



Rampart Casino Celebrates 25th Anniversary

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Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly

SCSLife.net | October 2024

Flags Flying

A year later, SCS flag policy still debated

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Funny Stuff

John Wood and the sometimes-funny parts of living alone

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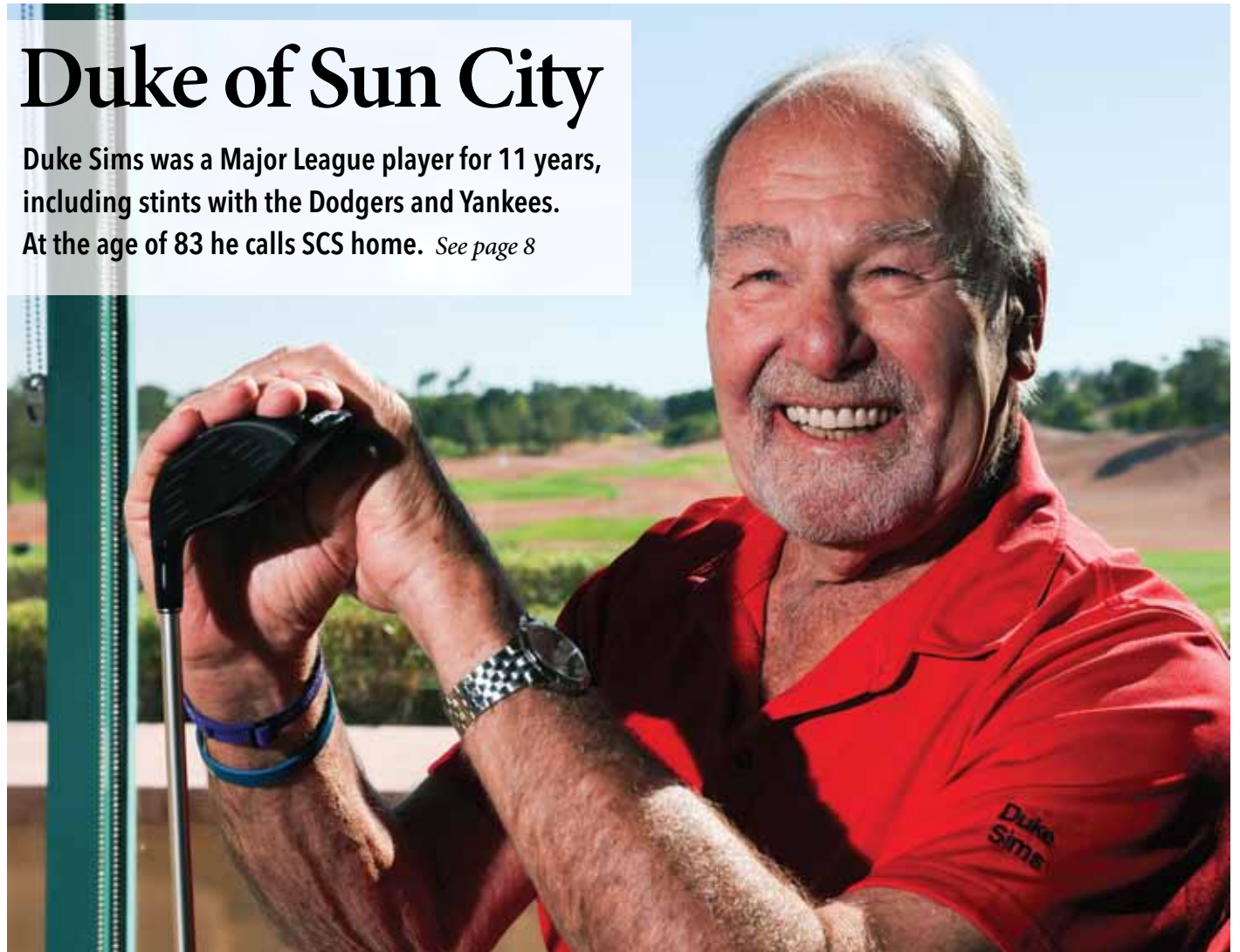
Pete's Hand

Give me the hand of Pete Rose, and make sure it's autographed

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Duke of Sun City

Duke Sims was a Major League player for 11 years, including stints with the Dodgers and Yankees. At the age of 83 he calls SCS home. See page 8



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Bring me the hand of Pete Rose!

I'm not saying I bought my Sun City home because it had one of those lighted art niches in the living room. But I knew from the moment we moved in what would be going there.

An objet d'art from my world travels? Nah, everybody with a passport has those. A nice family photo? Well, maybe for the holidays.

I wanted something a bit more distinctive. Something that just might spark a conversation from someone who came in the front door.

"Bring me the hand of Pete Rose!" I yelled out - in proper dramatic fashion, of course - to my wife.

"Get it yourself," she replied, "And don't even think about bringing it in the living room."

I'll let you in on who won that battle later. But, with the passing



TIM DAHLBERG
SCS LIFE
COMMENTARY

of baseball's Hit King a few weeks ago, I will tell the tale of Pete Rose's hand and how it ended up in Sun City Summerlin. Those who know baseball know the Rose story. But for those who don't, here's the short version::

Rose was a great player, part of the Big Red Machine in Cincinnati and a World Series winner in Philadelphia. He had more hits than any player ever, and later became manager of the Reds. But he was betting on baseball as a manager, a huge no-no even in today's times, and eventually was banned from baseball and from consideration for the

spot in the Hall of Fame he deserved for what he did on the field.

I didn't cover Rose during his playing career. But I did believe he should be in the Hall of Fame, especially after he admitted what he did and apologized. Pete caused most of his own problems but in the end baseball didn't do him right either.

When I became a sports columnist for The Associated Press I'd occasionally visit with Pete at his usual autograph signing haunts on the Las Vegas Strip. If he had something interesting to say, which he usually did, it might become part of a column that surely would mention my feelings about the Hall of Fame.

We'd chat, maybe have dinner in the deli next door at the Mandalay Bay. He'd tell me stories about playing with and against some of the iconic players of our time, then rail

about how stupid baseball was to continue to keep him out.

Now we weren't friends, and we weren't even really acquaintances. I was looking for a good story. Pete was looking for some good ink.

Our relationship was strictly transactional.

Pete liked publicity, and he liked telling his story. He didn't mind pleading for public affection. He was always happy to see me but never more than one day when I came to ask him about whether players of the steroid era should also be banned from the Baseball Hall of Fame where, incidentally, I was and still am a voter.

As we were chatting at the table where he signed anything put in front of him - minimum price \$75 -

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Softball club passes on new infield despite approved funds

By Eric Dahlberg
SCS LIFE

Sun City's softball club is doing its part to reduce reserve spending by giving up a new turf infield already included in this year's budget.

The club will make do on the existing field for up to seven more years, with promises of better maintenance to stretch the field's total life to the 2031-32 fiscal year. At that time it will be 14 years old.

The new field was included in the 2024-25 reserve budget passed earlier this year at a cost of \$162,900. But Softball Club president Pat Faivre told the Fitness Committee last month that the current field would be fine to play on for at least five more years with increased maintenance.

"It's great," Faivre said. "We don't need to have a new field."

The board decided to postpone funding for the field for seven more years, though Board President Jeff Rorick called for annual reviews of the field's condition, saying seven years "seems like a long time."

