

# SCS LIFE



## Water Battle

SCS gears up for fight over water rates.

See page 4

Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly

SCSLife.net | July 2025

## Neon Diary

Yukon Jack bringing it in Sun City.

See page 7

## Look Back

35 YEARS AGO:  
New Sun City Summerlin development reverses Del Webb losses.

See page 10

## Sales Sink

SCS home sales down again in June as slump continues.

See page 22

## DIANNE'S WINNING DEAL



Away from the poker table, Dianne Blazer comes up a winner in Sun City. See page 8

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# Some letters are better than others

The envelope came without a return address, and without a stamp. Not the usual way to get mail, but then again it was taped onto the side of the mailbox.

My wife got the mail that day so she opened it before I got home to warn her about checking for white powder inside.

I've been a journalist all my life, so anonymous letters and phone calls are nothing new. Most are innocuous but some go too far.

One that stands out was early in my career when I was writing a political column for the Review-Journal and heading out the next day on a campaign swing across rural Nevada with Sen. Paul Laxalt, who was running for re-election against a state legislator named Mary Gojack. I can't even remember



**TIM DAHLBERG**  
SCS LIFE  
COMMENTARY

what I wrote in my column in the Sunday paper that day about Gojack but it was enough to get a late night phone call from a voice I didn't recognize threatening to cause harm to both me and my family if I dared do it again.

I was pretty shaken up, but there wasn't a lot I could do. In the days before caller ID the call could have come from anyone, anywhere. I rationalized that it was just someone who had been drinking heavily and would forget about it in the morning.

I did tell my wife to change our phone number to unlisted for the

next phone book, and went off on my trip. But it was a nervous time, especially for my wife, who stayed home with our 18-month-old son, and it taught me a lesson about just how public I wanted my life to be.

Later, when my career transitioned to sports writing, the threats were mostly limited to name calling and I got plenty of that. A column about a controversial subject might bring dozens, even hundreds, of emails, with each, it seems, trying harder than the previous one to think of a name worse than the other.

That all stopped when I stopped writing for a national audience and retired to Sun City, where I founded SCS LIFE, mostly so I could still write a column with my picture at top. And since we just report the news impartially like any good jour-

nalist would, I couldn't imagine anything to make anyone mad enough to leave an unmarked letter taped to my mailbox.

But this is Sun City and not all of us do email well. It's not hard to find out where I live, so a letter taped to the mailbox might be the writer's best way to communicate.

Anyway, whoever typed the three sentences didn't appear upset at me but at the Sun City Patrol for planning a group picture when snowbirds are on vacation and on a 100-degree day when the uniforms are hot and not everyone has one. It was signed "qqqqpppp."

Now, as much as I like and appreciate the Patrol, we don't take group pictures. That's best left to the Link, and it may have been the writer

> See DAHLBERG, Page 5



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# Water bills could skyrocket by 2030 in SCS

By Tim Dahlberg  
SCS LIFE

Sun City is exploring ways to avoid massive water price increases that threaten to more than double the community's water bill in the next five years.

At stake could be more than \$1 million more a year in extra water bills for Sun City Summerlin beginning in the year 2030.

"This is a huge increase and will represent approximately \$20 per month per homeowner if we don't successfully petition LVVWD," board President Jeff Rorick said. "This is clearly a fight worth having."

The board of directors voted last month to look at alternatives to the rate increases and to find out what happened to promised recycled water that would keep community costs down. Sun City hopes to be joined in the effort by other golf course operators, though they have somewhat different issues because their water bills are not paid by homeowners.



SCS LIFE

**Sun City golf courses need water, and lots of it. Despite conservation efforts, the water bill for SCS will soon rise sharply because the community is no longer supplied reclaimed water.**

Water authorities implemented a plan proposed by area golf courses this year to phase in increases in potable water fees over the next five years, after which Sun City would be paying full rates to water golf courses and greenbelts. It comes after Sun City had been paying the rate for reclaimed water that was provided by the Durango Non Potable Water Treatment Plant.

The plant closed for repairs in 2019, however, and water officials now say it will not be reopened. And while Sun City's three golf courses – as well as other courses in the area – had continued to pay the non-po-

table fee, the golf courses and water district agreed earlier this year on a five-year plan to bring the courses up to the potable water rate.

Rorick said that will cost Sun City \$2.3 million over the next five years, including \$1.2 million in 2030. After that, there could be future rate increases that would send the water cost even higher.

The water charges are separate from water fees paid by individual households.

Currently, SCSCAI pays \$2.33 per 1,000 gallons of water used on the golf courses and greenbelts. That would rise to a total of \$5.22 per 1,000

gallons when all fees are added in by 2030.

Board members voted to hire 41 Plus, a consulting company that has already analyzed the community's water usage and bills, at a cost of up to \$20,000 to provide backup data and arguments against the large rate increase. They also voted to explore hiring an attorney with expertise in water issues to petition the water district to either allow the community to keep the non-potable water rate or have a lower increase in bills.

Executive Director Mitzi Mills said Sun City should be treated differently than other golf courses because its residents will be funding the increased bills.

"If we can do this and we can get it done and we can find something reasonable our homeowners benefit extremely because that water bill is paid by our homeowners for the golf courses," she said. "The biggest benefactors of this, if we can get this to go, is our individual homeowners and their individual HOA dues."

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.

There was a plan floated last year to increase green fees for outside players \$5 a round to help pay for water, though that has yet to be implemented.

In the last fiscal year, Sun City Summerlin spent about \$1.4 million on water for the three golf courses and eight greenbelts. About 110,000 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 \$13 per round if the increase was funded completely by golfers, which it will likely not be.

**SCS LIFE**

Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly

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# Dahlberg

continued from Page 3

didn't realize he was writing to the wrong publication.

In any case, my wife and I ended up getting a bit of a chuckle out of it all. And for those of you who don't do email and want to write, please put a stamp on the envelope so the postman can deliver it inside the mailbox.

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I never like it when another media contemporary of my time turns in his laptop. So when Kevin Iole wrote about leaving the business it made me think of some of the good times we shared together.

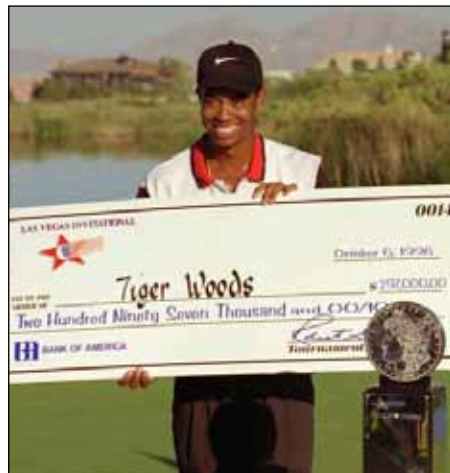
Iole, who worked for the Review-Journal and later Yahoo Sports before starting his own website, told a few stories in his final column, including one with me that included golfers Fred Funk and Tiger Woods as we were covering Tiger's first professional win.

Funk was the second round leader but he didn't appreciate that the coverage in the morning paper that day was almost all about the phenom Woods. He let Kevin know how he felt in the post-round interview, while it was all I could do to keep from falling on the floor with laughter..

