SUN CITY
INDEPENDENT
Volume 66 Issue 44 @yourvalley.net

INSIDE
Genealogical society holds open house; 8

NOVEMBER 4, 2026

Sun City's Nonpartisan Newspaper

Budget lowers proposed assessment

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors unanimously voted to approve the first reading of the proposed 2027 budget during its monthly meeting Oct. 29. The Finance, Budget and Audit Committee met Oct. 14 to discuss the budget and made a formal recommendation to the board ahead of this meeting.

According to RCSC Treasurer Rick Gray, the proposed operating budget includes:

- An annual budget of $32,923,815
- An annual assessment of $740 per rooftop, down from the previously proposed $770
- Salaries and wages expense will increase by 7%, with the allocation of the additional funds to be at management's discretion
- The PIF fee remains at $4,000
- The CIF fee increases to $2,000
- The transfer fee remains at $500

• See **Budget** Page **5**

Ken Woolgar stands with his pop-up caterpillar enclosure. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

Resident builds butterfly backyard

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Each year, millions of monarch butterflies make the long migration from Mexico to as far as Canada in search of their favorite plant: milkweed. However, fewer monarchs are flying north than used to.

According to the Center for Biological Diversity, monarch butterfly populations have dropped by more than 80% since the 1990s.

When Sun City resident Ken Woolgar learned about this, he decided to do something about it.

"I heard they were headed towards extinction and I thought that was a shame," he said. "Everybody likes a butterfly, right? I thought maybe I could help a little bit, so that's what I've been doing."

He transformed his backyard into a monarch sanctuary, full of milkweeds and pollinators like lavender, rosemary and more plants.

He then applied through the North American Butterfly Association and was recently approved as having a certified monarch garden.

• See **Butterfly** Page **5**

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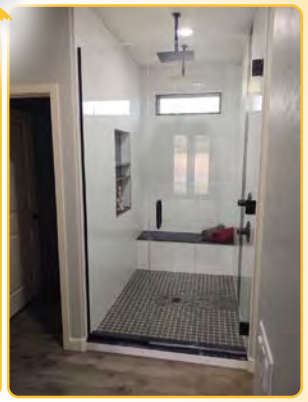

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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Church slates holiday gift drive

Lakeview United Methodist Church, 10298 W. Thunderbird Blvd., is collecting new toys and stuffed animals for the children of the families served through the Valley View Food Bank.

The holiday gift drive will begin Sunday, Nov. 15, and end Sunday, Dec. 13. Boxes will be located in Smoot Hall on the church campus for the unwrapped toys and also in the church office.

Items can be for children of any age: toys, games, sports equipment, puzzles, dolls, arts and craft supplies are some of the suggestions. The Missions and Outreach Committee is sponsoring the drive and will give the toys to the Valley View Food Bank for distribution there. The donated toys will be blessed by Pastor Kristin Hansen at a Sunday service.

The toys can be dropped off 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday in Smoot Hall and in the church office, as well as Sundays while the campus is open for the 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. worship services.

Call 623-974-5821.

CLUB SUPPORTS SUN CITY'S CAN

The Step to the Music Club continues to support the work of the Community Assistance Network with its "Coins for CAN" quarterly donation. Members at each class are encouraged to donate coins into a special bucket. Debbie Campacci, executive director of CAN, was presented Oct. 20 with eight $25 gift cards to Fry's, for the third quarter of this year. Members have donated a total of 24 $25 gift cards — for $600 — so far this year. Pictured with Campacci is Sue Hetland, president of Step to the Music Club. (Submitted photo/Cupid Grays)

Benevilla sponsors child, adult care food program

Sun City Area Interfaith Services, Inc., doing business as Benevilla, announces its sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program, administered by the Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services.

Through CACFP, meals are provided at no separate charge to enrolled participants at the following Benevilla locations:

- Mary's Place Adult Day Life Enrichment, 14601 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City | 623-815-1031
- Lucy Anne's Place Adult Day Life Enrichment, 16752 N. Greasewood St., Surprise | 623-584-4999
- West Valley Peoria Adult Day Life Enrichment, 8133 W. Cactus Road, Peoria | 623-979-7126
- Wirtzie's Preschool & Childcare, 16752 N. Greasewood St., Surprise | 623-584-4999

Art club recognizes member

The Palo Verde Artists Club has named Janice Rouen-Lydon its November artist of the month.

Janice Rouen-Lydon

Rouen-Lydon has always enjoyed painting. She attended the American Academy of Art in Chicago, where she studied under Irvin Shapiro and many other artists before working as a commercial artist.

Rouen-Lydon has exhibited in galleries in Illinois and Arizona and has many paintings in private collections. She paints in oil and acrylic, though watercolor is her favorite medium.

As a member of the Society of Decorative Painters, she entered a Christmas ornament for the White House Blue Room tree and was invited by the first lady for a reception in 2004 to review the official tree.

Visit paloverdeartists.com.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

November 2010:
Ed George and Robert Luger were elected to the fill the two open seats on the Sun City Fire District board of directors.

George was reelected and Luger beat out Thomas Stroozas.

Butterfly

• From page 1

Some of the requirements include having multiple milkweed plants, at least three nectar plants and many puddlers with water.

"The idea is the butterflies are flying around looking for food or milkweed, so there's plenty of food here," Woolgar said. "Then there's the milkweed. That's what makes it the sanctuary."

Jane Bushor, president of the Sun City Garden Club, said butterflies are pollinators, which is important for plants to grow and thrive. She added anyone can have a garden, saying they're great for "stress relief."

"A lot of people think you have to have acres of space, and you don't," she said. "We have a ton, not so much butterflies because they're seasonal, of hummingbirds and bees that come into the yard."

While butterflies love milkweed, other plants are great for different animals.

"But, when you look at other types of pollinators, they vary into what you're bringing in," Bushor said. "You can do yellow bells or orange jubilees. They have a long flower and they're perfect for hummingbirds."

In addition to the plants, Woolgar has a pop-up chrysalis enclosure under his tangelo tree.

When he notices a caterpillar, he will move it into the netting so a bird doesn't eat it.

To learn more about the North American Butterfly Association, go to naba.org.

Budget

• From page 1

- The budget assumes 1,500 home resales
- Golf is budgeted to break even
- Privilege cards increase from $340 to $450
- Punch cards go from $2.50 for any guest to $0 for guests under 12 years old and $5 guests 12 years or older

Gray, who is on the committee for the first year, said he's "impressed."

"They put in so much effort, time and work toward that," he said. "I just want to give them a personal applause from me... I don't think the majority of our members really appreciate the work that goes into these committees and coming up with these solutions. It's a fine needle we have to thread at times."

Some residents have talked about people paying different amounts based on a number of factors, including how often they use the rec centers. RCSC President Tom Foster pushed back on that idea.

"For anyone to pay less, somebody else has to pay more," he said. "When these issues come up, it's very difficult because individuals will have incredibly good stories that just tear the strings of your heart that you want to reach out in some way. But, at the same token, you have to turn around and look at everybody else."

RCSC Vice President Chris Nettesheim echoed that sentiment and raised the question, "What makes one person more of a senior citizen than another person?"

"I understand your comment that they're not using the facilities, but in all probability, they did use them at some point," she added. "You're asking us to make a decision that some members are entitled to more of a consideration than other members when it comes to the assessment."

She went on to say the RCSC is in a tough position because prices across the country are going up.

There are also many people in Sun City who are living on a fixed income and might not be able to pay a raised fee. RCSC Director Steve Collins said a single person making less than $2,000 a month can go to the Sun City Foundation for help.

"We are here to help the people who are most in need in our community," he said.

"We have great compassion for the people that are on fixed incomes and we understand that this is not going to be easy," RCSC Secretary Preston Kise said. "But, at the same time, we have a corporation to run."

Gray said the RCSC needs to make enough money just to keep all the facilities in the community at a usable level. That doesn't mean enough money to improve the facilities, but to ensure they don't depreciate over time.

