

SCS LIFE



All Dried Up

Highland Falls Pond
to be Renovated

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Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly

SCSLife.net | May 2025

A Pickleball Win

SCS moves forward
with plans to convert tennis
courts to pickleball

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Look Back

20 YEARS AGO:
Homeowners launch lawsuit
against Del Webb.

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Sales Stall

Plenty of homes for sale,
not as many buyers

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ON THE AIR

Derald Johnson lives in Sun City but every
weekday he's spinning country classics on the
radio in Columbus, Ohio. See page 8

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Kona lives on but she was no Donna the Duck

I really thought Kona was a goner, and with good reason. I've been in Sun City Summerlin long enough to know the life expectancy of any small animal running loose around here can probably be measured in days, if not hours.

At the age of 14 and a half, Kona the cat wasn't likely to beat the odds. She was chipped and had her owner's phone number on her collar, but the coyotes who roam Sun City don't really pay attention to such formalities.

So I gave a mini fist bump when the recent SCSCAI email blast announcing she was lost was followed just 20 minutes later by one saying she had been found. It was a small win for domestic animals in Sun City, but one to celebrate nonetheless.

We all love animals, of course, and for many that includes the coyotes



TIM DAHLBERG
SCS LIFE
COMMENTARY

as well as the Konas of the community. In a perfect world they would all coexist in harmony, though the laws of nature are pretty strict about that not happening.

But when we hear of an animal in distress we get anxious. When we see an animal that has been injured or killed, we grieve just a bit because we know how defenseless they often are.

That's why so many people were outraged recently when a video surfaced of a Las Vegas man throwing his dog in a dumpster and walking away. He was quickly arrested and it's a good thing, because there are some who wouldn't have minded seeing him tarred and feathered be-

fore thousands in the Costco parking lot – or worse.

People don't like it when you mess with animals. They take it personally.

I found that out just a few weeks into my career with The Associated Press in May 1981 when I got a call from Dart Anthony, the head of the local Humane Society, about a duck. Not just any duck, but a duck that was somehow still flying around even after being shot in the breast with an arrow.

Now Dart was a flamboyant guy who never met a camera or microphone he didn't like. He was putting together a plan to capture the duck, he told me, so the arrow could be taken out and the duck could return to doing whatever it is that ducks do. I was invited to tag along and chronicle the mission along with a pair of camera crews from local TV stations and any other media Dart

could round up for the escapade.

The next night we gathered in darkness near the pond on the 13th hole of the Sahara Country Club (now Las Vegas National) and got in position. The plan was for the duck, which we had named Donna, to swim near the edge at which time the TV crews would turn on their blinding lights. The idea was to momentarily stun Donna while Dart and another man jumped in and grabbed her.

The plan, of course, failed miserably. Donna paddled away, then took off flying with the arrow still in her. All we were left with were two very wet would-be rescuers and some good TV footage.

I wrote about it for Sunday newspapers across the country, who ate it up. Donna the Duck was suddenly a national celebrity and after another

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Desert Vista pickleball facility transformation underway

SCS LIFE

The transformation of the Desert Vista courts into a pickleball only facility is moving forward, despite grumbling from tennis players who will be losing two courts.

The final two tennis courts will be restriped and used as pickleball courts, giving the Pickleball Club up to 18 courts and total control of the courts that were originally built for tennis.

“Sun City needs more pickleball courts,” club president Suzanne Esber told the CCOC meeting on April 16. “Demand has exceeded capacity

and our pickleball play continues to grow.”

Pickleball has been growing rapidly in Sun City, with club membership at 310 members. A recent survey showed that an average of 60 players used the existing 10 courts daily, while the two tennis courts got only occasional play.

The Tennis Club has 127 current members, though president John Kraus cautioned against an apples-to-apples comparison of the two sports. Kraus said tennis players are more likely to show up for their scheduled times and that they play three times as long as the average

pickleball player.

“The Tennis Club appreciates the popularity of pickleball, however the popularity of tennis should not be underemphasized,” Kraus told committee members.

The battle over the final two tennis courts at Desert Vista has been ongoing, with pickleball enthusiasts pushing for them to be converted to meet their growing demands. They noted that there are still 10 tennis courts to pick from, six at Mountain Shadows and four at Pinacole.

Kraus said the tennis club is not opposed to pickleball being played on the Desert Vista courts but sug-

gested that the courts be double striped so they could still be used for tennis.

But Esber said the pickleball proposal, which was recommended for approval by the committee and will go to the board of directors, means pickleball players won't get shut out and will have a complex all to their own.

“Our proposal is simple, and that is that we believe the solution is to convert the two tennis courts which could become six to eight pickleball courts,” she said. “That would provide a pickleball complex in the Desert Vista Community Center that could be continued to be upgraded.”

Dahlberg

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aborted attempt I wrote: Score it Duck 2, Rescuers 0.

A few days later Donna would finally be captured after being fed cracked corn laced with barbiturates. She was rushed to a local vet who

took the arrow out and mended her for a few days. Then it was time to return her to the golf course pond where she lived.

Donna was the star in her return, but Dart put on the show. At the appointed time, two helicopters circled the course, the first landing with an advance party and the second carrying Dart with Donna wrapped in a towel in his arms. A red carpet was rolled out, and, after posing for pictures, Dart walked down it to the edge of the pond and let Donna go.

It was all great fun at a time Las Vegas was reeling from hotel fires that killed nearly 100 people at the MGM Grand and Hilton hotels just months earlier. Vegas World operator Bob Stupak held a duck party offering Cold Duck champagne at 25 cents a glass, and a homeowner listed his fairway home nearby as a Donna the Duck Special. A children's book was written about her.

More importantly to me, I got my first national bylines and a nice at-taboy from our editors in New York.

My wife, who coincidentally is also named Donna, was out back recently when she noticed movement down the street, which she initially dismissed as a trash bag blowing in the

end. Taking another look, though, and she could see it was a person struggling to get up at the bottom of their steep driveway.

He had fallen while getting the mail and couldn't get up. It was clear to my wife even watching from a distance that he was in trouble.