Woods, of course, would go on to become arguably the greatest golfer ever. Funk? Not so much.

And then there was the one involving heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, who was training in a tiny gym near downtown for a 2003 fight with Clifford Etienne in Memphis.

The short story of Tyson is this: Kevin and I were invited to watch Tyson train and talk with him afterward. It was just the two of us along with trainer Freddie Roach and a very nice looking woman with a camera who was pleasant enough and seemed somewhat familiar. When Tyson got done working out, we all ended up in a small shower room to talk to Tyson, who was now



AP file photo

**The first win in the career of Tiger Woods came at the Las Vegas Invitational in 1996.**

half naked.

"Hi Mike, I'm Meg," the woman said to him.

"I know who you are," Tyson replied. "Why are you taking pictures?"

It suddenly dawned on me that she was Meg Ryan, who told Tyson she was in the upcoming boxing movie "Against the Ropes" and got interested in photography on the set.

"Besides," she said, "Sometimes I take good pictures."

Tyson nodded, a bemused smile on his face. Luckily it all happened in the day before social media. Otherwise we'd have been taking a video of Tyson in little more than a towel and trying to make it go viral!

---

I wrote in the last issue about Radio Row and how there are so many radio and media types retired in Sun City. I knew I missed some, so I was glad to get a few emails introducing me to even more.

Steve Weed was a disc jockey in New York City and Los Angeles who later went on to management roles and as a senior vice president with iHeart radio as part of a radio career that spanned nearly a half century. He retired in 2020 and moved to Sun City, where he says he's happy not listening to the radio at all.

And Tony Lovitt, who we featured in a story last year, actually began as a sports stringer for my former employer, The Associated Press, in Denver, and knew many of the people I worked with and for over the length of my career. Tony is still active in media as the public address announcer for the Vegas Thrill women's pro volleyball team and in May celebrated the 50th anniversary of his first volleyball play-by-play radio broadcast from the San Diego Sports Arena.

He's also got a golf buddy who was a DJ in California with some funny stories I can't wait to hear, including one when he got a late-night call on air from someone claiming to be a prison guard keeping his eye on Charlie Manson.

---

Finally, take a look at the picture page we're running inside this month from the annual Fourth of July golf cart parade in Sun City.

There were dozens of golf carts colorfully decorated for the holiday and plenty of people joyfully waving American flags in celebration.

It was the best Fourth of July parade I've seen since moving here, and even better for me because the photographer for our spread was none other than my 13-year-old granddaughter, Aubree.

Aubree just might have a future in the business. She was part of the publications class that put together the yearbook for Rogich Middle School this year and not only took the parade pictures for SCS LIFE but helped her dad, our editor, lay out the pages. Her byline in this month's issue is her first, and hopefully there will be more.

She's also the sweetest girl you'll ever meet, though as her grandfather I might just be a little prejudiced about that.

Tim Dahlberg is the publisher of SCS LIFE. Write to him at [timd@scslife.net](mailto:timd@scslife.net)

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## COMMENTARY

# Stations or Suncoast?

**F**irst, because we here at Sun City Life are professional journalists with big dog ethics and such, it must be said that neither the Suncoast nor Santa Fe Station resorts are advertisers of this publication. They should be, dammit, but they aren't.

So, I am free today to write about them without further disclaimers.

My question is, which casino do you prefer?

Allow me to elaborate.

Both have slots galore. I feel lucky at both.

I'm not a bowler, so I wouldn't know what distinguishes the two.

Both theaters are fine. Good seats and all the first-run movies.

Up until this year, Santa Fe had the edge on sports books. But Sun Coast has upped the ante. So, I wouldn't automatically favor Santa Fe until I've had time to spend in the Suncoast. But the Coast has put itself in the conversation.

When it comes to restaurants, I've eaten at the fancy steak houses at both and judge them to be fine. I'm not going to pick fly sh\*t out of pepper to tip the balance one way or the other. There are subtle differences in other restaurant offerings, but both have 24-7 cafes, Mexican food establishments, oyster bars, etc.

I will say that Santa Fe has a Fat Burger, so if that rings your bell, it could be a difference maker. However, the first one to get an In 'N Out Burger trumps the other, in my humble opinion.

So, dear readers, which of these



**SHERMAN R. FREDERICK**  
COMMENTARY

two local casinos do you like better? Or, is there another one close by that you prefer?

Let us know, so we can go to the owners — the Ferttita at Stations and the Boyd's at Suncoast — and make

a case for them to regularly advertise in Summerlin Sun City Life. You know, run some specials for our readers and good stuff like that.

I said at the top of this piece that we have ethics here. And I'll say it again: Yes, we have ethics. However, please don't mistake that for being above making a shameless sales pitch to establishments that would benefit well from the best newspaper in Las Vegas.

### NO TAX ON TIPS

I can't let this month's column go by without acknowledging the new law that makes tips tax-free. Beginning July 4, tip earners will pay no taxes on the first \$150,000 they earn.

For anyone on the lower end of the pay scale, this is a game-changer. Nevadans who need it most will now have more money in their pockets this year to buy food, pay the rent, etc.

And that is a big, big deal. Tip generously, my friends. It's a good thing to do now more than ever.

(You can read more of Sherman Frederick's writing at [shermanfrederick.substack.com](http://shermanfrederick.substack.com).)

## SCSCAI EXTENDS LEASE FOR CELL TOWERS

A five-year lease extension for the T-Mobile cell phone antennas atop the Pinnacle Community Center complex will add a few more dollars to SCSCAI coffers.

Under the extension approved by the Board of Directors, payment to SCSCAI will go up 15 percent for the duration of the lease. The extension will raise the monthly rent from \$2,798 to \$3,219.

## NEON DIARY

# Yukon Jack hit paydirt using show business as job insurance

**A**t a strapping 6-foot-3, you can imagine SCS entertainer Yukon Jack Lohman on the lawless frontier. And in a way, he was — as the Pahrump-based Nye County planning director.

In the community 60 miles west of Las Vegas, carrying a weapon is about as common as carrying a wallet. When Lohman helped implement the town's first-ever zoning code, the response was swift and angry — so much so that authorities assigned him police protection.

That tense chapter marked the final stop in a lengthy urban planning career that spanned Colorado and both ends of California. These days, Lohman and his artist wife Linda enjoy the peace and quiet of Sun City Summerlin — except when he is on stage.

A Cincinnati native, Lohman has become a fixture on the SCS entertainment scene. He performed in June at the Music in the Park outdoor concert series and is scheduled to take the stage again at 6 p.m. on July 17 and Aug. 21 at the Tavern at the Falls.

"Here, the people are nice; no hecklers," he said, describing his shows as "not a concert — more of a party." His 200-song repertoire spans the golden era of pop rock singers, with touches of bluegrass and country depending on the crowd.

Entertainment, he said, has always played a role in his life — a



**DOUG PUPPEL**  
NEON DIARY

form of "good insurance between jobs" in the often-political world of planning. Over the years, that meant musical gigs, occasional film extra work, and an eight-year stint as emcee of the Dolphin Discovery Show at SeaWorld San Diego — which Lohman proudly recalls as "the most popular show" in the park, drawing crowds of 3,000-plus.

