SUN CITY WEST
INDEPENDENT
@yourvalley.net
Volume 66 Issue 46

INSIDE

Free meals for neighbors in need: **20**



NOVEMBER 18, 2026

Sun City West's Nonpartisan Newspaper

PORA promotes fire safety

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Property Owners and Residents Association offers educational classes for residents to learn more about various topics and recently hosted a fire safety event.

Maureen Smith, with PORA, said officials are making efforts to let residents know about all the classes available.

"We want people to come to these classes and learn and do what we can to help the community," she said.

Scott Jech, with Fire Safety Essentials, brought in lunch as he took residents through a free one-hour class to learn how to better prepare for a potential house fire and ways to remain safe.

Jech said there are three things that can help prevent a fire death. First, having a good fire escape plan that is practiced and has a meeting spot somewhere outside away from danger. Second, have good fire extinguishers in the

• See **PORA** Page **16**



The Find Your Ride Program through the Sun City West Foundation helps residents with transportation and other resources. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

Transportation options for disabled residents impacted by recent changes

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Residents with disabilities in Sun City West had one inexpensive, dependable transportation option, and now Valley Metro's RideChoice program is making changes that will leave those individuals with no other option.

There was no notice given or opportunity for input about who this is impacting and if it is worth keeping, according to Kathy Chandler, Sun City West Find Your Ride manager.

Chandler has 16 new people who were scheduled for assessments in November in Surprise, however, residents from Sun City and Sun City West are affected.

> *"In my estimation this is devastating to people who have absolutely no other option. This is devastating and a blow."*
>
> **Kathy Chandler**
> **Sun City West Find Your Ride manager**

"In my estimation this is devastating to people who have absolutely no other option. This is devastating and a blow," said Chandler.

Chandler said a major challenge is there is really not somebody who is going to step in and fill the gap that this is going to leave.

Recently, Chandler and Sun City West resident Sharon Hettick attended a Valley Metro public open house for route changes to route 106, which Chandler said takes away service from west Sun City and

• See **Ride** Page **8**

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NEWS IN BRIEF

MORE ONLINE
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Reserve a seat on trip to Christmas lights

The Property Owners and Residents Association has a trip planned to the Mesa Temple, 101 S. Lesueur, to view Christmas lights.

Residents can reserve a seat on the bus 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8. The bus will return to PORA 8 p.m.

Residents will cover their own lunch at Chef Peter's, 17300 N. Sun Village.

Final payment and registration is due Tuesday, Nov. 24, by check or credit card.

Call 623-584-4288.

Rosies attend Patriots Ball

Rosie the Riveter members Florence Carter, age 100, Ginger Price, Barbara Snyder and soon-to-be-103 Erlinda Avila attended the Southwest Veterans Foundation Patriots Ball Oct. 17 at the Hilton Tapatio Cliff Resort.

Also in attendance, were Kari and Joe Haska, Pat Norton, Carol Ruda, Mary Kordiak and Linda Lundberg.

The master of ceremonies was Karen Dalessandro and many awards were given to the more than 600 who attended.

Call 970-227 2466.

Church helps families through tough times

Three mornings a week, dozens of families go to Radiant Church, 10701 W. Boswell Blvd., looking for food, clothing and a little help getting through a difficult time.

Radiant Community Services partners with St. Mary's Food Bank to provide those in need with free food and clothing. The program runs 9–11 a.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Individuals can pick up food once a week and clothes every 30 days.

When they arrive on site, they are greeted by volunteers who have a sheet for them to fill out with their needs for the week. Some food options include peanut butter, eggs, bread and tomatoes.

Pastor Arthur Davey, who has been overseeing this program for three years, said the congregation donates money for the church to buy food from St. Mary's Food Bank. It also gets perishable donations from the food bank along with overflow items from stores like Safeway and Target.

The church has given out 251,000 pounds of food to over 600 families so far this year, according to Davey.

The Sun City location has around 75 volunteers.

Visit radiantchurch.com.



CERAMIC BUSY BEES

Carla Caslake held an acrylic paint class for three enthusiastic ceramic members. Caslake shared her painting supplies and guided the class until their bees were perfected. Pictured are Rayma Karr, Caslake, Linda Kozub and Stephanie Peters. Several classes are held throughout November and mosaics tile classes/projects are every Thursday afternoon. A Chat GPT class has also been held to support creativity. The club is open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 4-8 p.m. Thursday. (Submitted photo/ Barbara Pitchett)

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

November 2011:
The Stardust Theatre stage received a lift. New curtains have been added and the lighting was upgraded for performances.

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14033 W. Via Tercero, Sun City West

$525,000 - "Cottonwood" on Deer Valley GC with double fairway views. Both bathroom showers zero entry. MLS# 7093052 **Jessie Laux (623) 755-4780 | Angela Brunetti (623) 824-3405**



12915 W. Paintbrush Dr., Sun City West

$399,000 - Briarwood Golf Course, 2BD/2 BA, low tax area home, tile floors throughout ('16), and HVAC ('19) . MLS# 7068471 **Jessie Laux (623) 755-4780 | Angela Brunetti (623) 824-3405**



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POLICE REPORTS

Editor's Note: The following information is obtained from Maricopa County Sheriff's Office District 3. This column lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons listed here who are later found not guilty are welcome to inform the Independent by calling 888-665-3848.

OCT. 21

• An assault was reported 12:22 a.m. in the 14500 block of West Meeker Boulevard.

OCT. 22

• Trespassing was reported 8:46 p.m. in the 10400 block of West Thunderbird Boulevard.
• Forgery or bogus checks were reported 12:20 p.m. in the 12600 block of West Blue Bonnet Drive.
• A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 9:22 a .m. at the intersection of West Meeker Boulevard and West Camino Del Sol.
• A theft was reported 3:30 a.m. in the 13000 block of North 99th Drive.

OCT. 23

• Suspicious activity was reported 4:59 a.m. in the 13800 block of West Sandridge Drive.
• Criminal damage was reported 3:51 p.m. in the 14000 block of North 185th Avenue.
• A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 4:31 p.m. in the 10000 block of West Bell Road.
• Found property was reported 11:46 a.m. in the 16800 block of North 103rd Avenue.
• A vehicle crash with no injuries was reported 9:18 a.m. in the 16500 block of North 114th Drive.
• Trespassing was reported 8:40 a.m. in the 11800 block of North 103rd Avenue.

OCT. 24

• A vehicle crash with injuries was reported 2:25 p.m. in the 11200 block of West Kansas Avenue.
• A DUI was reported 10:08 a.m. in the 12200 block of North 113th Avenue.

