

RCSCW will mediate court spat

MITCHELL VANTREASE

DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board will be the judge in the court tussle between pickleball and tennis players.

Board members decided this week they will determine

whether to convert existing pickleball courts back into tennis courts at R.H. Johnson Racquet Complex.

Tennis players favor the conversion; pickleball players do not.

"In many communities, pickleball and tennis co-exist side by side," said Ken Holtz, president of the pickleball club. "So why would you ignore the previous property committee's decision?"

During a workshop last week, board member and Properties Committee chairman Kenny Jordahl said the group believes pickleball players require more space than the upcoming renovation of the Palm Ridge tennis courts will provide. Palm Ridge Recreation Center's tennis courts are being renovated into

NETS

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eight pickleball courts with a rest area and sound barrier.

Holtz said pickleball is a growing sport, and the courts are needed

for the 700-plus members.

Tennis players suggested at Friday's governing board workshop to separate completely tennis and pickleball courts.

Tennis players asked the board to convert the existing pickleball

courts at R.H. Johnson back into practice and instructional courts.

Mal Jacobson, a tennis player, said it's important for the courts to be separated because pickleball and tennis players don't get along.

Board Treasurer Ed

Van Cott said the situation reminds him of a similar flap between two ceramics clubs.

"This needs to end soon or it should be like the ceramics club," he said. "If you don't get along, then we should shut them down."

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RCSCW serves net space debate

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City West tennis players want more than a net to separate them from pickleball club members. They'd prefer a couple of miles.

Several members of the tennis club have asked the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board to convert the existing pickleball courts at R.H. Johnson Rac-

quet Complex back to tennis courts.

Mal Jacobsen, a tennis player, said the courts should be changed to teaching and practice courts.

"We feel all of the pickleball courts are based on pickleball membership numbers," said Jacobsen. "But now pickleball has new courts coming soon."

Palm Ridge Recreation Center's ten-

nis courts are being renovated into eight pickleball courts with a rest area and sound barrier.

Construction is expected to begin soon, and it is being partly funded by the pickleball club, which is contributing \$70,000.

RCSCW General Manager Mike Whiting agreed with Jacobsen.

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COURTS

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"I don't think they're compatible being side by side. Having two separate facilities might be the best thing," Whiting said during Friday's board meeting.

Board Member Kenny Jordahl, chairman of RCSCW properties committee, said the pickleball courts should remain at the R.H.

Johnson racquet facility.

Ken Holtz, president of the pickleball club, said he also feels the courts should stay because pickleball players require more space even with the court expansion at Palm Ridge Recreation Center.

"I can guarantee that we will be back here in five or six years looking for more space because pickleball is a fast-growing sport," Holtz said. "It's still going to come down to the usage."