She told me to go help and I jumped in my golf cart and headed down the street. By the time I got there a man in a pickup truck had already stopped and together we helped get the man up and then back up the driveway. He was shaken but insisted he was OK.

Now we didn't do anything heroic. We simply helped like most anyone would in Sun City or anywhere else.

But something has bothered me since. My wife mentioned that 3-4 cars passed by without stopping before we got there, and that got me wondering why.

The best I can come up with is they were drivers with such tunnel vision that they only saw the road, not the sidewalk. My mother drove like that so I know it's a thing, even on a 25 mph street.

I'm hoping that was the case.

You never know who you're going to run into at a block party. In

this case it was a DJ in Columbus, Ohio, broadcasting from down the street.

Derald Johnson is on our cover this month, but I probably wouldn't have known about him unless my wife and I attended a block party with our neighbors on Button Willow. Not only did he seem like a nice guy, but a good cover.

We all have neighbors who Sun City residents would like to know more about and there were others at the party in addition to Derald. I tell people that everyone in Sun City has a story, and the only difference is that some are better than others.

I can only attend so many block parties, though. And I certainly don't know all the 14,000 or so people that live in our great community.

So if you know someone with an interesting story, let me know. If you have one yourself, even better.

Who knows, they could be in the next issue of SCS LIFE, the only independent publication that cares about what happens in Sun City Summerlin.

Tim Dahlberg is the publisher of SCS LIFE. He can be reached at timd@scslife.net

SCS LIFE

Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly

EDITOR

Eric Dahlberg
edahlbergmcin@gmail.com
775-316-2265

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Breven Honda, Kayla Anderson, W.G. Ramirez,
Jenny Scheid

PHOTOGRAPHY

Jeff Scheid

ADVERTISING

Eric Dahlberg edahlbergmcin@gmail.com
Kirk Kern kirk@hyperlocalmedianv.com

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Former SCSCAI president baffled by dismissal from committees

By Tim Dahlberg
SCS LIFE

The immediate past president of Sun City Summerlin says he's baffled by his unceremonious removal last month from two key committees that he served on for several years.

John Berthelsen said he was informed by SCSCAI attorneys on April 18 that he was being removed from positions on the Architectural Review Committee and the Hearings Committee for reasons that were not explained.

His removal came just two days after Berthelsen attended a meeting of the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) during which executive director Mitzi Mills praised the returning committee members, of which he was one.

"All of a sudden I get an email from a lawyer saying I've been removed," Berthelsen told SCS LIFE. "No explanation, nobody calling or asking about anything."

Berthelsen, who served a three year term on the Board of Directors and was board president in 2023-24, said he has asked Mills and current board members why he was dismissed. He said they either didn't return his calls or would not tell him, citing the confidentiality of the closed door board executive sessions.

Berthelsen said understands protecting privacy but said it was absurd that he was not given any reason for his dismissal.

"I'm the affected party and you can't tell me what it's about?" he asked.

Both Mills and SCSCAI Board President Jeff Rorick declined comment to SCS LIFE, saying they could not discuss actions taken in closed executive board sessions.

Berthelsen attended his last ARC meeting April 16, where Mills wel-



John Berthelsen

comed him and other returning members along with new members and new chairman Erik Braun.

"I'd like to take an opportunity to thank the returning mem-

bers to the committee. I think it's great when people want to return, especially to this committee," Mills said. "This is an important committee. It's the only committee named in the CC&R's. All the others are named in the bylaws and appointed by the board."

Berthelsen was also a member of the hearings committee, which acts on homeowner violations and other association matters.

In the four paragraph removal email sent by the Clarkson, McAlonis & O'Connor firm, Berthelsen was told he was being removed from the two committees "and any other committee of the Association upon which you may currently serve."

The notice mistakenly directed Berthelsen to return any committee materials by April 15, a date that had already passed.

Berthelsen, who has served on various committees and the board for about six years, lost his bid for re-election last year and a second bid earlier this year. His one-year tenure as board president was relatively uncontroversial, though he angered members of the Sun City Patrol by leading an ultimately successful effort to drop Security from their organization's name.

> See REMOVAL, Page 15

SOFTBALL CHAMPS!



Courtesy photo

The Blue Team emerged as champions of the American League following the playoffs for the 2024-25 season. (Back row L-R) Clayton Fejfar, Jared Neumeier, John McKeon, Perry Brownstein, Manager Freddie Cantrell, Javier Cortez. (Front row L-R) Bobby Stonemetz, Willie Barba, Team Mascot Lexi, Jim Schaefer, Gary Rose, Mark Walsh

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ALL DRIED UP



SCS LIFE photo

The pond on the 17th hole at Highland Falls Golf Course was emptied after leaking millions of gallons of water in recent years. Soon, though, it will return to tormenting golfers. Sun City is rehabbing the pond, and one on No. 14 at Palm Valley, to prevent water loss. The project on Highland Falls will run \$151,000 and involve pouring cement edges with a thick liner for the bottom of the pond, which was built with a clay liner. A similar project was completed on the fifth hole at Palm Valley last year. A total of 32 fish were relocated when the pond was drained at Highland Falls, mostly goldfish but a few carp.

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COMMENTARY

Celebrating two great friends

Following the life advice of Yogi Berra, “Always go to other people’s funerals, otherwise they won’t come to yours,” I jumped into the car at 4:30 a.m. in Scottsdale, Arizona, and drove to Las Vegas to attend the life celebrations of not one, but two, dear friends.

Pulled into the parking lot of Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church just outside Sun City at 10 a.m. on the dot. The church was packed, as I knew it would be, with friends and family saying one last formal goodbye to Paul Biddle.

Paul loved music. And, he could play. He moved to Las Vegas from New York back in the days when live music still thrived in the casinos and musicians could get all the work they wanted. For the last 30+ years on this planet, Paul gave that love in service of Grace in the Desert.

After Paul’s affair, I hugged as many old friends as I could find to beat feet to a gathering at Carson Kitchen in downtown Las Vegas, where friends of Norm Clarke gathered after his life celebration held at the Smith Center.