"There's a balance there," he said. "Just like in your home, if your roof goes out, it doesn't matter how much you got in the bank. You gotta get your roof repaired. There's just things you have to take care of... I think we've done a masterful job of keeping it to a single digit increase. And yeah, is that painful? Yes. It's painful for a lot of people. I'm acutely aware of that."

Foster said everyone has their heart in the right place and were "trying to do what they truly believed was the best thing for Sun City."

"We don't necessarily all agree, but at the end of the day that resulted in an extremely robust process as far as analyzing and deciding what stays and what doesn't stay," he said. "I thank every one of those individuals and all of you who took the time to come here and ask questions and be a part of the process. It just makes everybody better and the process better."

The next RCSC exchange meeting is 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 9, in the Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

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Ukulele Club entertains NextGen volunteers

The Sun City Ukulele Club entertained NextGen Club volunteers with a program featuring favorites from the 1950s and 60s, hula dancing and audience participation. The volunteers joined in the fun by singing along to familiar tunes, playing kazoos and learning a few basic hula moves.

The Ukulele Club is open to all RCSC members. It hosts free ukulele lessons starting 1:30-2:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, at the Fairway Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave. Lessons are with a mentor, and individuals progress at their own speed. Previous music experience is not necessary.

For more information, go to suncityululeleclub.com or contact Trudy Bryson at 480-276-3780 or trudybryson@cox.net.

Ukulele Club members entertain NextGen volunteers. (Submitted photo/Jim Walker)

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Mary Lynn Kasunic
President & CEO

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The 2026 Tax Credit for married taxpayers filing jointly is up to $1,009 and up to $506 for taxpayers who are single, married filing separately or head of household. Area Agency on Aging, Region One Qualifying Charitable Organization (QCO) number is 20044. Please consult your tax specialist for all tax implications.

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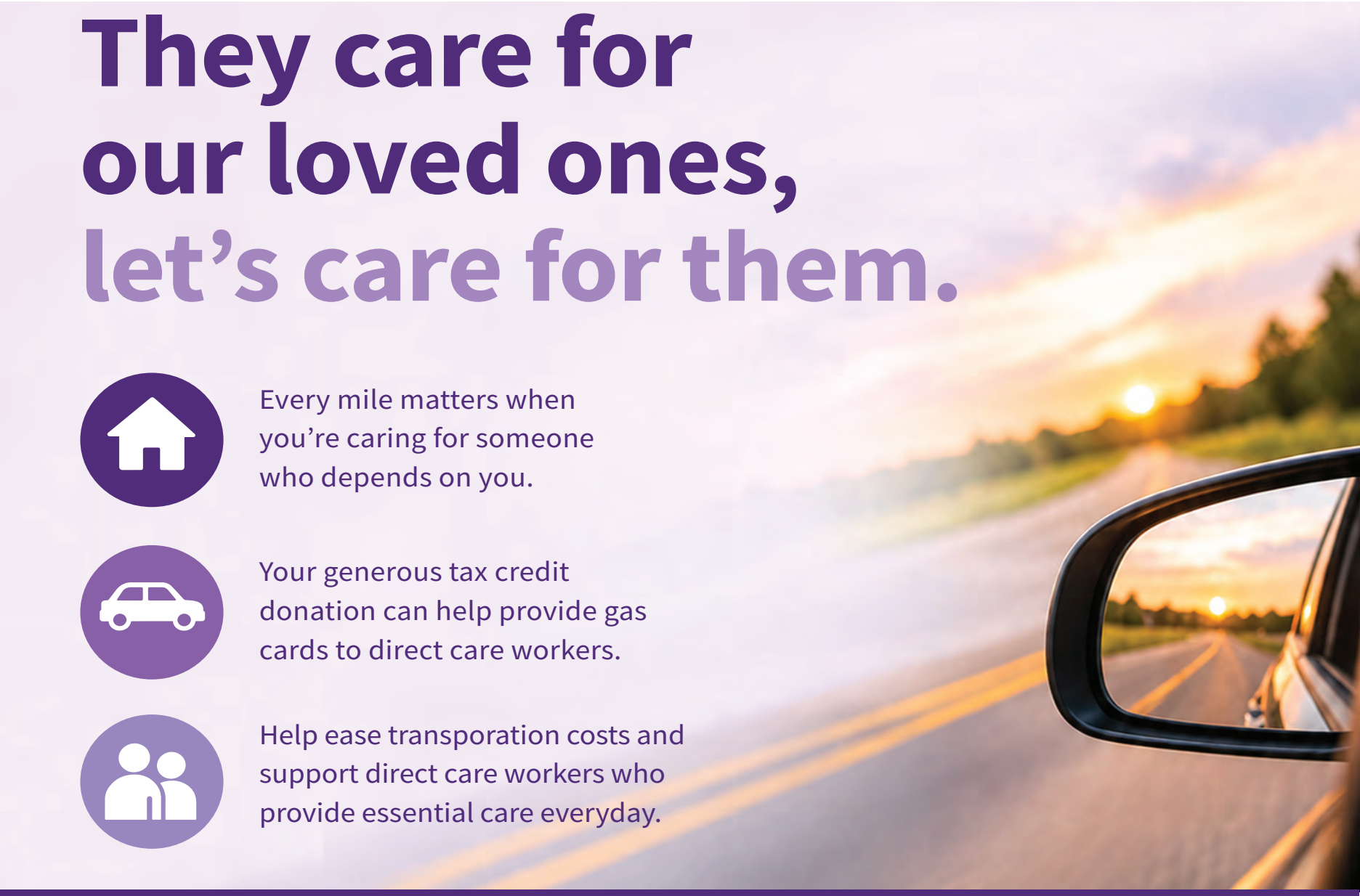

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

The West Valley Genealogical Society held its open house Oct. 25, providing visitors with an opportunity to learn about the tools and resources available to research their ancestry and discover their family histories. The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum welcomes visitors interested in learning more about the community's history and exhibits. It is open noon-3 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday. Visit delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org. Pictured are Mike Blachut, portraying George Washington, Linda Borton, of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, and Pamela Miller, representing the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century. (Submitted photo/Linda Borton)

PLAYERS DONATE SCANNER TO MUSEUM

The Sun City Players are helping preserve local history with its donation of a document scanner to the Sun Cities Museum. This addition will allow the museum to digitize, preserve and archive its growing collections, thus ensuring the Sun Cities community's history remains accessible to future generations. Barb Wagers, Greg Engstrom, Andy Kindler and Charlie Mannino. (Submitted photo/Norman Krinsky)

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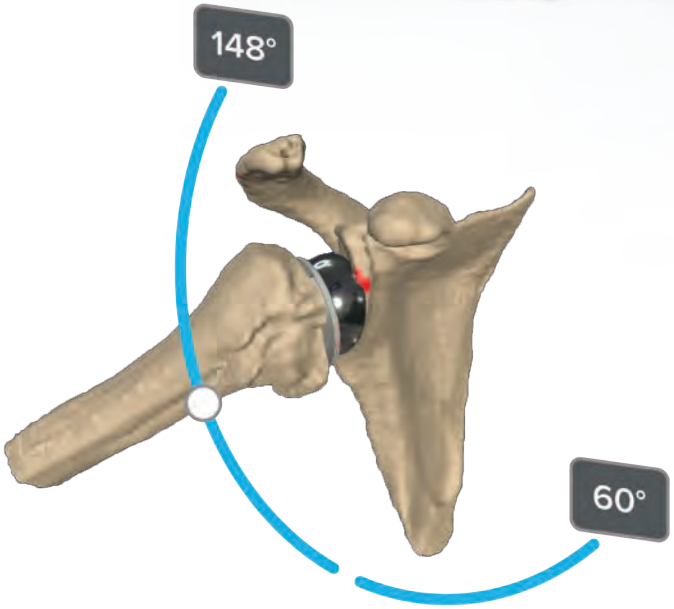

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RCSC fees should be per person, not household

This is to express my agreement with LM Anderson's letter in the Oct. 21 Independent.