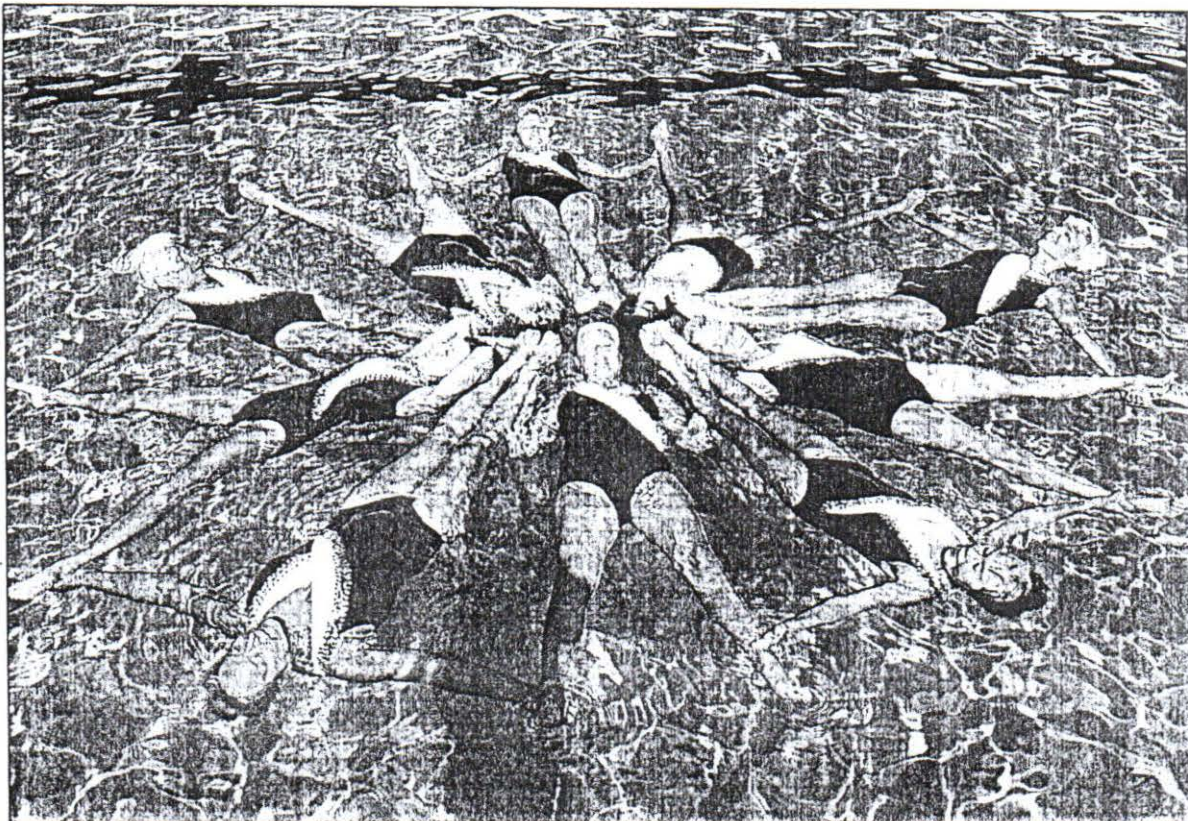
Mark Marrow, who is closing on

a home in Sun City West, said he moved into the community for tennis.

"Tennis is still a popular sport, and I think you need to utilize the courts that you already have right now," Marrow said.

Janet Simcic, a Sun City West resident and USTA tennis official, said pickleball and tennis also should have separate facilities.

"If pickleball wants to expand, they need to figure out a different way to do it," Simcic said.



Russell Gates / Staff photographer

Synchronized swimming involves highly controlled, ballet-like routines that move at a measured pace with scarcely a

ripple. The routines for the Las Vegas performance will be done at water level or slightly below.

Talent pool

Synchronized swimmers plunge into limelight

By Julia Jones
Staff writer

Sun City West

Swimmers from one desert community are visiting another to celebrate — in stylized maneuvers — the opening of a jewel in the Nevada desert.

The Sun City West Synchronettes are in Sun City Las Vegas, at the behest of the Del Webb Corp., to inaugurate the pool at the Sun Shadows Community Center.

Sun Shadows is a satellite recreation center, much like the ones in Arizona that make life so agreeable in the Sun Cities.

But the Synchronettes? Not the Sun City Poms?

"It's true, we don't get asked as much," said Synchronette spokeswoman Nancy Staley, laughing. "But I think it's probably because we can't do anything on stage or in a parade."

"The organizations in the Sun Cities have so much fun, they make wonderful ambassadors," said Martha Moyer, manager of public and community relations for Del Webb's Sun City West.

About 10 of the 20 Synchronettes members are in Las Vegas for the opening, Staley said. They will do an abbreviated routine in their admittedly abbreviated costumes of bright Lycra and sequins.

The new pool, Staley said, is only 4½ feet deep and thus precludes many of their more acrobatic moves. Instead, they'll concentrate on floating routines.

The Synchronettes, formed about 10 years ago with a nucleus

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Community

The Sun City West Synchronettes include (front, from left) Barbara Parker, Nancy Staley and Sue Ward. On diving board from left: Huan-Shou Meng, Pat Blinn and Kathleen White. Standing from left: Cindy Bratcher, Maude Meyers, Marilyn Rubendunst and Shelagh Harris.

SWIMMERS

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of five members, are tight as performers, but a little loose in organization and background.

The thing is, Staley said, "We learned to do this from a book." That would be "Water Stunts and Basic Synchronized Swimming," published by the American Red Cross.

They were so green, Staley said, they didn't know that synchronized swimmers — everyone except Esther Williams of the Silver Screen — wore nose clips. When they worked on underwater somersaults, there were some plain and fancy sinus problems, she said.