OCT. 25

• An assault was reported 8:18 p.m. in the 13900 block of West Oak Glen Drive.
• Illegal parking was reported 4:36 p.m. in the 10300 block of North 156th Avenue.
• Criminal damage was reported 12:10 p.m. in the 17900 block of West Purdue Avenue.
• An assault was reported 2:39 p.m. at the intersection of North 115th Avenue and West Peoria Avenue.
• A vehicle crash with no injuries was reported 2:25 p.m. in the 11200 block of West Kansas Avenue.
• A DUI was reported 10:08 a.m. in the 12200 block of North 113th Avenue.

OCT. 26

• Harassment was reported 6:42 p.m. in the 14400 block of West R. H. Johnson Boulevard.
• Threats to commit an offense were reported 6:07 p.m. in the 13900 block of West Meeker Boulevard.
• Criminal damage was reported 4:-6 p.m. in the 17600 block of North 134th Drive.
• A theft was reported 8:22 a.m. in the 10700 block of Northwest US60 Grand Avenue.
• An injured person was reported 12:05 p.m. at the intersection of North 135th Avenue and West Deer Valley Drive.
• A vehicle crash with no injury was reported 7:58 a.m. in the 12100 block of West El Cortez Place.
• A vehicle crash with injuries was reported 7:50 a.m. at the intersection of West Granite Valley Drive and North Dachtler Drive.
• Criminal damage was reported 1:06 a.m. in the 18300 block of West Palo Verde Avenue.

OCT. 27

• A fight was reported 9:10 p.m. in the 17800 block of North Willowbrook Drive.
• Neighbor trouble was reported 4:58 p.m. in the 17300 block of West Cochise Drive.
• A fraud or con game was reported 1:01 p.m. in the 14500 block of West Osprey Drive.
• A stolen vehicle was reported 12:40 p.m. at the intersection of North 111th Avenue and West Connecticut Avenue.

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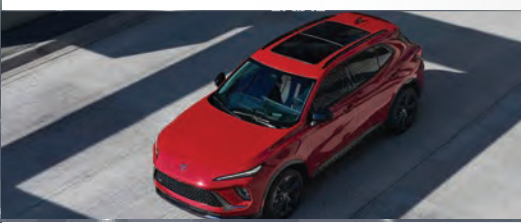
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Foundation hosts AG officials

Sun City West Foundation invites residents to join its consumer scams presentation in partnership with the Arizona Attorney General's Office 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, at the Sun City West Foundation, 14465 W. R.H. Johnson Blvd.

The presentation will help community members recognize and protect themselves from common scams, including computer fraud, phone scams and other deceptive tactics affecting individuals across Arizona and within Sun City West.

Representatives from the Arizona Attorney General's Office will share examples, highlight key warning signs and offer practical steps attendees can take to safeguard their personal information and finances.

Registration is required. Visit scwfoundation.org.

Ride

• From page 1

Youngtown.

Sun City West Foundation Director Patti Rowan suggested a call to action by residents over this program being taken away for new applicants.

Property Owners and Residents Association President Jim Scott said this is a very important community issue. The association will be working with the Sun City West Foundation on this challenge.

Chandler helps residents over the phone and listens to the needs of individuals to refer them to different services. She said RideChoice is the cheapest dependable program.

There are programs with volunteer drivers, but without enough drivers, those programs are not reliable all the time.

"RideChoice is just one option, but it is the one transportation option for people with disabilities. For anyone using a wheelchair, most programs do not work," said Chandler.

She said the only option is to pay a lot of money, using programs such as non-emergency medical transport.

Chandler has been working hard to make sure people applying for the RideChoice program do not have to go to the 40th and Washington Street for assessments. She assists with paperwork and sets them up to go to Surprise for the assessment.

Chandler said Maricopa County is saying not to have people go through the assessment.

"People can apply and then they are certified by whether they have a disability. Taking away that one program here for any new people, and it is not being taken away from anyone on it now," said Chandler.

The offering with the 400-mile cap for individuals already in the program has also been taken away, and the limit is only 20 rides a month, Chandler said.

A Valley Metro public information officer Renato Clo stated by email, "Sun City and Sun City West fall under Maricopa County's jurisdiction for the RideChoice program."

Brittany Conklin with Maricopa County said a connection with the Department of Human Services, which directs this program, will be arranged.

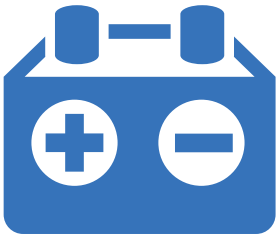
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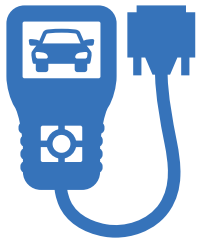
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SPEAK UP

We support the use of pen names. Too many people do not 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 promptly correct factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people we cover. Readers who disagree with a news story may respond with a letter.

The caption for "Karaoke Club Celebrates Halloween" (Nov. 11, 2026 Sun City West Independent) incorrectly stated "Residents do not have to sign in to join the club." It should have read "Residents do not have to sing to join the club."

Loud exhaust sounds increasing in West Valley

What is with the loud exhaust? What used to be just a few annoying exhaust sounds from motorcycles, cars and trucks has now increased in frequency to where a walk outside or an evening rest on the back porch sounds like an afternoon at the Indianapolis 500.

Bell Road toward Buckeye is the new race track. It appears the boys love to hear their engines roar and it seems worse after dark.

Self-expression is one thing but it's become so common now and it appears that there is little to no enforcement.

Maybe those drivers can invest their hard-earned money in other things and stick with the original stock exhaust system. They'll eventually grow tired of all that noise and likely save their hearing!

Chris Simmons
SURPRISE

PORA plays important role in Sun City West

Regarding the recent utility rate increase meeting at Palm Ridge, the Property Owners and Residents Association greatly appreciates the Sun City West Independent and the important role the paper plays in keeping our community informed. However, we were disappointed that the recent article covering the meeting failed to acknowledge PORA's role in making that important meeting happen. PORA sponsored, organized and marketed the event to the community, bringing residents and key representatives together to discuss an issue that directly impacts household budgets.

One of the biggest challenges we face is community awareness. We continually hear, "Who is PORA?" and "What does PORA do?"

This meeting was a perfect example. We identified an important issue, brought the right people to the table and created an opportunity for residents to become informed, ask questions and have their voices heard.

