



Hollywood
Love story
competition; **4**

 SURPRISE
INDEPENDENT

**Grand
opening**
Community
center; **11**



September 9, 2026 Volume 29 Issue 36 Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

**Council votes
for variable
setbacks for
BESS units**
City sets regulations after
dangerous 2019 incident

By Jason Stone
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

After several Surprise City Council, planning and zoning commission and public hearings over the last couple of years, the council finally agreed on a setback distance from existing homes for Battery Energy Storage Systems, or BESS.

The council on Sept. 1 did not agree on a set number, however, and instead unanimously voted to make the distances variable from 100 to 500 feet, depending on the BESS project location.

Seven years after Arizona Public Service's devastating McMicken station thermal runaway and explosion incident, the city council put to rest the question of how far the emerging energy technology can safely be from homes by passing a

• See **BESS** on page 3



**You
gotta
'Believe'
in weird**

**Pair of local men featured in latest
edition of Ripley's book**
By Jason Stone
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Benji Williams first became enamored with large rubber band balls at age 6 when he visited the Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum to see what was then the largest one. Now, the

Surprise resident wants to make the biggest one.

"We have a picture of him on a rubber band ball that is not anywhere near impressive as the work that he's doing now," said Suzanne Smagala, senior manager of marketing and communications of Ripley's. "We've had a really

Surprise resident Benji Williams shows off some of his rubber band ball creations while working toward the biggest one ever. (Courtesy Ripley's)

• See **Ripley's** on page 6

SUN HEALTH PRESENTS
A Day with Matt Paxton
America's #1 Downsizing Expert



*****ECRWSSEDDM****
Postal Customer
Phoenix, Arizona
Permit No. 1424
PAID
US POSTAGE
PRRST STD

WHEN CANCER SHOWS UP, OUR 2,000 CANCER EXPERTS SHOW UP STRONGER

Our only focus is curing cancer.

Angela, a motorcycle rider and rock climber, refused to let a cancer diagnosis slow her down. Today, Angela's back to living life at full speed. As one of the nation's largest and most advanced cancer research and treatment organizations, our singular focus on cancer drives breakthrough discoveries, advanced treatments and outcomes that surpass national standards — bringing more victories to more patients worldwide.



**City of
Hope®**

CANCER CENTER
ARIZONA

Ending cancer starts with Hope

CityofHope.org/Arizona | 844-601-HOPE (4673)

FROM THE COVER



BESS units now have rules for how close they can be to homes in Surprise. (Courtesy city of Surprise)

BESS

• From page 1

zoning text amendment.

Because a 150-foot buffer was already built in from the property line, the council's decision effectively makes the distances 250 to 650 feet.

The decision came after city staff initially proposed a much longer 1,500-foot buffer to safely evacuate residents in case of another McMicken incident.

But the council appeared confident that the new technology is much safer now.

"What I want to remind everybody is that the McMicken incident was a catalyst for complete change of the industry," Councilmember Johnny V. Melton told the rest of the council before it voted.

BESS regulations have been attempted for the last year and a half in Surprise. The first community outreach meeting was in January 2025, before the city council and planning

and zoning commission each discussed the issue in May and June.

The P&Z twice voted in recent months to recommend a 100-foot setback, and the council was initially debating setbacks of 100, 500 and 1,000 feet on Sept. 1

"This battery energy system is for the future," P&Z Commissioner Lisa Everett told the council. "I know we are looking back at yesterday, what happened in the past, but you are comparing apples and oranges. What is happening today is completely different. It's a whole new animal."

Melton said the future of powering Surprise could be affected by the decision the council made.

"Now we have this innovation — utility scale, battery energy storage," Melton said. "It's right there. It's easy to scale. This is a small footprint. Uses little to no water. And it dispatches quickly."