The current turf field was installed



SCS LIFE

A new turf infield was included in the 2024-25 reserve budget for the Sun City softball field, but was taken off after the club said it was not needed.

in 2017, replacing a dirt infield. The outfield at Pinnacle Field is natural grass.

Faivre said a contractor who came to inspect the field last month told him it would need to be replaced. But he said that was because there were gullies forming because they hadn't been maintained as they should. He said more frequent power brushings

will help keep it fluffy and in good playing shape.

"He told me the field's shot," Faivre told the committee. "Well, maybe to him because he's a professional. But to us ball players who played in other fields on dirt this is terrific."

Based on Faivre's comments to the committee, the issue of possibly removing the item from reserve

funding was brought before the Board of Directors on Oct. 8 for formal action.

"Thank you Pat Faivre and thank you board members from softball," Board Vice President Dick Clark said. "We appreciate your concern about helping the association preserve and save money."

Executive Director Mitzi Mills recommended that repairs be made to some problem areas on the field, including the pitcher's box and the area around home plate and that monthly inspections be made of the field. She also recommended deep cleaning every two months to rearrange the black granules that are used as fill.

"If we can prolong the life by doing that and save our reserve money, then that's what we should do," Mills said.

The softball field is heavily used by the 11 teams in the SCS Softball Club from September through May, and also used for batting practice and pickup games on a daily basis during the summer.

Recent improvements in the past few years at the field included an eight-foot chain link outfield fence and a new electronic scoreboard.

SCS LIFE
Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly

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New flags approved to fly in Sun City

SCS LIFE

Beginning Dec. 1 there will be some new flags allowed to fly in Sun City Summerlin.

The Board of Directors on Oct. 8 approved the addition of first responder flags to the list of approved flags allowed at residences and businesses in SCS.

The change in SCSCAI development standards to allow first responder flags was first brought before the Architectural Review Committee, which passed it with no comments in a September meeting that lasted just seven minutes.

That contrasted to previous meetings to craft the current flag policy, which at times turned contentious over what residents should be allowed to fly outside their

homes.

The new language will add first responder flags such as police or firefighters to a list of approved flags that include the U.S. flag, state flags, military flags, college and sports team flags and holiday flags.

Still not permitted are so-called message flags that carry political or social messages.

The SCS board previously approved a new flag policy after complaints were raised last year about flags that displayed messages. One couple said they had been forced to take down a Rainbow flag because a neighbor objected.

But while the adoption of the new policy was controversial, the amendment drew no comments at the Board meeting either by board members or residents.

Dahlberg

continued from Page 3

he motioned for an assistant to bring him something. He lifted it up and shoved it at me, saying “Here, take this.”

I couldn't, of course. At The Associated Press we didn't take gifts, especially gifts we didn't want. But to Pete it was a grand gesture and he wouldn't relent no matter how many times I said no. I finally left with it, intending fully to give it to the next homeless Pete Rose fan I saw on the Strip.

But I still had it when I got home, where I took a closer look. It's an actual bronzed mold made from Rose's hand sitting on a solid wood pedestal. Inside the hand sits a black baseball with the inscription “I'm sorry I bet on baseball” and his signature in gold lettering.

Quirky, yes. Tacky, sure. But there's something about it I started to like. Unfortunately there was nothing about what my wife called “that monstrosity” she liked, so it sat in a closet for a number of years – until I rediscovered it on the move to Sun City.

The art shelf beckoned. Lit up in the corner, Pete's hand shined golden and the black ball almost seemed to glow. As an objet d'art, it was so avant garde it was perfect.

That, of course, didn't last long. One morning I came home from golf only to find a vase of some sort was now occupying the art niche. I had to search for Pete's hand, which had somehow once again been relegated to the office closet.

I couldn't help but pull it out again after his passing, just to take a look.

Pete Rose is dead but, in my house at least, his hand lives on.

I wrote quite a few obits while at the AP, so I know a little something about summarizing someone's life in a certain number of words. I'm glad I didn't have to write Kris Kristoffer-



Pete Rose's hand would be a welcome addition to any art niche in Sun City. Or maybe not.

son's obit, though, because he was so many things to so many people.

A songwriter and a singer. An actor and an activist. A helicopter pilot and lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

And, as I found out one night, a really fun guy to hang around.

My wife, Donna, and I were in Louisville in June 2016 for Muhammad Ali's funeral when my longtime friend Gene Kilroy called with a dinner invite to the gourmet restaurant at the legendary Brown Hotel. Kilroy, who was Ali's business manager, also invited former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes and his wife and said another couple would be joining us.

The other couple turned out to be Kristofferson and his wife. Kristofferson was in Louisville to pay his respect to Ali, a lifelong friend after they bonded while making the movie *Freedom Road* in 1979.

We ate and swapped stories for more than three hours. Holmes, perhaps the funniest fighter ever, regaled us with stories like the time promoter Don King brought \$1 million in cash to his home to try to get him to fight Mike Tyson (he did).



Kris Kristofferson takes center stage after the dinner we shared following Muhammad Ali's funeral in 2016

Kristofferson was quieter, but just as entertaining. It was all great and unexpected fun, which I find to always be the best kind.

Kristofferson passed two days before Rose, and the memories came

flooding back.

I knew him for only a few hours but still felt a sense of loss.

Tim Dahlberg is the publisher of SCS LIFE. Write to him at timd@scslife.net

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COMMENTARY

Decision time: Should I still get the shot?

This column will reach your mailboxes near the end of October, meaning we'll still be in vaccination season.

Am I the only one confused? I saw my GP and I took the flu shot. I've gotten them every year for decades and for the most part I have avoided bad cases of the flu.

I might also note that I took the polio-vaccine laced sugar cube as a kid. And, much to the relief of my parents, I didn't get polio. So, I'm not unfamiliar with vaccines and I'm unafraid to carry on using the "so far so good" patient instinct of modern medicine.

But, with the COVID jab, I have questions.

Thankfully, I have never gotten COVID. Don't know how I escaped the "pandemic of the century," but I'm glad I did. I was fully vaccinated until last October when I decided there were too many question marks floating around.

So, I asked my doctor about the shot this year.

He recommends it. I am 73 with a heart history. My doc says that if I were younger and not a cardiac patient I might scoot by without the booster. He says: "You've had a good run, a booster now can't hurt."

Can't it?

I wonder.

And, I'm still thinking about it at this writing.

Look, I don't disregard my doctor's advice lightly, but there are many stories out there about the side-effects of the COVID shot. There's at least one good study that indicates the shot may be responsible for the sudden statistical increase in cardiac arrests among



SHERMAN R. FREDERICK
COMMENTARY

healthy, very fit men.

I have a good friend who is active and fit. He took the shot and inside of 6 months underwent an angiogram to place a stent in his artery. His Las

Vegas doctor has told him to never get the COVID shot again.

On top of this, I remain unsteady with how our government behaved during the pandemic.

I guess what I'm saying is my trust is just a bit shaken with government health advice. So here I sit — to get the jab or not to get the jab? That is the question for me this season.

SCS LIFE DISCLAIMER: Sherman Frederick is not a medical doctor. You do what you gotta do, and we'll see if "Dr. Frederick" makes it long enough to turn in his next column.

ONE MORE THING

My mom put shredded carrots in our Jello, so don't tell me about your rough childhood.

(You can keep track of Sherm's writing at shermanfrederick.substack.com. He can be reached via email at shermfrederick@gmail.com.)