Norm, pictured above, was THE newspaper columnist for Las Vegas. (This picture was taken about 24 hours before he met his last deadline. We should all look so good on our deathbed, don’t you think?)

While he worked at the Las Vegas Review-Journal, and I have a tangential piece of that legacy as the



SHERMAN R. FREDERICK
COMMENTARY

guy who hired him from the Denver Post, he became synonymous with the town.

In his time, Norm became associated with Las Vegas like Herb Caen was to San Francisco, Mike Royko to Chicago, and Jimmy Breslin to New York.

While Las Vegas had entertainment writers before Norm hit the scene, such as the wonderful Forrest Duke, Norm was a different cat. He knew what journalism was, and he worked hard at his craft.

He had a network of sources, from taxi drivers to cocktail waitresses to servers who fed him endless fodder for his reportorial consideration. He talked easily with casino owners and valet runners alike

But here’s an aspect of Norm’s place in journalism that doesn’t get enough recognition. Yes, he was a grounded, kick-ass Associated Press reporter applying those skills to a part of Las Vegas that the world wanted to read about, but he was also a kind human being.

His reporter’s notebook contained tidbits about celebrities that, if irresponsibly reported, would serve only to humiliate.

He once told me that he wasn’t interested in embarrassing people. He didn’t see the point. And, as his publisher, I was all for that.

Look, I’m built to spar with politicians pissed because a reporter told the truth in the morning edition. But fielding calls from beloved celebrities ... well, I don’t know how effective I’d be at handling that.

I remember once taking a call from Joey Bishop. He wanted to request that his newspaper be delivered to a certain spot. I thought, “OMG, I’m actually on the phone talking to Joey Effing Bishop.” I fell all over myself to accom-

> See FREDERICK, Page 7

NEON DIARY

Keeping time: Rod Ouano takes a measured approach

Every time musician Rod Ouano loads up his bulky keyboard for another gig, he mutters, “This is the last time.” He knows that one of these days he’ll be right: Even an active 78-year-old is still nearly 80.

Until then, expect him to be a fixture on the SCS entertainment circuit, playing and singing and charming his way through the innocent pop rock era. “I know I’m fortunate to still be playing,” he said. “The crowd picks me up.”

Ouano learned saxophone and piano in school, and the guitar and songwriting in Vietnam. After arriving in the country with the Army Corps of Engineers, he found a guitar and note in his bunk, encouraging him to learn to play and to leave it behind for the next person. He did both.

He boasts a resume that’s far from one note, including being the golden-piped DJ Rod Holiday on Seattle airwaves and a decade working at Boeing. Showbiz was always close by, with Ouano playing in local bands and working as a movie extra.

His love of performing came with him and his wife, Gloria, when they moved to SCS in 2016. For a large portion of that time, he was background pianist at the Summit.

Ouano said he’s slowed down “a little,” but says Sun City deserves credit for his high spirits. “This community keeps you young,” he said. “You meet so many accomplished people.”

Upcoming opportunities to see



DOUG PUPPEL
NEON DIARY

Ouano include his playing host at the “Song Quiz Nite” on May 19 at the Summit. It promises “exciting music trivia, lively sing-alongs, and plenty of Aloha spirit!”

On May 25, Rod Ouano & Friends performs at 5 p.m. outside at the Desert Vista Community Center, part of Music in the Park. The concert series also has shows there at 5 p.m. on May 18 and at 6 p.m. on June 1 and June 8.

Good taste: Following the success of the April wine tasting at Tavern at the Falls, expect a similar event there in August. If it will be a salute to beer or whiskey is TBD.

Masterpieces & Money: Recent Wall Street gyrations might leave one craving the tranquility of an art museum — or looking for a better investment strategy. Why not both? On May 17 at 11:30 a.m., the Rita Deanin Abbey Art Museum near Grand Canyon Drive and Ann Road is hosting the “Women’s Financial Literacy Empowerment” seminar by Beth Burns, a financial author and speaker. Attendees are also invited to enjoy the museum filled with Abbey’s works. More information and tickets at ritadeaninabbeymuseum.org

Doug Puppel is a writer and model in Las Vegas who is always looking for good stories. Reach him Doug@DougPuppel.com.

Frederick

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modate his small delivery request.

Verbally wrestling with Harry Reid was one thing, but mixing it up with an agitated Cher or Tony

Bennett? Oh man, Norm, thanks for sparing me that.

As I drove the road back home — the sun setting over the strange highway town of Wickieup — I gave thanks for knowing Norm and Paul.

(You can read from Sherman Frederick at shermanfrederick.substack.com)



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Longtime radio personality broadcasts Ohio afternoon drive show from Sun City home

By Jenny Scheid
SCS LIFE

You might recognize Derald Johnson's voice if you've lived in the central or southern United States. For the past 48 years, he's been on the air almost every weekday, improving ratings for radio stations stretched across Nebraska, Ohio, Arizona, Florida and Texas.

Although Johnson retired in 2021, he's back on the air at 103.9 The Maverick (WJKR) in Columbus, Ohio — only this time he's broadcasting from his home in Sun City Summerlin. Going by Woody Johnson, he hosts the PM drive show (3-7 p.m. Ohio time) on the classic country radio station.

Johnson's studio is in his bedroom while he and his wife, Ressa, renovate their home on Button Willow. He's got a special high-speed internet connection that sends his voice and any interviews or voice drops he uses so that the average listener in Columbus would never know he is not broadcasting from the station itself.

"I don't deceive them," he said. "I'm honest if they ask, but I rarely allude to broadcasting from Las Vegas."

The setup works because Johnson understands what works after spending a lifetime in radio.

He remembers lying in bed in the small farm town of Osceola, Nebraska, population 890 (give or take) and listening to baseball games



Photo by Jeff Scheid/SCS LIFE

Derald Johnson and his wife Ressa from Johnson's home studio in his Sun City bedroom. Derald has been on the air in several U.S. cities in his 48 year career, and currently hosts the PM drive show for a country music station in Columbus, Ohio.

on the radio on warm summer nights, searching the dial for radio stations far away that he might find. The Kansas City Royals were Johnson's favorite team, and he would listen to the games being broadcast on KMBZ in Kansas City while holding his radio perpendicular to the floor for better reception.