A few months ago, I wrote a letter arguing that the recreation center fees should be per individual, not per household, but without all of the monetary details included by LM. Kudos to LM for digging deep into this.

When I contacted the Recreation Centers of Sun City board about making such a change, I was told that they couldn't change it because people are locked into the per-household system by contract.

That may be so, but they previously changed it from per-person to per-household. Why couldn't they change it back and grandfather in the multi-person households that are currently in that system, but have new people coming in pay the per-person charge?

As more and more new people come in to replace those who are grandfathered in, the per-person fee could potentially even go down in the future. Ultimately, it would be back to a per-person fee for everyone, and it would be fair for everyone.

Once again, I would ask the board to consider making such a change.

Donna Doft
SUN CITY

What justifies RCSC's proposed fee hike?

The Oct. 21 edition of the Sun City Independent reported that the Recreation Centers of Sun City Budget, Finance and Audit Committee was recommending a $90 increase in annual assessments and a $110 increase in privilege card fees, and I just read on the RCSC website the proposed increase has been lowered to $60.

The $90 assessment increase represented approximately 13% over last year's rate; $60 is still double the annual inflation rate of 3.7%. What justifies the extra amount?

Certainly, inflation affects RCSC. But it also affects the residents who pay its bills. Many of us live on fixed incomes while struggling with rising costs for groceries, gasoline, utilities, insurance and other necessities. We cannot simply increase our incomes by over 7% to cover our expenses.

What is particularly troubling is that no explanation was provided in the newspaper report to justify an increase of this magnitude. Before asking residents to shoulder such a substantial burden, RCSC should provide a detailed accounting of why the increase is necessary and what alternatives have been considered.

Fiscal responsibility isn't simply finding ways to raise more revenue. It also means making difficult choices, establishing priorities, postponing less essential expenditures, and finding creative ways to operate within available resources.

Sun City residents are tightening their belts. We should expect no less from the organization that serves them.

A large increase demands more than a recommendation. It demands a compelling justification.

Larry O'Dea
SUN CITY

ATTENTION PLEASE

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

Please send comments to azopinions@iniusa.org. More letters are on **yourvalley.net**.

Peoria road work may affect Sun Cities drivers

The El Mirage Road extension north from Loop 303 to Jomax Road has been a top priority to ease traffic congestion in north Peoria.

Certainly, the Happy Valley Parkway and Vistancia Boulevard intersection is in need of change to accommodate rush-hour traffic. To do this with minimal inconvenience and added traffic elsewhere it seems to me the original plan to extend El Mirage Road made a great deal of sense.

If the El Mirage extension were completed first, the intersection at Happy Valley could be completely closed with minimal disruption. In addition, the construction work could be done in a more efficient and safer manner with traffic completely closed.

Maybe the extension could be completed in two phases. First from Loop 303 to Happy Valley and then the section from Happy Valley to Jomax.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Oct. 21 public meeting on the project, so I don't know if any of this has been discussed.

I have been very happy with the planning that has been done in north Peoria over the years, excluding the Amkor plan for Vistancia. It seems the city was planning for growth appropriately. Lately,

• See **Letters** Page **14**

SPONSORED CONTENT

Medicare And You™

Stay Vigilant This Annual Enrollment: Protect Yourself, Know Your Options, and Never Go It Alone

Jim Schmidt, Medicare And You™

By Jim Schmidt

Trusted & Seasoned Medicare Authority, Advocate, & Advisor

Welcome back! Last month I promised to show you the red flags of Annual Enrollment, and right on schedule, the phones are ringing. The Annual Enrollment Period runs through December 7th, and any change you make takes effect January 1, 2027. This is the season when the wolves in sheep's clothing are busiest, so let's talk about protecting yourself, knowing where you stand, and why you should never have to navigate any of this alone.

The phone call you never asked for.

Here's a rule every Medicare beneficiary should know by heart: if you did not ask for help, and you did not give anyone permission to contact you about your Medicare, no one should be calling you about it. Medicare's marketing rules prohibit agents, brokers, and plans from making unsolicited calls. A stranger calling to say your plan is "changing," that you "qualify for more benefits," or that you need to "verify" your Medicare number is breaking a major Medicare compliance guideline — period. And remember, Medicare itself will never call you out of the blue asking for your Medicare number, Social Security number, or bank information. Medicare doesn't sell anything.

What to do when they call.

Hang up. You don't owe a scam caller a polite goodbye. Never confirm your Medicare number, date of birth, or any personal information. Write down the date, time, phone number, and company name the caller used. Then turn them in. Report it to 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or to the Senior Medicare Patrol at 1-877-808-2468, a free program that helps stop fraud in its tracks. Every report protects you and your neighbors. And if you ever suspect you've been switched to a plan you didn't choose, call me right away. That can be fixed, and I'll help you do it.

Know what you have before you decide what you want.

The best defense against a high-pressure pitch is knowing exactly what you have. Pull out your ANOC — the Annual Notice of Change I asked you to hold onto last month — and know your premium, copays, out-of-pocket maximum, and whether your doctors and prescriptions are still covered in 2027. Then look at the full picture: what your current plan offers next year, and what competing plans from other carriers offer in your area. A plan waving "shiny add-ons" isn't automatically better than one that quietly covers your doctors and medications at a lower cost.

The right broker in your corner.

That's where a trusted, local broker earns your confidence. A proper review is respectful and unhurried. It starts with your needs, not a sales script. A good broker lays your current coverage side by side with what the market offers for the year ahead, explains the differences in plain English, and tells you honestly when your plan still fits. You should never feel pressured, and you should never be asked to sign anything on the spot.

That's the standard I've held myself to since 2006, because a broker's role is serious. This isn't a magazine subscription or a phone plan. This is your health plan! It deserves honesty, care, and someone who treats it that way.

Not just for Annual Enrollment — all year long.

Too many people learn the hard way that the person who enrolled them in October is nowhere to be found in March. That's not how it should be. Your broker should be there all year — when a claim is denied, when the pharmacy says your drug isn't covered, when you move, lose a spouse, or simply have a question keeping you up at night. Medicare doesn't stop being confusing on December 8th, and your support shouldn't either. If you're on a Medicare Advantage plan and something isn't working come January, the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period, January 1 through March 31, allows one plan change. You have options.

You are never alone.

Medicare has a way of making good, capable people feel isolated — sitting at the kitchen table with a stack of mail and a ringing phone, unsure who to trust. You don't have to live that way. Simple question or complicated situation, you deserve real answers from someone who knows you, and who will still pick up the phone next year and the year after that.

About the Author:

Jim Schmidt is a trusted Medicare Advocate here in Arizona, since 2006. Jim never charges a fee for those that are in need or reach out to him. Contact Jim any time at 480-296-3900 or JimSchmidt@Medicare-AndYou.Reviews

I do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options.

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Learners gather for first class of season

By Suzy Hallock-Bannigan
Special to Independent Newsmedia

In the first class of the 2026 Lifelong Learning Club fall season, Bret McKeand discussed how Sun City "defined growing old in America" and how creator Del Webb "changed the nation's perception of aging."

Some retirement communities predate Sun City, but none had amenities available at the time of purchase and residency. Del Webb reversed both the advertising and the reality. Along with the first homes begun in July of 1959, there would be a golf course, restaurant, hotel, and a gas station. And all the advertising showed active people together and having fun.

Over 100,000 people came from all over America to visit the new phenomenon: 237 lots sold during the grand opening and the first homes sold for about $8,500. The entertainment venues both in Sun City and later in Sun City West were invented as part of a strategy to attract buyers to the community. Construction on the Sun Bowl started in 1966 and, at the same time, the Villa del Sol neighborhood had some model homes. At the end of every Sun Bowl presentation, it was announced that the model homes at Villa del Sol were open for inspection!

