stay working."

While Gregory has his own speech problems now, this is something he's seen firsthand his entire life.

One of Gregory's cousins is mostly deaf. Growing up, he could tell something was wrong, but wanted to understand the problem.

"As somebody that has seen both sides, only I'm not deaf, I generally think the normal people are doing everything they can," Gregory said. "So, my advice to people with this problem or similar problems is to try not to get annoyed if people can't understand you."

Brian is hoping this is something that doesn't stop.

"It's a constant joy to watch him challenge his mind, especially as his life has had its difficulties," Brian said. "Keeping your mind sharp when things are hard is something that can really help your health, mental health, physical health and spiritual health. This keeps him active."

Gregory is hoping the app goes live by the end of the month.

Julie Killebrew, MSN, Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church health educator facilitator said the church offers educational series throughout the year and in the past has stroke-related presenters.

"Of course, it is important for all members of the community of Sun City West to be aware of the signs and symptoms of stroke," she said.

The American Heart Association uses the acronym F.A.S.T. to help people recognize the signs. This includes face drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty and time to call 9-1-1. They suggest is to ask a person to smile and raise both arms. Decipher if that person is having slurred speech or unable to speak and understand. If someone shows any of these symptoms, call 9-1-1- even if those subside

and get to the hospital immediately.

"Our church has a group of volunteers called 'HeartSavers.' This group has been a part of Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church for over 25 years. Each volunteer is trained in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and the use of Automatic External Defibrillators, in addition to basic first aid interventions," said Killebrew.

Two individuals of the group are available at each church service and events at the church.

Coming up 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, in Fellowship Hall, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd., LP Health Directions, a CPR and First Aid certification company that conducts classes throughout Arizona, will provide the instruction.

This event is open to the community for \$25 per participant. The space is limited to 10 people. Register and pay online at shepherdumc.org.

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

Voting

• From page 1

goes live.

The online forum and online voting for the proposed amendments have also been faced with scrutiny, as some are pointing to the fact that there are residents who don't have any electronics in their homes.

"Do you know the number of people in this community that don't have electronics?" Sun City resident Carole Martinez questioned.

"Do you know the number of people in this community that don't have the ability to get on a computer? But yet you make everything electronic for communication. That's baloney."

She added she believes the RCSC board has "alienated" the group of residents who don't have access to a computer.

"This is an aging community," she said. "There are people that do not have electronics and by making everything electronic, you are in fact eliminating a portion of your members."

Rick Gray, RCSC treasurer, responded by saying electronic voting would not be the only option, though further details about alternate voting opportunities are not yet available.

"What we've developed is a plan to maximize the member's opportunity to vote at their convenience to understand and appreciate what

needs to be changed and why need to change it," he said. "If you're electrically challenged, there are going to be other ways."

Bill Pearson, another Sun City resident, said he "believes in the concept of self-governance and member involvement."

He added he thinks people show up to the meetings because they care about Sun City, not because they're angry.

That being said, not many people — compared to the population of Sun City — show up to the meetings. At October's exchange meeting, there were roughly 130 people in attendance.

• See **Forums** on page 8



SUN CITY CONCERT BAND PREPARES FOR CONCERT

The Sun City Concert Band will perform its fall concert, "Fall Spooktacular," 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 at the Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. The band is directed by Ken Jaeger and associate director Charles Musgrave. Admission is free with donations accepted at the conclusion of the concert. It is open to RCSC members and their escorted guests. For additional information contact Jane Higgs 623-910-6355.



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EXPO

Sun City West Independent Senior Expo coming soon

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Sun City West Independent Senior Expo is 9 a.m.-noon Wednesday, Oct. 28, at the Sun City West Foundation, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Sun City West residents have the opportunity to explore a variety of products and services. Participants can access essential health screenings plus take advantage of free giveaways and door prizes.

The business sponsors include Agent Cruz 360, Arizona Broadway Theatre, Cardiac Solutions and SCAN Health Plan.

Walgreens will be giving flu, COVID and other immunizations during this event.

Individuals should bring their Medicare card.

Businesses interested in a sponsorship for the expo can call 888-665-3848 or email AZADS@iniusa.org.

Forums

- From page 5

“The idea that suddenly thousands of members are going to engage online on discussions on bylaws sounds good,” Pearson said. “Maybe it’ll work, I could be wrong. I think it’s going to be more in the number of tens, but we’ll see.”

So, he proposed the board allow for resident voting on the proposed amendments during its annual membership meeting Tuesday, March 30, 2027.

“You still have your annual membership meeting where you guys are going to propose changes to the articles of incorporation, the very essence of what Sun City was built on and around, and you want to do it online,” Pearson said to the board during the meeting.

“If you really think your changes to the articles are something members are gonna jump up and go ‘Yes! They’re doing the right thing!’ then vote it at the annual membership meeting and let’s test it.”

He added he’s not worried about

the board changing “housekeeping” bylaws. He’s concerned about the few articles the board wants to change that were initially written to ensure the RCSC “does not go off the reservation.”

“They’ve never been exercised,” he said. “All they were, were safeguards. Safeguards to keep you from going off the reservation. If you’re not afraid of it, just do it.”

Gray agreed with Pearson, doubling down on his earlier comment about wanting to maximize member involvement.

“We will be putting out as much as we can so that they are all well informed and have opportunities to debate and discuss so that when you make your decisions, you’re making it from well grounded facts that you’ve been able to search out and understand,” he said. “Then, it’s in the hands of the community and that’s what this community is all about.”

The next RCSC board meeting is 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at the Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

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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

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.