We're not just talking about making a difference; we're out in the community making great things happen.

We don't seek recognition for everything we do, but acknowledging PORA's involvement in events like this helps residents understand who we are, what we do and the value we bring to Sun City West.

We hope future coverage will help make that connection. Thank you for your continued coverage of our community.

Jim Scott
SUN CITY WEST

The author is president of the PORA Board of Directors.

What it took for Trump to lose Republican support

I always wondered what President Trump would have to do to make him lose Republican support. Now I know: Lose an election decisively.

Up until they lost the midterms, his policies and behavior appeared to be acceptable to most Republicans.

They seemed just fine with the war in Iran, destroying the East Wing, tariffs, talk of taking over Canada and Greenland, calling people in the military losers, mocking a disabled reporter, pulling out of NATO and the treaty with Iran, pulling support for Ukraine and taking Russia's side, gutting healthcare and food stamps, alienating our allies, firing 52 top generals, giving tax breaks to the wealthy, running up the national debt to $40 trillion, accepting a plane from the Qatari royal family, lying, fraud, gaslighting and claiming falsely an election was stolen, to name a few.

Apparently, all it took for them to jump ship was for them to lose the 2026 election decisively.

Shame on them! Republican candidates got shellacked and they deserved it. In my opinion, they need to be reminded of it in every interview and discussion.

They profess to be Christians but I don't believe they understand Christianity. They live under the Old Testament law and not the New Testament gospel.

They appear to lack morals, integrity and character and should never be in a political position of power.

John R. Braun
SUN CITY WEST

This writer is using a pen name.

Rec center 'master plan' more of a 'master guide'

I am responding to Frank Bagnato's recent critique of the Sun City West master plan (Our community is fabulous; RCSCW master plan isn't, Oct. 22).

• See **Opinions** Page **12**

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.



HIKERS TAKE IN TRAIL SURROUNDINGS

Twenty-two hikers enjoyed a day observing all the interesting rock formations Nov. 5, while hiking the Marcus Landslide trail at the Tom Thumb Trailhead in Scottsdale. Hikers David Stringham, Kurt Weber, John Mitchell, Dan Fogarty, Michael Weingarten, Char Ehrhart, Eunice Kaechele, Jeanette Martin, Jeani Paulson, Sandy Tiedeman, Loretta Eldredge, Bob Eldredge, Tom Finn, Erin Sharp, Jim Malek, Belinda Malek, Barb Smith, Tammy Olsen, Diane Morgan, John Hanrahan, Trent Jones and Michael Weingarten traveled the trail. The out and back hike was 4.7 miles with an elevation change of 282 feet and 541 feet of total gain, which averaged 116 feet per mile of climbing. The total time was 2 hours and 42 minutes and move time of 2 hours and 25 minutes for an average of 30.9 minutes per mile. (Submitted photo/ Michael Weingarten)

OPINIONS WITH CIVILITY

• From page **10**

The analysis has been done. The master plan has been presented. So, we just need to do it, don't we?

Not so fast. The master plan is not a plan in a traditional sense. I think the title "master plan" is a misnomer. In essence, it is a "master guide," providing us with options to evaluate.

I like the analogy of the cocktail and the salad. The master plan is not a cocktail. We don't have to drink it as it is served. The master plan is a salad. We can pick out the bits we like and leave the rest. We can add dressing (customizing projects in the plan or introducing new ones) to make the salad taste just right.

What does that mean?

We don't have to do any of this. We can choose to do some. We can choose to do different things, or a combination of all, with and through our board.

The good news is that the master plan presents specific options, many costed, for consideration. And, yes, we can get many done for our generation. The plan is for the period 1-10 or so years, which is us, not the next generation.

There are two broad categories of projects: those that directly impact our quality of life (for example, facilities upgrades) and those that combine functional enhancement with visual appeal.

The fundamental question: Ten years from now, do we want Sun City West to resemble older-style retirement communities, or to more resemble, or surpass, The Grand and other more-recently built communities? I want the latter.

John Lowe
SUN CITY WEST

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R.H. Johnson Pool is now open

By Jennifer Jimenez
Independent Newsmedia

Recreation Centers of Sun City West officials have officially opened the R.H. Johnson Pool, 19803 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd.

The Boost Bar in the pool lobby is also now open.

An upcoming celebration will be noon-2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, for the reopening with members.

Resident Debbie Gordon posted on the association's Facebook page, stating "Cannot wait for the pool to be open again!"

The governing board visited the finished pool Nov. 9.

"The prep work they did was phenomenal and the finished project now is just beautiful," said Stephen Erno, general manager.

Herschel Workman, Recreation Centers of Sun City West capital improvements projects manager, said crews said the weather was perfect throughout this project with better conditions than in the summertime.



Herschel Workman, Recreation Centers of Sun City West capital improvements projects manager, goes over the recent renovations at the R.H. Johnson Pool, 19803 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

Board President Alan Schlemmer said he has been around through the previous pool work and this process was impressive to see the amount of prep work that was done, including grinding, sanding and the sealing process.

"If this does not work, I do not know what will," said Workman.

Full festivity details will be shared when available, suncitywest.com.

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

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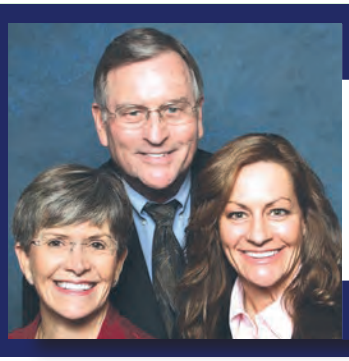
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14114 W. Whitewood Dr., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7068961
Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-Meeker, L-Echo Mesa, L-Whitewood Dr.

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



15108 W. Via Manana, SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7090877
Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, N-RHJ, R-151st., L-Domingo Ln., R-Baja Dr., R-Via Manana

Popular Havasu model. Home has 1547 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, great room floor plan & a large block wall fenced private backyard. Owned solar. Cul de sac lot. No Neighborhood HOA fee. Call today to view!



23100 N. Drifter Way, SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7062138
Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-Meeker, L-135th, L-Deer Valley Rd., R-Dusty Trail Blvd., R-Drifter Way

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



15192 W. Las Brizas Ln., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7059982
Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-151st, L-Corral Dr., R-Acapulco. L-Las Brizas Ln.

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



12635 W. Eveningside Dr., SUN CITY WEST
MLS# 7040339
Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-128th, R-Sunglow Dr. which becomes Eveningside Dr.