Street names around town reflected some of Del Webb's friends (Crosby, Hope, Sneed, Palmer) and for $1.50, Sun City folks were entertained by Guy Lombardo and Liberace.

The Rose Garden at the White House may not exist any longer, but the roses in the Rose Garden at the Sun Bowl had their origin at the White House, and Ronald Reagan visited Sun City in 1976.

That same year, Sun City residents donated metal which was processed and sent to a foundry in Holland and molded into a replica of the Liberty Bell.

Four years later when Reagan had been elected President, he came back and was made an honorary member of the Sun City Posse.

Other Lifelong Learning classes are listed on the RCSC website.

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. The center offers benefits reviews and information, and referral services as well as many resources and activities. For more information, go to bannerhealth.com/OliveBranch or call the center at 623-465-6004.

Menu:

- Wednesday, Nov. 4 – Taco salad (ground beef, lettuce, black beans, corn, tomato, corn tortilla strips), salsa, sour cream, oranges
- Thursday, Nov. 5 – Butternut ravioli, California blend vegetables, spinach, roll, banana
- Friday, Nov. 6 – BBQ chicken, potato wedges, fiesta blend vegetables, roll, peach crisp
- Monday, Nov. 9 – Roast turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, Scandinavian blend vegetables, roll, warm apple and cranberry crumble
- Tuesday, Nov. 10 – Cabbage roll (beef), winter blend vegetables, peas and onions, roll, pineapple

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Stuffed Pork Chop with baked apple + 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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Letters

• From page 10

I'm not sure that same diligence has been used.

I hope we don't use haphazard planning and end up with a traffic situation like the one at U.S. 60 and Loop 303.

Arwin Roe
PEORIA

What a coyote might say to its neighbors

If a coyote could have a cordial conversation with its neighbors in The Grand, I imagine that this is what it might say:

My name is Wyly, and I would like you to know that I have as much right to be here as any of you, perhaps more. My greatest pleasure, as I stroll through the streets and backyards of the Grand neighborhoods in search of food for me and my family, is to find a rodent, rabbit, pigeon or anything else that will sustain us until our next meal.

There are times when I, or one of my friends, may be confronted by one of you humans, but my position is not to be in your business as long as you stay out of mine.

Just as many of you, if confronted by what may be considered threatening, I may respond in kind. On the other hand, in most circumstances, I'll probably run the other way.

After all, when you're on your morning stroll and you're approached and threatened by someone else, what would your reaction be?

Answer that, and you might understand my position. I may not have the same level of intelligence as you, but my instincts are to protect myself from any threat, just as you might.

If you feel you can get close enough to me to see my scars, you're too close. So maybe back off and just realize that we can coexist without conflict

Joe Pasta
SURPRISE

This writer is using a pen name.

NSDAR WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Reinstated member Penelope "Penny" Cook and new member Gena Cline received their National Society Daughters of the American Revolution oath of membership at the Sun City NSDAR Agua Fria Chapter October meeting. Cook was admitted to the NSDAR volunteer service organization in 2004. She is a direct descendant of Revolutionary War patriot Gideon Bowles. Cline was admitted to NSDAR earlier in 2026. She is a direct descendant of Edward Titus. NSDAR proven Revolutionary War Patriots can be found at the dar.org. Visit aguafria.arizonadar.org. Pictured are Penny Cook, Cindy Miers, Gena Cline and Debbie Schneider. (Submitted photo/Shirley Staggs)

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RCSC SLATES CANDIDATE FORUM

The Recreation Centers of Sun City is hosting a candidate forum for its upcoming board of director election 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, and 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16, at the Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

An informal meet and greet with the candidates will begin 30 minutes earlier. Online voting begins 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 23. In-person voting is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, at the Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd. Those looking to vote must bring a valid RCSC member card. Call 623-561-4620 or email mjohnson@suncityaz.org

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Banner Olive Branch Senior Center Director Jennifer Lawless and Chase Bank Community Manager Antonio Lara presented information on fraud to individuals at the senior center. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

Residents learn about fraud, scams

By Zev Black
and Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Every day, unrecognizable calls, texts and emails come in to seniors in the Sun Cities. According to a new Federal Trade Commission report, Americans aged 60 and older lost $3 billion in 2025 because of fraud and scams.

To help educate seniors on the dangers of fraud and scams, Banner Olive Branch Senior Center held an event featuring Chase Bank Community Manager Antonio Lara and Olive Branch Director Jennifer Lawless.

Lara suggests allowing the caller to leave a message, call the institution directly or let a trusted individual know about the communication received and what the person on the other end is requesting.

There are many common scams, and Lara said people need to know what to do if they are impacted, as well as how to be proactive.

Lara said for anyone who has been scammed, do not be ashamed. These people are professionals, they know how to speak to people and put the pressure on vulnerable individuals, especially seniors.

According to Aaron Core, associate branch manager at Sun Canyon Bank, one of the most common scams are romance scams. He attributed that to limited support and technological insufficiencies.

"One of the biggest mistakes is trusting someone whom they have

• See **Fraud** Page **17**

Fraud

• From page 16

never actually met," he stated in an email. "Scammers can be very patient and take time to learn about their victim. Over time, this builds a false sense of trust so they can commit fraud much easier."

Lara suggests making sure you are going through personal documents and policies once a year. For banking accounts, Lara said check it once or twice a week. He said for those customers who regularly visit the branch, banking officials will notice a change in behavior and will ask questions. It is not to pry, but to help protect the individual.

"Right now spoofing is big and hackers have the ability to change the caller identification on the phone. So you may get a call from Chase Bank, but in fact it is not the bank," Lara said.

Other times scammers call pretending to be the Internal Revenue Service, Medicare or even a local government agency. Individuals can call directly and figure out if there is an outstanding issue.

Core said it's important to stay "vigilant."

"People can be a victim of fraud without realizing it," he stated. "Being vigilant is key to avoiding fraud, as well as protecting your private information by not sharing it with anybody. If you suspect anything, call the bank. Even if it's legitimate, it never hurts to get the bank involved."

He added that fraud and scams can take many forms.

"It's almost like a spider's web, don't get caught," Core stated. "Scammers are always creating new ways to take what's not theirs."

He recommended having conversations with trusted individuals in your life so you're not making decisions by yourself. He added education can help people "stay alert and avoid fraudulent activity."

Scammers are now using AI to create a message with a grandchild's voice picked from social media.

Lara said the person will sound just like a grandchild, but it is not. He said hang up the phone and call your grandchild yourself and confirm it is them.

"Scammers will inject fear into us by making us believe we have to do something right away, and if we do not comply something bad will happen," Lara said.

As the holidays roll around, it is a good time to set up a trust passcode with family or trusted friends and, in the event they need something from someone in that group, they can recite the family passcode.

Individuals need to understand a bank institution does not need you to provide your account number or social security number over the phone because they have that at their disposal.

"Call us immediately and explain the situation with as many details as possible," Core stated. "Let the fraud team decide what's important and what's not."

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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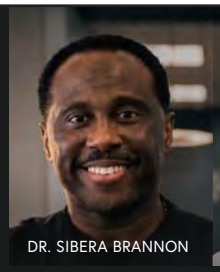
DR. SIBERA BRANNON

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Dr. Brannon Returns to Sun City with a Full-Time Focus on Local Care

There's something special about caring for people in a community you know. For more than three decades Dr. Sibera Brannon has helped patients transform their smiles, their confidence, and their quality of life. Now, Dr. Brannon is excited to return to Affordable Dentures & Implants in Sun City full time.

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The Surprise Eagles Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 4534 Past President Ray Wilkins and his wife, Pat, invite any "senior" residents in neighboring communities, including Sun City, Sun City West, Corte Bella and The Grand to the two-day tour. (Submitted photo/ Ray Wilkins)

New Eagles Club opens to neighboring communities

Residents from Sun City, Sun City West, Corte Bella, The Grand and any "senior" residents of nearby communities are invited to a two-day open house at the newest Eagles club in the West Valley.