This is the last edition before Election Day that will include new election-related letters to allow candidates to respond to criticisms about their candidacy. New election-related letters will run online only at yourvalley.net through Oct. 27.

Articles of Incorporation changes raise concern

Most Sun City residents may not be paying much attention to what the Recreation Centers of Sun City board is doing right now. As long as the recreation centers are open, the pools are operating and everything seems to be running normally, it is easy to assume that the details of governance don't really matter.

But they do.

The board is attempting to amend RCSC's Articles of Incorporation. The concern is not simply what they want to change, it's how they're attempting to do it.

The articles establish the rules under which this corporation is governed, including provisions concerning member approval and meetings. If those provisions can simply be bypassed when they become inconvenient, then the protections those articles provide to every member become little more than words on paper.

You may not care about your RCSC voting rights today. You may never attend a membership meeting. You may never question a decision made by the board.

But there may come a day when you need those rights.

Perhaps the board proposes something that directly affects you, your assessments, your recreation centers, your ability to vote or your ability to have a meaningful voice in how RCSC is governed.

At that point, you may wish those protections had been respected and

LETTERS

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preserved.

This isn't about personalities or politics. It is about whether the rules apply when those in power don't like the rules.

Sun City residents should pay attention now, because once member rights are surrendered, getting them back may be far more difficult than protecting them in the first place.

Tom Marone
SUN CITY

Let's fight EPCOR proposed consolidation, rate increase

I don't blame Sun City and Sun City West residents who are ticked off because EPCOR is pushing to raise our water costs by roughly 30%, or maybe I do!

Election cycle after election cycle, voters in the Sun Cities faithfully back Republican candidates running for the Arizona Corporation Commission without holding them accountable to utility consumers.

Well, you get what you vote for.

Look at what this unchecked oversight has brought us just recently:

APS rate: An 8% electricity rate increase enacted in early 2024.

Skyrocketing water and wastewater brackets: Enforced revenue increases of 14.5% for water and 35.2% for wastewater in the San Tan District, alongside aggressive Cactus State Utility adjustments.

On June 29, 2026, EPCOR initiated its latest offensive, a massive rate

application looping the Sun Cities into a water district consolidation. Massive?

Yep! A 30.1% increase overall. By contrast, look at SRP, a nonprofit utility answering directly to its own elected board rather than the ACC. As a result, its historical rate adjustments have kept its average cost per kWh roughly 18% below its ACC-regulated peers.

As for EPCOR, drive through our neighborhoods and you see desert landscapes, drought-friendly plants and gravel, not grass. Why are we being financially consolidated with pool-intensive, lawn-loving master-planned developments?

In my opinion, we are actively being punished for our conservation efforts to fund multi-million-dollar infrastructure rollouts in high-growth zones.

EPCOR — which is a wholly owned Canadian company — is getting as fat as a Canada goose at the expense of fixed-income Arizona seniors.

Because the ACC review process takes roughly a year, this 30% hike is not a done deal yet. We still have time to fight. Let's flood the ACC public docket and remind these commissioners that they answer to voters.

Epson Brewer
SUN CITY

This writer is using a pen name.

New fee structure could eliminate need for fee hike

In response to the Recreation Centers of Sun City's proposed 13% increase in annual fees for 2027, I respectfully submit the following long-term solution based on a basic search and calculations:

• See **Letters** on page 12

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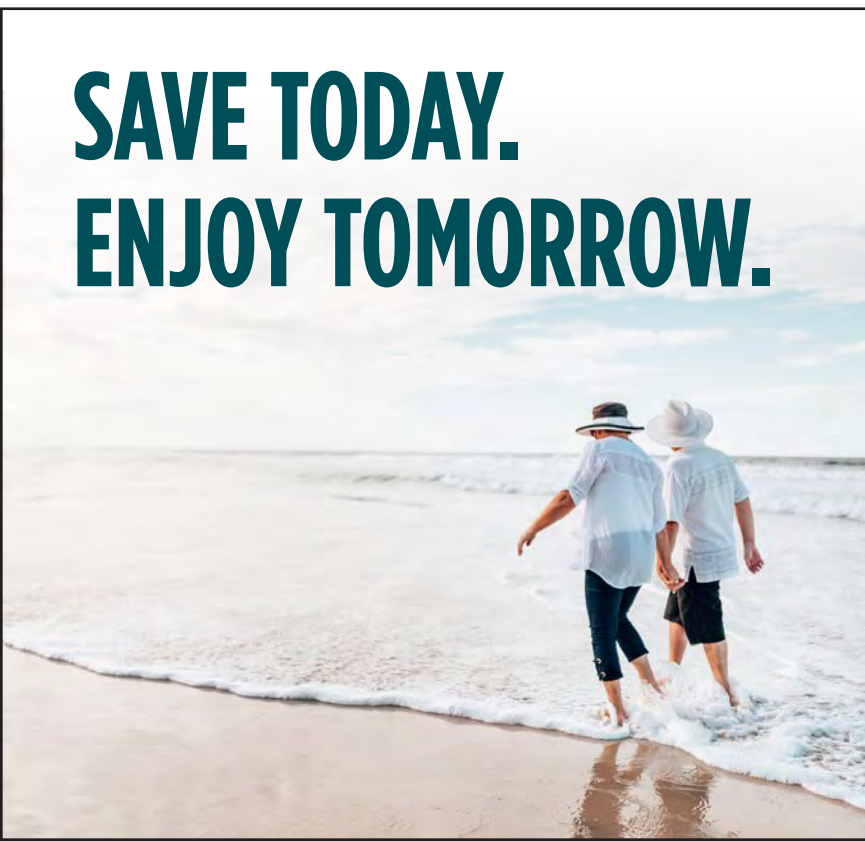
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CHURCH HOSTS DINNER, SHOW

The Sun Seekers dinner and entertainment is 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, at Desert Garden United Church of Christ, 18818 N. 128th Ave. There will be a spaghetti and meatball dinner with garlic bread and salad. Cost is \$15. Bring a beverage. (Submitted photo/Desert Garden United Church of Christ)

Letters

• From page 10

♦ RCSC's 2026 operating budget for property assessments is \$16,037,144.