While in Pahrump, Lohman supported other performers as well, co-founding the Acoustic Grass Music Festival, named after his album of original music.

"Jack was fun to work with," said former Nye County Commissioner Dan Schinhofen, a fellow musician. "I'm not a big bluegrass fan, but it's Americana — and it gave my sister a reason to visit."

He also praised Lohman's day-job performance: "As planning director, I can say — in my opinion — we haven't had anyone since who was as well-educated on the issues."

As for the "Yukon" nickname? Lohman confirms his first name is indeed Jack but declines to go into detail about the rest. Spoiler alert: It has more to do with a bar in Sacramento than with any rugged Canadian territory northeast of Alaska.

Doug Puppel is a writer and model and longtime Las Vegasan.



Photo by Doug Puppel

Musician Yukon Jack Lohman used his urban planning skills to design a back yard that includes an elevated performing stage, walls that double as benches at parties, and a manicured view of a Highland Falls Golf Course water hazard that he says "looks like a river."



**We're looking to profile SCS residents**

We love people, especially Sun City Summerlin people! We're looking to profile SCS residents so their neighbors can read about them in upcoming issues. Were you in an interesting career or involved in a second career? Did something happen in your life that you'd like to share? Do you know someone who has a story to tell?

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# SCS resident went all in on new career as Las Vegas poker dealer

By W.G. Ramirez  
SCS LIFE

Dianne Blazer envisioned retirement on the Gulf of Mexico, living on a sailboat and enjoying her days on the water.

First though, she moved to Las Vegas, trading her hair shears for a deck of cards and the opportunity to be closer to her three children.

Her son Joshua and daughters Jennifer and Miranda were all involved with high-stakes poker, so she figured what better way to bond than learning how to deal the most popular card game in the world.

And when “the sailboat thing didn’t work out,” as she puts it, she found herself in an RV traveling across the United States, sitting in front of millions of dollars as a poker dealer.

And while the 67-year-old Sun City resident hasn’t dealt poker in five years, her memories run deep with some of the game’s biggest names entrenched in stories from her days on the World Series of Poker (WSOP) circuit.

“I liked the poker environment,” Blazer said. “I was never a good player ... (but this) didn’t cost me any money. I enjoyed dealing because I got paid good money and still got to enjoy the camaraderie of poker players.”

The WSOP, which wrapped up this week at the Horseshoe and Paris Hotel



SCS photo by Jeff Scheid

**Dianne Blazer moved to Las Vegas at 49 after a divorce and a career in hair. She went on to learn how to deal poker before dealing to the biggest stars in the sport in the World Series of Poker.**

& Casino, has become an annual community of regulars, pros, and enthusiasts.

For Blazer, it was more than the limelight and ESPN cameras. It was seeing every walk of life leave their agendas at the door to sit at a table with one common goal:

“They wanted each other’s money,” she said.

“Poker is such a unique event,” Blazer added. “It is a place where you can sit 10 people - knee-to-knee, shoulder-to-shoulder - and they don’t care who you are, or where you came from. If you put them in a different

environment, they might be able to look at you and start judging you ... and your background.

“But at a poker table, everybody sits down and everybody’s equal. I enjoyed that.”

## STRAIGHT FLUSH

At 49, and divorced, Blazer was done with Bobs and perms, Updos, Pixie cuts, messy buns and highlights.

So, she called her daughter, Miranda, and told her she needed a place to stay in Las Vegas and a tutorial in poker.

But before she found her mother a room, Miranda told her father, “Mom’s moving back to Vegas.”

To which Blazer’s ex-husband, Harry, replied: “Get me a date.”

“So, our kids put us back together,” Blazer said with a chuckle.

This was during a time when a little juice could get you an audition. Her eldest daughter, Jennifer, taught her how to deal and after passing an audition in Pendleton, Oregon, she dealt her first tournament in “a little tiny casino in the middle

of nowhere” that drew 500 players.

Blazer’s eyes were wide open to her newest endeavor.

Eventually, Miranda lined her up with a traveling company that toured the United States, dealing WSOP events that qualify players for the main million-dollar event. She traveled via RV, hitting places like California, Florida, Iowa, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Virginia.

It wasn’t too long after that she was remarried to her ex and living in Sun City with increased skill and knowledge as a poker dealer.

## FROM CASH TO MILLIONS

It wasn’t all sunshine and roses for Blazer, who started dealing in “the snake pit,” high-stakes games with piles of cash in the middle of the table, a scene that triggered anxiety.

“I was staying with some people that could hardly afford milk for their child, and I’m sitting at this table with people who have stacks of \$100 bills; they’re just throwing them in the pot like they were nothing, and I took that personal,” she said. “I knew that \$100 bill would make such a difference in (my friend’s) world.”

She went to her boss and requested a change, and went from stacks of cash to towers of chips.

> See **BLAZER**, Page 9

# Blazer

continued from Page 8

Blazer said she can't put a number on the biggest pot she's pushed, but recalled a table at the Aria Hotel on the Strip with a group of unfamiliar high rollers playing with \$25,000 chips.

"And I'm just shaking because that's a lot of money," she said. "But it's just chips. It was a little over a million dollars, the biggest pot I ever pushed."

The difference for her was that those were single-amount buy-ins, and she knew the monetary value of the chips equated to points, not cash.

"It was just their point system," she said. "I got used to that."

As her experience grew, so did the list of talent she'd sit with at various events.

Poker stars such as Chris "Jesus" Ferguson, Daniel Negreanu, Phil Ivey, Allen "Chainsaw" Kessler, Monkey Man, Doyle Brunson and Phil Hellmuth. There were celebrities like Jennifer Tilly and Brad Garrett.

Ivey, she said, is the gentleman of gentlemen. The other Phil, though, an aggressive Hellmuth, had her in tears the first time she dealt him cards.

"You tell yourself you can put up with anything for 30 minutes; well, that was the longest 30 minutes in my life," Blazer said. "I'm sitting in the break room crying because this man made me feel so inept. I just couldn't believe that I let someone make me feel like that."

"My daughter came to me and said, 'That was Phil Hellmuth.' I said, 'I don't care who that was. I just can't believe that he treated me like that.'"

Turns out, Hellmuth doesn't mean to pick on dealers; his ploy is to get other players riled up and use the dealers as the vehicle.

"That's just part of his game," Blazer added. "I'm told that off the table, he's a very, very nice man."

Unfortunately, her run as a poker

**As her experience grew, so did the list of talent she'd sit with at various events. Poker stars such as Chris "Jesus" Ferguson, Daniel Negreanu, Phil Ivey, Allen "Chainsaw" Kessler, Monkey Man, Doyle Brunson and Phil Hellmuth. There were celebrities like Jennifer Tilly and Brad Garrett.**

dealer was brought to an abrupt halt when COVID struck.

During the pandemic, she had taken up hobbies like staining glass that she has displayed in her kitchen, or playing Mahjong. And when things began opening up, she learned pickleball. But after playing seven days a week and up to four hours a day, Blazer ended up injuring her foot and having surgery.