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SCAN ME

SCS LIFE FEATURE STORY

Sun City resident and former big leaguer Duke Sims reflects on playing career and life after baseball

By W.G. Ramirez
SCS LIFE

Watching an interview with the world's No. 1 ranked golfer, former Major League Baseball player Duke Sims admired something Scottie Scheffler said when talking about how he'll be remembered.

"It's not about people remembering you for what you did, it's about them remembering you for who you are," Sims recalled.

With that, many will remember Sims as the last baseball player to hit a home run in the original Yankee Stadium, off of Fred Holdsworth on Sept. 30, 1973.

But the longtime Sun City resident is much more than a guy who spent 11 seasons as a Major League journeyman, from 1964-74.

The 83-year-old, who looks more like he's 63, has long been a hard worker, an innovator, a loving husband and a man of faith with a think-of-others-first mentality.

Talk to him for any length of time and Sims doesn't come across as a former professional athlete. His humble nature makes it hard to brag about his playing days.

Does he ever talk about his time with the Cleveland Indians, Los Angeles Dodgers, Detroit Tigers, New York Yankees or Texas Rangers?

"It doesn't hurt to reminisce, but you don't do very much of it unless people

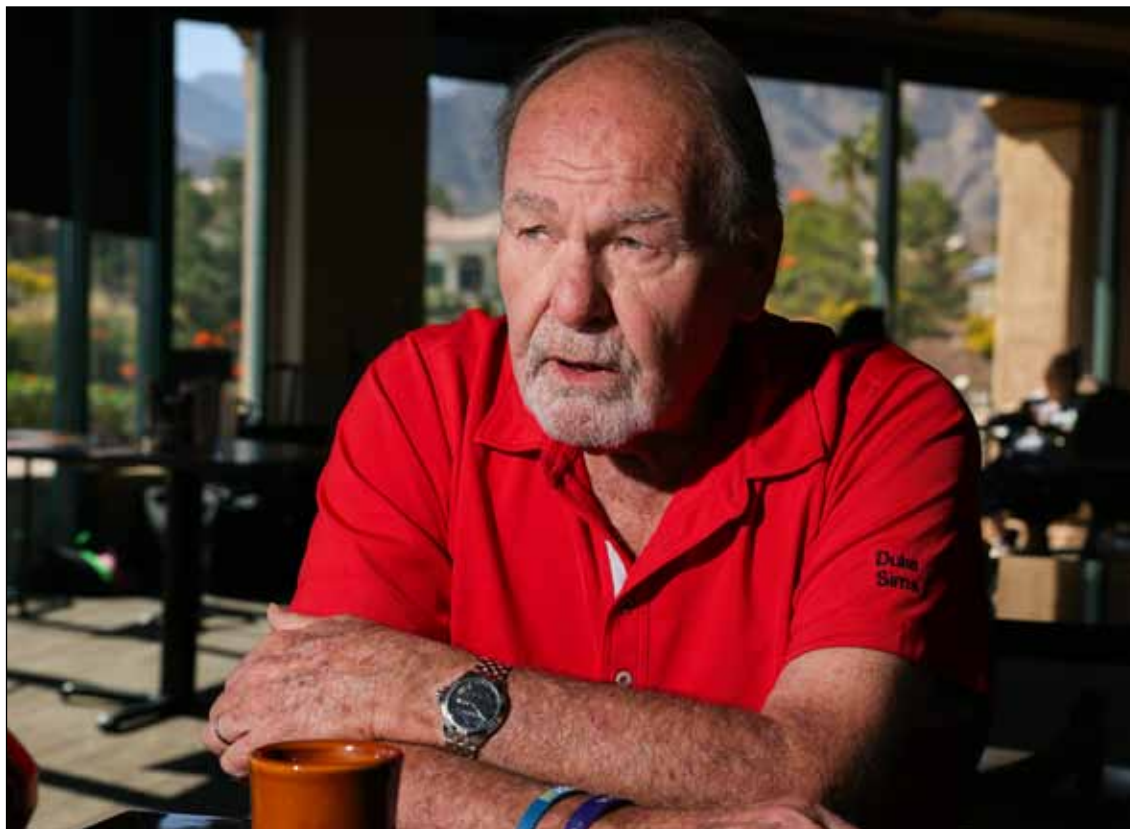


Photo by Jeff Scheid/SCS LIFE

Duke Sims, 83, played for five teams during his Major League Baseball career. Nowadays he spends his time in Sun City with family, playing golf and getting together with his Christian study group.

want to talk about it," Sims said. "I used to play in a lot of golf tournaments where players would get together for a one-day tournament on a Monday, come in on a Sunday, get together and get the sauce flowing and start telling stories."

That was then. Now, he enjoys playing 18 with members of his Christian study group.

"We meet weekly at 9 am, break bread, study the Bible, Bible verses, and there's a study guide they follow, and

then we break and go out and play golf," Sims said.

THE REPORT

Sims loved buttermilk in his younger days, something that nearly derailed his Major League career.

One day at Spring Training in 1963, while everybody else was on the field, Sims went to change his shirt on a hot muggy day and decided to enjoy a tall glass of his favorite beverage.

The buttermilk quickly soured his mood when he

saw a team folder full of reports on manager Johnny Lipon's desk.

Sims was in the Eastern League at the time, hoping he'd get his shot at the majors. Of course, the young, eager 22-year-old had to take a peek.

"I find my report, and I read it," Sims said. "It says 'maximum level: Triple-A, no prospect.' (I) hadn't been in the majors, had roughly 82 hours on my college transcript. So all I need to do is go back, spend two more years,

and I got my degree. I can go and write a master's, do whatever I want."

He was packing his bag when Lipon came into the clubhouse and asked what was going on with the young prospect who was hitting around .330.

Sims told Lipon he saw the report and wasn't going to waste any more time on a pipe dream and would rather go back to school and go on with his life.

"He said, 'You can't go home. Who says I can't go home? Get me a plane ticket. I'm going home,'" Sims told Lipon. "It's late in the year, school's going to start, like three weeks. I want to get home, registered (for school), go back to college, had money in the bank."

Sims knew he was ready after making the minor league All-Star team the previous season, when he hit 14 home runs and batted .292.

As it turned out, so did Lipon.

"He looked at me and said, 'Well, that's not the current report - that was last year's,'" Sims continued. "And he said, 'Let me show you the new one.' It was turned over. It said, 'Ready to go play in the big leagues.'"

Which he did, eventually, putting together a respectable career during a pivotal decade for the sport, one that was marked by dynamic changes both on and off the field. It was a

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Sims

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time when the league expanded, pitchers dominated, and social and cultural shifts were reflected in the game.

There were dominating pitchers like Bob Gibson, Denny McLain and Sandy Koufax, and power hitters such as Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris and Harmon Killebrew. He played against baseball royalty like Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Bob Gibson, and Frank Robinson

“The game is much different than when I played,” Sims said. “The catcher is not in control of the game as it was the way I was brought up and how I played. ... Somebody on that bench has got a computer, and they’re saying, call this pitch. Now you become a non-defensive catcher, because the game has been designed to increase production offensively.”

Humble by nature Sims said he’s never been a collector of his own memorabilia, although friends became involved in the 1980s, when the hobby increasingly became more popular. When promoters held big shows and with “bubble-gum cards and bats and balls and all that, and you had a career like I did, you don’t get very many invites.”

