

Sun City residents launch radio station

Features hits of past



(SCOTT TYNES/INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA)

Rich Hoffer, program director, records a segment for the new scazradio.com radio station, providing the music Sun Cities residents were raised on.

Posted Wednesday, May 22, 2024 8:00 am

By Scott Tynes | Independent Newsmedia

Mike Ege and Karla West are hoping residents of the Sun Cities will tune in to the easy listening music of scazradio.com programming as the background for the many activities they enjoy. They launched the Internet-based radio station in March.

“We’re proud of what we’re doing and now we’re trying to get the word out,” Ege said. “We’ve got over 2,000 songs that are in the playlist. We have all the top hits of the ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s.”

As an Internet-based station, Ege said people can listen anywhere they are in the country by tuning in to the website, whether that is through the computer or cellphone. It is currently advertisement free and will stay community-based.

“We’re developing ideas and growing,” said Rich Hoffer, program director. “We want to expand slowly so we don’t promise what we can’t deliver soon.”

That means, for now, the station is only streaming music 24 hours a day with a weather report hourly from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. They are developing additional programming and continuing to research project ideas with the help of listeners.

“I’ve got screeners, or beta testers, out there giving me feedback,” Ege said. “We want to play what everyone wants to hear. We want to grow slow and make sure it’s available in a manner that keeps them entertained.”

The station’s primary audience is the Sun Cities, so the music represents the era more than any particular genre.

“It runs the gamut from rock to pop, to jazz and country and anything else from that time period,” Hoffer said. “It’s a mishmash, but it’s the music of what this community grew up to. It invokes those high school and college years.”

The trio got the idea for the station several years ago, but it wasn’t the right time.

“(Hoffer) told me four years ago we needed to do this,” Ege said. “We served on the RCSC board together. It’s been in the works for quite awhile.”

Although Ege, West and Hoffer all have ties to the Recreation Centers of Sun City, the station is independent.

To listen to Sun City radio, visit scazradio.com.