He gained a fondness for Top 40 rock 'n' roll by listening to WLS in Chicago before getting his first actual paid radio job as a 16-year-old pulling albums for Joseph "Big Joe" Siedlik,

an icon in the polka industry.

"The station was so small, they played the 'Big Joe Polka Show' on Sundays," Johnson recalled. "They did spiritual music in the morning, country in the afternoon and rock at night. They were like a charcuterie of formats."

He moved on to KTTT while still in high school, and soon a career was born.

"I was doing everything from farm markets to obituaries on K triple T in Columbus, Nebraska," he said. "We did precipitation re-

ports for the farmers, and, I mean, they listened to it. It was their life."

After graduating from Wayne State College in northeast Nebraska, he went to KSYZ in Grand Island, Nebraska, and began to attract attention.

"I got a call from a consultant in January of '88 and he goes, 'Hey, man, I just heard you. I love your sound. I'd like to put you on a station for a client of mine in Meridian, Mississippi.' I said, 'Listen, I'm extremely flattered, and I would be interested in talking to you, but I ain't

moving to Meridian, Mississippi.'"

A week later, the consultant called to see if he was interested in going to Montgomery, Alabama. "Marginally better than Meridian, Mississippi, but that is a hard no," Johnson told him.

"So now it's January 15. I remember the day in 1988. I was in Grand Island, Nebraska, a huge, powerful, 100,000-watt station called The Great 108. I was a program director, and he said, 'Derald, how would you feel about Cocoa Beach, Florida?'"

The temperature in Grand Island was 15 degrees below zero. Warmer weather appealed to him at that moment, so he took the job at WLRQ and moved to Florida, where he stayed for a little over four years. It was a fortuitous move as he met Ressa there.

In 1992, he was recruited to be the morning host at WRVF in Columbus, Ohio, only to leave when they wanted him to move to afternoons.

"I guess it was my ego that didn't want to do afternoons, but I took the first morning gig I could find," he said. And that was FWFM in Tucson, Arizona.

As it turned out, his time in Tucson was short, but he gained a new moniker.

"Someone at the station said, 'Derald Johnson sounds like a divorce attorney. We're going to make

> See JOHNSON, Page 9

Johnson

continued from Page 8

you Woody Ford and we're going to get you a '57 Ford Woody to truck around in. I said, "That is awesome!" I'm not married to my name. As a matter of fact, I don't even like my name."

He continued, "I was Woody Ford for about six weeks when Omaha called."

He and Ressa had just gotten all of their belongings unpacked when he was offered a job from one of the stations he grew up listening to, WOW in Omaha, Nebraska. The couple moved to Omaha in October 1996, and the station's market went from sixth place to first in less than a year. But his wife was tired of dealing with winters.

So he was off to do afternoons in San Antonio for three years before he got a call from WCOL in Columbus.

"They said, 'Do you realize that you're still showing up in market research as the second most popular radio personality in Columbus?' So they offered me a job, and I went back to Columbus with a significant raise," he said.

But then, Johnson made a detour. A weight loss company, Body Solutions, was using radio personalities to promote their product.

"I lost 38 pounds on it. It worked. I told my story," Johnson said.

His ads were gaining attention, and the company wanted to hire him to do marketing for them.

He was told, "We want you to teach radio personalities not to read a script but to talk without a script like you do."

With an offer to double his salary, Johnson couldn't say no. But the dream job only lasted 14 months.

"For the first six to nine months, we were printing money down there. Things were going great," Johnson said. "And then the guy got greedy. We didn't know, but he changed the formula so it didn't match what was in the bottle."

The FTC got involved, and there was a class action lawsuit. The owner of Body Solutions was convicted and sentenced to 18 months in federal prison.

For the first time in his life, Johnson was unemployed. Fortunately, he got a call-back from WCOL, his former station in Columbus, Ohio, where he stayed 20 years before retiring to Sun City.

The couple had traveled to Las Vegas many times, and the dry heat gave Ressa Johnson's joints relief from her rheumatoid arthritis.

The pair had planned to retire at the end of 2021, but their house in Columbus sold so quickly it forced them to move early. To fulfill his contract, Johnson spent that final year broadcasting from his home in Las Vegas.

"It damn near killed me," he said. "Those hours were brutal. I was up at midnight harvesting audio. I would go on air at 5:30."

But once retired, Johnson had a hard time filling the hours.

When he was working as a radio personality at a highly rated station, Johnson was always busy during his off hours.

"When you're off, you're going somewhere. You're going to events," he said. "So, I didn't really allow myself time for hobbies other than sports gambling and fantasy sports; those are my two hobbies."

When longtime friends called about working for a family-owned station in Columbus, Ohio, he gave it some thought.

He talked to Ressa, and she said, "Look, you're bored out of your mind. You know you still have game."

"So that's what brought me out of retirement last July '24, and I'm under contract until July 14th," said Johnson. "And I'm being kindly urged by my better half to consider going back to what I do best, which is nothing."

He explained, "Right now, the low-fuel light is on. I think July might be it for me, and I'm just going to rededicate myself to bad golf. I know I can play bad golf."



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LOOK BACK

20 Years Ago: SCS Homeowners sue over water screen

SCS LIFE

• Some 1,400 Sun City Summerlin homeowners have filed the largest construction defect lawsuit in Nevada history. The residents complain that Del Webb Corp. failed to install metal strips to contain water in pipes leading into homes. The homeowners want \$70 million in damages and the inclusion of all 7,781 homeowners in a class action suit to repair the issue. Del Webb has denied responsibility, saying there is no problem with water leaks in the community. At issue are weep screeds, pieces of metal installed at the bottom of stucco walls to keep water from entering homes.

• Sheriff Bill Young is crediting the Sun City Patrol for helping keep crime low in the Sun City Summerlin community. The patrol consists of about 220 men and women who work shifts around the clock to keep the community safe. They are described as the “eyes” of the community.

• A 1,533 square foot home on Trenton Place with city views was listed for \$324,788.