When poker rooms reopened, it wasn't an option.

"I was pretty scared," she said. "My husband is 11 years older than I am, and he's a little compromised in his immune system. So, I did not want to bring anything home. And I was 62 at that time. I was eligible to retire, so I just retired."

Instead, she took one golf lesson and returned to the sport of her youth. Her father was a scratch golfer and Blazer spent her summer days on a junior golf circuit.

"I should have taken it seriously, because the girl that I golfed with ended up on the pro circuit," Blazer said of former LPGA golfer Robin Walton, who was from nearby Clarkston, Washington.

Still not a fan of gambling, Blazer did say she'll throw three dollars in a pot with her lady friends before a round of 18. She's an avid golfer, playing 5-6 times a week on Sun City's three golf courses.

Blazer's days of dealing high-stakes poker may be over, but her memories remain rich.

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Ladies Bible Study 10 a.m.

## Sun City Community Church

A congregation of people from a diversity of backgrounds and professions, coming together to exercise ministry as a church family. Our church is a living, growing organization with its members constantly changing.

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## LOOK BACK

# 35 Years Ago: Strong sales in Sun City Summerlin turn a profit for Del Webb Corporation

## 35 YEARS AGO

• The Del Webb Corp. is crediting Sun City Summerlin for helping it become profitable, a year after losing more than \$12 million. The company reported its annual earnings, saying “remarkably strong sales” in its first Las Vegas community, were responsible for turning the deficit into a \$14.7 million profit. Del Webb, which began delivering SCS homes in March 1989, sold 310 homes in the community in the most recent quarter.

• A 2-bedroom, 2-bath home was listed for rent at \$950 a month.

## 30 YEARS AGO

• Del Webb officials say they have built tunnels linking Sun City with

its newest selection of homes so that golfers won't have to try and cross Lake Mead Boulevard in their carts. They said safety was the prime concern with the development of the Eagle Crest Golf Course, which is across Lake Mead from the original Sun City development. Another tunnel was built under Thomas Ryan Boulevard linking holes on the golf course. The course is 75 percent planted and scheduled to open in November.

• Del Webb Corp. announced plans for a new 55-plus community that will be built in Henderson. The McDonald Ranch community comes after the spectacular success of the Sun City Summerlin community in northwest Las Vegas. Del Webb of-

ficials say they don't expect the new community to hurt home sales in SCS, but that it is the first time they will be selling new homes in two communities in the same area.

• An 1,195 square foot home was listed for sale for \$134,500.

## 25 YEARS AGO

• A Sun City resident became one of the youngest to shoot his age when he fired a 7-under 65 at Highland Falls during Sun City's weekly men's club play. Wayne Lathrop, who said he played to a 9 handicap, made eight birdies against a single bogey in carding his first age mark. Lathrop, who needed only 21 putts, chipped in four times in his round. The 65 was a new record in men's club play in Sun City, and beat Lathrop's previous best score by five shots.

• A loose-knit group of Sun City Summerlin residents is campaigning in favor of a planned interchange at Lake Mead Boulevard and the 215 interstate. The group says concerns by other residents about increased traffic on Lake Mead are mostly unfounded and that the proposed interchange will actually divert traffic away from some surface streets. They say they're surprised more Sun City residents haven't come out in favor of the interchange, which is several years away regardless.

• The summer heat means bargains on the golf course. In Sun City, players are being offered rounds of golf for \$36 and as low as \$30 after 2 p.m.

• A 2,176-square-foot home on the 12th fairway at Highland Falls was listed for sale at \$374,500.

## 15 YEARS AGO

• Concerned Sun City Summerlin residents have established a Community Preparedness Committee to aid the community in case of a natu-

ral disaster or other calamity. The committee meets regularly to update and constantly refine an action plan that it developed to cope with any potential emergency. Moreover, it offers information seminars and arranges classes for residents to learn how to deal with any major disaster. Classes are conducted in cooperation with a nationwide program called Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT. The first such class was held in Sun City Summerlin almost three years ago and was modeled after a similar program begun several years earlier in Sun City Anthem.

• A 2,476 square foot home on the golf course was listed for sale for \$379,000

## 10 YEARS AGO

• The Fourth of July holiday was a time to remember some of the major roles Sun City residents past and present paid in armed conflicts. One of them was Richard Jeppson, who died in 2010 at the age of 87. Jeppson was the weapons test officer aboard the Enola Gay, the B-29 super bomber that dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. His job was to remove the electronic testing plugs from the bomb and replace them with firing plugs before it was dropped.

• The Board of Directors approved going to bid on a plan to thin out Sun City's vegetation. As part of the Strategic Landscape Plan approved two years earlier, the plantings in common areas will be thinned out to make the areas look better and to save water.

## 5 YEARS AGO

• Homeowners agreed to a plan to meet with executive director Mitzi Mills to try and resolve the tree issue on Hallston Ave. Residents liv-

> See HISTORY, Page 11

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# History

continued from Page 10

ing on Sierra Heights who back up to the duplexes on Hallston Ave. are trying to get the sub association to trim backyard trees so that their views of the Las Vegas Strip will not be blocked.

Sun City residents will soon be saying Pepsi Please. The Board of Directors approved a three-year contract to serve Pepsi in the restaurants at Tavern at the Falls and the Summit.

## 3 YEARS AGO

A crime report presented to the Board of Directors showed Sun City had 34 burglaries during the first six months of the year. Of the burglaries, nearly half were linked to a white BMW being in the area at the same time.

The idea of a dog park in Sun City is dead, at least for now. The Board of

Directors voted to close the conceptual idea for a dog park after nowhere could be found to put one that did not impact nearby residents.

## 1 YEAR AGO

Ballots will be going out shortly for residents to vote on whether to up the tax on resale homes to \$5,000. The vote will come after a number of different presentations to residents to explain the increase from around \$2,000 a home. Board President Jeff Rorick said the increase is expected to bring in \$1.5 million a year in new revenue that will be used to help fund the community's reserves, which are currently lacking.

Sun City is getting a good deal on the grass seed needed for the September overseeding of the three golf courses. A contract was approved for 100,000 pounds of rye seed at \$1.53 a pound for a total of \$153,000. That was below the \$190,000 budgeted for the seed based on the previous year's purchase.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## DEAR EDITOR,

I thought it was just me who felt sad and uncomfortable as a resident of Sun City Summerlin, and the unceremonious if not covert manner our Sun City “powers that be” dismissed Mr Berthelsen...Without ANY reasonable cause TO him, knowing full well the extent of his contributions to the community. Apparently, he did nothing criminal or he would be in jail, right?

I am heartened that I can't be alone in the confusion and UNreasonable-ness of these actions, as I did read both Mr. Mazanka and Mr. Quinn's responses in your June issue today. I could not agree more with their respective stances.

It is unfair to summarily perform such an act without giving Mr. Berthelsen any grace or dignity of WHY he was dismissed, so that he's still “scratching his head” trying to figure out what he did WRONG. I know the HOA is run like a “corporate business” but am aghast at their level of insensitivity towards someone who's always supported them and the community.