The Surprise Eagles and the Osborne Eagles partnered to create the newest Fraternal Order of Eagles Club in the West Valley.

A "Senior Tour" of the new club is Saturday, Nov. 14, and Sunday, Nov. 15, at 10050 W. Bell Road, Suite 49, Sun City, near the Arby's on Bell Road.

Surprise Eagles Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 4534 Past President Ray Wilkins and his wife Pat said the club is all-inclusive for the neighboring communities.

"We are a nonprofit, all volunteer charitable organization that donates to other local, state and national nonprofit organizations," they stated.

Attendees are required to bring a Sun City recreation card or valid identification to verify age of at least 55 years old.

Some of the events and offerings at the new club include:

- Beer, wine and spirits
- Daily $6 lunch specials on Tuesday through Sundays
- Thursday taco and trivia
- Friday bar bingo
- Saturday $12 full dinners
- Sunday meat raffles and football
- Monthly karaoke
- Six large-screen televisions
- 50/50 raffles and more special events.

For more information, call 623-584-1660 during business hours 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday–Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday.

Send us your news & photographs to aznews@iniusa.org

Church continues Thanksgiving dinner

Since 1997, The Church of the Palms in Sun City has embraced a tradition of offering a free, home-cooked Thanksgiving meal to anyone in the community who wishes to share the holiday with others.

What began nearly three decades ago as a gesture of hospitality has grown into a gathering filled with friendship, food and connection.

This year's dinner will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 26, at 14808 N. Boswell Blvd.

"Every year, it's deeply gratifying to come together and serve our friends and neighbors," shared Wendy Whitlock, the leader of the Thanksgiving dinner at The Church of the Palms. "You might expect that preparing a Thanksgiving meal for so many people would feel like hard work or drudgery, but the opposite is true. More often than not, both volunteers and diners walk away with a sense of joy and genuine community. When we begin preparing in mid-October, it's always a delight to see everyone's enthusiasm — people rolling up their sleeves with laughter, energy, and a shared purpose. This tradition fills our hearts as much as it fills the plates."

Guests can enjoy a traditional feast featuring turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, peas and a slice of pie. Takeout meals are available for those who prefer to celebrate at home or share with a neighbor.

To reserve a meal, community members are encouraged to call the reservation line at 623-748-3574. Those interested in volunteering — whether by serving food, greeting guests or helping with setup and clean up — may contact the church office at 623-977-8359.

The Church of the Palms in Sun City will offer a free, home-cooked Thanksgiving meal 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 26, at 14808 N. Boswell Blvd. (Submitted photo/Wendy Whitlock)

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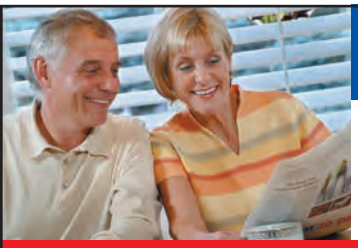

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Softball super fan celebrates 100th birthday

By Jennifer Jimenez and Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

This softball super fan was always in the stands to support her daughter Christie Nunes. Now, Doris Waldron is being celebrated on her 100th birthday. She recently reached the century mark Oct. 6 and celebrated with family, friends and a party.

Every five years for the past 10 years, Nunes said they have had a party for her.

Friends Nunes had not seen in years attended the party.

She has spent decades on the softball field and Waldron was her traveling companion. For more than 50 years she has watched games from the stands for both in and out of state tournaments. The last tournament Waldron traveled to was in 2025.

"It has been such a blessing to have her around at all these games," she said. "It is wonderful."

Erica Burgess, director of marketing at Wooddale Village Retirement in Sun City, said seniors can pass history along to their kids and grandchildren.

"That's what's important to me with aging, connecting with your grandparents, great-grandparents," she said.

Burgess added Wooddale has many activities which families are encouraged to attend, like casino nights, dinners and happy hour. She said the seniors love when their families join.

"They have something to look forward to," she explained. "If they're just sitting in their own home, they don't have the outside world to connect with. Having people in your life really encourages you to keep going and striving for those things."

Nunes' mom has always supported her, according to Bev Burger who manages and plays with the Sun City West Liberty Angels.

She has fond memories of taking trips to Desert Diamond Casino to hear the bands from Sun City West. Burger said Waldron loves life and being there with Christie.

Burgess said she wishes more people would realize life is "undetermined," adding she thought he had plenty of time to see her grandmother before she passed away.

"When they're gone, you don't have those conversations to look forward to," she said. "Putting those things on hold that are not so important because you can't get that time back with them. I really wish that I could go back to that time and go home instead of whatever I did that weekend."

Nunes and Burger have played several tournaments together and used to co-mingle with the Sun City and Sun City West teams to play more often, which since has stopped. The pair is currently competing in the Huntsman Games and finished in first place in the 74 plus division.

The majority of the tournaments they play in are out of state. Burger is coming up next year on her 25th year competing in these games. She has been gifted a ring and watch as memorabilia to celebrate the accomplishment. After 25 years, the next gift is a sculpture.

"In the two years this team has been in existence we have taken first or second in every tournament, except two, which we took third in," said Burger.

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BOCCE WINNERS

Sun City Bocce Club October tournament winners are Russ Roach, first place, Charles Hazelett, second, Tim Westbrook, third, and Linda Westbrook, fourth. Head referee was Michael Knight and flaggers were Pam Johnson, Dennis Johnson, Curt Nelson, Jamie Fairchild and Rhonda Nelson. (Submitted photo/Rhonda Nelson)

COLONIAL DAMES INSTALL TWO NEW MEMBERS

The Sonora Chapter of Colonial Dames installed two new members Oct. 21 at Grandview Terrace in Sun City West. From left are new members Jo-Ann Tanzosh and Joyce Monsanto with Jean Hacker, chapter registrar, and Judith Hageman, chapter chaplain. Colonial Dames 17th Century is a charitable and lineage society dedicated to promoting public education, preserving historic sites and records, and commemorating the patriotic deeds of colonial ancestors that led to the independence of the American Colonies and the foundation of the United States. Any woman over the age of 18 years is eligible for membership if she can prove she is a lineal descendant of an ancestor who lived prior to 1701 in one of the original 13 colonies. Contact Pamela Miller at pamiller48@gmail.com for more information. (Submitted photo/Pamela Miller)

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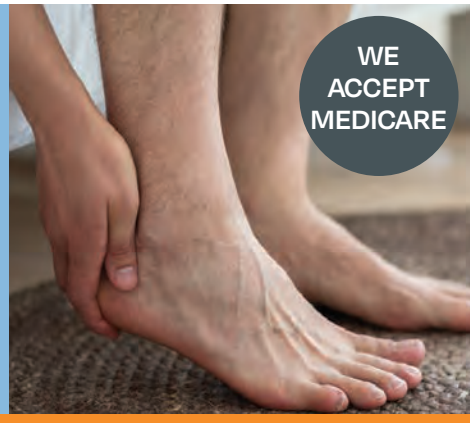

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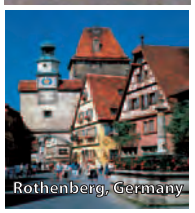

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Bingo players get their cards for the weekly Sundial Men's Club bingo game at the Sun-dial Center. (Submitted photo/Rusty Bradshaw)

Sundial Men's Club welcomes visitors to open house

There is more to the Sundial Men's Club than weekly bingo and visitors will have a chance to find out.

The Men's Club will host its annual open house 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20 at the club room in Sundial Center, 14801 N. 103rd Avenue. All Sun City residents are invited to tour the club room and each lunch courtesy of the club.

While the club's biggest activity is the weekly bingo games at Sundial, it also offers members a variety of activities within the club space. These activities include various card games, pool, shuffleboard, darts, jigsaw puzzles and pinball.