It took the Synchronettes a few years to catch up with details like that, and by then, they'd also found a coach, Ruth Zink of Sun City West, a member of the Synchronized Swimmers Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and a judge on the national level in events leading to the Olympics.

Zink, and fully half the membership of the Synchronettes, have fled the Valley's heat for the summer.

But the other half, the women ages 57 to 79 who were called to Las Vegas, turn up at the recreation center for an hour's team practice six days a week, after swimming warm-up laps.

No big deal, Staley said, all were basically swimmers before becoming synchronized swimmers. Staley herself worked her way through the University of Minnesota several years ago, teaching swimming and life-saving according to the American Red Cross manual. She learned to swim as a child of 10 in a bend of the Mississippi River, and has been swimming ever since.

But synchronized swimming is something else, she said. The highly controlled, ballet-like routines move at a measured pace with scarcely a ripple. It doesn't come naturally, she said.

"It's harder than it looks," she said. The Sun City West group has been sending teams to the Arizona Senior Olympics and winning medals for eight years now, and competition includes compulsory figures, in the same spirit as the figures that skaters once traced on the ice before judges.

"That's the hardest part," Staley said. "It takes a lot more stamina than you'd think, and even though we don't get our legs as high out of the water as those sweet young things do, we work at this hard enough to know it's a difficult sport, and we get into arguments with people who say it shouldn't be."

Most of the group are accomplished, seasoned swimmers, but one and all have come up with mud on their faces when they first tackle those figures, Staley said.

And working that hard, it seems a shame they don't draw a bigger crowd, she said, but traditionally, synchronized swimming, even at the Olympic level, doesn't pack the house.

Nevertheless, the act will certainly play as well in Las Vegas as it does just west of Peoria.

200 Seen For Senior Tennis Tourney

Feb. 6-12, 1992

The 1992 "Swing Into Spring" senior tennis tournament for men and women ages 50 and older

the Southwestern section of the Pacific Region of the U.S.T.A. Entry forms are available from the Sun City Racquet Association, R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West. Phone



is set for March 27-30. The annual event will be held for the seventh time at the 14 million dollar R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, Sun City West, on 15 hard surface courts.

U.S.T.A. sanctioned and sponsored by Del Webb Communities, the tournament will be administered by the Sun City West Racquet Association.

This year's tournament director, Bob Tornow, expects over 200 entries from throughout the Southwestern part of the United States. There will be singles and doubles events in both men's and women's divisions, as well as mixed doubles. Entrants will compete in their respective age groups, e.g., 50-54, 55-59, etc.

For the first time, the table tennis, platform tennis and racquet ball divisions of the Racquet Association will host tournaments for their respective sports on the same March weekend. The multiple events will add greatly to spectator interest.

Entry forms for the tennis events will be distributed Jan. 27 to prior years' entrants, and all current U.S.T.A. members over the age of 50 in 602-546-1376 or 602-584-6267. Entrant fees are \$12 per singles event and \$10 per doubles event (\$20 per doubles team).

Tennis players set for tourney

By **WALTER L. DOZIER**
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — More than 90 players from across the Southwest are expected to compete in this year's Swing Into Spring Tennis Tournament.

The tournament will be Friday through next Monday at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

The preliminaries of the United States Tennis Association-sponsored (USTA) tournament will be Friday and Saturday. The finals are scheduled Sunday and Monday.

"Everything is complete," said Earl L'Esperance, a tournament coordinator. "All the courts are assigned and the committees have completed their tasks."

The tournament, sponsored by Del Webb Corp., will feature several USTA nationally ranked players, including Roy King of Phoenix and Linn Rockwood of Salt Lake City, Utah.

King, entered in the 65-70 age category men's doubles, is ranked No. 1 in the Phoenix district and 15th nationally. So far in 1989 he has won at the Arrowhead and Polar Bear Senior Opens.

Rockwood, in the women's 60-65 age category singles, is ranked second in the Intermountain Section.

Winners will receive tennis sweaters; runners-up receive USTA towels.

"We have 63 men and 31 women entered in the tournament," said Ken Becker, treasurer of the Sun City West Racquet Association.