Fabulous panoramic view of Stardust GC's 4th & 5th fairways & greens. Home has 2599 sq. ft., 3 large bedrooms (split), 2 updated bathrooms, golf cart garage plus an added 175 Sq. ft. art/crafts studio or office. This home is truly special & an absolute must see! Call today to view!

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PICKING FRUITS FOR PROJECTS

Rip 'N' Sew in Sun City West offered a class for a pumpkin or apple wall hanging. The same pattern was used for both. The class maximum was six club members, but 10 wanted to take the class. The extra four went on a waiting list. Robyn Reynolds to the rescue. She co-taught the first class with Joan Hardy, but taught the smaller group alone because Hardy was unavailable. Holding their completed wall hangings are, from left, Andrea Rollins, Maureen Platt, Rose Waldon and Betty Valentine. (Submitted photo/Gary Reynolds)

PORA

• From page **1**

kitchen and bedroom.

"The most important thing is to make sure you are getting a good smoke alarm, which is an early warning system," he said.

Jech said products currently exist with carbon monoxide alarms also located in the unit, as well early warning systems for those who are hearing impaired.

He said the importance of these classes is because most people believe their home to be safe and then find out the hard way there were some shortfalls. Between one and three people die in house fires in the Phoenix area every year and Jech said this is preventable.

Fire extinguishers are good for a maximum of 12 years, no matter what the gauge says, according to Jech. There should be one in the kitchen and one in the bedroom, so when an individual goes to investigate, it can be in their hand.

"It takes people about 45 seconds to find the fire extinguisher, so it should be mounted on a wall," said Jech.

Oxygen levels drop when there is a fire and Jech said then people are unable to get out. Additionally, he said checking rooms you seldom go in is more important than the common rooms because it is more likely to be caught right away.

Jech explained people think they will wake up by the smell of something burning in the house, but in fact he said during REM sleep, individuals cannot smell. The smoke has carbon monoxide and puts individuals into a deeper sleep and a lack of oxygen does not have a smell. Animals also have these same limitations.

"Due to room furnishings and the way things are made, houses burn down eight times faster than homes built in the 1970s," he said.

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Sun City West resident Penny Weber brings her 4-year-old miniature schnauzer to perform tricks for residents at Sun City West Assisted Living. (Independent Newsmedia/ Jennifer Jimenez)

Sun City West Assisted Living welcomes local dog

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Sun City West resident Penny Weber is bringing smiles to the faces of residents at Sun City West Assisted Living.

Mia, the 4-year-old miniature schnauzer, holds three American Kennel Club trick dog titles and is working on another one, and she performed with Weber Oct. 29.

Mia has completed novice, intermediate and advanced AKC Trick Dog certifications. She takes rally and building confidence classes at Balanced Canine of Arizona in Sun City West and is working toward becoming a Canine Good Citizen.

Her visits with Weber regularly amuse and amaze residents, families and friends at the community.

"Residents light up when Mia trots through the door," said Carrie Kaye, director of engagement at Sun City West Assisted Living. "A visit from Mia gives everyone a reason to reach out, pet a furry friend, and share time together. Penny has put so much work into her training, and it shows in every trick."

Approximately 25 residents gathered around to meet Mia and watch her skills and tricks on display.

"We work really hard on tricks and I hope she gets as much out of this as I do," said Weber.

As the residents say hello and encourage Mia, Weber said each person is helping to build her confidence just by supporting her.

Mia is also learning how to be brave, according to Weber. She has to figure out what is being asked of her and has to be brave enough to do it, she added.

Weber recently explained Mia was introduced to the new trick of walking atop a four-foot plank. She said at first it was difficult, but she is proud to say after a lot of work and the bravery Mia has shown, she knows what to do and can do it well.

"She loves trying new things," said Weber.

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

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Free Thanksgiving meal delivery for neighbors in need

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Residents in Sun City West or nearby neighbors who are in need of a free Thanksgiving meal can have one delivered.

For the third year, John Spain is making home-cooked Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for residents who would otherwise go without.

Throughout the year Spain delivered meals to his neighbor, which started the idea of helping other neighbors who may want a holiday meal.

His fiancé Kellie Brock also helps with prepping and deliveries.

This neighbor's grandson is getting involved this year and making the desserts to be included in the delivery.

After the closure of Sun City West Meals on Wheels, Spain reached out to get the names of those clients, but due to confidentiality agreements, he was unable.

"It would have been a great way to reach people, but for now I am relying on my email list and waiting to hear from neighbors who may have someone in mind or are in need themselves," said Spain.

This year the meal includes turkey breast, mashed potatoes, stuffing, sweet potatoes, string beans and dessert.

The Christmas day meal includes cookies made by another resident in Sun City West.

"After my mom passed away, this helps me get through the day, keeps my brain busy, and it is something I enjoy doing," said Spain.

Last year, Spain made 52 meals for Thanksgiving and 60 for Christmas. In 2025, he made 40 meals for Thanksgiving and 45 for Christmas.



Sun City West resident John Spain is making free Thanksgiving and Christmas day meals for those in need within the community. (Submitted photo/John Spain)

To request a meal for yourself or neighbor email greatdayinscw@gmail.com.

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



SILVERCRAFT OPEN HOUSE

Residents can visit the SilverCraft West's Open House 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, Nov. 21, at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. Visitors can see jewelry makers at work and discover what goes into creating handcrafted pieces. Members will share some of the tools and processes they use to transform metal into jewelry and other works of art. SilverCraft West member Kay Simmons works at a polishing machine in the club's studio at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center. Call 623-544-6141 or email club@scwsilvercraft.com. (Submitted photo/Don Wells)