Perhaps you can continue to help here by “airing” what really should have been forthrightly told TO Mr. Berthelsen by these same “leaders” (-who I am now? -Casting a less than desirable eye upon and having my own doubts about their “type” of

“leadership”)

-Surely they owe Mr. Berthelsen just that.

**SINCERELY,  
PEGGIE DAVIS**

## DEAR EDITOR,

I enjoy reading about SCS Life as much as I enjoy SCS living. Been here now three years, love the life and the community. John Wood, your humor columnist, has become a great pal. I wanted to check in as another in the ranks of Sun City's radio row denizens.

I spent my entire adult life in radio — if you can call folks in radio adults — finally retiring in 2020. I was a disk jockey in NYC and LA, and surprisingly still get occasional fan mail via social media nearly 50 years later. Moving to the dark side, I had management roles with all the majors; working in Detroit, St. Louis, Seattle, Sacramento, New York, with the final 10 years as a Senior VP with iHeart. Yet from the day I hung up the headphones and stepped away, I haven't spent a moment listening to the radio. Guess after a lifetime with the radio on 24/7, the silence was nice.

Who knows ... maybe at some point there'll be enough of us old radio dogs to start an 'official' Sun city club and we can swap war stories!

Cheers,  
**STEVE WEED**

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SCS LIFE

## SCS PR CAMPAIGN

Sun City is turning to a public relations firm to try and craft a more positive image for the community for would-be homebuyers.

The Board of Directors in June approved a one-year contract for about \$40,000 with the Quillin public relations firm to help boost Sun City's image as a vibrant 55-plus community.

A contract calls for Quillin to be paid \$2,500 a month plus an additional \$3,500 to create a 12-month marketing plan. Sun City will also pay \$1,500 a segment for a possible four segments promoting the community to be aired on local morning television shows.

The public relations push comes at a time when home sales have slowed in Sun City.

“This is really a motion to protect something that's very near and dear to all of our hearts called property values,” board President Jeff Rorick said.

Board member Dick Clark said he believes people who live in Las Vegas don't even know about the many amenities and programs that Sun City has that would be attractive to potential residents.

“I'd like to see us do more of that, promote ourselves,” Clark said. “We're good. Let's let everybody else know about it.”

The marketing plan hadn't been discussed publicly previously, and most residents only found out about it when a one-page contract proposal was posted for the board's June 27 meeting.

Executive Director Mitzi Mills said the idea was discussed at a board workshop and Quillin was picked as the company to use after several board members researched several different companies. Quillin, she said, was interviewed in a board workshop and board members felt it was the right company to use.

## GARAGE SALES

Sun City will hold its semi-annual community garage sale Oct. 17-18, one of only two times a year that garage sales are allowed in the community.

Once again, there will be no outside advertising for the sales, a change made last year after some residents voiced concern that criminals were using the sales to have better access to the community.

Board member Steve Douglass said that as a member of the Patrol he understands those concerns. But he said it might be limiting the ability of residents to sell their stuff.

“It just seems like maybe we're just moving stuff from one garage to the next within the community,” he said.

The only advertising for the garage sales will be in the LInk, the official SCSCAI monthly magazine and on single signs on the outskirts of Sun City.

## GOLF ROUNDS

Demand remained strong for Sun City's three golf courses in the fiscal year ending June 30, with the number of rounds up slightly from the year before

There were 113,831 rounds played, up from 112,532 a year ago and 111,104 the year before that.

## PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

The Pickleball Club is expecting about 125 players in a December tournament to raise funds for Toys for Tots.

The tournament, approved by the Board of Directors, will take place at the Desert Vista complex and be held Dec. 6-7.

In asking for approval for outside players, the club noted the charitable aspect of the tournament. They said that if the final two tennis courts aren't converted to pickleball as planned by then, they will mark them off with temporary tape so a dozen courts will be in play.



## We Love to Hear From Our Readers

SCS LIFE welcomes reader input. You can submit a letter by emailing them to Eric Dahlberg (edahlbergmcin@gmail.com). Letters should include your name and be about 200 words.



Write to us at [news@scslife.net](mailto:news@scslife.net)  
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Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly



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# INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY HELPS FIND LEAKS IN MORE THAN 7,000 MILES OF PIPELINE

Finding and fixing hidden water leaks around your home can be challenging. Now, imagine trying to pinpoint the location of a leak in miles of buried pipeline.

The Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD) employs **innovative technologies** like acoustic listening devices and a Compact Pipe Ranger (CPR) to **detect leaks in more than 7,000 miles of pipeline** in its service area.

The **robotic CPR can pinpoint leaks** in water-filled pipes from 8 to 72 inches in diameter which are too small or unsafe for human entry. Steered by remote control, the pipe crawler's **360° panoramic camera** provides high-definition images that geo-locate problem spots like leaks or failing pipe joints.

The pipe crawler transmits the images to LVVWD engineers, who **quickly and efficiently assess** the pipeline's condition from the safety of a mobile control booth.



The CPR unit allows crews to inspect underground pipes without fully draining them, which conserves water, reduces water service downtime and **improves operational efficiency**.

LVVWD engineers leveraged the pipe crawler technology to pinpoint a leak in a 20-inch diameter pipe running under U.S. 95 (Interstate 11). By identifying the exact location, size and severity of the leak, crews were able to **plan and initiate** repairs without closing any traffic lanes on the freeway.

The water utility's asset management team inserted 1,000 feet of liner into the leaking pipeline, which repaired the leak, bolstered the pipe and **extended the life of the pipeline by as much as 50 years** without having to tunnel under the highway or dig through private property.

The pipe crawler is one of the many infrastructure technologies LVVWD engineers use to **ensure water system reliability** and safe water delivery to all customers.

For more information about how you can find and repair leaks in your home, visit [lvvwd.com](http://lvvwd.com).

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*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?

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*JJ interviewing Doc on the Morning Blend Show.*



## Testimonials from our seniors and volunteers:

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

*"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*

# SUN CITY FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



SCS LIFE photos by Aubree Dahlberg  
 It was a beautiful morning on Friday, July 4 in Sun City as residents participated in the annual Independence Day Golf Cart Parade. Sun City showed its patriotic spirit by decorating not only their golf carts, but e-bikes, trikes, trucks and just about anything with wheels. The parade stretched from Pinnacle to Desert Vista Community Centers, where participants gathered for refreshments and Fourth of July fun.





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

### FRAUD

6-12	7:28 a.m.	9800 Block Kernville Drive
6-18	6:24 a.m.	3000 Block High Range Drive
6-20	7:22 a.m.	9500 Block Sundial Drive

### ASSAULT

6-26	6:46 a.m.	8500 Block Del Webb Boulevard
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### THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

6-4	7:22 a.m.	8500 Block Del Webb Boulevard
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### VANDALISM / PROPERTY DAMAGE

6-5	4:59 a.m.	2400 Block Palmridge Drive
6-17	9:00 a.m.	2800 Block Vista Butte Drive

# Many older people embrace vaccines. Research is proving them right

By Paula Span  
*KFF Health News*

Kim Beckham, an insurance agent in Victoria, Texas, had seen friends suffer so badly from shingles that she wanted to receive the first approved shingles vaccine as soon as it became available, even if she had to pay for it out-of-pocket.

