

Resident turns dials to produce radio station for Sun City West

MITCHELL VANTREASE

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City West may soon be on the air.

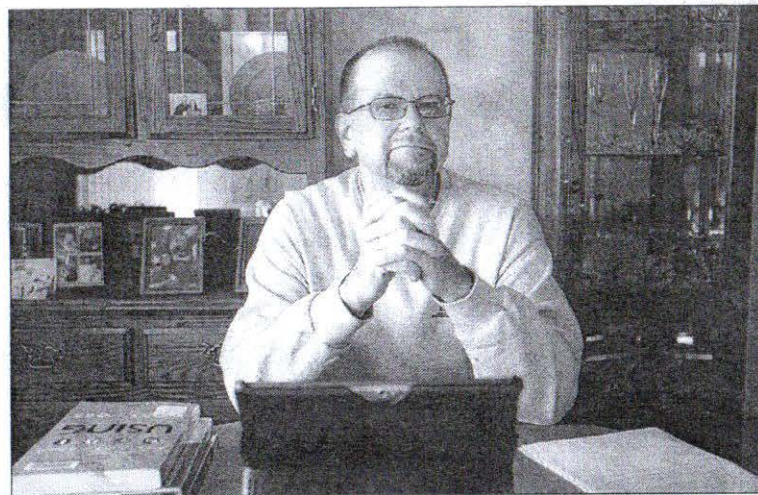
Eric Wagner is trying to generate interest for a community radio station. "I think this could be a good opportunity for everyone because the board meetings could be broadcast and many of the charter clubs could generate interest for their groups," said Wagner, 58, formerly of Buffalo, N.Y.

The Sun City West resident said he's always had an interest in radio and podcasts and believes a radio station would be beneficial.

"I truly believe that the options could be endless," he said.

Cindy Knowlton, RCSCW recreation manager, said Wagner's proposal extends the growth of clubs in Sun City West.

"Billiards has been re-invented, along with the Automotive Restoration Club and the Zymurgy Club. Many new and interesting clubs are popping up," Knowlton said. "As new and younger people come into the community, we want to really ex-



NICK COTE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Eric Wagner is charged up about producing a low-power FM radio station that would air in Sun City West.

plore more of these options."

Knowlton said the radio station must go through the same process as any other club to receive a charter.

SEE RADIO, A5

RADIO

FROM A1

Wagner will have a meeting at 1 p.m. March 5 in the Acacia Room at Palm Ridge Recreation Center, 13800 W. Deer Valley Drive, for those interested in starting the station, which would be run by club members.

Wagner, who worked

in retail management, said he doesn't have any radio station experience but has researched the project.

"I would really love it if some folks from the radio industry would step forward because they would be a very valuable asset to us," he said.

Wagner said the station would operate under Low Power FM (LPFM), a special class

of radio service that, due to its limited range and low operational costs, is well-suited to a community like Sun City West.

"An LPFM license is what the proposed club would be attempting to obtain on behalf of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West which, as a required nonprofit organization, would actually hold the license," Wagner said. "This is

a valuable service that the FCC has not taken applications for in over 10 years."

Wagner said he also hopes to fund the radio station through donations, grants, local businesses and other fundraising projects.

"Hopefully we can get this thing off the ground and really get a lot of people in our community involved in this radio station," he said.

Sun City West resident floats idea of radio information station

STAFF REPORT

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West is entertaining a proposal from a resident to establish a non-commercial radio station in the community.

The association is circulating a survey to gauge interest for such an endeavor, which was envisioned by resident Eric Wagner.

"I just think this would be another avenue of communication for the community, bringing residents together," Wagner said. "There would be opportunities for residents to express their opinions, for clubs to share their information, and for a lot of other educational opportunities."

Other possible programming ideas include streaming of Maricopa County Board of Supervisor meetings, promoting news from area nonprofit groups, sharing news and health tips from local professionals, and listing a calendar of local events. Other chartered clubs also could be featured in various segments, Wagner said.

The idea is in the preliminary stages, with the association working with Wagner to gauge interest.

Hard copies of the survey are available in the four recreation centers and seven golf course pro shops, as well as online through a link at scwaz.com.

RADIO

FROM A1

The surveys completed on the computer are submitted online; paper surveys can be left at the recreation centers and the pro shops. All surveys are due by 5 p.m. Feb. 4. Wagner also is hoping to hear from resi-

dents interested in helping him develop the proposed chartered club.