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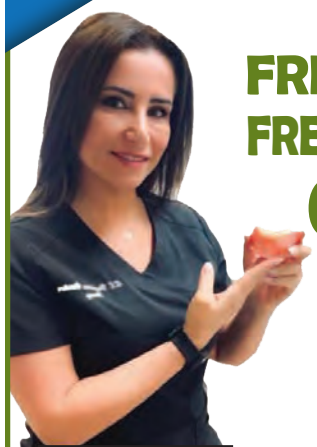
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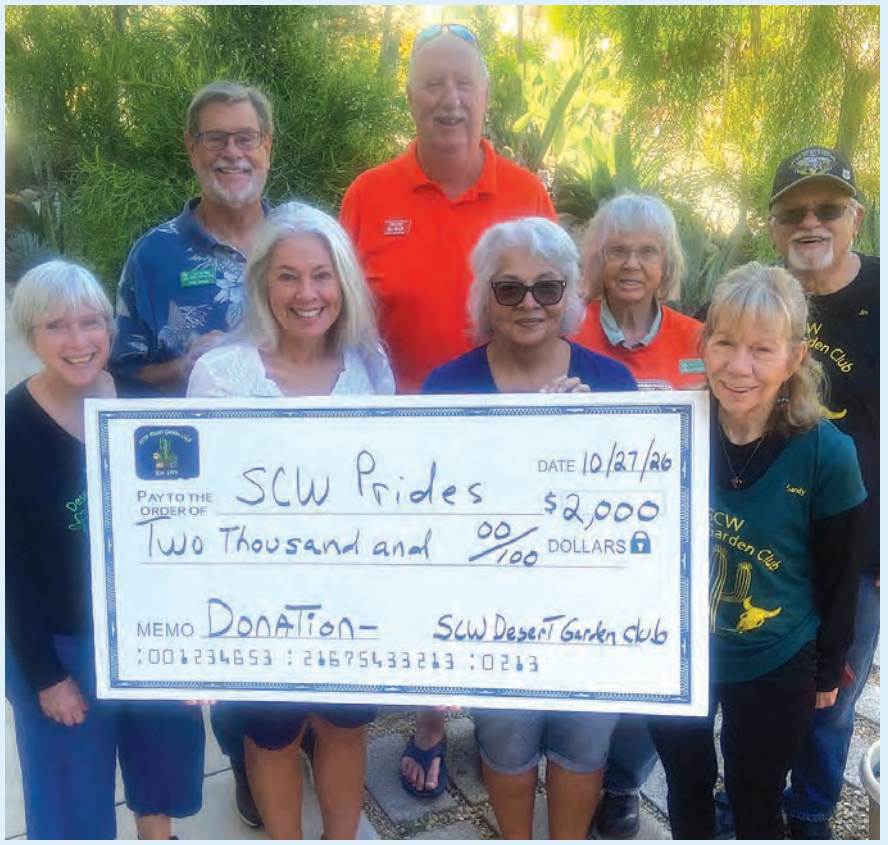
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'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING BACK

The Sun City West Desert Garden Club donates profits from its plant sales to various 501(c)(3) organizations that serve the Sun City West community. To help these organizations prepare for the giving season, the Desert Garden Club recently distributed $20,000 in total donations to the Valley View Community Food Bank, St. Mary's Food Bank, Banner Olive Branch Senior Center, Sun City West Posse and Sun City West PRIDES. Sun City West Prides received $2,000. Pictured are Gariety, Paul and Brenda Spear, PRIDES president Bill Miller, club Co-Treasurer Judy Martinez, club member Lynn Krabbe, Sandy Warmuth, and Jim Vanderpoel. The Sun City West Posse received $2,000, along with the Sun City West Prides. Banner Olive Branch Senior Center received $5,000. Another $6,000 was given to Valley View Community Food Bank. St. Mary's Food Bank received $5,000. Visit yourvalley.net/sun-city-west-independent/ to see additional photos. (Submitted photo/Billie Strand)

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Chandler • February 23, 2027 • Sun Lakes Country Club

Peoria • March 25, 2027 • Westbrook Village

Sun City West • April 13, 2027 • SCW Foundation Center

Sun City • May 3, 2027 • Sundial Recreation Center

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Dale Alan Whitman

Dale Alan Whitman died on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, in Sun City West, Arizona. Dale was born in 1939 in Morgantown, West Virginia, the only son of Vern Olive Whitman and Frances Josephine Whitman (née Heninger). He was preceded in death by his sister, Jean Ann Pry, who died in 2019.

Dale is survived by his wife of 64 years, Marjorie Ann Whitman (née Miller) and their eight children; Jennie Dennis (Denny), Amy Stephenson (William), Millie Jane Black (Ken), Katie Diane Whitman (Don Cizek), Emily Ann Sicks (Tim Simpson), Alan Whitman (Julie Kohler), Oula Panpradith Sonthixay (Pheng), Som Guildner, eighteen beloved grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

From a young age, Dale was fascinated by electronics and technology. He attended The Ohio State University and Brigham Young University, completing a degree in electrical engineering. He then attended Duke University School of Law. He was a dedicated teacher, writer, and lawyer, specializing in real property law. He authored numerous case books and legal articles. He was deeply interested in legal education, serving as the President of the American Association of Law Schools in 1992, and was a member of the Joint Editorial Board for Uniform Real Property Acts. Two of his proudest professional accomplishments were his work as co-Reporter for the Restatement (Third) of Property—Mortgages (1997) and on the Real Estate Settlement Practices Act while working at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the 1970s (which Dale would recall typing out on an actual typewriter).

He joined the inaugural faculty at Brigham Young University School of Law, later served as Associate Dean at the University of Washington School of Law from 1978-1982, and as Dean of the University of Missouri School of Law from 1982-1988.

Dale was grateful to serve as a visiting professor at 10 different U.S. law schools between 2007 and 2022, and at the Multimedia University School of Law in Malacca, Malaysia, in 2016. Dale and Marge enjoyed building friendships and creating meaningful connections in interesting new communities.

Under the name "Prof Dale," he developed and recorded 53 YouTube lectures on real property law for students around the world. He also administered the DIRT list-serve for real estate lawyers, served on the boards of several homeowners' associations, and was always willing to provide expert advice on all real estate matters.

Dale loved piloting small airplanes and tinkering with photography, electronics, and computers. He had an electric cord for everything. He was a gifted and entertaining piano player. As a student at The Ohio State University, he worked as a radio DJ, and throughout his life he was known for his distinctive voice as a professor, storyteller, and joke teller. For many, that warm, resonant voice will remain one of their clearest memories of him.

He was an extremely generous and loving husband, father, grandfather, friend, and teacher. He was quick to welcome others into his home, offer encouragement, provide financial assistance, share his expertise, or lend a helping hand wherever it was needed. He believed deeply in using his gifts to uplift others, whether through education, generosity, or inspiration. He was profoundly loved and will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched.

If you wish to contact the family, please email whitmanmarge41@gmail.com.



Joseph Lee Macan

Joseph Lee Macan passed away on September 30, 2026, in Glendale, AZ. Born on March 10, 1944, in Kansas City, KS, he was the youngest of seven. He graduated from Bishop Ward High School in 1962.

Joe met Suzanne Kauffman while working at Providence Hospital, and they married in 1965, raising four sons. He served 30 years in the U.S. Air Force, reaching Chief Master Sergeant and receiving numerous awards. He earned degrees in Pharmacy Technology, a Bachelor's, and a Master's. After retiring, he worked at the El Paso County Workforce Center until 2005.