Her doctor and several pharmacies turned her down because she was below the recommended age at the time, which was 60. So, in 2016, she celebrated her 60th birthday at her local CVS.

"I was there when they opened," Beckham recalled. After getting her Zostavax shot, she said, "I felt really relieved." She has since received the newer, more effective shingles vaccine, as well as a pneumonia shot, an RSV vaccine to guard against respiratory syncytial virus, annual flu shots and all recommended covid-19 vaccinations.

Some older people are really eager to be vaccinated.

Robin Wolaner, 71, a retired publisher in Sausalito, California, has been known to badger friends who delay getting recommended shots, sending them relevant medical studies. "I'm sort of hectoring," she acknowledged.

Deana Hendrickson, 66, who provides daily care for three young grandsons in Los Angeles, sought an additional MMR shot, though she was vaccinated against measles, mumps, and rubella as a child, in case her immunity to measles had waned.

For older adults who express more confidence in vaccine safety than younger groups, the past few months have brought welcome research. Studies have found important benefits from a newer vaccine and enhanced versions of older ones, and one vaccine may confer a major

bonus that nobody foresaw.

The new studies are coming at a fraught political moment. The nation's health secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has long disparaged certain vaccines, calling them unsafe and saying that the government officials who regulate them are compromised and corrupt.

On June 9, Kennedy fired a panel of scientific advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and later replaced them with some who have been skeptical of vaccines. But so far, Kennedy has not tried to curb access to the shots for older Americans.

The evidence that vaccines are beneficial remains overwhelming.

The phrase "Vaccines are not just for kids anymore" has become a favorite for William Schaffner, an infectious diseases specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

"The population over 65, which often suffers the worst impact of respiratory viruses and others, now has the benefit of vaccines that can prevent much of that serious illness," he said.

Take influenza, which annually sends from 140,000 to 710,000 people to hospitals, most of them seniors, and is fatal to 10% of hospitalized older adults.

For about 15 years, the CDC has approved several enhanced flu vaccines for people 65 and older. More effective than the standard formulation, they either contain higher levels of the antigen that builds protection against the virus or incorporate an adjuvant that creates a stronger immune response. Or they're recombinant vaccines, developed through a different method, with higher antigen levels.

In a meta-analysis in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, "all the enhanced vaccine products were superior to the standard dose for pre-

> See **VACCINES**, Page 21

SOURCE: LVMPD Open Data Portal

# Before the maid arrives, hide the scorpions!

**Y**ears ago, before we all got old and came to Sun City, we could do or fix just about anything around the house. Who needed maids, gardeners, plumbers, or pit bull midwives back then? We just hunkered down and did what was needed ourselves. Not so anymore. As we've aged, it's harder to do those tasks so we hire others to do them. Whew, what a relief, right? Well, based on my experiences, "relief" is not the word I would choose. For example:

**Before the Maid Arrives.** I clean the house thoroughly. I know, I know. Why clean your house just before a house cleaner arrives? Well, I do it because 1) I don't want the shock of my accumulated grime to give the maid a stroke, 2) I don't want word to get out that I have a sign requesting visitors to wipe their feet before going outside, and 3) I make sure I don't forget to move the scorpion burrow under my bed into the garage and the cockroach nest inside the guest bathroom's medicine cabinet into the attic. I forgot to do this once, the unfortunate incident went viral, and Netflix has a horror script in the works about it.

**Before the Roofer Arrives:** Ravens have a nest atop the powerline near my roof and will dive-bomb anything venturing up there, which could result in an accident and a lawsuit. So last year, I climbed up on the roof to shoo them away. The black-feathered pests swarmed me, Alfred Hitchcock style, and I fell off the roof and injured my back. Seeking revenge, I got a brilliant idea. Since I was the moron who went up there, well aware of the danger, I sued myself for damages. To my surprise, I won a big settlement, which was awarded to the victim, me. But the ravens had the last



**JOHN WOOD**  
HUMOR

word. Instead of trash-cawing me twelve hours a day like they normally do, they now use shifts so they can do it for twenty-four hours.

**Before the In-laws Arrive:** Thank goodness they visit us only twenty-seven times a year. Any more and I don't think I could cope. The problem is, they hate our house, our furniture, our cooking, our friends, our relatives, our weather, Sun City, and their respective son- or daughter-in-law. It's gotten so bad that before each visit, we hire redecorating teams and celebrity chefs to please them. Although none of those improvements have eliminated our in-laws' disdain of us, they've softened them enough that we've temporarily scrapped our plans to bury them in the desert. So, I guess that's a win-win.

**Before the Ambulance Arrives:** Okay, you've fallen in the kitchen and can't get up. While waiting, do this: roll around the floor several times so your clothes will absorb all the dust, food particles, insects, and pet discharges that you haven't gotten around to sweeping up yet. Paramedics see so many filthy kitchen and bathroom floors in their line of work that a clean one will light up their day and you'll get better and swifter service, which could save your life. Tip: If they ask why your clothes are covered with spiders and baby scorpions, just act dazed and they won't inquire further.

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

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## YOUR HEALTH

# Warning: Medicare advice from friends can be costly!

## Hi Toni:

I met with you in late 2024 for a Toni Says personalized Medicare consultation. I have a quick question regarding travel outside the United States because I'm planning a trip to Greece in a few months.

A friend recently gave me Medicare advice that now has me very confused. She told me that some Medicare Plans, such as Plan F, give foreign travel medical coverage, but others such as Plan G, which I have chosen, do not. Is that true?

Do you have any recommendations about how I can get reasonable medical coverage for my trip? Thanks, Toni.

--Lee Anne from Dallas

## Lee Anne:

Your friend is dead wrong and what she told you is not accurate.



**TONI KING**  
HEALTH

Medicare Supplement (Medigap) plans F and G (as well as C, D, M and N) cover the same limited amount of emergency foreign travel, an added perk that Medicare does not cover. This foreign travel coverage pays for emergency care if it begins during the first 60 days of your trip. It has a \$250 deductible, and thereafter the Medicare Supplement plan only pays 80%, up to a lifetime maximum benefit of \$50,000. You pay 20% and any amounts over the \$50,000 lifetime maximum.

Who knows what an air ambulance from Greece will cost? My recommendation to you, Lee Anne, is to talk with your travel or insur-

ance agent or explore online for true travelers' insurance that will take care of your medical needs in all countries all over the world. Not all travel insurance plans include medical coverage, so it's important to read the plan's conditions and restrictions.

Remember that Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans only take care of medical and prescription drug expenses in the United States. So be sure you bring enough of your prescription medication while you are overseas, or you will have to pay out-of-pocket.

Lee Anne, your Plan-F-recommending friend is apparently unaware that the plan is no longer even available for those enrolling in Medicare Part A after January 1, 2020. (Chapter 3 of my book "Medicare Survival Guide Advanced" edition discusses the rules of enrolling in Medicare Supplements.) For those who are currently enrolled in a Medicare Supplement Plan F, their Plan F will be grandfathered. Although "grandfathered" means that they may keep the plan, no one really knows what the future rate increases will be like.