♦ 26,626 housing units assessed at \$680 equals \$18,105,680 in revenue.

♦ 38,138 residents, 11,512 not paying fees equals \$7,828,160 in lost revenue.

An unfair burden has been carried by single-member households for too many years. Instead of increasing the fees for a portion of Sun City residents based on the number of housing units, I recommend a fee for all residents.

If the RCSC fee system were based on actual number of residents, there would not be a need for another unfair increase to single-member households.

Consider the following options which would reduce the burden on single-member households and ease

the adjustment for more than one member in a household. Each of these options would be sufficient for the 2026 operating budget.

♦ 38,138 x \$450: \$17,162,100

♦ 38,138 x \$500: \$19,069,000

♦ 38,138 x \$600 22,882,800

Given the technology available and the RCSC data obtained at the closing of every property, which also collects a substantial fee, the RCSC only needs to review the closing date data to determine the occupancy, in my opinion.

The system currently submits fees based on the closing dates. There is ample time between now and January to update the records for the first quarter, etc.

If increase the fees were the same as trim the RCSC fat, perhaps increases wouldn't be needed. We need an equitable distribution of responsibility to maintain the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

LM Anderson
SUN CITY

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THURSDAY 10/22		FRIDAY 10/23	SATURDAY 10/24	SUNDAY 10/25
Pork Schnitzel with potato pancake and 2 sides \$10.99 (plus tax)		2-Piece Fish Fry with fries and coleslaw \$9.99 (plus tax)	BBQ Ribs with 3 sides \$13.50 (plus tax)	Turkey Dinner with mashed potatoes, green beans & stuffing \$9.99 (plus tax)

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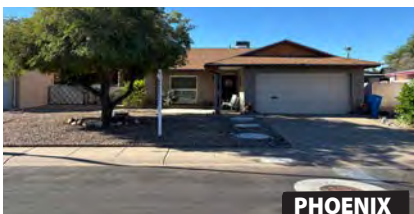
Jenny 623-308-4177
Richard 623-308-4125

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Featured Listing

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15426 N 22nd St **\$397,750**

Rare Northtown beauty, 3 bedroom/2 bath home with 2-car garage. A vibrant 55-plus community with a clubhouse & pool and calendar full of activities! This home has great curb appeal and very nice patio/seating area at front entry and features an updated kitchen with granite countertops and stainless appliances (microwave 2026). Anderson dual painted windows, Anderson slider that leads to south facing covered back patio, carpet in the bedrooms only, updated water heater, HVAC approx. 2016, roof approx. 2016, SECURITY front door. Great winter home or full-time residence! #7094547

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19022 N Lakeforest Drive **\$243,000**

2 bedroom & 2 bath home with garage. Phase 3 Sun City Arizona. Wonderful home with solar and XL Arizona Room, low nap flooring (no carpet) throughout, Dual paned windows, Replaced HVAC, replaced garage door, Kitchen features a large peninsula with seating space, quartz counter tops and newer Shaker cabinets (roll-out shelves in most), popcorn ceilings have been removed. Conveniently located: near grocery shopping, Marinette Recreation Center, medical offices, major league spring training facilities, professional football stadium and enjoy easy access to the freeway. Come and enjoy this home as a winter getaway or full-time residence. Small pets are welcome. Inside laundry. Workbench. Must see! #7020389

SUN CITY

SOLD



10962 W Kelso Drive **\$319,777**

Beautifully remodeled 2-bedroom, 2-bath golf course home in Sun City! This move-in-ready property features an open floor plan, updated kitchen with modern finishes, renovated bathrooms, and abundant storage throughout. Enjoy stunning golf course views from the spacious living areas and oversized covered patio—perfect for relaxing, entertaining, or taking in Arizona's beautiful sunsets. The home also includes owned and fully paid-off solar, providing energy efficiency and long-term savings. Thoughtfully updated for comfort and style, this home offers low-maintenance living near recreation centers, golf, shopping, dining, and all the amenities that make Sun City an exceptional active-adult community. Golf course living at its finest! #7043680

SUN CITY

SOLD



8501 Marco Polo **\$675,000**

Welcome home to easy living in 45+ age restricted Westbrook Village! This 3 bed, 2 bath, 2,422 sq ft home gives you back your weekends. Soaring 10-foot ceilings and picture windows fill every room with light, while shutters on all bedroom windows let you rest easy. A new roof brings peace of mind through monsoon season. The re-imagined kitchen features custom cabinetry, a fresh backsplash, and pull-outs that bring every pan to your fingertips. Updated bathrooms with walk-in showers make mornings simple. Step outside to a lush backyard and extended patio made for coffee and sunset dinners with friends. The 3-car garage has room for the golf cart and the hobbies. All this in a community where golf, lakes, and clubhouse gatherings fill your days. Move in and start living your next chapter. #7087812