He can be contacted at ewagner@hotmail.com.

The proposed radio station would be a Low Power Frequency Modulation FCC licensed service. The license would be held by the association.

Other details have yet to be determined because the asso-

ciation is waiting to see if there is enough interest to move the project along further.

If the survey results show there is an interest, organizers will go to the governing board with a formal proposal.

Additional information will be posted online at scwaz.com, under the blog.

Residents may post their comments there as well.

SEE RADIO, A5

Sun City, Phoenix serving as location sites for movie

By Jan B. Jacobson
SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC

Sun City is becoming a production site for a major feature film, with trucks, crew and stars rolling in to shoot *The Savages*.

Several local locations are being used in Sun City and Phoenix to supplement footage that was shot primarily in New York by Savage Productions Inc., which is producing the film for Fox Searchlight Pictures. It is tentatively scheduled for release in 2007.



**Philip
Seymour
Hoffman**

The project is employing 45 Arizona crew members, and will include about 35 to 40 extras from the Sun City area.

"We'll be shooting for three days in Phoenix and the Sun City area," said Connie Hoy, the Arizona Production Office coordinator. "They'll be typical 12-hour movie shooting days. This is the production's final schedule."

Hoy said the production company came to the Valley because "the story takes place in the Sun City area ... it is named in the script."

Described as a comedic drama, the film was developed from a screenplay written by Tamara Jenkins, who is directing, and stars Oscar winner Philip Seymour Hoffman, Oscar nominee Laura Linney and Philip Bosco. It tells the story of a pair of adult siblings (Hoffman and Linney) who confront the legacy of their upbringing and the realities of familial responsibility when they become caregivers for their estranged and ailing elderly father (Bosco).



Laura Linney

Hoy has a local staff of five at the Peoria production office. There are two local locations people on the project and labor unions helped the production company find local workers.

Debbie Knoblauch, Phoenix Film Office coordinator, has been working with the production company for a few months to scout locations for the project. The Phoenix Film Office served as a liaison, providing a production manual and information on permit requirement, location guidance, plus sources for equipment rentals, crews and cast.

Thursday, May 25, 2006

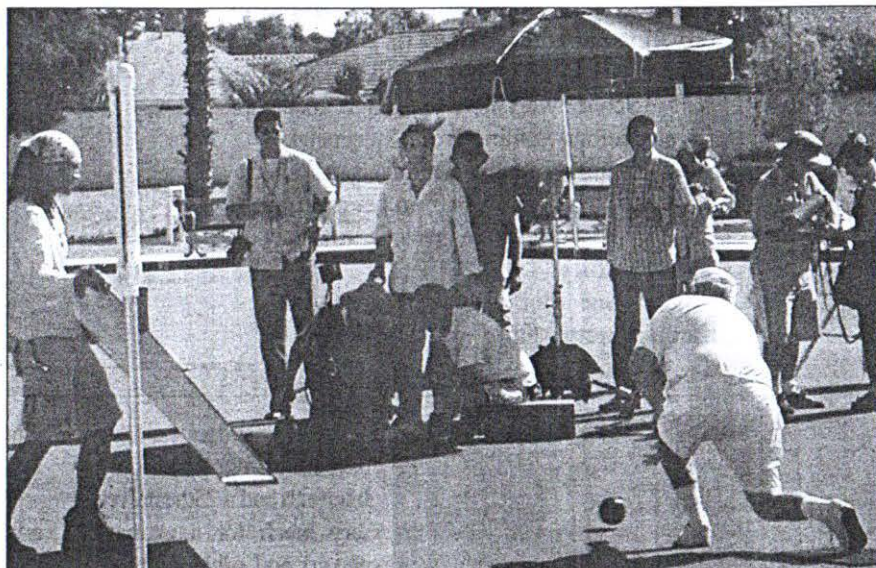
Movie crew calls it 'a wrap' after filming in Sun City West