35 YEARS AGO

• Del Webb shareholders gathered at the new community center in Sun City Summerlin for the company’s annual meeting, where they turned down a plan to adopt a “poison pill” to block any unwanted takeover attempts. The shareholders were mostly in a positive frame of mind after the company, which has had heavy losses in recent years, reported a profit of \$76 million for 1989. The profit

was mostly due to the opening of Sun City Summerlin, the first 55-plus community in Las Vegas.

• The first wave of residents in Sun City Summerlin say they were attracted by the community’s recreational activities. They told the Review-Journal that the six tennis courts, large outdoor pool and golf course were the main draws in buying homes in the new 55-plus community.

• A 2-bedroom, 2-bath home was listed for rent for \$700 a month.

30 YEARS AGO

• Sun City Summerlin now has 8,500 residents and is projecting that 14,000 people will live here when the community is finished building in a few years. Amenities include three golf courses, two restaurants and four community centers.

• A publication has named Las Vegas as the top spot in the country for the nation’s retirees. The book, “Retirement Places Rated,” surveyed 183 locales and rated Las Vegas as the best based on a number of different categories, including affordability, climate, entertainment and taxes. Sun City Summerlin is the largest 55-plus community in the city, and gained special honors for homes sold.

• An 1,195 foot Weston model was listed for sale at \$134,500

25 YEARS AGO

• Three years after its founding, Sun City Charities Inc. fielded more than 400 requests for transportation and referral services. The

nonprofit was founded by developer Del Webb Corp. to link elderly residents needing help to the proper services with a goal of restoring independence and solving problems. There are 12 volunteers in the group, which is looking for more people to volunteer to cope with an expected surge in demand.

• Sun City Summerlin is looking for cooks for a full time position at the Summit restaurant. Benefits include free golf and a 401k plan.

• A 2,100 foot square foot Sherwood model on the golf course with city views was listed for sale at \$350,000

15 YEARS AGO

• The Board of Directors approved a \$13.2 million budget for the fiscal year 2010-11, with a \$48 increase in HOA fees for the year. The 4.3 percent fee hike will bring to \$1,176 for the year, or \$98 a month. Also approved was an increase of \$12 in the New Owner Reserve Assessment fee (NORA) to a total of \$1,249. Meanwhile, several residents spoke before the board against a proposal to spend \$536,000 for 200 new golf carts for Sun City’s three golf courses.

• A compilation of humor used in sermons by the Rabbi Hershel Brooks has been put out in book form. Robert Mirisch, a retired attorney who is credited with the book idea and compiled the material, said the book is a “fun read, like reading a joke book.” Mirisch said he was inspired to put it together by his enjoyment of the sermons by Brooks, who is the rabbi emeritus of Bet Knesset Bamidbar in Sun

City Summerlin and meets at the Desert Vista Community Center.

• A 2-bedroom, 2-bath townhome on the golf course was listed for sale at \$179,000.

10 YEARS AGO

• Golf Summerlin is partnering with the Sun City Summerlin Men’s Golf Club for a two-day charity tournament to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Las Vegas. The tournament at Palm Valley and Highland Falls golf courses will be for golfers of all ages and skill levels, with all net proceeds going to the charity.

• Republican presidential contender Jeb Bush said he would have invaded Iraq just as his brother, former president George Bush, did. Bush made the comments during a campaign stop at the Mt. Shadows Community Center.

• A Westminster model with 180-degree views of the city, golf course and surrounding mountains was listed at \$745,000

5 YEARS AGO

• Board members got an earful from residents opposed to allowing a 14-year-old to live in the community. A Sun City homeowner had asked to be able to rent her home to relatives, who were both over 55, but that the 14-year-old boy would be living with them. Board members unanimously denied a variance, saying the community isn’t set up for teenagers. Meanwhile, the Tavern at the Falls restaurant reopened after being shut

down for COVID-19, and the Sun City Security Patrol began operating again as Sun City tried to adapt to the virus protocols.

• Sun City Summerlin resident Bob Altomondo is inviting the community to gather in front of his home on Memorial Day to listen to him play taps on his trumpet. Altomondo, who has played the trumpet since he was a kid growing up in Cleveland, said the performance will be to entertain his neighbors and honor veterans.

3 YEARS AGO

• “Code Brown” will remain a warning to those using Sun City swimming pools. The Board of Directors unanimously rejected a motion by the Fitness Committee to retire the phrase used when someone defecates in a pool, suggesting it just be noted the pool is closed for maintenance and cleaning. The board also approved putting signs in pool areas warning people they are on camera as a way to cut down on incidents.

1 YEAR AGO

• The Board of Directors approved spending \$25,000 for design plans to move forward with a proposed gambling area at the Tavern at the Falls restaurant. The contract with SCA Design is part of a plan to put gambling machines in the restaurant at the Highland Falls Golf Course. As part of the plan, the south-facing portion of the restaurant will house 15 machines that will bring in monthly income to the community association.

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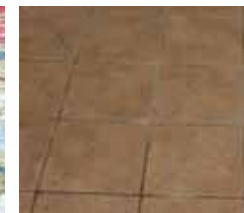
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Beware these Sun City sins!

By John Wood
SCS LIFE

I was going to write about the issue that everyone's talking about: tariffs. I don't understand all the fuss because my 1954 encyclopedia says "tar-IFF" is the sound warthogs make when they're in heat. So, I chose instead to write about a much more serious subject: crime in SCS!

Each month the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department reveals the crimes that occur here. They've included assault, blackmail, burglary, counterfeiting, drugs, extortion, forgery, fraud, identity theft, larceny, property damage, robbery, shoplifting, theft, and vandalism, which coincidentally are all the current job openings in Nigeria.

I, however, have compiled several other offenses that occur here each month that the police don't consider crimes. But they should be!

Time's Up. Inviting friends to your dinner party that starts at 6:00. Hello? Older people tend to eat at 4:00 and are asleep by 8:00. Messing with our antique biological clocks could result in a legion of cranky Walking Dead in embarrassing pajamas swarming the community's clubhouses in the middle of the night wondering why they're locked up.