Joe enjoyed golf, fishing, and cooking. He was active in the Boy Scouts and participated in Philmont BSA treks. He was a member of the Roman Catholic Church and later Unity Church in Fort Collins.

He is preceded in death by his wife Suzy, his parents, and all of his siblings. He is survived by his four sons, granddaughters, great-granddaughter, and fiancé Arleen Brown.

A memorial service was held at Unity Church, 1401 W. Vine Dr., Fort Collins, CO, on November 15. Interment took place at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO, on November 16.



Rudolph Paul Sikler

Rudolph Paul Sikler, formerly of Sun City West, passed away peacefully on October 29, 2026, at Banner Del Webb Medical Center, age 94. He joins his beloved wife Marianne, who passed on February 18, 2023.

Born in Chicago in January 1932, Rudy was son of David and Anna Elliot Sikler, the second youngest of eleven children. His siblings Emily, David, Dorothy, Katharine, Pauline, Herman, Jeanette, Grace, and Arnold all predeceased him.

Rudy is survived by his niece Judie Doherty and nephew Hugh Doherty; stepson William Zacek and his wife Theresa. their son David Zacek and daughter Brita Bridges; the children of his younger brother Arnold, Michael Sikler, Madonna Czemski, and Arnie Sikler; and the children of Hugh Doherty, Hugh Doherty, Jr., Sandra Bell and Julie Doherty.

A veteran of the USAF, Rudy served overseas during the Korean War. He worked for AT&T in Chicago until 1984 when he and Marianne retired to Arizona. They both loved living in the Valley of the Sun.

Rudy was a dedicated member of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, adding his mellow tenor voice to the four-part harmony of the traditional barbershop quartet.

Always active and known for his pleasant demeanor and willingness to help, Rudy enjoyed retirement. He and Marianne were avid tournament tennis players. Rudy was a member of several SCW clubs. He donated his time generously repairing sewing machines for the ladies of SCW, building bicycles for special needs children, and fabricating hearing aids for those who could not afford them. Recreational gold mining was also one of Rudy's pursuits, 'tin panning' in remote corners of Arizona.

His cremains will be interred in the columbarium at Camino Del Sol Funeral Chapel in Sun City West, alongside those of his beloved wife Marianne Sikler.



Mary Lou Paoletti

Mary Lou Paoletti, age 84, passed away on November 4, 2026 surrounded by family leaving behind a lifetime of love, cherished memories, and a family who will forever hold her close in their hearts.

Born on February 4, 1942, in Brooklyn, New York, Mary was the first of eight children born to Emily Speciale and Salvatore Caputo. Growing up in Brooklyn, Mary quickly learned the importance of family. As the oldest of eight, she helped her mother raise her younger brothers and sisters, developing the strong family bonds and caring nature that would remain an important part of her life.

Mary worked for Con Edison in Manhattan for ten years before moving to Arizona in 1968, where she began the next chapter of her life. In 1973, she met Evan, and the two were married in 1974. Their marriage spanned 52 years, built on love, partnership, and countless shared experiences.

Mary was a devoted wife and a loving, dedicated mother to her two sons, Michael and Bob. Throughout their marriage, Mary and Evan made their home in Tucson, Phoenix, and Scottsdale before eventually retiring in Sun City West. Wherever life took them, family was always at the center of Mary's world.

Mary took great pride in being involved in her sons' lives and especially enjoyed attending their baseball games, continuing to cheer them on all the way through their college years. She was also a passionate Arizona Diamondbacks fan. In the early years of the franchise, Mary and Evan held season tickets, and she had the unforgettable experience of attending three games of the 2001 World Series, when the Diamondbacks defeated the New York Yankees in seven games.

Mary also enjoyed trips to Las Vegas and Arizona casinos, where she loved playing the slot machines. Birthday trips to Las Vegas were her favorite way to celebrate.

Another important part of Mary's life was her involvement with the Fiesta Bowl. For ten years, she enthusiastically supported Evan as he hosted the Grand Marshal, making the experience a meaningful part of their lives together.

Although Mary made her home in Arizona, her heart never left her family back in New York. She remained actively involved in the lives of her nieces and nephews, frequently traveling back east to celebrate their birthdays, graduations, weddings, and other special occasions. She treasured these family connections and made the effort to be present for the milestones that mattered.

After retiring, Mary and Evan enjoyed escaping the Arizona summers by traveling to San Diego, Flagstaff, and the Jersey Shore. These trips provided opportunities to relax, explore, and enjoy time together.

Mary's greatest legacy is the love she gave to her family and the relationships she nurtured throughout her life. From helping raise her younger siblings in Brooklyn to cheering on her sons, celebrating with her nieces and nephews, and building a life with Evan, family was always her greatest priority. She forged lasting relationships with her friends because of her innate ability to listen and provide sound advice.

Mary is survived by her beloved husband of 52 years, Evan; her sons, Michael and Bob (Laura); her seven siblings, Paul (Dorothy), Robert (Denise), Richard (Mary), Joyce (Steve), Patty (Charlie), Michael (Jique), and Louie (Carole); eight nieces and seven nephews; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. The memories she created, the traditions she shared, and the love she gave will continue to live on through the generations of family she leaves behind.

A memorial and celebration of Mary's life will be held at a future date, to be determined.



FREE JAZZY POMS WORKSHOP FOR RESIDENTS

The DanceSensations next free workshop is Jazzy Poms with instructor Carol Dana. The class is noon-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center dance room, 13800 W. Deer Valley Road. Loaner poms will be available. For more information or to register in advance, call President Carrie Comorre at 623-594-3408.



SILVER SUCCESS

Diana Graham and Jeanne Smith played hybrid doubles, 3.5 and under, at the USA Pickleball National Championships in San Diego, winning a silver medal in their first match together. Hybrid doubles means one person is standing to play, and one is in a wheelchair. There were 36 wheelchair athletes competing from 26 different states. (Submitted photo/Lynn Thompson)

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YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO-DO LIST

AI CLASS

ABOUT: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd.
INFO: "Artificial Intelligence in Everyday Life" presentation. Larry Laursen, retired technical manager and Grand Tech Club instructor, will share practical examples of how AI is being used today and how it influences the tools and services people encounter daily.
Contact: 623-584-2280 or visit shepherdumc.org.

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.