Club membership is $10 per year. To be a member, one must be a male and be an RCSC member in good standing. The club space is open 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Like most Recreation Centers of Sun City chartered clubs, the Men's Club is governed by a board of directors. Because of the weekly bingo games, it also has a 501(c)4 non-profit status.

Club members have the opportunity to help operate the club's largest activity, the weekly bingo games. They are every Thursday from the second week in September through May. It takes about 50 members to run each weekly activity. Bingo raises funds which are then donated to Sun City area charitable organizations.

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 888-665-3848.

OCT. 8

- Assault on a deadly weapon was reported 8:54 p.m. in the 11000 block of Northwest US60 Grand Avenue.
- Drunks disturbing 8:18 p.m. in the 11000 block of Northwest US60 Grand Avenue.
- A burglary from a vehicle was reported 1:38 p.m. in the 14000 block of North 111th Avenue.
- Disorderly conduct was reported 9:16 a.m. in the 13000 block of North Del Webb Boulevard.

OCT. 9

- Child abuse was reported 6:42 p.m. in the 13000 block of North 112th Avenue.
- Criminal damage was reported 7:19 p.m. in the 11300 block of North 113th Drive.
- A vehicle crash with injuries was reported 7:08 p.m. at the intersection of North 107th Avenue and West Olive Avenue.
- A theft was reported 4:05 p.m. in the 14600 block of West Windcrest Drive.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 5:44 p.m. at the intersection of North Boswell Boulevard and West Bell Road.
- A vehicle crash with injuries was reported 5:31 p.m. at the intersection of North 135th Avenue and West Stardust Boulevard.
- A stolen vehicle was reported 12:13 p.m. in the 12800 block of North 113th Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 11:19 a.m. at the North 111th Avenue and West Coggins Drive.
- A citizen assist was reported 10:17 a.m. in the 15100 block of West White Horse Drive.
- Trespassing was reported 3:29 a.m. in the 10200 block of North 179th Drive.
- An assault on a deputy was reported 3:02 a.m. in the 13000 block of West Blue Sky Drive.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 2:08 a.m. at the intersection of North 103rd Avenue and West Santa Fe Drive.
- Narcotics were reported 1:24 a.m. at the intersection of 107th Avenue and Oakmont Road.

OCT. 10

- A burglary was reported 9:27 p.m. in the 11600 block of West Peoria Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 6:46 p.m. at the intersection of North 105th Avenue and West Alabama Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 3:43 p.m. in the 14500 block of West Meeker Boulevard.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 4:34 p.m. in the 12600 block of North 103rd Avenue.
- A theft was reported 9:45 a.m. in the 16000 block of West Cheryl Court.
- Found property was reported 10:56 a.m. in the 17400 block of North Conquistador Drive.
- Trespassing was reported 9:32 a.m. in the 13500 block of West Camino Del Sol.
- Theft from a vehicle was reported 4:54 a.m. in the 10000 block of West Audrey Drive.

OCT. 11

- A fight was reported 11:24 p.m. in the 12600 block of North 113th Avenue.
- A citizen assist was reported 7:53 p.m. in the 11500 block of West Carol Avenue.
- An assault was reported 2:46 p.m. in the 11100 block of West Iowa Avenue.
- Criminal damage was reported 11:27 a.m. in the 11100 block of Northwest Grand Avenue.
- Theft was reported 10:56 a.m. in the 11600 block of West Peoria Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 9:17 a.m. at the intersection of North 107th Avenue and West Clair Drive.

OCT. 12

- An assault was reported 11:17 p.m. in the 12500 block of West Brandywine Drive.
- An assault was reported 7:25 p.m. in the 17000 block of West Evergreen Road.
- A vehicle crash with injuries was reported 5:35 p.m. at the intersection of West Hutton Drive and North Burns Drive.
- Property was found 8:51 a.m. in the 18800 block of North Palomar Drive.
- A burglary from a vehicle was reported 4:55 a.m. in the 10200 block of North 105th Avenue.
- A burglary from a vehicle was reported 7:11 a.m. in the 13600 block of West Paso Trail.

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Sun City - May 3, 2027 - Sundial Recreation Center
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SUN CITY LEGION INSTALLS OFFICERS

Sun City American Legion Post 101 recently held an officer installation ceremony. Lee Stewart, finance officer, Gene Kirkpatrick, adjutant, Joan Lesinki, second vice commander, Kevin Hokerk-Robinson, commander, and Peter Yamasaki, first vice commander, were among those in attendance. The John H. Harries American Legion Post 101 meets 2 p.m. the third Friday of every month in Menke's Sun City Room, 10307 W. Coggins Dr. All veterans are welcome. (Submitted photo/Gene Kirkpatrick)

REPUBLICAN CLUB HEARS FROM STATE SENATOR

The Sun City Republican Club hosted Arizona Sen. Frank Carroll Oct. 20, as he presented an overview of his Senate responsibilities. David Golitia represented Congressman Abe Hamadeh's office, encouraging members to contact the congressman's office should they need assistance with federal matters. The Nov. 17 speakers will be Aarron Flannery, from the Maricopa Recorder's Office, discussing the general election, and David Livingston and Beverly Pingerelli, from the Arizona House of Representatives. The Sun City Republican Club meets at the Sundial Recreation Center East Hall, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. Social time begins at 6 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. All RCSC cardholders and their guests are welcome. Email suncitygopclub@gmail.com. Pictured are Carroll and Golitia. (Submitted photo/Bonnie Angster)

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Players prep final Mountain View play

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

As the Mountain View Recreation, 9749 N. 107th Ave., nears its final days before the long-awaited remodel, the Sun City Players will put on one final performance. The play "Dashing Through the Snow," set for the weekends of Nov. 13–15 and 19–22, will be the final event prior to construction.

Greg Engstrom, the club's president, said the remodel is "bittersweet." The group has been performing at the rec center since 1974.

"We're thinking of this period, this little time now, as our goodbye to Mountain View and to the old stage," he said. "That's why we chose the play we have and why it has so many actors in it."

There are 17 people acting in the production and over half of the club is participating in one way or another.

That being said, Engstrom, along with club member Norman Krinsky, is looking forward to the new theater.

Krinsky said he's heard many complaints about the seating in the current room.

"Building a new facility accommodates the theater because the accommodations and people complained about the seating," he said. "If there was one thing that kept people away was the seating... The seats will be much more comfortable and the view will be much better. Hopefully, that alone will bring more people back into the theater."

The room isn't just for plays. Multiple other clubs and activities happen there. According to the club's historian, Charlie Mannino, Mountain View hosted Christmas parties, concerts and roller skating during the center's early years.

Norman Krinsky, Charlie Mannino and Greg Engstrom of the Sun City Players. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

"The performing art center isn't just for the Players," Engstrom said. "There's a number of clubs. And, even if it was, it's for the audiences. It's for people to come and have a comfortable space where they can see and hear... It's like any other theater that you would buy a ticket to go to."

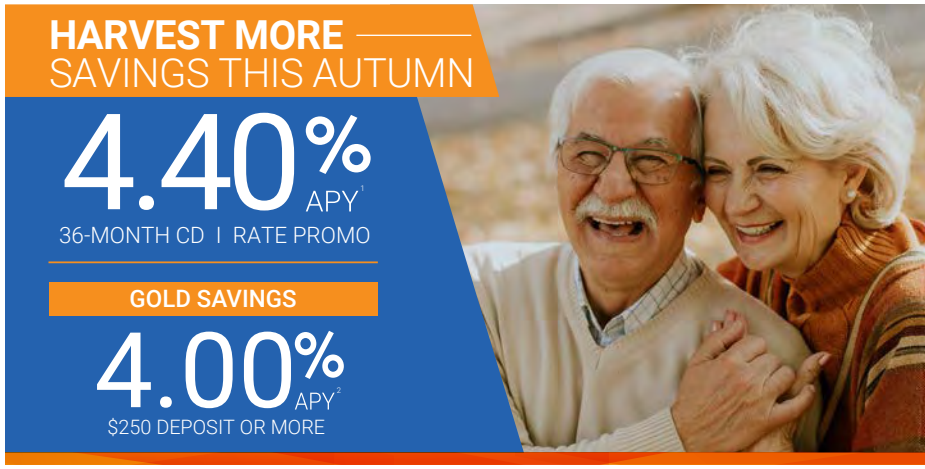
Mannino added it's important to realize the entire complex is getting renovated, not just the theater.