Wine Not? Not bringing wine or an appetizer to a party. Or worse, bringing a half-full bottle of wine or a partially eaten dessert. Confession: It's possible I may have done one or more of these transgressions recently at my friends' parties. But they always let it ride because they know I have the IQ of a leech.

Flakiness. Arriving fashionably late to a party by forty minutes or arriving early by any length of time. If you arrive forty minutes late, everyone will wonder, then worry, what happened to you, so you'd better have a good excuse. If you've done this before, however, they will spend those forty min-



JOHN WOOD
HUMOR

utes discussing everything about you that annoys them. Thus, when you finally arrive, your presence will trigger the same reaction as a dead goose plopping out of the chimney. As for arriving early, you most likely will be "welcomed" by wide-eyed, panicked, half-dressed hosts running around making last-minute clean-ups. Don't expect another invitation.

Checkmate. Writing a check at a store with long lines at each check-out counter. C'mon, people. Lines at stores are long enough without you suddenly whipping out your checkbook, realizing that you forgot to bring a pen, filling out the check improperly, having to redo it, etc. Shoppers want no delays during the checkout process, but not just for convenience. Did you know that long wait lines can also trigger a rare disorder among older people called sleep-standing? On August 14, 2022, one unfortunate Scowhegan, Maine, shopper who was stuck in a long DMV line sleep-stood for six hours and twenty-three minutes, eclipsing the previous record held by Joe Biden.

Beyond Recall. People with short-term memory loss who fill their calendars with activities. What could possibly go wrong? Knock-Knock. You: "Oh...hi Bob (long pause). What brings you to our neck of the woods?" Bob: "Uh, your party's tonight, right?" You: "Um, that was last night, Bob." Bob: I'm so sorry. I've had short-term memory loss for as long as I can remember. But I don't let it get me down. Although I have short-term memory loss, I'm grateful that I don't have short-term memory loss."

SCS resident John Wood is the author of Dispatches from Paradise: Two Years in the Land of Smiles

Removal

continued from Page 5

Berthelsen said the only possible reason he could think of for his removal was that he was part of an email chain involving a proposal that would tighten enforcement of community standards. He said he had little involvement in the proposal but was chastised in an email for it by Mills for not following proper procedures..

"Even if that were the case there's no due process here," he said. "The normal process if someone has vio-

lated rules and regulations you're called to a hearing and given time to present your side of the case. You get your day in court, so to speak. But this was a summary action. Not only that, they had to pay a lawyer to generate a letter. You couldn't just call and tell me?"

In the end Berthelsen says he's frustrated and believes his reputation is being unfairly impugned..

"I haven't gotten a lot of sleep the past couple weeks," he said. "It's a huge slap in the face to me and I expressed that to Mitzi and a couple board members. After all I've done for this community, this is the way I've been treated."



New email

Editor Eric Dahlberg has a new email.

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YOUR HEALTH

Does Amazon's 'RxPass' qualify as a Medicare Part D Plan?

Hello Toni:

In September, I turn 65 with my Medicare beginning Sept. 1. I recently read your article from Greg in Texas who had received wrong information about enrolling in Medicare when self-employed. I am also self-employed and need your advice about enrolling in Medicare Part D.

Currently, I am enrolled in Amazon Prime's Pharmacy RxPass and when I am eligible for Medicare, I can enroll in the Prime member's Medicare senior plan for \$5. Will this type of plan be the same as enrolling in a Medicare Part D plan? Please explain what I should do as I am on a fixed budget and cannot afford a Medicare penalty. Thanks, Toni, for your help!

--Abbie from Charlotte, N.C.

Hi Abbie:

In June of 2024, Amazon Prime



TONI KING
HEALTH

began a special Pharmacy RxPass program with special discounted rates on prescriptions for those enrolled in Medicare. This program is not classified as a Medicare Part D plan. This is a prescription drug plan like GoodRx and Single Care which also offer less expensive prescription drug prices. Grocery store pharmacies such as Walmart, Kroger and Costco also have discount prescription drug plans. Amazon enlarged its marketing to include both the 65 million Americans who are currently on Medicare and the 10,000 a day who are turning 65, like you, Abbie.

It is important that you enroll in a Medicare Part D plan that covers the

prescription drugs you are currently taking. I would strongly advise you not to wait to enroll in a Part D plan during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period (IEP), which is 3 months before turning 65, the month you turn 65 and 3 months after. If you don't enroll in a Medicare Part D plan during your IEP, you WILL receive the Part D penalty that you, Abbie, are so dreading.

The 2025 Medicare Part D costs are:

-- Initial Coverage Deductible is up to \$590 for 2025 and changes each year.

-- Initial Coverage has 5 drug-tiers; the Part D plan pays its share of the cost of your drugs, and you pay your share until the amount of your out-of-pocket maximum is met. For 2025, \$2,000 is the out-of-pocket maximum. Then you move into the Catastrophic Coverage stage and pay \$0.

-- Donut Hole (Coverage Gap), effective January 1, 2025, no longer exists -- which is great news for Americans!

Abbie, to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan -- whether standalone or a Medicare Advantage with Part D included -- you must open a medicare.gov account which will have your Medicare information. (More information about Medicare Part D is available in chapter 5 of Toni's Medicare Survival Guide Advanced edition at www.tonisays.com.)

Once you have opened your Medicare.gov account, you can go

online and begin searching for your prescription drug plan by following these steps:

1. Click on "Find health and drug plans."
2. Verify your "extra help" (based on income), list pharmacies you prefer, and under "Your Drug List" enter ALL of your drugs. Put your prescriptions in the system as a monthly quantity -- not 90 days or 6 months -- because of Medicare's out-of-pocket maximum rule of \$2,000. Using monthly rates lets you know when you will qualify for the \$2,000 out-of-pocket maximum and will no longer have to pay the deductible or copay for the rest of the year.

3. Click on "Find Plans Now" to access Part D or Medicare Advantage plans for this year (or next).

4. Select which type of plan you wish to enroll in, either a Part C Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D (stand-alone) plan. These plans will appear from the least to most out-of-pocket spent for the year.