Here is a surprise for your friend: Medicare Supplement Plan G has taken Medicare Plan F's place. Another plan, called Medicare Plan N, will be the lower-premium plan with

higher out-of-pocket costs.

Here are the main differences between Medicare Supplement Plan G and Plan N:

-- Plan G offers lower rates and the same Medicare benefits as Plan F except the Medicare Part B deductible is not covered and will be paid for by the enrolled Medicare beneficiary (you) out-of-pocket. The Part B deductible for 2025 is \$257.

-- Plan N, generally, has lower premiums than Plan G with higher out-of-pocket costs. There is a \$20 co-pay for a doctor's visit and \$50 co-pay for the emergency room. Part B deductible is not covered, and, in addition, Part B excess charges are not paid for by the insurance company (which Plan G covers).

Lee Anne, your friend, is giving Medicare advice while having no idea of what a Medicare Supplement covers. Unfortunately, this is not the first time that a friend has misled someone over their Medicare option, and it won't be the last.

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](mailto: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](http://www.tonisays.com).

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**SCS LIFE**

Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly

Contact Eric Dahlberg at

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[edahlbergmcin@gmail.com](mailto:edahlbergmcin@gmail.com)



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# Vaccines

continued from Page 18

venting hospitalizations,” said Rebecca Morgan, a health research methodologist at Case Western Reserve University and an author of the study.

Compared with the standard flu shot, the enhanced vaccines reduced the risk of hospitalization from the flu in older adults, by at least 11% and up to 18%. The CDC advises adults 65 and older to receive the enhanced vaccines, as many already do.

More good news: Vaccines to prevent respiratory syncytial virus in people 60 and older are performing admirably.

RSV is the most common cause of hospitalization for infants, and it also poses significant risks to older people. “Season in and season out,” Schaffner said, “it produces outbreaks of serious respiratory illness that rivals influenza.”

Because the FDA first approved an RSV vaccine in 2023, the 2023-24 season provided “the first opportunity to see it in a real-world context,” said Pauline Terebuh, an epidemiologist at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine and an author of a recent study in the journal JAMA Network Open.

In analyzing electronic health records for almost 800,000 patients, the researchers found the vaccines to be 75% effective against acute infection, meaning illness that was serious enough to send a patient to a health care provider.

The vaccines were 75% effective in preventing emergency room or urgent care visits, and 75% effective against hospitalization, both among those ages 60 to 74 and those older.

Immunocompromised patients, despite having a somewhat lower level of protection from the vaccine, will also benefit from it, Terebuh said. As for adverse effects, the study found a very low risk for Guillain-Barré syndrome, a rare condition that causes muscle weakness and that typically follows an infection, in about 11 cases per 1 million doses of vaccine. That,

she said, “shouldn’t dissuade people.”

The CDC now recommends RSV vaccination for people 75 and older, and for those 60 to 74 if they’re at higher risk of severe illness (from, say, heart disease).

As data from the 2024-25 season becomes available, researchers hope to determine whether the vaccine will remain a one-and-done, or whether immunity will require repeated vaccination.

People 65 and up express the greatest confidence in vaccine safety of any adult group, a KFF survey found in April. More than 80% said they were “very” or “somewhat confident” about MMR, shingles, pneumonia, and flu shots.

Although the covid vaccine drew lower support among all adults, more than two-thirds of older adults expressed confidence in its safety.

Even skeptics might become excited about one possible benefit of the shingles vaccine: This spring, Stanford researchers reported that over seven years, vaccination against shingles reduced the risk of dementia by 20%, a finding that made headlines.

Biases often undermine observational studies that compare vaccinated with unvaccinated groups. “People who are healthier and more health-motivated are the ones who get vaccinated,” said Pascal Geldsetzer, an epidemiologist at the Knight Initiative for Brain Resilience at Stanford and lead author of the study.

“It’s hard to know whether this is cause and effect,” he said, “or whether they’re less likely to develop dementia anyway.”

So the Stanford team took advantage of a “natural experiment” when the first shingles vaccine, Zostavax, was introduced in Wales. Health officials set a strict age cutoff: People who turned 80 on or before Sept. 1, 2013, weren’t eligible for vaccination, but those even slightly younger were eligible.

In the sample of nearly 300,000 adults whose birthdays fell close to either side of that date, almost half of the eligible group received the vaccine, but virtually nobody in the older group did.

“Just as in a randomized trial, these comparison groups should be similar in every way,” Geldsetzer explained. A substantial reduction in dementia diagnoses in the vaccine-eligible group, with a much stronger protective effect in women, therefore constitutes “more powerful and convincing evidence,” he said.

The team also found reduced rates of dementia after shingles vaccines were introduced in Australia and other countries. “We keep seeing this in one dataset after another,” Geldsetzer said.

In the United States, where a more potent vaccine, Shingrix, became available in 2017 and supplanted Zostavax, Oxford investigators found an even stronger effect.

By matching almost 104,000 older Americans who received a first dose of the new vaccine (full immunization requires two) with a group that had received the earlier formulation, they found delayed onset of dementia in the Shingrix group.

How a shingles vaccine might reduce dementia remains unexplained. Scientists have suggested that viruses themselves may contribute to dementia, so suppressing them could protect the brain. Perhaps the vaccine revs up the immune system in general or affects inflammation.

“I don’t think anybody knows,” said Paul Harrison, a psychiatrist at Oxford and a senior author of the study. But, he added, “I’m now convinced there’s something real here.”

Shingrix, now recommended for adults over 50, is 90% effective in preventing shingles and the lingering nerve pain that can result. In 2021, however, only 41% of adults 60 and older had received one dose of either shingles vaccine.

A connection to dementia will require further research, and Geldsetzer is trying to raise philanthropic funding for a clinical trial.

And “if you needed another reason to get this vaccine,” Schaffner said, “here it is.”

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## SCS REAL ESTATE

# Home sales dip by a dozen from May to June

SCS LIFE

Home sales slumped again in June in Sun City and the number of homes for sale rose despite price cuts by many sellers.

A total of 34 home sales closed in Sun City in June, down from 46 a month earlier. For the first time in many months, there were no sales above the \$1 million mark.

Homes sold in June ranged from a 1,007 square foot Charleston model townhouse at 10065 Hemet Dr for \$319,000 to \$945,000 for a 2,798 square foot Aristocrat model single family at 2257 Lauren Dr.

There were 191 homes for sale

in Sun City at the beginning of July, ranging from a Bristol model townhouse at 8657 Prairie Hill Dr with 1,062 square feet for \$317,500 to \$1,749,000 for a 2,577 square foot Wendover model single family at 2508 Faiss Dr.

According to Zillow listings, 80 of the 191 homes have had price cuts since being listed. Some of the price reductions were significant, up to \$200,000 on one so-called "flip" remodeled home.

The Sun City market reflects general trends in the greater Las Vegas market, where sales slowed in the spring and early summer, traditionally a hot time for home sales.