PEORIA

SOLD



9212 N 107th Avenue **\$225,000**

Great floorplan! Sewer relined (2023), 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, 1430 square feet with no wasted space, this home features all large rooms, separate laundry room/storage room with built in closet and window. Seller says this room could be used as a 3rd bedroom if needed, updated kitchen featuring gorgeous white granite countertops & white Shaker cabinets, recessed lighting & stainless appliances. Delightful living room overlooks greenbelt. Popcorn ceilings have been removed, updated bathrooms. Golf cart storage space or extra storage space. Kitchen, laundry room and bedroom 2 windows have been replaced with dual pane. Simply and neutral paint throughout. screened-in back patio, grass front and grass back, super full-time home or winter home for snowbirds #7068319

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SUN CITY POMS PERFORM VARIETY SHOW

The Sun City Poms presented a variety show for the residents of Acoya Shea/Scottsdale Retirement Community Oct. 2, marking the residents first experience with the Poms. Over sixty residents gathered in the performance area, clapping and cheering for the skits, songs and dance numbers. Pictured are Diana Lamb, Jan Desmond, Cindy Kress, Tammy Ruocco, Debi Sieckman, Deborahanne Wicher, Chrys Main, Peggy Parsons, Sally Alef, Kathleen Emerson, Debbie Kruep, Sherry Cantrell and Sharen Valentine.



RAZZLE DAZZLE DANCERS SCARE SUN CITY

The Razzle Dazzle Dancers were out and about for a fun-filled Saturday kicking off the Halloween season. The bewitching dancers are Judith Heise, Deborah Fleming and Margaret Mohr. (Submitted Photo/Deborah Wheeler)

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Changemakers. Truthseekers. Storytellers. We are journalists. Journalists who want to make positive, impactful change in our communities.

We research and question public leaders because we want to inform our readers of the various outcomes where they can affect change in their neighborhoods, at City Hall, school boards or even the state capitol.

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

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

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

I am grateful that the First Amendment remains today.

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

We work for a news organization founded on principles to support independent thinkers and keeps the First Amendment in mind.

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

It's humbling to see INI long-timers Jeremy Carr, Jennifer Jimenez and Ryan Winslett, to name a few, continue our love for celebrating and connecting our communities year after year with political, business and neighborly news.

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

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

We promise to continue to strive to protect the First Amendment through our story coverage.

We appreciate your voluntary pay donations, they mean the world to us.

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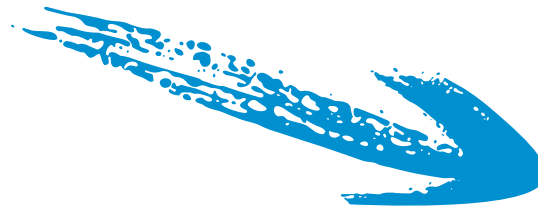
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SPORTS

'One big family': Sun City softball club opens new season

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

As the Major League Baseball playoffs roll on, the Sun City Senior Softball Club is gearing up to kick off its new season.

While the stakes may be higher in the major leagues, the roughly 230 members of the Sun City club play for something that goes well beyond wins and losses.

The club is a way for Sun City residents to make friends and interact with others who share the same passion they do.

When a new member joins, they go through a trial to determine skill level. They are then placed into one of three leagues to play with people of a similar talent.

Each season is 12 weeks long with each team playing twice a week. There are also co-ed and over 70 games on Saturdays.

The champion is the team with the best record at the end of each season.

Steve Oberg, the club's president, described the group as "a total camaraderie." He said he thinks this is the case because so many people in the club come from different backgrounds and experiences.

"Everybody takes care of everybody," he added. "It's just not about playing softball. It's totally about a

family group that everybody supports everybody and encourages them. We want everyone to succeed and have a good time."

Two members, Peggy Staske and Tom Dellopoulos, echoed that sentiment.

"It is like one big family," Dellopoulos said. "They really come to everybody's aid if somebody's in trouble or they get sick or hurt. It's not only fun playing ball but it's also the friendliness of the club."

Staske said high school sports were important for her growing up in St. Joseph, Illinois, where she played fast-pitch softball. After graduating, she briefly played in some rec leagues before hanging up the cleats for 30 years.

Now, with the Sun City Senior Softball Club, she gets to renew the passion she once had.

"Along with traveling, table tennis, water volleyball and making sourdough bread, softball remains a big part of my life and I will continue to play as long as I can," she said. "To see others much older than I out there playing day in and day out truly inspires me."

Dellopoulos, who is now 80-years-old, played fast-pitch softball for 20 years after high school before transitioning to be an umpire. He is now



CL/NL League champions managed by Vernez Blattner. Pictured are Tom Blattner, Bruce Bucher, Larry Chapman, Erik Jangula, Ron Pasik, Frank Seaberg, Tony Calfa, Tom Conway, Ron Phipps, Tom Garrett, Darrell Stachler and Chuck Zehner. (Submitted Photo/Tina Prosenick)

back on the field as an athlete.

"It's just a fun sport to be into," he said. "I'm very fortunate to be able to play that long and not get hurt."

He added he plays every position on the field but his favorite is second base because he doesn't have to throw the ball very far.

In addition to the games, the club holds dances, goes to taco Tuesday and has pool parties.

The first year club fee is \$150, then \$50 per year after that. Sun City residents can also be a member without playing for \$5 a year.

For more information, go to suncitysb.org/home.

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



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SUN CITY HOST LIONS HOLD SUCCESSFUL EVENT

The Sun City Host Lion's Club had a very successful event packing feminine products for Women 4 Women. Debbie Bushey, Judy Hare, Kerin Kistner, Debbie Davidson and Julie Hinckle, among others, packed over 500 feminine bags that will be distributed around the west valley to homeless, teenagers, battered women and probation officers.