Review your options carefully, Abbie, because with Medicare, 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. If you have a Medicare question, email info@tonisays.com or call 832-519-8664. The "Medicare Survival Guide Advanced" edition and her new "Confused about Medicare" video series are available at www.tonisays.com.



APRIL CRIME REPORT

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

BURGLARY

4-20 12:57 p.m. 10000 Block Heyfield Drive

4-25 2:00 a.m. 8500 Block Del Webb Blvd.

FRAUD

4-21 7:55 a.m. 3000 Block Sungold Drive

4-24 9:29 a.m. 9300 Block January Drive

LARCENY

4-27 4:35 a.m. 9200 Block Del Webb Blvd.

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

4-23 4:14 a.m. 8900 Block Evening Star Drive

SOURCE: LVMPD Open Data Portal

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CAN WE PLAY THROUGH?



SCS LIFE Photo

Slow play irritates everyone, including these two coyotes waiting for the green to clear on a recent day on the seventh hole at Highland Falls.

SCS BRIEFS

GAMBLING PLAN

Three contractors submitted bids for the plan to add gambling machines to the Tavern at the Falls restaurant as the project continues to move slowly forward – with a higher price tag.

The bids came in between \$320,000 and \$369,000 for the project, which last year was estimated to cost about \$237,000. The bids were subsequently lowered after bidders were asked to go with a cheaper veneer paneling material but the Common Area Properties committee recommended that the better paneling be used.

As part of the remodel, the current glass wall separating the room from the entry will be taken down and the entry relocated. The current bar on the north side of the restaurant will be walled off and used for extra kitchen space.

Proponents of the addition of gaming machines say it is one step toward

helping balance the ledger at Tavern at the Falls, which loses money on an operating basis.

LEVEL TEES

Soon, golfers won't have to search for a level spot on the tee of the par-3s at Sun City Summerlin's three golf courses.

A tee leveling project going through final approvals will use staff to take out grass and level the tees with laser guidance on the short holes at all three golf courses. It will cost an estimated \$65,000 for all three courses.

Golf Course maintenance chief Brian Bagwell said the tees on the par-3s are worse than the other holes because players use irons on them and take divots. After leveling, the tee boxes will be resodded with bermuda grass, with any leftover being used in an upcoming renovation of the driving range at Eagle Crest.

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Window treatments are the final brushstroke. They don't just look good, they shape mood, control light and tell a story. I blend texture, movement and smart tech to create designs that feel intentional and alive.

But honestly? The best part is seeing someone fall in love with their space again. That spark in their eyes — that's what keeps me doing this.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED HERE

I've been in Vegas since the late 70s and I enjoy watching our city grow and experience all of the new attractions, sports teams and excellent restaurants as well as all of the outdoor adventures that surround our city.

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SCS REAL ESTATE

Home sales cool down in April

SCS LIFE

There's plenty of inventory in the Sun City Summerlin real estate market, but not as many buyers.

Sales were slow in April despite three times as many homes (158) being available compared to the same month a year ago. Sales were also down year-to-year in April, dropping from 55 to 51 in 2024.

The slowing sales were reflected in the number of days of sales inven-

tory, dropping from 36 a year ago to 116 days this April.

Sun City is not alone in the real estate slowdown in the Las Vegas area. According to Zillow statistics, homes listed for sale without any offer increased 78 percent from a year earlier.

Despite a lull in sales, the high end market in Sun City was still active. Four homes sold for more than \$1 million, topped by the \$1.75 million sale of a home at 2140 Bay Tree DR.

APRIL HOME SALES
IN SUN CITY SUMMERLIN

- 9016 Sundial DR 1,636 SF \$490,000
- 10000 Arbuckle DR 1,599 SF \$550,000
- 2808 Desert Crystal DR 1,046 SF \$265,000
- 3100 Gladstone CT 1,653 SF \$440,000
- 9421 Gold Mountain DR 1,119 SF \$362,500
- 10424 Snyder AVE 1,713 SF \$521,000
- 10809 Clarion LN 1,346 SF \$462,500
- 9369 Villa Ridge DR 1,220 SF \$347,000
- 8608 Millsboro DR 1,359 SF \$394,000
- 9028 Firebird DR 1,804 SF \$500,000
- 10309 Saugus DR 2,577 SF \$1,475,000
- 2813 Vista Butte DR 2,102 SF \$631,000
- 10805 Heritage Hills DR 1,520 SF \$525,000
- 9100 Firebird DR 1,653 SF \$503,000
- 10716 Bennington CT 1,843 SF \$640,000
- 2501 Blairsdan ST 2,210 SF \$760,000
- 8516 Spyrun DR 1,172 SF \$438,000
- 3025 Treesdale DR 1,388 SF \$420,000
- 2700 Crown Ridge DR 1,702 SF \$520,000
- 10025 Netherton DR 2,210 SF \$555,000
- 2216 Spring Water DR 1,201 SF \$307,000
- 2633 Showcase DR 1,833 SF \$537,777
- 3037 Isaac River DR 1,384 SF \$470,000
- 9452 Gold Mountain DR 1,332 SF \$330,000
- 12540 Highvale DR 1,749 SF \$533,000
- 2348 Hot Oak Ridge ST 2,176 SF \$850,000
- 10404 Longwood DR 1,788 SF \$710,000
- 10132 Crescent Creek DR 1,703 SF \$497,500
- 2140 Bay Tree DR 3,097 SF \$1,750,000
- 2232 Spring Water DR 1,021 SF \$325,000
- 11020 Rackhurst AVE 1,533 SF \$570,000
- 2740 High Range DR 2,178 SF \$1,110,000
- 10813 Black Ledge AVE 1,374 SF \$500,000
- 10329 Bent Brook PL 1,592 SF \$609,000
- 10800 Heritage Hills DR 1,500 SF \$420,000
- 9525 Eagle Valley DR 1,636 SF \$454,000
- 10412 Button Willow DR 1,732 SF \$727,500
- 8813 Sundial DR 1,384 SF \$405,000
- 2401 Rockford ST 1,402 SF \$475,000
- 3112 Hayden CT 1,653 SF \$543,500
- 2517 Desert Glen DR 1,179 SF \$410,000
- 10121 Hemet DR 1,021 SF \$350,000
- 10700 Back Plains DR 2,819 SF \$1,050,000
- 2800 Linkview DR 1,323 SF \$347,000
- 2536 Faiss DR 2,577 SF \$1,300,000
- 2301 Hallston ST 1,021 SF \$400,000
- 2817 Billy Casper DR 1,653 SF \$675,000
- 8617 Prairie Hill DR 1,062 SF \$312,000
- 2820 Golf Links DR 1,384 SF \$387,000
- 10509 Cogswell AVE 1,360 SF \$430,000
- 9308 Quail Ridge DR 1,620 SF \$350,000

Market statistics provided by Michael DelGais, Home Realty Center



Do you have news?