The energy the BESS units collect are meant to keep the power grid sta-

• See BESS on page 27

BIG O TIRES®



\$50-\$100 INSTANT SAVINGS

ON SELECT, IN-STOCK TIRES WITH INSTALLATION PURCHASE.
VALID 9/1/2026 - 9/20/2026

HANKOOK

COOPERTIRES

PIRELLI



\$100 IN REBATE SAVINGS**

On your purchase of \$599 or more when you use your Big O Tires® and Service Credit Card
Valid 7/6/2026 - 10/11/2026

*\$100 instant savings on in-stock sets of four select Cooper, Hankook, Pirelli P Zero, or Pirelli Scorpion tires. Excludes Pirelli Scorpion All Season 4 and Scorpion XTM and Cooper Endeavor and Endeavor Plus tires. \$80 instant savings on in-stock sets of four Cooper Endeavor and Endeavor Plus tires. \$50 instant savings on in-stock sets of four all other Pirelli tires. Installation charges extra; required on all four tires. Disposal fees and shop fees extra where permitted. See store for pricing. Eligibility may vary. Not valid with other offers. At participating locations. No cash value. Valid 9/1/2026 - 9/20/2026. **Valid one time only. Cannot be combined with other offers. Duplicate offers will not be accepted. Maximum of \$100. Minimum purchase required to redeem. See offer for full terms and conditions. Rebate Fulfillment Details: Prepaid cards are generally accepted, not available for recurring payments, expiration dates apply, fees apply to Mastercard®; use restrictions. Customer must apply for mail in rebate. See rebate form for terms and conditions. Valid 7/6/2026 - 10/11/2026.

LOCAL SHUTTLE SERVICE TO AND FROM HOME



\$24⁹⁵

**SUPER SAVER
OIL CHANGE**

Up To 5 Quarts Semi-Synthetic Oil

OR

\$59⁹⁵

**FULL SYNTHETIC
OIL CHANGE**

Up To 5 Quarts Full Synthetic Oil

LUBE CHASSIS* • REPLACE FILTER • 22 POINT INSPECTION

Supply chain disruptions may affect availability and price points of some oil products specifically 0w20; Excludes diesels and Euro oil weights additional
Valid at participating locations • Extra charge for trucks & larger SUV's • Most cars and light trucks • Shop supplies additional
Plus up to \$6 disposal fee • Excludes Diesels • *Lube chassis where applicable • Not valid with other offers • No cash value
See store for details • Charge for additional service/parts, if needed • Expires 10-15-26 • SUR-926

BIG O TIRES



BEAT THE HEAT!

\$19⁹⁵

Plus Freon,
Evac & Recharge

**A/C PERFORMANCE
CHECK**

We'll thoroughly inspect your compressor, belts, hoses, pressure and temperature.

FREON, EVAC AND RECHARGE EXTRA • Most cars & light trucks
Shop supplies additional • With coupon • Not valid with any other offer
Charge for additional service/parts, if needed • Expires 10-15-26 • SUR-926

BIG O TIRES

TOTAL AUTO CARE

**Engine & Electrical Diagnostic
(Eng Light On)
Brakes • Alignments
Suspension & Steering
Batteries • Faulty Windows
All Routine Maintenance**



**WE SELL
AND INSTALL
GOLF TIRES**

SURPRISE • 14023 W. GRAND AVE • 623-537-7911

SURPRISE • 16880 W. WADDELL RD • 623-975-4200

Tread designs may vary on all tires shown. Prices subject to change. State or local taxes or surcharges for environmental protection will be an extra charge.