So it was shocking to him when his doorbell rang recently, and it wasn’t someone selling solar panels or pitching him on who to vote for next month.

“There’s two gentlemen standing there who were here in town and found my address,” he said. “(They) came out and knocked on the door and asked me to sign a couple little books and some cards.”

MOVING ALONG

Sims was 33, going on 34. He’d spent the better part of half his existence on a baseball diamond.

Until he was, as he puts it, fired.

“They retired me, I didn’t,” Sims

said.

After getting a letter from the Texas Rangers organization, informing him that his salary was being cut by 25%, he knew the handwriting was on the wall. Sims had just gotten married in November the prior year, and he wasn’t about to have everything he worked for taken away, so he wrote them back and asked them to reconsider.

With lower back issues, an arm that was basically dangling from his shoulder joint after years of gunning down players trying to steal second base, and slowly declining eyesight, Sims came to the realization his career was coming to an end.

“The next letter I got was thank you for your service, we put you on unconditional waivers,” Sims added. “And you go to work and make a living to try to make a living, just like everybody else in the world has to make a living. So your priorities change, at least mine did.”

He’d go to work for Brad Corbett, the owner of the Texas Rangers at the time. Corbett owned a firm that manufactured PVC pipe and ancillary items, and Sims began sold his product until 1982.

Then he ventured into the financial field, a career that lasted through Oct. 19, 1987, when Black Monday put Sims back at square one.

“When people lose money that fast over a period of two or three days, they don’t trust anybody,” Sims said.

Sims would go into timeshares, acting as a loan officer. Finally, when his wife, Sonnie, decided to retire from American Airlines after 40-plus years, he did too.

“You know, you look back and reflect, there were probably a lot of other things I could have done,” Sims said. “I have some memories. I don’t talk about baseball very often because that was then and this is now. I’ve been in the same house for 28 years. I play a little golf, I enjoy my time with wife and I sit back and think, ‘Yeah, I’m happy with who I am, who I’ve become.’”

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LOOK BACK

Three Years Ago: Board approves test of dog park

ONE YEAR AGO

• A Sun City Summerlin couple told to take down a rainbow flag in front of their home say their only message was one of respect and inclusion and that the community's flag regulations should be changed. Julie and Mike McCuiston, residents of SCS since 2009, said their flag only seemed to bother one neighbor, who complained that they were violating community regulations by making a statement with the flag. The harassment, Julie McCuiston said, was in her view "an attack on our otherwise peaceful living in Sun City Summerlin."

THREE YEARS AGO

• Sun City could be going to the dogs, after the Board of Directors

voted for a test run of a dog park near Mt. Shadows Community Center. The 5-1 vote approved a test of 6-8 months of a dog park on a grassy area near Copperstone and Echo Mesa Drives. Before the test begins, residents of the area will be asked whether they approve and what could be done to mitigate any issues they might encounter. Executive Director Mitzi Mills said it would cost about \$10,000 to test the idea out, with an estimated cost of about \$1 million to build a fully enclosed dog park for both large and small dogs.

• Metro Police are getting kudos for breaking up two burglary groups that had Sun City residents on edge. Police, many in unmarked cars, put extra patrols in SCS, leading to the

eventual arrest of a handful of people in connection with a series of burglaries in Sun City.

FIVE YEARS AGO

• A motion to add rules against urinating or defecating on Sun City's three golf courses failed to pass the Board of Directors, who questioned whether common sense rules should be added to SCSCAI's operating documents. Board members noted that any problems residents encounter on the golf courses can be resolved quickly simply by calling the pro shop.

10 YEARS AGO

• The Board of Directors voted unanimously to offer Sue Papillon the job of Executive Director. Papillon has been interim Executive Director since June when she took over from Patty Rosia, who resigned. Papillon, who was President of the Board of Directors, stepped down from the board to become the interim director. The board voted to pay her \$120,000 a year.

• The Sun City Summerlin Paddle Ball club is no more. It's now the SCS Pickleball Club, renamed because of the growing popularity of pickleball.

• The Sun City Softball Club will host the World Master Women's 40-plus division competition as part of the World Master softball tournament that will bring 500 teams to Las Vegas over the next month. The women will compete at the softball field at Pinnacle Recreation Center.

15 YEARS AGO

• Two bids for the 2010 SCSCAI Reserve Study were opened, but the Board of Directors deferred action on awarding one. Proposals had gone out to seven companies to prepare the reserve study that is done every five years. The amount budgeted for the study was \$18,500.

• Director of Golf Joe Kelly gave a presentation of issues caused by errant golf shots at Highland Falls. Kelly said houses on holes 2, 4, 14 and 16 were most prone to being hit by golf balls and that a California golf architect recommended some changes in how they are played. Kelly also said preparations were being made to shorten and partially reroute the ninth hole at Palm Valley so a new fire station can be built where the tee box now stands.

20 YEARS AGO

• A 1,384 square foot 2-bedroom home on Sandspring Drive was listed for \$295,000.

25 YEARS AGO

• Del Webb has sold the final six homes of the Sun City Summerlin community, with residents expected to move in next month. The final Las Vegas home was sold in September on Sun Cliffs Street, while the last home on Vista Butte is expected to close in the upcoming weeks. It took the company 10 years to sell 7,781 homes in a community that now contains an estimated 14,000 residents.

• A group of Sun City residents is serving as an oversight committee for the planned 215 freeway, which will likely include an interchange at Lake Mead Boulevard. The committee has already secured commitments for lights at Sun City and Thomas Ryan boulevards and a "demand light" at Hallston Street. Howard Hughes representatives weighed in on the interchange, saying it won't be needed for several years but eventually will be. Some residents are concerned over the increase of traffic on Lake Mead, while others say they welcome the convenience of the planned roadway.

• A 3-bedroom home on the golf course was listed for rent for \$1,400 a month

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Golf course water rates to soar in coming years

By Tim Dahlberg
SCS LIFE

Sun City Summerlin's three golf courses will soon be paying more for water. The question remains how much more and how it will affect rates for golfers.

Predictions are that the cost of water for the golf courses will double in six years, despite recent efforts that have eliminated grass from many areas, including the driving ranges.

At issue is the fact the courses have been using potable water for the last five years after two plants that provided recycled water were closed. The courses have been paying the same rate for water since then, but have been served notice that will now be changing.

The issue not only affects the three courses in SCS but 11 other golf

courses on the western side of the Las Vegas Valley, including notables as TPC Summerlin, Red Rock Country Club and Angel Park. All have been using potable water since 2019, when the plants built to offer recycled water to the golf courses were closed because of environmental and economic reasons.

The courses have banded together and are lining up behind a compromise proposal that will increase rates beginning in 2026. Rates would go up each year until 2030 when they adjust to the current Las Vegas Valley Water District rates for potable water.

The proposal by the golf courses was endorsed by the SCSCAI Board of Directors in their Oct. 8 meeting. It will be presented to the Clark County Commission in a future meeting in an effort to spread out the impact of higher water rates.

Without an agreement, the Water District plans to increase rates in 2026 and then go to full potable water rates in 2028.

Just what effect the water rate increases will have on green fees in Sun City remains to be seen, though it is clear they will be going up. A representative of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America warned in August that the increases could be so severe that 4-5 of the 14 affected golf courses could be forced to close.