Mannino said one of his favorite plays he saw there was "Drinking Habits," while Krinsky's favorite is his first, "Suite Surrender."

He added that many people have told him the finest play the group ever performed was "Fiddler on the Roof." Engstrom agreed, saying it was the "best ever."

During the remodel, which is expected to be completed in 2028, plays will be held in the music room at the Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave.

"Is Murder Tax Deductible" is planned for March.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now that you've read the checklist, take the Civility Pledge at yourvalley.net/civility-pledge.

Resident writes another mystery thriller

The newest book from Sun City resident Rusty Bradshaw is a tale of abduction, murder and anguish, all set on the backdrop of the northern American coast.

"Seaside Obsession" is the eighth fiction story written by Bradshaw, a graduate of Dubois High School in Wyoming who also attended Northwest Community College, the University of Wyoming and Eastern Oregon State College. It is now available for purchase on multiple platforms.

"Seaside Obsession," produced by Prime Square Publishing, is available in paperback and ebook versions on the Amazon website. The book is also available on Bradshaw's own website, rustythewriter.org and the Sun City Farmers Market.

In addition to the terrifying plot. "Seaside Obsession" will give readers side tours of some historic places on the north Oregon and south Washington coasts.

"In two years as a journalist in Seaside, Oregon, I saw what I believed would be a great setting for a thriller of a story," Bradshaw said. "I wanted to share that area with as many readers as I could."

Cassandra and Jack Austin, with friends they have known for years, are in Seaside, Oregon to compete in a beach volleyball tournament. In the middle of the competition their fun is interrupted when Cass disappears without a trace.

They later discover she has been abducted by a man who has been obsessed with her since her childhood. Law enforcement from several coast communities begin a search to find her. They end up one step behind the perpetrator for several days.

It all comes to a head on a bridge

Rusty Bradshaw

over the Columbia River where Cass faces certain death. Complicating matters is another obsession Jack must deal with from one of their friends.

Bradshaw's other books are "The Rehabilitation of Miss Little," "Moist on the Mountain," "Gorge Justice," "Battle for Stephanie." "Death in Hazard," "Murderous Reunion" and "To Save A Dictator."

Bradshaw was a journalist of 42 years, now retired and focusing on his novels and other pursuits. He remains active in Sun City, currently serving on the Sun City Community Assistance Network's board of directors and reporting on community activities on his YouTube channel and Facebook page, Sun City News and Stuff. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Oregon State College, attended Northwest Community College in Powell, and briefly the University of Wyoming. He grew up in the small town of Dubois, Wyoming.

Bradshaw and his wife, Jeanne, live in Sun City.

RAZZLE DAZZLE DANCERS APPEAR ON TV

The Razzle Dazzle Dancers recently had a televised performance at the 19th annual Paul's Car Wash fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Host Paul Horton himself joined in the fun by donning a witches hat following multiple performances at the event by the Razzle Dazzle Dancers. The television appearances can be seen on YouTube at the Razzle Dazzle Dancers channel: @razzledazzledancers. For more information email razzledazzledancersaz@gmail.com. (Submitted photo/John Mahoney)

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HOLIDAZE CRAFT FAIRE

ABOUT: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, and Saturday, Nov. 7, at Willowbrook United Methodist Church, 19390 N. 99th Ave., Sun City
INFO: Get an early start on holiday shopping featuring 75+ local artisans and vendors offering handmade crafts, artwork and gifts. Shoppers can browse booths inside Wilson Hall, on the covered patio and outdoors in tents. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public.
WEB: willowbrookumc.org

GOLD STAR STORY

ABOUT: 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, at Bella Stanza Social Hall, Corte Bella, 22129 N. Mission Drive, Sun City West
INFO: In recognition of Veterans Day, Gold Star father Grant Coffey will share his family's story and experiences following the death of his son, Keaton Grant Coffey, who was killed by sniper fire after Sept. 11, 2001. The presentation is part of Corte Bella's World of Learning programming.
WEB: cortebellavets.org

WISCONSIN CLUB

ABOUT: 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, at The Grove (formerly Tivoli Gardens), 12555 W. Bell Road, Surprise
INFO: Sun City West Wisconsin club breakfast gathering. Register at wiscwclub.wordpress.com the Friday before that date or call Mikey at 623-628-3624. No text. Wear a Wisco badge to enter a drawing of $15 towards breakfast. Anyone in The Grand, Sun City West, Sun City or Corta Bella is invited to join this social club.
CONTACT: 218-252-2357 or 602-330-8055.

CHURCH CHOIR CELEBRATES AMERICA

Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church presents "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, at the Sanctuary, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd. The Sanctuary Choir and soloists are featured as the concert celebrates America's 250th anniversary with a musical journey through its states, cities, rivers and memorable places. Favorite songs, including "Meet Me in St. Louis," "Oklahoma," "Deep in the Heart of Texas," "I Love You, Arizona" and "California Dreamin.'" The musical journey continues with "Tennessee Waltz," "Chattanooga Choo Choo," "O Shenandoah" and "New York, New York" alongside patriotic selections "God Bless the USA" and "God Bless America." The concert is open to the public. Visit shepherdumc.org or call 623-584-2280. (Submitted photo/Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church)

VETERANS DAY PARADE

ABOUT: 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, along Bullard Avenue between Paradise and Tierra Buena lanes, Surprise
INFO: Surprise honors military veterans with its annual Veterans Day parade. Residents can line Bullard Avenue to watch participating organizations, community groups and other parade entrants recognize those who have served in the armed forces.
WEB: surpriseaz.gov/VeteransDay

OREGON CLUB

ABOUT: Sunday, Nov. 15, at R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 N Johnson Blvd. Check-in at noon, followed by lunch, bingo and prizes.
INFO: Cost for the welcome back party is $10 per person, with $5 for lunch and $5 for 2026-27 membership. Reservations and payment must be received by Monday, Nov. 9.
CONTACT: oregonclubaz.weebly.com, oregonsocialclub@gmail.com, 503-261-1475.

BAKE SALE

ABOUT: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 19028 N. 128th Ave., Sun City West
INFO: A bake, estate, jewelry and card sale.
WEB: ololscw.org

FARMERS MARKET

ABOUT: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursdays at Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., Sun City
INFO: The year-round farmers market features seasonal produce, herbs, flowers, baked goods, meat, seafood and other food products.
WEB: arizonacommunityfarmersmarkets.com

TEA PARTY

ABOUT: 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, 12225 N. 103rd Ave.
INFO: Traditional holiday tea for women in Swain Hall. Proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity, Valley View Food Bank and Eve's Place. Holiday cookies will be served after the live entertainment program. Tickets are $20 per seat and must be reserved by Monday, Nov. 30. To reserve your seats, call the church at 623-974-3605.

HAVE AN EVENT?

Have something happening in or near Sun City? We welcome submissions from clubs and groups, as well as nearby nonprofits, churches and community organizations. Include the event name, date, time, location, a brief description and contact information.
Email: **jcarr@iniusa.org.**

IN EVENTS

The Mesa Independent will host a senior expo 9 a.m.-noon Nov. 13 at the Mesa Market Place Swap Meet, Building #4, 10550 E. Baseline Road. Interested in being a vendor at the event? Email: **azads@iniusa.org**.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO-DO LIST

(Metro Creative Graphics)

WISCONSIN CLUB

ABOUT: Noon Thursday, Nov. 19, at Olive Garden

INFO: Sun City West Wisconsin welcome back luncheon. Fill out the form at wiscwclub.wordpress.com and send it to Sue, listed on the form. Anyone in The Grand, Sun City West, Sun City or Corta Bella is invited to join this social club.