Banner Olive Branch Senior Center unveils food menu

The Banner Olive Branch Senior Center, 13049 N. 103rd Ave., offers dine in meals, to go meals and food pantry services. The food pantry is available at no cost 7:00-11:00 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday. Lunch is served 11 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday at no cost for those age 60 and older, with a suggested \$5 donation. A \$5 fee is required for those under 60. Breakfast is served 6:30-8:30 a.m. Monday-Friday for \$5 and is open to all ages. To go meals are available 11 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday for \$5 per meal and are open to everyone. Guests are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early.

Menu:

- Wednesday, Oct. 21 - Chicken salad sandwich with cranberries, romaine lettuce, cucumber and

tomato salad, grapes

- Thursday, Oct. 22 - Sloppy Joe sandwich, 5-way mixed vegetables, potato wedges, warm cinnamon apples
 - Friday, Oct. 23 - Pulled pork tacos, caribbean blend vegetables, coleslaw, peaches
 - Monday, Oct. 26 - Red wine braised chicken, sweet potato, succotash (corn and lima beans), lemon quinoa, apricots
 - Tuesday, Oct. 27 - Cheese tortellini, broccoli, cauliflower, oatmeal cookie, pear
- The center offers benefits reviews and information, and referral services as well as many resources and activities. For more information, go to banner-health.com/OliveBranch or call the center at 623-465-6004.



SUN CITY REPUBLICANS MEET

The Sun City Republican Club met Sept. 15 where a number of speakers, including Tiffany Benson, Charmine Roth and Jamie Alford. Ryan Caracciolo, candidate for Maricopa County Community College District 4 and Linda Busam, West-Mec board member, rounded out the evening. Arizona State Senator Frank Carroll was the Oct. 20 speaker. The Sun City Republican Club meets at the Sundial Recreation Center East Hall, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. The social time starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. All RCSC cardholders and their guests are welcome. For more information, email suncitygopclub@gmail.com. Ryan Caracciolo, Linda Busam, Charmaine Roth, Jamie Alford and Tiffany Benson. (Submitted Photo/Bonnie Angster)

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SCORES

GOLF

Echo Mesa Women's Golf Club Oct. 13 – Stardust Scramble

First Place Score
Linda Geyer 65.0
Sally Hamill
Mary Wenger
Second Place
Veda Barganier 66.0
Barbara Hoolehan
Barbara Martin
Jan Nesper
Nine Holers
Joanne Honce 40.0
Charlotte Ewalt 40.0 25.5
Jeanne Pribnow 40.0

GAMES

SCWCBC Tuesday Scores

Oct. 6
1 Larry Hughes 5400
2 Marion Hare 4610
3 Dennis Hemmer 3790
4 Marilyn Torgimson 3300
Oct. 13
1 Don Bols 6910

2 Bonnie Matraw 6200
3 Dixie Nothwang 4370
4 Bill Teeguarden 3750
Small Slams: Don Bols and Dixie Nothwang

Monday Night Bridge

Oct. 5
1st L Shirley Hughes and Mary Kiewel 5800
2nd Don Bols and Dixie Nothwang 4880
3rd Dianne Wuethrich and Mary Lou Hindal 4630
4th Gene Hopp and Karen Overson 3980
Small Slam: Bill Cooper and Barb Carl

BOWLING

Thursday AM Mixers

Oct. 1
Men Scratch Game
Craig Bryant – 261
Jeff Jones – 237
Joe Sinkula – 215
Scratch Series
Jeff Jones – 633
Craig Bryant – 585
Joe Sinkula – 569
Handicap Game
Craig Bryant – 309

Joe Sinkula – 269
Jeff Jones – 258
Handicap Series
Joe Sinkula – 731
Craig Bryant – 729
Don Reitmeier – 720
Women Scratch Game
Cirila Braband – 189
Mo Trgovic – 159
Joann Chavez – 156
Scratch Series
Cirila Braband – 495
Cindy Lucas – 427
Sue Nichols – 416
Handicap Game
Cirila Braband – 261
Mo Trgovic – 251
Janet Tarrant – 247
Handicap Series
Cirila Braband – 711
Janet Tarrant – 690
Marlene Webb – 686

Oct. 8
Men Scratch Game
Richard Whitmark – 222
Dave Johnson – 221
Otis Perkins – 202
Scratch Series

Richard Whitmark – 631
Dave Johnson – 549
Tony Diep – 530
Handicap Game
Dave Johnson – 267
Ken Targosz – 264
Richard Whitmark – 259
Handicap Series
Richard Whitmark – 742
Ken Targosz – 689
Dave Johnson – 687
Women Scratch Game
Teresa Zimmerman – 174
Cindy Lucas – 169
Joanna Langdon – 169
Sue Nichols – 168
Scratch Series
Sue Nichols – 469
Cindy Lucas – 460
Joanna Langdon – 414
Handicap Game
Teresa Zimmerman – 264
Joanna Langdon – 262
Sue Nichols – 246
Handicap Series
Sue Nichols – 703
Joanna Langdon – 693
Cindy Lucas – 682



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INTERFAITH

Temple Beth Shalom offers 'Character Development in Our Lives Today'

Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley, 12202 N. 101st Ave., will present a three-part interfaith series, "The Importance of Character Development in Our Lives Today," starting in November.

"Modern positive psychology suggests that character is not simply fixed," Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan, who will lead the discussions, said. "It can be understood, strengthened and developed throughout life."

The series is open to people of all faiths. Participants will explore the character strengths that help people flourish: curiosity, perseverance, kindness, hope, wisdom, gratitude and humor.