For the current fiscal year, Sun City Summerlin will spend about \$1.4 million on water for the three golf courses and eight greenbelts. About 100,000 rounds are played each year on the three courses, which would mean a doubling of water costs would result in an increase somewhere in the neighborhood of \$14 per round.

Course operators will go before the LVVWD Board in November to detail the impact of higher costs on their businesses. That will be followed by a public hearing in December where a new rate plan will likely be adopted.

Golf courses had been paying \$2.33 per 1,000 gallons of water since the early 2000's, when two water reclamation plants were built to allow for wastewater to be treated and delivered to the golf courses for irrigation purposes. That allowed the courses to use reclaimed water instead of pumping drinking water from Lake Mead onto their courses.

But the plants were decommissioned in 2019 amid rising water reclamation costs and concerns that the reclaimed water system was nega-

> See WATER, Page 14

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Courtesy photo

A 25th anniversary celebration is on tap for the JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa and Rampart Casino Oct. 18-20.

JW Marriott and Rampart Casino gear up for 25th anniversary bash

SCS LIFE

Fireworks and free cake and champagne are on tap as the JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa and Rampart Casino celebrates its 25th anniversary.

A three-day party to commemorate the silver anniversary runs Oct. 18-20 at the property, which opened in 1999 as the first casino and hotel in the Summerlin area.

It will culminate in the 25th Anniversary Fireworks Festival on Sunday, Oct. 20 from 3-8 p.m. that will feature a live DJ, food trucks and a 10-minute fireworks show starting at 7 p.m.

The closest casino to Sun City Summerlin, the Rampart opened in 1999 with a unique circular casino and a sports book that immediately began taking bets on the PGA tournament just up the street at TPC Summerlin. It was advertised as the first luxury hotel and casino off the Las Vegas Strip, and also offered shuttle service to the Strip for customers.

Among the opening restaurants was Spiedini Fiamma, which will celebrate its 25th year by offering a three-course meal special for \$35.

The Rampart's other restaurants are also offering specials, including a \$65 three-course surf and turf meal at the Hawthorn Grill.

The Rampart Casino, which opened the same month the final new homes were sold in SCS, is popular among Sun City residents. In addition to other offerings, it includes a bingo room that will hold \$2,500 25th anniversary R-Ball sessions on Saturday, Oct. 19 beginning at 1 p.m., plus a commemorative dauber giveaway while supplies last.

The party begins the night before with free cake and champagne from 9 to 10 p.m.

The JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa, meanwhile, offers 548 well-appointed rooms nestled among 54 acres of lush landscaping and gardens, and includes a full-service spa along with meeting rooms.

Overflow parking for the fireworks will be available at Tivoli Village, 400 S. Rampart Blvd. Complimentary shuttle service will run every 15 minutes from Tivoli Village to the festival from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Oct. 20. Follow Tivoli Village signs for pickup and drop-off locations.



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Push on to find 1,662 more yes votes on NORA

SCS LIFE

The push is on to encourage Sun City residents to cast their ballots on the proposal to raise the NORA fee to \$5,000 to help fund the community's reserves.

New ballots were sent out to those who didn't vote in the initial wave, resulting in a steady stream of ballots in the incoming mail at SCSCAI offices. There were also plans for volunteers to knock on the doors of those who haven't voted.

The ballots won't be counted until after the latest deadline for voting at 5 p.m. on Oct. 29.

The initial wave of ballots saw SCS residents overwhelmingly in favor of the increase in the tax paid by new buyers moving to Sun City. The increased tax is expected to bring about \$1.5 million more each year into underfunded reserve accounts.

A day-long counting of ballots initially received on Sept. 5 showed 3,552 in favor of the NORA amendment, with 527 opposed. There are

7,781 homes in Sun City Summerlin and two thirds of them need to approve the rate hike. That means it will take 5,214 votes to pass the NORA amendment.

The balloting was extended to Oct. 29 to try and find the 1,662 additional votes needed to pass the proposal. Conversely, it would take another 2,036 more "No" votes for it to be defeated.

The two-thirds majority is needed under SCSCAI government documents for any change in the NORA tax, which now is about \$2,000 a home sale.

The voting so far is remarkably similar to the 2008-09 vote that was needed to approve the fire station just off the ninth tee at Palm Valley Golf Course. In the initial balloting for that proposal about 4,400 votes were received and the voting ended up being extended for a total of three and a half months.

When it was complete, a total of 6,301 ballots, representing 81 percent of homeowners, were returned. The total vote to allow the fire station was 5,518 in favor and 657 against.

Water

continued from Page 12

tively impacting local groundwater quality. The golf courses have continued getting the same rate for potable water since then.

Under the new proposal backed by golf course operators that appears likely to be adopted by the Clark County Commission, the water rate will rise to \$4.13 per 1,000 gallons by 2029, then transition to the market rate.

"The transition from non-potable to potable rates will increase prices

at the affected golf courses by more than double in many instances," Jeff Jensen, Southwest regional representative for the GCSAA said at a summer meeting on rates. "Technology for water treatment has evolved, and the LVVWD's decision reflects that. Every customer they had for effluent water is impacted by this."

Southern Nevada golf courses have eliminated grass in many areas to reduce water use and comply with a new rule this year that limits water budgets from 6.3 acre-feet of water per acre annually to 4 acre-feet. Sun City's golf courses already met the lowered minimum.

Photo club to hold free show at Desert Vista Community Center

SCS LIFE

This is one show you don't want to miss. Best of all, it's free.

The Sun City Summerlin Photography Club will be displaying the best works of its members Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Desert Vista Community Center. The show will feature displays of club and individual shoots over the past year, with topics ranging from animals to nature and everything in between.

The show runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and everyone attending gets a vote for the Best of Show, the top award given to club members.

There will also be a display of things residents can do with their photos. That includes such things as printing on canvas, photo albums and even ornaments.

Club members will also display



Photo by Laszlo Heredy/SCS Photo Club

Sun City's Photography Club will be displaying its work at a free show on Oct. 19.

their equipment at the show. That includes everything from sophisticated DSLR cameras to smartphones. They will also be available to answer questions residents might have about photography and the club.

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NEON DIARY

From treading the theater boards to bowling, Neal Kirshner shows how busy you can be in SCS

Anyone who doubts Neal Kirshner is one of Sun City Summerlin's busiest people should try to set up an interview. Here are some of his texts:



DOUG PUPPEL
 NEON DIARY

"I have rehearsal tonight. But I will say this, you won't find anybody here as enthusiastic as I am about this place."

"I forgot that the bowling league starts on Friday."

"I'm so sorry. I'll get to that email today for sure. I've been so busy. I'm soaking up all this place has to offer!"

Kirshner moved to SCS in November and hit the ground running, including returning to the stage after a 50-year hiatus in the upcoming SCS Theatre Club performance of the farce "Play On!"

"I performed in high school and college and produced and directed a benefit that raised thousands for the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center," he said. "I was always interested in theater, and when I saw they had a theater club I knew it was the first club I'd join."

Busy people also need to be quick with decisions, something Kirshner demonstrated when he decided to move to Las Vegas almost as soon as the wheels of the jet hit the ground during a visit last fall. He felt warehoused in his Los Angeles senior apartments, and the Sun City parks and programming called to him — and the former property management executive moved to Nevada within weeks. Along with trying theater and bowling, he is a member of the Singles Club, the Social Club, the Friends of the Summit Club, and the Liberal



Lida Derrin/SCS Theatre Club

Neal Kirshner pulled his own tux out of the closet for his role in this month's SCS Theatre Club production of "Play On!"