CONTACT: 623-476-6856.

(Submitted photos/Art Goes)

REPUBLICAN CLUB

ABOUT: Saturday, Nov. 7, at Church on the Green, 19051 R.H. Johnson Blvd. Doors open at 8 a.m., social time at 8:30 a.m., meeting starts 9 a.m.

INFO: Featured speakers include Jay Beeber, from the National Motorists Association, who will speak about FLOCK cameras, and John Riches, vice president for litigation at the Goldwater Institute, who will speak on what the institute is doing about water rights for home builders and other topics of interest.

WEB: scwrepublicans.com

(Submitted photo/Caryl Jo Dagro)

CRAFT FAIR

ABOUT: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday and Saturday Dec. 4-5 at Lakeview United Methodist Church, 10298 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City.

INFO: There will be hand-crafted items, jewelry and home decor from local artisans and Lakeview members. Holiday baked goods will also be available. Breakfast and lunch items will be sold with proceeds to benefit Lakeview Men's Group.

CONTACT: Cyndee LaFontaine at 480-242-2782 or azcyne@msn.com or Ila Lewis at 609-706-0377 or ilita3@yahoo.com.

Geneva Harrison (Submitted photo/Jessie Hempel)

ARTS AND CRAFTS

ABOUT: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday Nov. 13, and Saturday, Nov. 14, at The Community Church of Sun City, 18401 N. 99th Ave.

INFO: The fair will feature over 70 vendors offering handcrafted items as well as a bake sale. Patrons can also visit the snack bar for coffee, donuts and lunch with outdoor seating. Raffle tickets will be on sale after church services Nov. 8.

CONTACT: 623-977-4241, admin@ccscaz.org, visit ccscaz.org.

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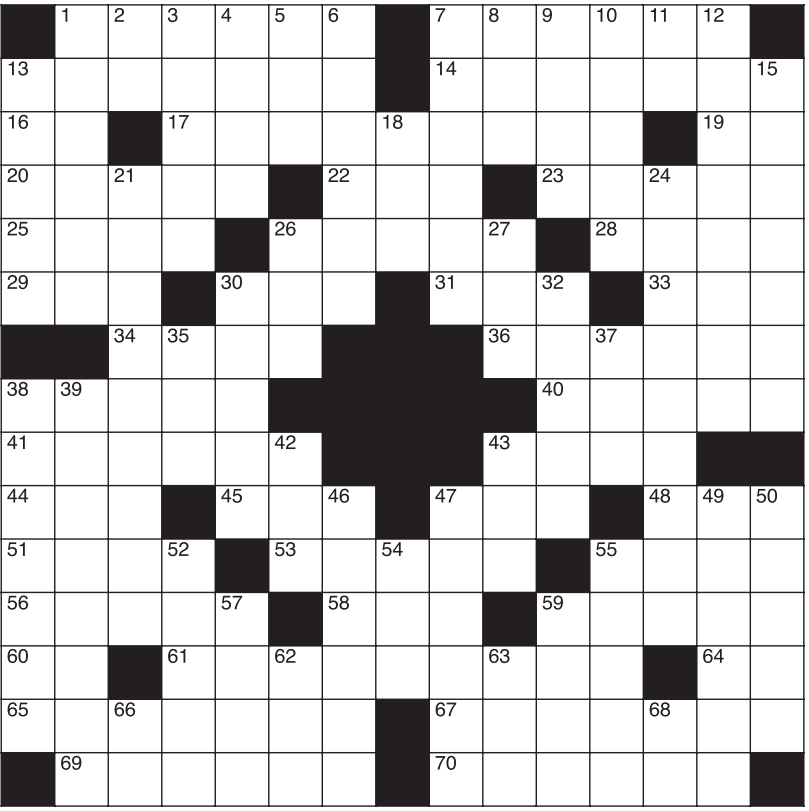

CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. Containing salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. Blood type
17. Make a comparison
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. New Zealand mountain
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company higher-up
36. Villains
38. Cricket frog genus
40. Influential early psychologist
41. Endured
43. Servant
44. You can get stuck in one
45. __ and feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Forming a bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankees slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. "The Mount Rushmore State"
61. Sarcastic and critical
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Atlanta Braves pitcher
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Craft supplies
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your golden years
6. Common Arabic greeting
7. Bulged downward
8. Acquired brain injury
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. In a way, pleased
13. Messianic figure in Islam
15. Resulting from intense conviction
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language (abbr.)
30. Start anew
32. Wild flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Facing the same way
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Moth genus
57. Central Japan city
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. A male
68. Powerful government lawyer

SOLUTION ON PAGE 39

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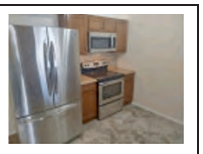

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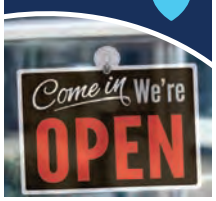

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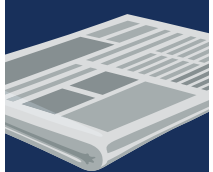

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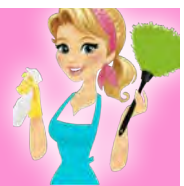

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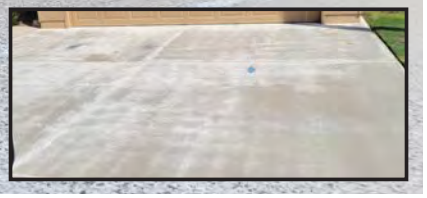

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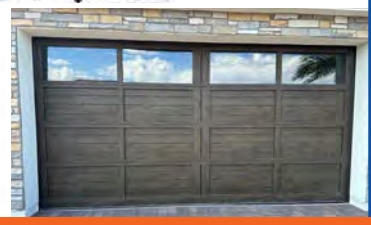

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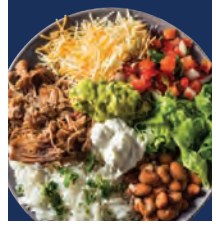

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The Vista to present comedy, Cirque Kalabanté

The Vista Center for the Arts, 15660 N. Parkview Place, will feature stand-up comedian Greg Fitzsimmons Friday, Nov. 6, and Cirque Kalabanté: Afrique en Cirque Saturday, Nov. 7.

Part of the Surprise Arts, the city of Surprise invites residents adnd visitors to performances at The Vista Center for the Arts, which brings professional touring artists to the community for live music, comedy, dance and special events throughout the year.

Emmy Award-winning writer and comedian Fitzsimmons will perform 6 and 8 p.m. Nov. 6, sharing his observations, personal stories and conversational style.

A frequent guest on The Howard Stern Show and The Joe Rogan Experience, Fitzsimmons also appeared on The Tonight Show, Conan and Jimmy Kimmel Live. He built a career across television, radio and podcasting, including writing and producing for The Ellen DeGeneres Show and hosting FitzDog Radio. The performances will be in the Playhouse at The Vista Center for the Arts.

Cirque Kalabanté: Afrique en Cirque will perform 4 p.m. Nov. 7, at The Vista Main Theater. Inspired by daily life in Guinea, West Africa, the production combines acrobatics, African dance and live drumming with gravity-defying feats, human pyramids and dynamic choreography set to Afro-jazz, percussion and kora.

Afrique en Cirque was created by Yamoussa Bangoura, a multidisciplinary artist of Guinean origin and founder of Kalabanté Productions. Bangoura created the company to share African arts through circus, dance and music, and the company now performs for audiences worldwide.

Tickets: SurpriseArts.com.

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