"It is about more than becoming 'better people,'" Kaplan said. "It is about living with greater purpose, building stronger relationships, handling adversity more effectively, and discovering new possibilities for growth at every stage of life. Charac-



Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan. (Submitted Photo/Lori Baker)

ter matters — and it is never too late to work on ours."

The series will be 10-11:30 a.m. Monday's Nov. 2, 9 and 16 at the temple. Cost is \$20 for temple members and \$35 for non-members. A discount is available by purchasing a coupon book of four courses.

The registration deadline is noon Wednesday, Oct. 28 by calling the temple office at 623-977-3240. Online registration and payment is also available at tbsaz.org.



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Deb Peterson, of Sun City, submitted this photo.

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SUN CITY SINGS! PREPARES FOR PERFORMANCES

Music lovers have two opportunities to enjoy the sounds of the season as Sun City Sings! prepares for two upcoming performances. "Truly Americana" will celebrate Veterans Day and America's 250th anniversary with a patriotic program Wednesday, Nov. 18, in the American Lutheran Church's Wednesday Night Alive series. Then, welcome the holidays with "A Festive Noel" Friday, Dec. 4. New members are welcome to join Sun City Sings! for the remaining rehearsals and be part of the group. For more information about the choir and its upcoming performances, go to suncitysings.org. (Submitted photo/Linda Shirck)

RECREATION

Sun City to welcome lawn bowling tournament

The greens of Sun City will once again take center stage this fall as Bowls USA brings the 2026 US Open of Lawn Bowls to the West Valley Nov. 1-7.

Now in its third consecutive year in the Sun Cities, the US Open will bring hundreds of lawn bowlers from across the United States and around the world to compete in one of the country's premier lawn bowls events. Competition will take place at greens throughout Sun City, Sun City West and The Grand in Surprise, making the tournament a community wide sporting event.

But for the many local players who call these greens home, the US Open is about more than competition. It is



Rachel Wolfenden won first place at last year's tournament. (Submitted photo/Veronica Sum)

an opportunity to welcome some of the best bowlers in the sport to the community where they play, practice and socialize throughout the year.

REMEMBRANCE

Resident remembers late friend

By Mel Livatino

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

For decades the official Sun City motto was "The City of Volunteers." One man took those words very seriously. His name was John Schumacher. A few years after he arrived in Sun City, he walked through the doors of Recorded Recreational Reading for the Blind and asked if they could use his services.

For the next quarter-century John put in 40 to 50 hours a week as an RRRB volunteer. He was soon working with all facets of the group. John became the hands, heart and soul of RRRB.

Such was the man I met on a spring day in 2021 when I walked in RRRB's door and asked if they needed any volunteer readers. For the next four years, John was my only audio engineer and over our four years of working together, I saw first-hand that John was not only the heart and soul of RRRB, he was the greatest volunteer ever in this City of Volunteers.

Together, John and I recorded 200 or so programs. It felt like we would go on like that forever. But that illusion came to an end in November, 2025, when John was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and his beloved daughter Jennifer brought him back home to his family in Indiana. On Feb. 14, John celebrated his 92nd birthday with all his family around him.

I last heard from John when he sent me a long e-mail letter Aug. 14 to which he attached his book-length autobiography celebrating family and his devotion to Notre Dame University.

On Sept. 11, less than a month after John's letter to me, John left this life. One of my fellow volunteers at



John Schumacher at his 90th birthday party celebration at RRRB. (Submitted Photo/Mel Livatino)

RRRB, Gary Cohen, wrote to me: "I will forever remember the smile John gave to me and my wife Enid. John filled our minds with knowledge and our hearts with immense joy. To quote Tim McGraw's song, John is 'in a better place, where soldiers live in peace and Angels sing Amazing Grace.'"

At the end of one of my last recording sessions this past May, my new recording engineer Tod Pickett said to me, "You may not know it, Mel, but you were probably the highlight of John's week." Those words were the highest compliment anyone ever paid me during my eight years in Sun City.

In honor of John's deep goodness and his quarter-century-long dedication to RRRB, I am going to make a donation to RRRB. Perhaps others who knew John and readers of these words will want to do so too. Donations can be sent to RRRB, 9447 N. 99th Ave. May my friend and Sun City's greatest volunteer be with the angels singing "Amazing Grace."

Read the full version of this piece online at tinyurl.com/5d58j2jc.

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TIP TOP DANCERS OFFERS CLASSES

The Sun City Tip Top Dancers offers tap, jazz, lyrical, ballet and social dance classes. For more info contact Gladys Rohrer at tiptopdancesuncityaz@gmail.com. Pictured is Nancy Luss, vice president of membership, Gladys Rohrer, president, Barbara Jean Hoggan, treasurer and Maureen Francher, vice president of publicity. (Submitted photo/Michael Francher)



WOMEN'S CHORUS INVITES RESIDENTS TO JOIN

Women singers who enjoy learning new music in a choral group can still join the Sun City Women's Chorus before the club's concert "Gifts of the Season," Sunday, Dec. 13. The group will be performing songs such as "White Christmas", "Winter Wonderland", "Hanukah Season of Joy!" and others. Practices are 8:45 -11 a.m. Thursday mornings in the music room at Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave. For more information about joining the chorus contact Sue Wilson at 636-293-9832. (Submitted photo/Margaret Biggs)



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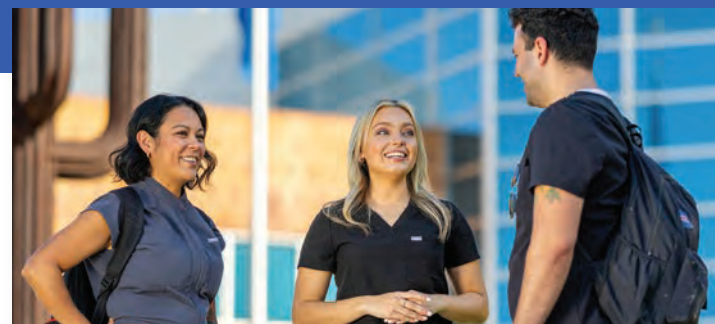
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NEIGHBORS

Know your neighbor: Norman Krinsky

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Norman Krinsky, a resident and actor with the Sun City Players, grew up in a small community just south of Boston. He attended an all boys high school which he described as “athletically inclined,” partly because it offered soccer a sport. After later graduating from Boston College, he volunteered for the military and served in Vietnam.