Club. "I will be joining the Pickleball Club and the Hiking Club, and looking at others down the road."

Kirshner is so busy, in fact, that he is playing two characters in "Play On," which features a play within the play. It is being presented Oct. 25-27 at the Starbright Theatre. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at Monitor Stations, through SunCitySummerlin.com, and at the box office on the days of the show. The Friday and Saturday shows are at 6 p.m., with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee on Oct. 27.

"Moving to Sun City is one of the best moves I ever made. So is joining the theater club. I love the club and I love the people in it," said Kirshner, who spent a rare quiet day celebrating his 73rd birthday in September.

LAST CALL: The SCS Music in The Park free concert series at the Desert Vista Community Center concludes its fall season with 3 p.m. shows by Gerry O'Dowd/Sun City Silver Trio on Oct. 20 and Marilyn B Band on Nov. 3.

If you know Sun City residents who keep busy like Neal Kirshner, send a tip to Doug@DougPuppel.com

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Bad weather, scary voices

By John Wood

It's now time for my annual weather tantrum and living alone report:

First, the weather. It all started when I had a dream in which the Nevada Weather Commission, which doesn't exist, dropped the spring and fall seasons from our calendar seeing as Nevada hasn't experienced either one for the last century. In a nice gesture but a horrible mistake, the commission offered our fall season to Southern California because its residents have never experienced it. Returning the favor, SoCal sent us the 405 freeway.

When I woke up from the nightmare, I was sweating profusely, but not from the dream. It was 102 degrees in the house. At two in the morning. The air conditioner was on, but scrolling across the thermostat was "A COLD COMPRESS WOULD REALLY HELP ME RIGHT NOW."

I don't like being cooped up inside my bunker for half the year, but I have to. It's so hot, two hydrants on the Strip were seen fighting over a dog. And it's hot everywhere. New Yorkers are demanding that the Statue of Liberty lower her arm.

When summer finally burns out sometime in October, it then passes the baton to winter, which turns the desert so cold that I have to bunker inside for the other half of the year.

The only upside to the chill: downtown flashers will show just pictures.

Which brings us to the living alone portion of my report. Like me, many SCS residents live alone. Some do so because of circumstances, others because they prefer the lifestyle, and still others because who would live with someone whose house is filled with plastic figurines of tree

moss?

The longer you live alone, however, the more things tend to get... strange. For example, I'm convinced that my house and backyard want me out. I know this because every time I water the bushes, they mutter to me. "You always water the desert marigolds more than me. Why?" Or "Do you understand the word 'trim'? I need one badly, and by the way, so do you. You look like a bum."

Concerned, I looked up "self-talking" and was relieved to learn that it's just self-criticism, which is healthy and common among people living alone. It's only worrisome if you talk back to yourself.

So, naturally, I was eager to talk back to myself and see what happens. At 2 a.m., waking up hungry, I went to the kitchen and opened the silverware drawer. "Opening drawers is prohibited after 2 a.m.," it grouched. "The knives are down for the night, the spoons are spooning, and the forks are playing Dutch League mahjong in the back. Shut the bloody drawer."

I stood there in shock. This wasn't me talking to myself; the drawer was talking to me. "Just for that," I squeaked, "I'm going to leave you open the entire week!" I stepped back and stared at it. If this were a horror movie, the drawer would immediately slam shut. Nothing happened.

It's been weeks since the incident. The voices have gone away, and the silverware drawer, I'm almost sure, learned its lesson. But until I'm absolutely certain, I'm cutting my steaks with a butter knife. I ain't reaching in there for anything sharp. Happy Halloween!

SCS resident John Wood is the author of *How I Killed Off My Ex-wife and Other Far-flung Misadventures*.

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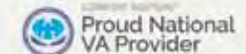

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YOUR HEALTH

Major change coming to Medicare Part D in 2025

Toni:

I understand that there is a major change to the 2025 Medicare Part D plan with the “Donut Hole” going away. I’m concerned because this year, I entered the donut hole in July and will exit it in November. This month’s Part D statement explained that my prescription drug costs have exploded for the remainder of 2024.

If the “Donut Hole” is leaving the Medicare prescription drug plan in 2025, how will this affect me? Toni, please explain in easy-to-understand terms what the changes are to the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan for 2025. Thanks.

--Melodye from Spring, Texas

Melodye:

Since the 2025 Part D plans became available on www.medi-



**TONI KING
HEALTH**

care.gov on Oct. 1, the Toni Says Medicare team has reviewed the serious changes to Part D premiums and prescription drug costs. Melodye, I have great news for

you: Effective Jan. 1 the Donut Hole is going away!

You were correct that there is a major change to the 2025 Medicare Part D plan. This change helps to make prescription drugs affordable for Americans on Medicare. When Medicare’s famous “Donut Hole” goes away, Melodye, your maximum out-of-pocket for your Part D prescriptions in 2025 will be \$2,000. This will be a great relief for many on Medicare!

When Medicare’s famous “Donut Hole” goes away, your maximum out-of-pocket for your Part D prescriptions in 2025 will be \$2,000.

2025 MEDICARE PART D COSTS ARE:

- Initial Deductible: \$590.
- Initial Coverage Stage: During the Initial Coverage 5 drug-tier stages, the Part D plan pays its share of the cost of your drugs, and you pay your share of the cost until the maximum amount of \$2000 out-of-pocket is met. Then you move to the Catastrophic Coverage stage.
- 5 Drug-Tiers of Initial Coverage are: Drug Tier 1: preferred generic drugs; Drug Tier 2: generic drugs,

Drug Tier 3: preferred brand drugs; Drug Tier 4: non-preferred drugs; Drug Tier 5: specialty drugs. (Drug Tier copays are different depending on which Part D or Medicare Advantage Plan with Part D you have chosen).

-- Donut Hole (Coverage Gap): effective Jan. 1, 2025, Medicare’s Donut Hole/Coverage Gap no longer exists.

-- Catastrophic Coverage: The \$0 out of pocket began Jan. 1, 2024. When the beneficiary enters the Catastrophic Coverage stage, Medicare will pick up all cost of the prescriptions, whether brand name or generic, and those with a Medicare Part D plan pay \$0.

On Jan. 1 of each year, the process starts all over again with a new Medicare Prescription Drug plan

> See KING, Page 19

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King

continued from Page 18

and new initial deductible and maximum initial coverage limit.

The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is a new payment option beginning Jan.1 ,2025, to help manage your out-of-pocket drug costs by spreading your monthly prescription drug costs throughout the entire year from January through December. For more information about the payment plan, visit www.medicare.gov or call your Medicare Part D plan.

Here are Toni Says Tips to help you find a Part D plan.

1. Visit www.medicare.gov to view 2025 Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans. The website has a tool for helping you narrow your search for new Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug plans.

2. Talk to your Primary Care and specialty doctors about which

brand name drugs can be changed to generics.

3. Get samples from your doctor.

4. Search various prescription drug programs such as GoodRx, Single Care or Amazon for less expensive prescription drug costs. Wal-Mart, Kroger, HEB and Costco also have discount prescription drug plans.

Readers, your prescription drug needs can change with each yearly Medicare Annual Enrollment. Review your options carefully, because with Medicare, it's what you don't know WILL hurt you!