BINGO

ABOUT: 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, at the R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.
INFO: Property Owners and Residents Association is hosting bingo one more time this month. All proceeds go back to into the Sun City West community.

THANKSGIVING MEAL

ABOUT: Thursday, Nov. 26, at Lakeview United Methodist Church, 10298 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Smoot Hall.
INFO: Doors open at 11 a.m. and serving will begin at 11:30 a.m. Menu includes turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, pumpkin casserole, green beans almondine, herb stuffing, rolls, salad bar, dessert and beverages (iced water, lemonade, iced tea, coffee). Deadline for purchasing tickets is noon Monday, Nov. 23.
RESERVATIONS: 623-974-5821.



LIMITED TICKETS REMAIN FOR STARDUST SHOW

Vicki Baker, right, reaches toward Alan Wedertz as the two rehearse a scene from "Miracle on 34th Street." The production runs Nov. 27–29 at Stardust Theatre, 14401 R.H. Johnson Blvd. As of Nov. 10, fewer than 200 tickets remained across the three performances. The three-day-only benefit production features more than 20 Sun City West community members performing or working behind the scenes, along with six young performers portraying Santa's elves. All production profits will benefit local charities. Audiences can bring nonperishable food donations for the food bank. Cash donations for local 501(c)(3) charitable organizations in Sun City West will be accepted at the door. Performances are 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27, and Sunday, Nov. 29, and 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served starting one hour before each performance. Tickets are $10 with reserved seating and are available at suncitywest.com/tickets or the R.H. Johnson Box Office. (Submitted/Don Wells)

THANKSGIVING MEAL

ABOUT: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 26, at 14808 N. Boswell Blvd.
INFO: 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.
RESERVATION: 623-748-3574.

FARMERS MARKET

ABOUT: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fridays at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13724 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West
INFO: The outdoor community market features more than 70 vendors offering produce, farm-fresh eggs, grass-fed beef, prepared foods and other products, along with craft vendors. Admission and parking are free, and the market is open to the public.
WEB: Facebook—Sun City West Farmers Market & Craft Show.

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.

HAVE AN EVENT?

Have something happening in or near Sun City West? 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 Surprise Independent will host a senior expo 9 a.m.-noon Jan. 19, 2027 at The Colonnade, 19116 N. Colonnade Way, Surprise. Individuals wishing to participate may reach out to the sales team.
Email: **azads@iniusa.org**

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO-DO LIST



(Submitted/Sam Palma)

IOWA CLUB

ABOUT: 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, at Tailgaters II Primo, 15529 W. Bell Road in Surprise.
INFO: The Iowa Club of the West Valley is hosting its monthly luncheon. Membership will be free for 2027. Request a membership form at iowaclubaz@gmail.com.
CONTACT: Call 623-910-7704.



THANKSGIVING MEAL

ABOUT: 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 26, at Desert Garden United Church of Christ, 18818 N. 128th Ave.
INFO: Desert Garden United Church of Christ is serving a free Thanksgiving meal. Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, various side dishes and pumpkin pie will be served. Hot apple cider, coffee and water will be available. Individuals can bring another beverage. Seating is limited to 140 people. Reservations are required.
RESERVATIONS: 623-584-1795 by 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19.



(Submitted/Helen Shadowens)

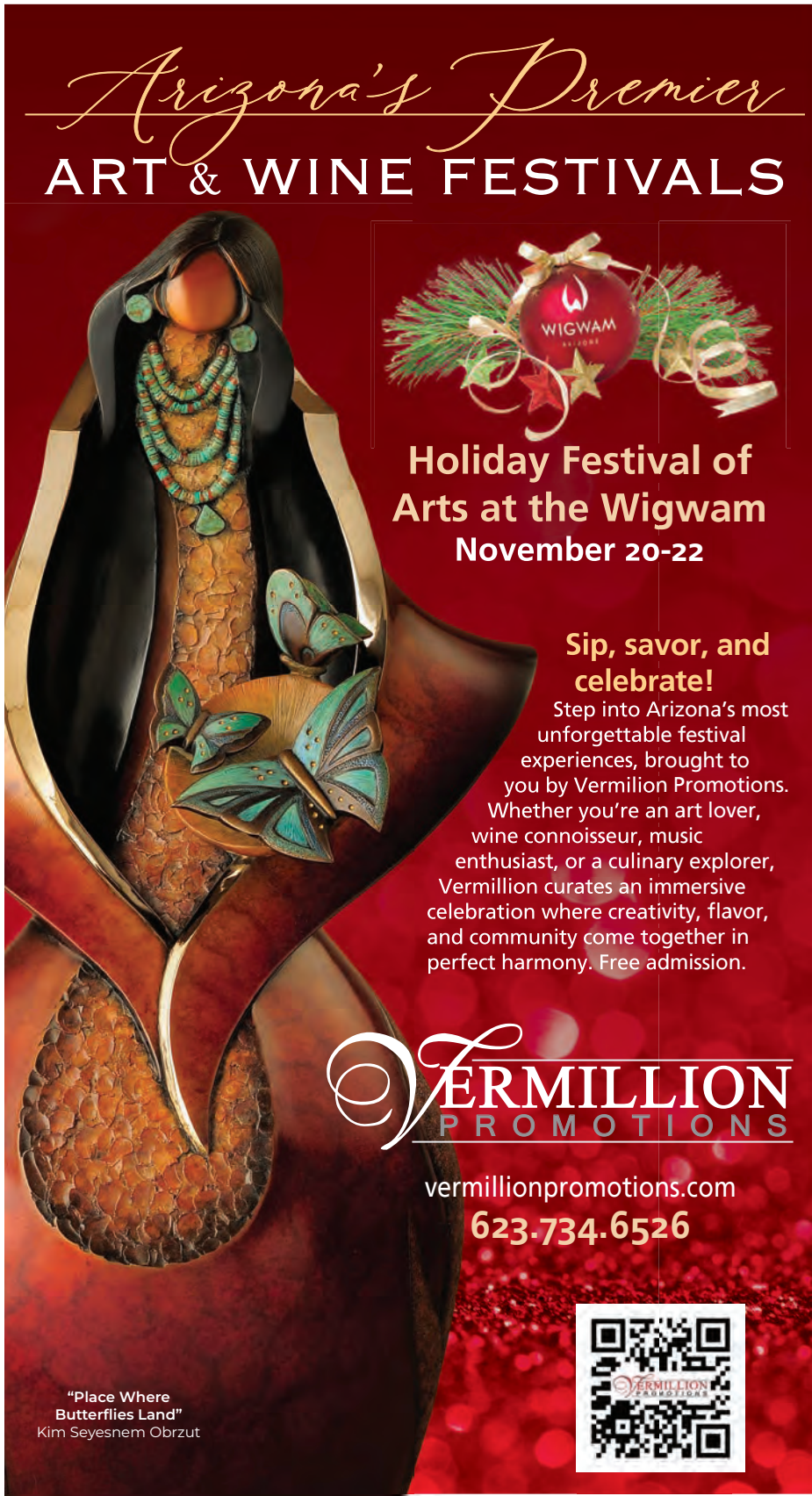
BOOK SALE

ABOUT: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at the R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd.
INFO: Friends of the R.H. Johnson Library quarterly book sale. Open to the public
More than 6,000 books, plus puzzles, movie and music