Know of an issue in Sun City Summerlin that you'd like explored? Want to promote an activity or a club? We're as curious as you are about Sun City Summerlin happenings.

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

SCS LIFE

Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly

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SAVVY SENIOR

Does Medicare cover vision care and eye exams?

Dear Savvy Senior,

What all does Medicare cover when it comes to vision care? I currently have good vision insurance through my employer but will lose it when I retire.

Almost 65

Dear Almost,

Many soon-to-be retirees are a bit blurry with what Medicare does and doesn't cover when it comes to vision care. The good news is that Medicare covers most medical issues like cataract surgery, treatment of eye diseases and medical emergencies. But unfortunately, routine care like eye exams and eyeglasses are usually the beneficiary's responsibility. Here's a breakdown of what is and isn't covered.

Eye exams and treatments:

Medicare does not cover routine eye exams that test for eyeglasses or contact lenses, but they do cover yearly medical eye exams if you have diabetes or are at high risk for glaucoma. They will also pay for exams to test and treat medical eye diseases if you're having vision problems that indicate a serious eye problem like macular degeneration, dry eye syndrome, glaucoma, eye infections or if you get something in your eye.



JIM MILLER

Eye surgeries:

Medicare will cover most eye surgeries that help repair the eye function, including cataract surgery to remove cataracts and

insert standard intraocular lenses to replace your own. Medicare will not, however, pick up the extra cost if you choose a premium multifocal lens that restores full range of vision, thereby reducing your need for glasses after cataract surgery. The extra cost for a premium lens can run \$1,500 to \$4,000 per eye.

Eye surgeries that are usually not covered by Medicare include refractive (LASIK) surgery and cosmetic eye surgery that are not considered medically necessary.

Eyeglasses and contact lenses:

Medicare will not pay for eyeglasses or contact lenses, with one exception: If you have had a conventional intraocular lens inserted during cataract surgery, Medicare will pay for eyeglasses or contact lenses following the operation.

WAYS TO SAVE

Although original Medicare's vision coverage is limited to medical issues, there are ways you can save on routine care. Here are several to check into.

Medicare Advantage plans:

Many of these plans, which are alternatives to original Medicare and sold through private insurance companies, cover routine eye exams and eyeglasses, but coverage is limited so be sure you understand the specifics.

While I don't recommend enrolling in an Advantage plan just to get vision coverage it is an option you should know about. To locate Advantage plans in your area that provide vision coverage, go to [Medicare.gov/plan-compare](https://www.Medicare.gov/plan-compare) or call 800-633-4227.

Purchase vision insurance:

If you get routine eye exams and purchase new eyeglasses annually, a vision insurance plan may be worth the costs. These policies typically range between \$5 and \$30 per month. Most plans will also have copays or deductibles you'll be responsible for.

Check veterans' benefits: If you're a veteran and qualify for VA health care benefits, you may be able to get some or all of your routine vision care through VA. Go to [VA.gov/](https://www.VA.gov/)

[health-care/about-va-health-benefits/vision-care](https://www.health-care/about-va-health-benefits/vision-care) to learn more.

Find cheaper shopping options: Many retailers provide discounts – between 10 and 50 percent – on eye exams and eyeglasses if you belong to a membership group like AARP or AAA.

You can also save by shopping at discount retailers like Costco Optical, Sam's Club Optical or Target Optical, which are all recommended by Consumer Reports. Or consider buying your glasses online at retailers like [ZenniOptical.com](https://www.ZenniOptical.com), [EyeBuy-Direct.com](https://www.EyeBuy-Direct.com) or [GlassesUSA.com](https://www.GlassesUSA.com) which offer big savings.

To purchase glasses online, you'll need a valid prescription from an eye doctor (no more than a year old), plus your pupillary distance number, which is the distance, measured in millimeters, between the centers of your pupils in each eye.

Look for assistance: There are also health centers and local clinics that provide free or discounted vision exams and eyeglasses to those in need. To find them put a call into your local Lions Club (see [Directory.LionsClubs.org](https://www.Directory.LionsClubs.org)) for referrals.

Send your questions or comments to questions@savvysenior.org, or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.

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Seniors in Need of Transportation Foundation (SNTF) has a nice selection of pre-owned golf carts available to Sun City residents at wholesale prices with a limited warranty. The Foundation also purchases automobiles at a very fair price for our residents in our Sun City Community!



SNTF Executive Director Carol H purchasing a vehicle from Karen O that was her late husband's pride and joy!

We can help.

Do you need a golf cart for transportation to get to Smith's through the back gate, CVS, Walgreens, the banks and restaurants?

Want to volunteer?

Volunteering offers health benefits: Improves physical and mental health. Provides a sense of purpose and teaches valuable skills. Nurtures new and existing relationships.

Seniors in Need of Transportation Foundation (SNTF)

Not-for-profit organization, 501(c)(3)

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JJ interviewing Doc on the Morning Blend Show.



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*"I volunteer two days a week, four hours each day, meet new people who see the glass half full, fun and exciting."
 – Gary*

*"Just moved to SCS, shopped for new golf carts—which were more expensive than my first house. SNTF had a nice golf cart for the right price."
 – Bob and Debbie*

*"Have nothing but good things to say about SNTF. I called their number and a live person answered the phone. Had a very warm and meaningful conversation."
 – Kathleen*

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