Get to know one of your neighbors!

How long ago did you move to Sun City and why did you move?

“August is five years. We lived in Arizona for 45 years up until that point in time. She had just started to get swollen legs living in Tucson. Her doctor told her she might want to move to a cooler climate. We didn’t want to move out of Arizona and she didn’t want to move to Flagstaff... She used to be a teacher, so she loved being around people. When we lived in Camp Verde, everything was closed because of COVID. She got really depressed... My daughter had moved up from Tucson to Phoenix and that’s when we found Sun City. We’re both very social people so when we found all the clubs that were available in Sun City, it was a paradise for us.”

What’s a childhood memory that’s stuck with you?

“Living on a dead end street that was a hill. There were only eight houses on our street and, in the winter when it snowed, the plows didn’t come up our street since it was a dead end. As a result of that, people that lived on the had to pound down the snow by driving on it. As a result, it made for great sledding. Everybody from every neighborhood would come to our street to sled from the top of the hill down.”

What’s something that brings you joy?

“My whole career, I’ve always been helping people. I’ve always worked with people, not with a product. My philosophy was if I could help one person out of 100, I accomplished something. I didn’t have high ideals like I’m going to help everybody. My goal was if I could turn somebody around out of 100 people, I felt like I accomplished something.”

Who in your life do you turn to when you need support?

“My son. He lives in Oklahoma and he’s just a joy of my life right now. He’s very successful. He’s a lot like me. He’s a self-starter. He’s a leader, so I go to him.”

Looking back on your life, what are you most proud of?

“That my wife and I were able to raise two children that stayed away from drugs and alcohol. Even though neither of them graduated from a college, they both made something of themselves.”

Looking towards the future, what are you most excited about?

“I’ve made my retirement vocation being a thespian. My thing that I’m excited about is being able to entertain people in a public situation. Not really in a private situation. Being able to bring joy to people either by being somebody that I’m not as an actor or using my own traits to bring those out to people too.”

Anything else?

“I went to Israel on a mission in 1998, which was the 50th anniversary of the statehood of Israel. I went to the Dead Sea and I actually floated on the Dead Sea for almost an hour and read the New York Times from front cover to back.”

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MUSIC

Piano Club offers free music for residents

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The pitch is simple: free music. The Sun City Piano Club asks nothing of its 144 members but that they show up with a smile on their faces.

The club gets together once a month for a performance when anyone in the club who wants to get on stage is given the opportunity to do so.

Rochelle Kinderknecht, the club's president, said most people in the club either don't play the piano or don't want to perform. Both are totally acceptable.

Kinderknecht took lessons in grade school, but stopped playing piano shortly after. It wasn't until 50 years later that she rekindled her joy for the keys.

"I started playing again after I moved here," she said. "I took lessons through the Piano Club, because we offer lessons. Then I said 'oh what the heck. Work up your nerve and play something.'"

Even though she's been performing in front of the club for a couple years, she still gets nervous doing it.

"I get hot and my heart starts pounding," Kinderknecht said. "I can't seem to get rid of my nerves. So, it's kind of fun. People clap and go 'woohoo!' You feel really good and it makes you smile. But just getting out there, your hands are kind of sweaty and you're kind of nervous."

She added some of the club members have been performing in front of people their whole lives.

Karen Pollick is one of those in-

dividuals.

She's been playing piano since she was seven years old. Her sister, mother and grandmother all played as well which helped her first get into the instrument.

Pollick was a piano major in college before becoming the music director for the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe where she taught piano and directed musical productions.

She also taught piano privately when she returned to the states

"It helps with stress," she said. "It helps keep me calm. It helps me be creative. It helps me release emotions. It does a lot."

In addition to the performances, the club is very social. There is time before and after the events to talk with other members and grab a sweet treat.

"There's not a lot of places for people to perform unless it's a bar or something," Kinderknecht said. "It's nice to have a place where you



Karen Pollick performs at the Piano Club's annual evening concert in 2024. (Submitted Photo/Karen Pollick)

can just go and listen to music or play."

For more information on the Sun City Piano Club, go to suncityaz.org/clubs/piano-club.



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Sun City Nextgen club offers cruise

The Sun City NextGen Club is offering a group Caribbean cruise. Recent Arizona trips included exploring Antelope Canyon, rafting the Colorado River plus Bisbee, Prescott and Flagstaff. The group just went on an amazing Alaskan cruise and a New England Fall colors tour. International destinations have included trips to Costa Rica, Mexico, Japan, Venice, the Greek Islands and more. Upcoming trips include Tucson, Puerto Vallarta and Panama. For information or to join the club go to NextGenSC.org.