SUNDAY MARKET ON ELM

ABOUT: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, along Elm Street in front of Jet's Pizza in the Surprise City Center area.
INFO: The Sunday Market brings together local small businesses and features vendors offering handmade goods, treats, gifts and local produce.



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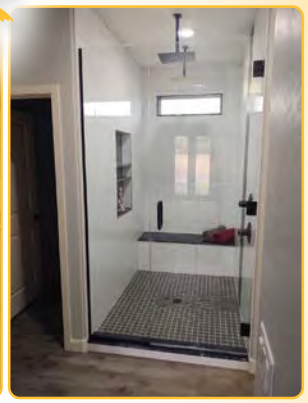
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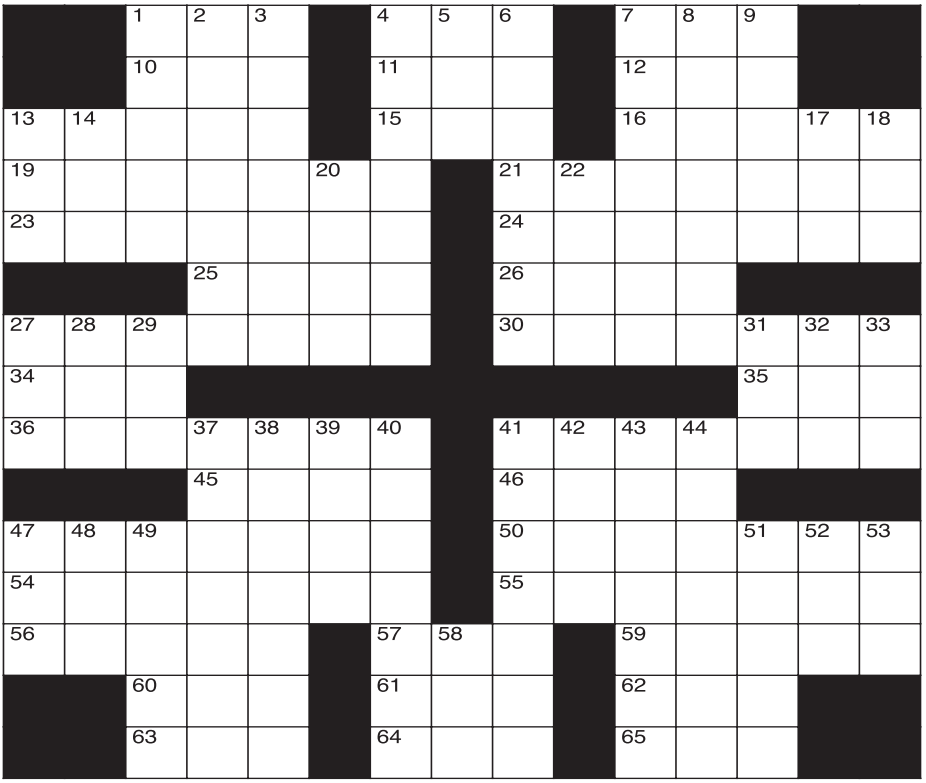
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1. Tire pressure metric
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator Fleming
11. Male adult
12. Norse mythological figure
13. Coffin cloths
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Nobleman's jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Unable to move
26. Type of horse
27. Parted
30. Woman's cloak
34. South American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Something one takes
41. Dish detergent manufacturer
45. Romanian river
46. Personification of pity
47. Makes upset
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instrument
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Automobile
62. "Losing My Religion" rockers
63. High-resolution scientific instrument
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Indoor plant
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish rap group
7. Ageless
8. Lists indicating curriculum
9. Pokes at
13. Public television station
14. They __
17. Cooking tool
18. Separately managed account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Lists of items to be discussed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Indispensable quality
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place to dock
44. Festive singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Northernmost point of mainland Wales
49. Most worthless parts
51. Type of "bear"
52. Take or consume
53. Defunct European organization
58. Swiss river

SOLUTION ON PAGE 34

Phoenix Children's

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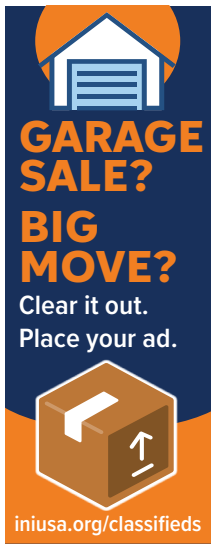
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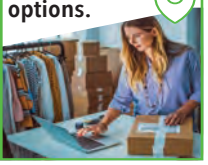
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PUZZLE ON PAGE 29

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Resident creates 'Silver Watchdog' website to help seniors avoid fraud

By Jennifer Jimenez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Using her own experiences of fraud and scam attempts, Sun City West resident Deb Arnold decided to take action.

Without experience in the world of building websites and with the help of Grok Bot, she created an educational website with pertinent information on scams. This includes how to recognize scams, how to report, the types of scams and other fraud topics.

After a distant family member ended up lonely and fell for someone who was trying to scam him out of money and another instance where Arnold received an email from her husband who was in the same room and did not send it, she was motivated to do something about it.

Ten days after starting this journey, her Silver Watchdogs website was live.

"I started posting this website and letting my friends know and now it is out everywhere," said Arnold.

The website is free and has no paid ads or sign ups and is nonpartisan.

Individuals can visit the site to learn simple scam tips, short printable checklists and a tutorial for people new to technology. Arnold said nothing is for sale and it will never ask for money or personal information.

"People my age are clicking on everything and answering phone calls they do not recognize, and this website can help educate," said Arnold.

The website is always changing and keeping up with the latest scams and text messages or email attempts sent to Arnold.



Sun City West resident Deb Arnold. (Submitted/Deb Arnold)

Visit silverwatchdogs.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.

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