Toni King is an author and columnist on Medicare and health insurance issues. She has spent nearly 30 years as a top sales leader in the field. For a Medicare checkup, call the Toni Says call center at (832) 519-8664 or email info@tonisays.com regarding your Medicare plans and options. Toni Says Medicare Survival Guide Advanced edition is available at www.tonisays.com. Toni's Medicare Moments articles have just been released: <https://familytalktoday.com/medicare-moments>.

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A look at September crime in Sun City Summerlin, as reported by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department:

FRAUD

9-23	8:37 a.m.	3000 Block Morning Ridge Dr.
9-25	2:02 p.m.	10600 Block Sky Meadows Ave.

FORGERY

9-6	10:33 a.m.	2700 Block Hartwick Ln.
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VANDALISM

9-24	4:04 p.m.	3100 Block Ravenshoe Dr.
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LARCENY

9-3	12:53 p.m.	9600 Block Blue Bell Dr.
9-25	11:01 a.m.	2900 Hawksdale Dr.
9-26	2:34 p.m.	10200 Crescent Creek Dr.
9-30	10:32 a.m.	9400 Block W. Lake Mead Dr.

BURGLARY

9-25	7:06 p.m.	9400 Block W. Lake Mead Dr.
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SOURCE: LVMPD Open Data Portal

NEWS BRIEFS

CANDIDATES WANTED

Potential candidates are being encouraged to put their names in the mix for three open spots on the SCS-CAI Board of Directors next year.

The deadline for submitting applications is Nov. 27. Applicants must be residents of Sun City Summerlin in good standing and be willing to sign disclosures about any possible conflicts.

Ballots will be mailed out early next year, with voting wrapping up in February and votes counted Feb. 25. Three of the nine seats on the board are up for election every year.

EMAIL WARNING

Sun City's IT Department is warning about residents getting spoofed emails they might think are from the association. The emails are designed to trick recipients into clicking to read them.

The department warned residents not to click on any suspicious links or attachments that might contain malware or viruses that can harm computers. Residents should also verify the sender's email address carefully since spoofed emails often use similar looking email addresses to try and appear legitimate.

VOTING SCHEDULE IN SUN CITY

Sun City Summerlin residents don't have to leave the community to vote in the general election, whether they vote early or on Election Day.

Here is the early voting schedule:

- Oct. 19-21 – Mountain Shadows Community Center, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Oct. 22-23 – Desert Vista Community Center, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Election Day Nov. 5
- Mountain Shadows, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Desert Vista, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

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COOKING

Dinner for four: Seared Cod with mashed sweet potatoes

By Jamie Jackson
Special to SCS LIFE

Cod is an inexpensive fish that has a lot of cooking options because it will take on any flavor profile. It can be seared, grilled, battered and fried, and baked. We like it seared because it's easy and tasty. As you can see, we sear it and then serve it with mashed sweet potatoes, and steamed broccoli. It makes such a pretty plate.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb. of cod filet cut into 4 nice size pieces (6-8 oz. per person)
- 2Tbsp olive oil
- Salt and lemon pepper seasoning to taste
- 1 Tbsp finely chopped Italian Parsley
- 2 Sweet potatoes for four people
- 1/4 cup of orange juice
- A couple shakes of cinnamon
- 1 bag of frozen broccoli that feeds four
- Garlic Drizzle:**
- 2-4 Tbsp butter
- 2 cloves of garlic
- Add to a microwavable glass bowl and melt the butter with garlic.

DIRECTIONS:

Place olive oil in a large skillet. I prefer a cast iron skillet because you can get it very hot.

When it's hot enough that water will bead and evaporate off the pan, throw in the butter and add the cod filets. Hopefully, you will hear that great sizzle sound as the fish hits the pan. Salt and season to taste on the top side. Sear for 2-3 minutes depending on the thickness. When the fish is browned on the one side it should release and be easy to turn. Once the filets are turned season the other side, sear for 2-3 minutes until fish begins to flake.



Photo by Ron Jackson

Seared Cod with butter garlic drizzle, mashed sweet potatoes, and steamed broccoli.

About 5-8 minutes before you start the cod microwave two sweet potatoes for 4 servings. Once the sweet potatoes are soft, scoop out the flesh and mash with the orange juice, depending on the size, not more than 1/4 of a cup of orange juice. If the mashed sweet potatoes get cold before you plate the rest of meal you can microwave them before serving. When you plate them top with a little butter and a couple of shakes of cinnamon.

When the sweet potato is finished microwave frozen broccoli. We use frozen broccoli because it cooks quicker than fresh. If you are using fresh broccoli, be sure to start it before the fish because it will take more time. Season broccoli to taste. We sometimes use Mrs. Dash on our broccoli. Great flavor without the salt.

Plate fish, drizzle with the warm garlic butter sauce, add chopped parsley over the top and serve with lemon wedge. Add mashed sweet potatoes, and broccoli to the plate. A great tasting easy, peasy meal.

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Want to promote an activity or a club?

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Send us an email at news@scslife.net and we'll look at it for a future issue.

SCS REAL ESTATE

41 homes close in September

SCS LIFE

Home sales edged up in September, with 41 homes closing, up from 34 a month earlier.

The housing market remains relatively tepid as more homes have come on the market. There were 121 homes for sale in Sun City Summerlin on October 1, up from 67 for the same month a year ago.

Of the homes for sale, 21 were on the golf course, ranging from \$410,000 to \$1,500,000 and 6 with a strip view,

ranging from \$365,000 to \$1,145,000.

Homes sold in September ranged from a 1,021 square foot Charleston model townhouse at 2133 Hallston St for \$267,000 to \$925,000 for a 2,115 square foot Matara model single family at 8717 Litchfield Ave.

The homes for sale as October began ranged from a Bristol model townhouse at 2704 Glenclyff Dr with 1,046 square feet for \$305,000 to \$1,500,000 for a 2,577 square foot Wendover model single family at 3001 Haddon Dr.

SEPTEMBER HOME SALES

- 10305 Long Leaf PL 1,215 SF \$405,000
- 9053 Litchfield AVE 1,384 SF \$400,000
- 10525 Shoalhaven DR 2,112 SF \$890,000
- 9505 Eagle Valley DR 1,737 SF \$566,000
- 2536 Deer Lake ST 1,333 SF \$395,000
- 2628 Hope Forest DR 1,388 SF \$415,000
- 8916 Mountain Gate DR 1,804 SF \$460,000
- 2636 Tumble Brook DR 1,384 SF \$435,000
- 2012 Emery ST 1,713 SF \$545,000
- 9008 Mountain Gate DR 1,119 SF \$385,000
- 8717 Litchfield AVE 2,115 SF \$925,000
- 9800 Villa Ridge DR 1,599 SF \$525,000
- 2755 Darby Falls DR 1,703 SF \$625,000
- 3005 Becks Hill DR 1,455 SF \$439,000
- 2612 Spalding DR 1,843 SF \$600,000
- 10316 Marymont PL 1,179 SF \$409,000
- 10613 Sky Meadows AVE 2,462 SF \$740,000
- 2813 Breakers Creek DR 1,767 SF \$377,000
- 8713 Litchfield AVE 2,486 SF \$875,000
- 10617 Spring Garden CT 2,102 SF \$725,000
- 9637 Blue Bell DR 1,318 SF \$319,298
- 2133 Hallston ST 1,021 SF \$267,000
- 2621 Spalding DR 2,968 SF \$890,000
- 2520 Settlers Bay LN 2,228 SF \$874,777
- 2325 Barbers Point PL 1,250 SF \$380,000
- 9044 Villa Ridge DR 1,179 SF \$330,000
- 10205 Villa Ridge DR 2,286 SF \$895,000
- 2824 Linkview DR 1,179 SF \$375,000
- 2400 Spring Water DR 1,332 SF \$360,000
- 9004 Litchfield AVE 1,735 SF \$400,000
- 8808 Sandspring DR 1,793 SF \$570,000
- 10712 Brinkwood AVE 1,520 SF \$580,000
- 2904 Big Green LN 1,843 SF \$525,000
- 2550 Showcase DR 1,384 SF \$445,000
- 2516 Palmridge DR 1,179 SF \$345,000
- 2535 Cog Hill LN 1,296 SF \$400,000
- 2705 Sungold DR 1,749 SF \$515,000
- 9037 Litchfield AVE 1,172 SF \$415,000
- 10404 Sea Palms AVE 1,520 SF \$532,500
- 8820 Stan Crest DR 1,804 SF \$535,000
- 10917 Grand Haven AVE 1,388 SF \$510,000