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DAR DELIVERS DONATIONS FOR VETERANS

Sun City resident and veteran Roy Parker recently made 265 crocheted caps for donation to the veterans at the Prescott VA Center. Sun City's National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Agua Fria Chapter members donated four black trash bags of caps, white diabetic socks and white t-shirts, toothpaste and toothbrushes, along with other items to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System. Chapter Treasurer Jane Woehrle delivered the donations, which were accepted by voluntary service specialist Julie James. For more information about the Agua Fria Chapter, go to aguafria.arizonadar.org. Pictured are Woehrle and James. (Submitted photo/Shirley Staggs)

SWIMMING



Lynette Washburn, Caryn Bender, Judy Roy, Leslie Nock, Rick Hanan and Larry Vose. (Submitted photo/Dale Wiseley)

Swimmers go for distance

A group of Sun City swimmers recently took on one of the toughest challenges in the pool at the Oro Valley Aquatic Center near Tucson. Judy Roy, Jody Cline, Leslie Nock and Rick Hanan each completed the distance freestyle swimmers pentathlon.

This includes five freestyle races in a single day: a 1,000 yard swim, a 500 yard swim, a 200 yard swim, a 100 yard swim and a 50 yard sprint.

Lynette Washburn completed the medley pentathlon, swimming 50 yards in all four strokes — freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly, plus a 100 yard individual medley. Caryn Bender and Larry Vose also competed, taking on fewer than five events.

The Starrs workout 7-9 a.m. Monday-Friday at the Bell pool.

For more information, go to suncity-swim.com.

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THEATER

Players present final Mountain View show

The Sun City Players are presenting their final mainstage play, "Dashing Through the Snow" written by playwrights Jones Hope Wooten, Nov. 13-15 and 19-22 at the existing Mountain View Recreation Center, 9749 N. 107th Ave.

"Dashing Through the Snow" comprises four scenes, each of which occurs on the four days before Christmas when mutually exclusive guests check in to the Snowflake Inn in Tinsel, Texas.

Act 1 Scene 2 takes place on the third day prior to the holiday with the arrival of brother and sister, Hoyt and Donna Jo, along with their two aunts, Ennis and Della. The humor in this segment arises from misunderstandings and the characters' attempts to resolve their conflicts amidst the holiday frenzy.

Norman Krinsky portrays Hoyt who serves as a stabilizing force amid chaos. Becoming Hoyt was very satisfying for Krinsky, as he shares many of the character's traits.

Debra Kruep is cast as Donna Jo, spunky and loy-

al, who is there to support her brother. Donna Jo's personality shows her adventurous spirit and willingness to confront family dynamics head-on. This role affords Kruep the opportunity to "say things that she would never iterate to anyone."

Michelle Serries enacts the part of Aunt Ennis, a sharp-tongued, feisty woman, whose exaggerated characteristics and interactions contribute to the play's humor. Serries has fun with this role as she is different from Aunt Ennis in many ways, especially because "I am not a germaphobe like her."

Jan Murphy is seen as Aunt Della, stubborn and quirky, who embodies the theme of family rivalry and reconciliation, both of which lead to comical and heartfelt moments in this portion of the play. Murphy relishes the challenge of taking on the persona of "a grouchy old lady."

Overall, this entire scene reflects the complexities of familial relationships and the importance of family unity during the holiday season.



Jan Murphy, Norman Krinsky, Debra Kruep and Michelle Serries. (Submitted Photo/Norman Krinsky)



Pauline F. Nelson

Pauline F. Nelson, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on October 8, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. Born on February

25, 1937, in Pierre, South Dakota, Pauline lived a beautiful life filled with love, laughter, kindness, and unwavering devotion to those she held dear.

The daughter of Maxine and Arthur King, Pauline grew up in Butte, Montana, where she attended Emerson Elementary and Butte High School. From an early age, she developed the strength, grace, and compassionate spirit that would define her throughout her life.

On September 25, 1954, Pauline married the love of her life, Raymond Nelson. Together, they built a remarkable life centered on family, love, and lasting memories. Their marriage was a testament to commitment,

partnership, and the enduring bond they shared for more than 72 years.

Pauline is survived by her devoted husband, Raymond; her loving children, Rayleen Murphy (Russ), Charlene McKenzie (Don), and Roy Nelson (Dori); along with six cherished grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren, each of whom brought tremendous joy and pride to her life.

Throughout her working years, Pauline was a dedicated and talented bookkeeper for several businesses, including the family-owned Nelson-McCloskey Construction. Her attention to detail, strong work ethic, and dependable nature made her an invaluable part

of every endeavor she undertook.

Beyond her professional life, Pauline had a creative and adventurous spirit. In her earlier years, she enjoyed participating in women's golf leagues, painting, and working with clay. These activities reflected her artistic talents, her love of friendship, and her appreciation for life's simple pleasures.

Above all, Pauline's greatest joy was her family. She was the heart and foundation of the Nelson family, providing a home filled with warmth, laughter, comfort, and unconditional love. Her door was always open, and no one ever left her home without a full stomach and a heart warmed by

her kindness. She had a special gift for making everyone feel welcome, valued, and loved.

Pauline's legacy is not measured simply by the years she lived, but by the countless lives she touched, the traditions she helped create, and the love she passed down through generations. Her strength, generosity, and nurturing spirit will continue to live on through her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all who were fortunate enough to know her.

A private funeral ceremony will be held to honor Pauline's life, allowing family and close friends to gather, remember, and celebrate the beautiful memories

they shared with her.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, an organization close to Pauline's heart. Through these gifts, her spirit of compassion and generosity can continue to make a difference in the lives of others.

Although Pauline will be deeply missed, the love she gave so freely will never fade. Her memory will remain a blessing, her influence will carry on for generations, and her beautiful spirit will forever hold a special place in the hearts of those who loved her.

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Garage Sale

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