## JUNE HOME SALES IN SUN CITY SUMMERLIN

- 8805 Litchfield AVE 1,749 SF \$410,000
- 3009 Anna Bay DR 1,188 SF \$454,000
- 2456 Desert Sands DR 1,119 SF \$442,000
- 10801 Clarion LN 1,520 SF \$350,000
- 10065 Hemet DR 1,007 SF \$540,000
- 10057 Bundella DR 1,599 SF \$319,000
- 10646 Heritage Hills DR 1,319 SF \$420,000
- 10636 Argents Hill DR 1,533 SF \$400,000
- 9000 Sundial DR 1,636 SF \$510,000
- 2208 Spring Water DR 1,021 SF \$320,000
- 8525 Festival DR 1,653 SF \$510,000
- 9512 Quail Ridge DR 1,384 SF \$525,000
- 2829 Golf Links DR 1,804 SF \$565,000
- 8513 Glenmount DR 1,179 SF \$408,000
- 3116 Richland DR 1,384 SF \$385,000
- 9921 Woodhouse DR 1,402 SF \$444,900
- 2601 Deer Lake ST 1,533 SF \$460,000
- 3021 Isaac River DR 1,533 SF \$550,000
- 8552 Desert Holly DR 1,196 SF \$331,000
- 2013 Capestone ST 1,250 SF \$355,000
- 10401 Sea Palms AVE 1,360 SF \$415,000
- 2315 Sun Cliffs ST 1,319 SF \$325,000
- 11009 Hawk Valley AVE 1,388 SF \$437,500
- 10032 Hope Island DR 2,210 SF \$629,900
- 9369 Villa Ridge DR 1,220 SF \$482,500
- 8501 Stan Crest DR 1,105 SF \$330,000
- 10712 Back Plains DR 1,520 SF \$569,000
- 2257 Lauren DR 2,798 SF \$945,000
- 8629 Prairie Hill DR 1,196 SF \$385,000
- 9013 Litchfield AVE 1,749 SF \$437,500

Market statistics provided by Michael DelGais, Home Realty Center.

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# PUZZLES

## THEME: JULY 4TH

### ACROSS

1. Croat, e.g.
5. Reverential respect mixed with wonder
8. Island near Java
12. From where to eternity?
13. \*”Land of the \_\_\_\_\_”
14. Rowed
15. Diabolical
16. Mideast bigwig
17. Unleashes
18. \*Star-spangled banner (2 words)
20. Type of ski lift
21. \*Day before Independence Day
22. Quilting party
23. Sherlock Holmes’ confidant
26. Formal dinner
30. U.N. working-conditions agency
31. Sextet plus one
34. Cancel
35. Holey confection
37. Electric swimmer
38. Frame job
39. Comparison word
40. Type of deodorant
42. Skater’s field
43. \*Like “America the Beautiful” skies
45. Covered with a ceiling
47. Tennis do-over
48. Surfer’s stops
50. Not guilty, e.g.
52. \*Yankee Doodle’s feather
55. \*”To Freedom!”, e.g.
56. Tel \_\_\_\_\_, Israel
57. BÉBÉ’s mother
59. Pseudonym
60. \*Cup at a picnic
61. Do like exhaust pipe
62. Late George Wendt on “Cheers”
63. Give it a go
64. \*Betsy of #18 Across-related fame

### DOWN

1. “He said, \_\_\_\_\_ said”
2. Russian left
3. Pomegranate seed
4. South African grasslands
5. Knight’s protection
6. Odd and unusual
7. Like ghostly howls
8. \*July 4th culinary tradition (2 words)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ 51 in Nevada
10. Lecherous look
11. Dog tags
13. Felidae family member
14. As a rule
19. Casper, e.g.
22. Cricket club
23. Measurement
24. Hello, to Mr. Hand
25. Opposite of atonal
26. \*Philadelphia’s \_\_\_\_\_ Liberty
27. “\_\_\_\_\_ death do us part”
28. Draw out a conclusion
29. Drank too much
32. Lowly laborer
33. What lintel and mantel have

**CROSSWORD**

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## SAVVY SENIOR

# Who's eligible for Social Security disability benefits?

Dear Savvy Senior,  
What do I need to do to get disability benefits from Social Security? I'm 60 years old and have a medical condition that doesn't allow me to work at my job anymore, but I've read that getting disability benefits is very difficult.

Need Help

## Dear Need,

Getting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits (SSDI) when you're unable to work can indeed be challenging. Each year, approximately 2 million people apply for SSDI, but around two-thirds of them are denied, because most applicants fail to prove that they're disabled and can't work. Here are some steps you can take that can help improve your odds.

## ARE YOU DISABLED?

The first thing you need to find out is if your health condition qualifies you for Social Security disability benefits.

You generally will be eligible only if you have a physical or mental impairment severe enough that it prevents you from working in your current, or past line of work, for at least a year.

There is no such thing as a partial disability benefit. If you're fit enough to work part-time, and you're earning more than \$1,620 (\$2,700 if you're



JIM MILLER

blind) a month on average in 2025, your application will be denied. But, if you're not working or are working but earning below those limits, your application may be considered.

Your skills, education and work experience are factors too. Your application will be denied if your work history suggests that you could perform a less physically demanding job that your disability does not prevent you from doing.

To help you determine if you're eligible, use the SSA Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool at [SSAbest.benefits.gov](https://SSAbest.benefits.gov).

## HOW TO APPLY

If you believe you have a claim, your next step is to gather up your personal, financial and medical information so you can be prepared and organized for the application process.

You can apply either online at [SSA.gov/disability](https://SSA.gov/disability) or call 800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply at your local Social Security office, or to



set up an appointment for someone to take your claim over the phone.

The whole process lasts about an hour. If you schedule an appointment, a "Disability Starter Kit" that will help you get ready for your interview will be mailed to you. If you apply online, the kit is available at [SSA.gov/disability/disability\\_starter\\_kits.htm](https://SSA.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits.htm).

It currently takes six to eight months from the initial application to receive either an award or denial of benefits. The only exception is if you have a chronic illness that qualifies you for a "compassionate allowance" (see [SSA.gov/compassionateallowances](https://SSA.gov/compassionateallowances)), which fast tracks cases within weeks.

If Social Security denies your initial application, you can appeal the decision, and you'll be happy to know that roughly half of all cases that go through a round or two of appeals end with benefits being awarded. But the bad news is, with a huge backlog of people waiting, it can take

another eight to 10 months or longer to appeal the decision, and another 15 months to get a hearing if reconsideration is denied.

## GET HELP

You can hire a representative to help you with your Social Security disability claim. By law, representatives can charge only 25 percent of past-due benefits up to a maximum of \$9,200 if they win your case.

It's probably worth hiring someone at the start of the application process if your disability is something difficult to prove such as chronic pain. If, however, your disability is obvious, it might be worth initially working without a representative to avoid paying the fee. You can always hire a representative later if your initial application and first appeal are denied.

To find a representative, check with the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives ([nossr.org](https://nossr.org)) or National Association of Disability Representatives ([nadr.org](https://nadr.org)).

Or, if you're low-income, contact the Legal Services Corporation ([lsc.gov/find-legal-aid](https://lsc.gov/find-legal-aid)) for free assistance.

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