SURPRISE
INDEPENDENT

Get In Touch by phone or email
17220 N. Boswell Blvd., Ste.
230, Sun City AZ 85373

888-665-3848

 **SurpriseIndependent**

 **@YourValley**

Advertising
azads@iniusa.org

Press releases
aznews@iniusa.org

Opinions with Civility
azopinions@iniusa.org

Staff

Jason Stone

Editor

Delarita Ford, Richard Smith

Reporters

Ben Daniels, Frank Dias, Greg Garcia, Ann Kampmeyer, Debbie Kelly, Lisa Norman, Makenna Sinatra

Advertising Consultants

Patrick O Grady

Editor-in-Chief

Erik Maurer, Mona Lisa Navarrette, Erica Odello, Chris Pitts, Chris Williams

Advertising Designers

Barb Wandling

VP of Advertising

Terri Rodgers

Director of Circulation

Charlene Bisson

President & CEO

YourValley.net

This publication is offered free of charge in an effort to keep our neighbors informed, as well as to support the local business owners who make up our community. Please support their business. Every effort is made to avoid errors, misspellings and omissions. If an error comes to your attention, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us.

 This newspaper is recyclable, biodegradable and contains recycled materials. Copyright 2026. All rights reserved. No part of this publication can be printed or reproduced without the publication's permission. Independent Newsmedia Inc., USA, assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material.

Does America's favorite couple live in Surprise?

Local pair competes to go to Hollywood with love story

By Delarita Ford

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Newlyweds in Surprise share a love story that can be made for Hollywood as they compete in Variety's "America's Favorite Couple" contest.

Not only are Scott and Jen Serkland, who married on Aug. 2, vying for \$20,000 and a Hollywood trip, but they hope to win the national competition to help raise funds for charitable organizations, including the LA Regional Food Bank and Oceana.

"We haven't taken a honeymoon yet. We're dreaming big here," said Jen Serkland to the Independent.

Noting all the rounds they have completed, the Los Angeles native, who moved to Arizona 25 years ago, said although there are more rounds to go if they get enough votes, they would love the Hollywood trip, a chance to have dinner with celebrities, and possibly use the winnings to fix up the house and more.

"The \$20,000 would help us begin our married life together! We would be able to pay off our wedding, take a honeymoon and finally landscape our backyard," she said.

The 53-year-old bride is a mental health therapist and an award-winning author of *Grace in Progress: Prayers for the Beautifully Broken*. The 55-year-old groom, who has lived in Surprise for over 30 years, is a professional comic book artist with more than 27,000 followers on his YouTube channel Serkworks Art Labs. The couple bring their creativity and public service to the contest. Her professional background is on wellness and storytelling, while his is in comic book artistry with YouTube influence.

"Between my therapy work and Scott's comic art, we love connecting with people, and we're so proud to represent Surprise," she said, adding how her husband enjoys the idea of using art and videos to



Currently second in the semi-finals, Scott and Jen Serkland, who married on Aug. 2, are competing in Variety's "America's Favorite Couple" contest and need more votes to win. (Courtesy Scott and Jen Serkland)

make a real-world impact for charities, which is the "best wedding gift we could have asked for."

"Humanity has felt like it's under attack," she said, sharing how the new couple "met during COVID lockdown."

Their love story on how they met and support each other in pursuing their dreams. The wife mentioned how her husband's brother was astounded that his sibling found someone during the pandemic and how the relationship has lasted from chatting through messages, talking for hours on the phone.

"A month and a Zoom call later, with everything closed, we ventured to have our first date at one of our houses. It could have gone wrong a thousand ways, but it all went right. We had dinner, watched a movie and even went swimming in the pool. It was the middle of summer in Phoenix, nowhere to go or be but home and we made the most of it," said the bride.

She added how the world was on lockdown, vaccines were being distributed



Scott and Jen Serkland, who married on Aug. 2, are competing in Variety's "America's Favorite Couple" contest. (Courtesy Scott and Jen Serkland)

and places were opening back up.

"People were still keeping a distance, and I was trying to figure out how I could create a memorable birthday for him," she said of planning for his 50th birthday then.