BY JACK HAWN

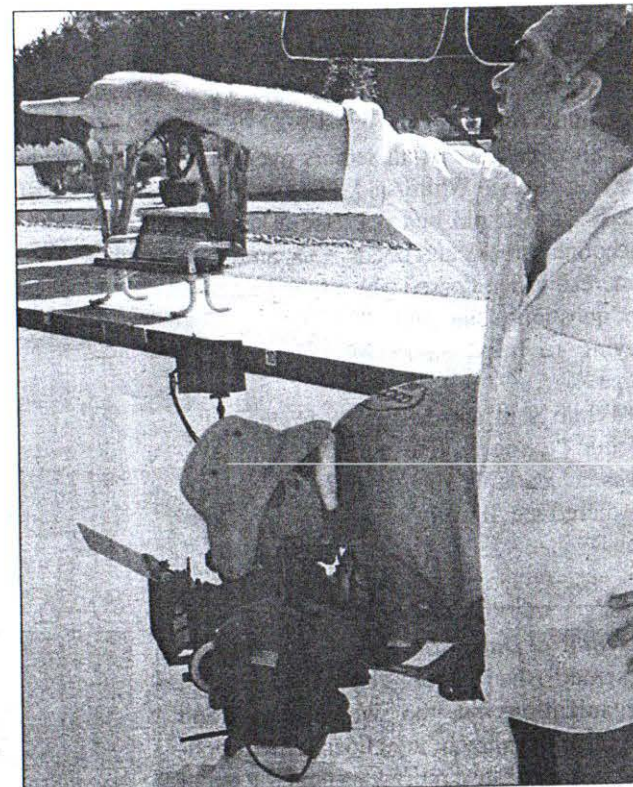
While active Sun City West residents hummed along last week doing what they normally do, a Hollywood film crew spent two days shooting a montage for the opening of a movie to be released next year titled "The Savages"—and virtually no one noticed.

At least there were ample choice parking spaces opposite the lawn bowlers' court on Meeker Boulevard Friday and few spectators present when shooting began shortly after 7:30 a.m.

No big deal and probably not worth rearranging schedules to watch a second-unit production
See Movie, Page 9



A crew filming the opening sequence to the upcoming movie "The Savages" was in Sun City West Friday taking shots of the R.H. Johnson Lawn Bowling Club. At right, director Jim Taylor points where he wants the shot to go for cameraman Will Arnott.



Movie, from Page 1

crew of about 15 people film everyday community activities—lawn bowlers bowling, 85 women stretching, kicking and bouncing in a Johnson pool aerobics class, a group of men sitting around playing gin rummy and golfers doing their thing at Grandview.

When asked by a bowler if they were supposed to talk while the camera was rolling, director Jim Taylor replied, "Yes, forget we're here."

Those who weren't there included the Rhythm Tappers, who were asked to assemble in front of the St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church in Sun City for a few shots because of a problem securing a location in Sun City West.

Also missing were the principal actors—Oscar winner Philip Seymour Hoffman and Oscar nominee Laura Linney—among others.

Key scenes, directed by Taylor's wife Tamara Jenkins, who also wrote the screenplay, were filmed by the first unit in Sun City Friday and Saturday, completing shooting which began a month ago in New York City.

"We're all done. It's a wrap," casting director Faith Hibbs-Clark said Sunday during a brief phone chat from Los Angeles. "Most of the crew went back East. Now it will go into post production."

"The Savages," a Fox Searchlight Pictures press release says, "is an irreverent comic drama about a pair of adult siblings (Hoffman and Linney) who are obliged to care for their estranged and ailing elderly father who never took care of them. As they do, they confront the legacy of their upbringing

and the realities of familial responsibility."

A house in Sun City was selected for the father's residence, where some of the filming was done, according to a member of the production staff who would not disclose its exact location.

Executive producers are Jim Burke (who confirmed a report that the movie was budgeted "between \$6 million and \$8 million"), Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor, who have formed a company called Ad Hominem.

"That's a Latin expression meaning 'to the man,'" Burke said. "We're in partnership with Fox in general."

Payne and Taylor collaborated on the hilarious Academy Award-winning screenplay "Sideways," a film about two friends on vacation, driving through the lush wine country of Central California. Payne also directed the movie.

Seymour, appearing in the recently released feature "Mission: Impossible 3," won a long list of awards earlier this year for his brilliant performance in the title role of "Capote."

Linney has been nominated twice for an Oscar and numerous other awards, has won two Emmys for guest performances on the TV series "Frasier" and was twice nominated for a Tony Award.

Jenkins, who previously directed the cult favorite "Slums of Beverly Hills," couldn't wait to start the new project after the casting was decided.

"In one month I'll be making a movie with two of the most exciting actors working today," she said. "It's a writer/director's dream."