"There are six men's singles and five doubles categories.

"The women have three age categories in doubles and two in singles. Women have had to drop out because we didn't have enough entries in some of the age categories."

Becker said this year's participation is down from last year when there were 115 entries.

"We anticipated more out-of-state participants," Becker said. "But we didn't get them this year. Most of the players are from the metropolitan area."

Other top ranked players are Ted Besser and Gordon Crandall of Sun City West; Nikki Marshall of Tucson, and Pat Watt and Lyle Watson of Tempe.

Marshall is entered in the women's 50-55 doubles and was a winner at the 1988 Fiesta Bowl and Senior Open tournament.

Watson is entered in the 70-75 women's singles and was a winner at the Arrowhead and Mesa Senior Open tournaments and the 1989 Arizona State Senior Olympics.

Watt will play in the 50-55 women's singles and was a winner at the 1989 Polar Bear Senior Open and the 1988 Phoenix Senior Open.

"I'm surprised that most of the men are playing singles," Becker said. "There are very few in doubles. We have 16 men's doubles teams. There are 45 men playing singles."

"For the women, there are 16 doubles teams and 13 playing singles."

"This has been a well run tournament for the three years that I've been with it. We should have some pretty good tennis."

Admission to the tournament is free and tournament organizers are hosting a wine and cheese party at 3 p.m. Saturday.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Marion Mahoney, seated, and standing from left, Kurt Straus, Don Gladding and Keith Freelin display medals they won in the National Senior Sports Classic V in San Antonio earlier this month.

Nation's best

SC area athletes bring home medals

By ANN T. DALEY
Assistant sports editor

Marion Mahoney came, saw and conquered her race walking events at the National Senior Sports Classic V in San Antonio earlier this month.

Senior games

So did Mahoney's Sun Cities area neighbors Kurt Straus, Don Gladding and Keith Freelin, who were among the 209 senior athletes from Arizona who competed in the event and brought home 82 medals including 38 golds and 27 silvers.

Arizona's 200-plus athletes competed against seniors ages 50 and older from around the country. More than 8,000 participated in this year's event.

"We worked hard for it this

year," said Mahoney, 70, who won two silver medals in the 1,500 and 5,000 race walk in times of 10:23 and 36:39, respectively.

"We spent more time training vigorously. There's a lot more competition out there now than before."

Freelin, a 69-year-old who teamed with Sun Lakes' Jack Dunn to defend their men's 65-69 title, added. "To repeat as champs we had to beat the guys who won the (60-64) at Baton Rouge (in 1993). It was tough."

Athletes qualified for the event by medalizing in the 1993 National Games or at the 1994 Arizona Senior Olympics. Not all medal winners chose to travel to the national competition, however.

In 1993, Arizona sent 128 athletes

and won 54 medals (21 gold).

"This was one of the bigger contingencies we've ever taken," said Sharon Englehardt, director of Arizona Senior Olympics.

Englehardt and other organizers expect Arizona to be well-represented in the 1997 National Senior Sports Classic to be staged in Tucson. All 1995 medal winners qualify for the 1997 event. Athletes also may qualify for the next national event by medalizing at the state level.

California athletes led the way, 379 of them combining for 210 medals — 84 golds.

A state-high 620 athletes from Texas netted 184 medals, including 60 golds.

► See Seniors enjoy, C2

Seniors enjoy winning

■ From C1

Winning isn't everything, Gladding noted.

"About 7,000 athletes came home with nothing, but they were still winners for being out there," said Gladding, who won bronze medals in the 1,500 (:08:59) and 5,000 (:31:33).

But winning is fun, they agreed.

"I'm expecting big things next time," said Straus, who won a gold medal in the 5,000-meter race walk (:39.13).

Wilma Cory and Albert Simpson of Sun City West combined for a gold medal in the 60-64 mixed shuffleboard doubles.

Charles Obye of Sun City won a gold for his 4 feet, 6 inches mark in the high jump in the men's 70-74 division. Obye also won a pair of silvers for a leap of 13 101/4 inches in the long jump and a heave of 112-8 in the javelin.

Surprise cyclist William Brusasco won a bronze medal for his effort in the mile (:05:54.88).

Peoria golfer Leroy Kerr won a gold medal in the men's 85-89 age division.