Meanwhile, if the Surprise couple advance from the quarterfinals of Variety's America's Favorite Couples competition, the couple will be on to the next round and need votes to help them win the grand prize of \$20,000, a featured advertorial spread in Variety magazine, and an all-expenses-paid trip to Hollywood to hob-nob and have a dinner date in the Hollywood Hills with celebrity couple actor/jazz musician Jeff and Emilie Goldblum, an Olympic rhythm gymnast turned aerialist and contortionist. Other America's Favorite Couple Ambassadors include celebrity couples, Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen, and Charlie Day and Mary Elizabeth Ellis.

Vote for the local residents to become America's Favorite Couple while supporting two causes.

Cast a daily vote or make a tax-deductible donation to make an impact on hunger relief and ocean conservation at votescottandjen.com or americasfavcouple.org/2026/scott-and-jen.

Delarita Ford can be reached at dford@iniusa.org. Submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AsOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

Imagine your home, totally organized!

Custom Closets, Garage Cabinets,
Home Offices, Laundries, Pantries,
Wall Beds, Hobby Rooms and more!

40% off
Plus
Free Installation

**PLUSTAKE
AN EXTRA 15% off**

Terms and Conditions: 40% off any order of \$1000 or more or 30% off any order of \$700-\$1000 on any complete unit order of custom closet, garage, or home office, and any other products. Take an additional 15% off on any complete unit order. Not valid with any other offer. Free installation with any unit order of \$850 or more. With incoming order, at time of purchase only. Offer not valid in all regions. Expires 9/30/26.

**SPECIAL FINANCING
FOR 18 MONTHS!**

With approved credit. Call or ask your Designer for details.
Not available in all areas.



Call for a free in home design consultation and estimate

480-764-2884 IN

[closetsbydesign.com](https://www.closetsbydesign.com)



Locally Owned and Operated. Licensed and Insured: ROC312904

ClosetsbyDesign®

FROM THE COVER

Ripley's

• From page 1

long relationship with him. We've just kind of kept in touch throughout the years, and he reached out to us, saying, 'Hey, I'm still at it.'"

Williams' attempt at a rubber band ball that will weight 22,000 pound is just one story of about 700 told in the latest edition of "Ripley's Believe It or Not! Wired Into Weird," the 23rd annual edition of Ripley's signature book.

This year's book also includes local pizza artist Nick Yatsinko, who went viral online for painting photos, team logos or even celebrities on pizzas.

The 256-page book geared toward elementary school and early middle school age

kids goes on sale Sept. 8 for International Literacy Day.

Williams is attempting to create the world's largest rubber band ball, which would be absolutely massive.

A ball the 25-year-old has been working on for about a decade in his garage is currently nearly 3,800 pounds. He still has more than 5,000 pounds to go for the world record of 9,400 pounds.

But he does not want to stop there. He is going for around 22,000 pounds, so he can make the equivalent of 10,000 kilograms.

Williams uses an office chair to help hold the rubber band while he pulls them over the ball. The Connecticut-native orders the bands from an online Chinese marketplace and pays thousands of dollars of money that he earns as a department clerk at a Fry's Food Store.



Local pizza artist Nick Yatsinko displays a custom-made pizza he made of Hannah Montana. (Courtesy Ripley's)

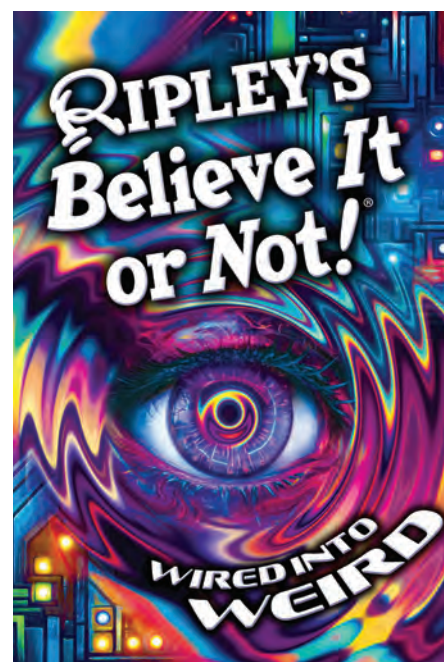
He has dozens of balls in his home, some smaller than others. Many of them fit in a bedroom closet.