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Property Listed by:

Michael E. DelGais

(B.0066235)

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PUZZLES

THEME: NBA

ACROSS

1. Port city in Japan
6. *Team ride
9. Nordic native
13. Equipped with feathers
14. Cigarette deposit
15. *Arena, e.g.
16. Not odds
17. Hawaiian welcome wreath
18. Bone hollows
19. *NBA headquarters location
21. *Bill _____ NBA Finals Most Valuable Player award
23. "Roses _____ red..."
24. *NBA centers typically have long ones
25. Tarzan the _____ Man
28. Cry like a baby
30. 3.26 light-years
35. "Off The Wall" shoe
37. Living quarters
39. Shop _____ slogan
40. "I'm _____ you!"
41. Got some shuteye
43. Comme ci, comme Áa
44. Brandish
46. Ski hill ride
47. Contractor's work order
48. *Basketball blocking move
50. Swedish shag rugs
52. Member of a "benevolent and protective order"
53. Kind of cola
55. Thrice-repeated dance step
57. *Power _____ position
61. *NBA team with most championshipships
65. Deprive of armor
66. Genetic acronym
68. Plural of ostium
69. Junk yard stuff
70. Geisha's sash
71. *Nickname for 61 Across
72. Ooze
73. *NBA Sixth _____ of the Year Award
74. Type of leaf cabbage, pl.

DOWN

1. Bun baker
2. "_____ me a seat"
3. From square one
4. Tanzania's northern neighbor
5. Not absorb, nor repel
6. Refuse to comply
7. Wear and tear
8. Bake an egg
9. Sunglasses "glass"
10. Casino chip
11. Not knit
12. Church sound
15. Lord's subordinate
20. Good _____, book lovers' app
22. Strike caller
24. High school math class
25. Declares to be true
26. Sweat-inducing attack
27. Come in!
29. *The Stilt's first name
31. David Schwimmer on "Friends"
32. Breadth
33. Art support
34. *Shot _____, NBA countdown ver
36. Cobbler's concern
38. Fix a dog
42. Vanish without this?
45. Abscond
49. Conjunction that joins alternatives and negatives
51. Inferior goods
54. Read-only disc
56. Away from port
57. Much ado
58. One time
59. Like pink steak
60. Sandwich alternative
61. Abel's big brother
62. It will
63. Give a ticket
64. Fresh talk
67. *Commissioned by Adam Sil-

CROSSWORD

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ADVICE

If you're 65 or older, it's time to get your pneumonia shot

Dear Savvy Senior,

I recently turned 65 and would like to know if am supposed to get the pneumonia vaccine? And if so, which type of vaccine do I need and is it covered by Medicare?

Relatively Healthy

Dear Relatively,

Yes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does indeed recommend the “pneumococcal vaccines” for pneumonia for adults age 65 and older. They're also recommended for younger people with long-term health issues or weak immune systems, as well as children under 5 and people who smoke.

Pneumonia, which can happen anytime – not just during the cold months – can be a serious and even life-threatening condition. Each year, pneumonia causes a whopping 1.5 million people to visit medical emergency departments in the U.S. and causes roughly 50,000 deaths.

A recent study found that the use of pneumonia vaccines is associated with a 24 percent decreased risk of death, but vaccination rates aren't that high.

Around 67 percent of adults over the age of 65 are vaccinated against



JIM MILLER

pneumonia, and just 24 percent of younger people (19-64 years old) at risk for pneumonia are vaccinated. The main reasons for this are because many people are unsure whether they need the vaccine, while others aren't even aware a vaccine exists.

TYPES OF VACCINES

There are three different vaccines available, some more appropriate for certain people than others. They are the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine PPSV23 (Pneumovax23), the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine PCV15 (Vaxneuvance) and PCV20 (Prevnar 20). The numbers indicate how many strains, or serotypes, of streptococcus pneumoniae are included in the vaccine.

So, which vaccine should you get?

If you've never been vaccinated for pneumonia, the newer PCV20 is the top choice – it covers the 20 most common serotypes now.

If that vaccine is not available in



your area, you can get the PCV15 vaccine, followed one year later by PPSV23.

If you had the earlier PCV13 (but not PCV15), or the PPSV23 at or after age 65, you're likely eligible to get the PCV20 for increased protection.

But because of the different possibilities, you need to talk to your doctor or pharmacist about the most effective option for you.

Side effects of these vaccines tend to be mild, but may include feeling achy and tired as well as redness, swelling and soreness where the injection was given.

You'll also be happy to know that Medicare Part B covers both single dose and two-dose pneumococcal shots, and you only need to get it once. Unlike the flu shot, which is given annually.

Most local pharmacies and community health clinics offer pneumo-

coccal vaccines, but you may want to call ahead just to be sure.

For more information, visit the CDC's Pneumococcal Vaccination webpage at [CDC.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/index.html).

OTHER VACCINES

To avoid getting pneumonia as a consequence of a viral infection, you should also consider getting a flu shot, RSV shot and a Covid-19 booster in the fall.

While vaccines cannot prevent every case of pneumonia (or other conditions they're given for), those who get them usually have milder infections, a shorter course of illness and fewer serious complications than people who don't get vaccinated.

The flu shot and Covid booster are both covered by Medicare Part B, while the RSV vaccine (which is recommended every other year) is covered under Medicare (Part D) prescription drug plans. All three shots can also be given simultaneously.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.savvysenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.

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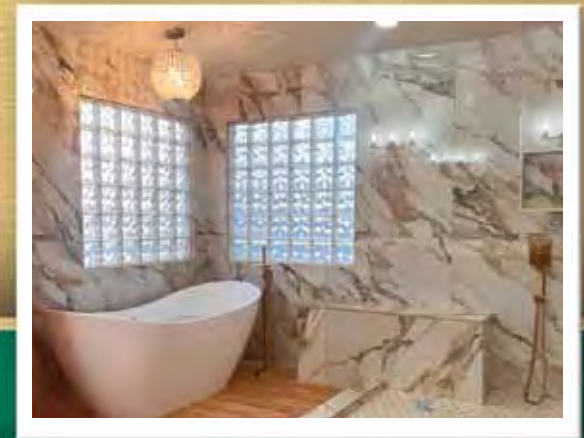
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