But the only way to move the biggest one, he said, is to roll it, or in some cases pull it.

"I have always had a fascination for round things," said Williams, who also makes balls out of yarn, tape, plastic wrap and aluminum foil. Basically almost any material that you could think of. I even I even started making one out of paper clips."

He also needs his balls to be a perfect sphere and not oblique. The current record for a rubber band ball is not a perfect circle like the one Williams is creating.

As for Yatsinko, he said he has



The 23rd edition of "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" is now on sale. (Courtesy Ripley's)

pizza sauce in his veins thanks to his pizza-making father.

The 35-year-old data analyst for a garbage company has been living up his side gig of creating personalized artistic pizzas like a Hannah Montana pizza, dinosaur-shaped pizzas and pies featuring logos for each of the 32 NFL teams.

He uses his brick pizza oven to make pizzas for almost every kind of occasion from the celebration of life to school assemblies, weddings and bachelor and bachelorette parties. He estimates he has cooked about 1,500 or more custom pizzas.

"I kind of lost count after a thousand," Yatsinko said.

It was social media that kick started his artistic hobby.

The Arizona Cardinals were the first pro football team's logo he painted on a pizza when the team was playing in the 2016 playoffs.

"Several news stations gave me some coverage, and then after that, it was all sorts of requests coming

"I have always had a fascination for round things."

Benji Williams
Surprise resident

in," Yatsinko said. "It was birthday parties, people coming in for graduation parties, pretty much anything you can think of, and so that was really the start of it."

Yatsinko uses an xacto knife, a projector to give an image as well as a stencil. With some liquid food color on his paintbrush, he is literally painting on melted cheese.

He has shipped his pizzas all over the country, as far away as New York.

He charges between \$50 and \$150 for his creations, but with no website to take orders, he has to get them through direct messages on social media.

"Once I get out of that and I have a website and I have a form you can fill out, I think that's when I'll see a massive increase, and that would be the transition for me," Yatsinko said.

Yatsinko said he takes requests for anything. A simple cartoon character can take him about 45 minutes to create.

He also paints portraits or photos on pizzas, which can take up to 2-1/2 hours to finish.

"I would call myself a perfectionist," Yatsinko said. "I'm hard on myself, so it's kind of like any artist, I'm itching for the next one already."

The book in which the Surprise men are featured will be on sale at all major booksellers.

Jason Stone can be reached at jstone@iniusa.org. Submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

PHONAK

COMING **SEPTEMBER 2026**

**The
Last
Hearing
Aid**



**You'll
EVER
Need**

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS



3x Better Speech Clarity in Noise than **ANY OTHER HEARING AID**

FREE

HEARING EXAM
receive a copy for your
medical records

FREE

3-YEAR GUARANTEE
an extended warranty
covering loss & damage

FREE

45-DAY TRIAL
try out new devices for no
cost and no obligation

INTRODUCING **PHONAK**
Audéo EON Sphere
Clarity that speaks for itself.



EON

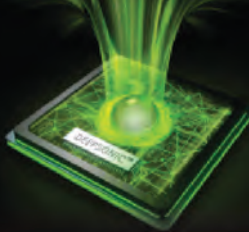


ON-THE-GO CHARGING



A high-speed
charging option, a
drying function via
inductive charging,
and intuitive left and
right LEDs for status
information

DEDICATED A.I. CHIP



An AI chip that
expands the listening
range from all
directions, delivering
unparalleled speech
clarity by separating
speech from noise

UNIVERSAL CONNECTIVITY



Connect your hearing
aids to televisions and
smartphones for easy,
carefree streaming
phone calls and TV
directly to your ears

SMARTPHONE APP CONTROL



Directly control your
hearing aid with a
smartphone app,
allowing discreet
adjustments to
volume and other
hearing programs

**Monday
September 14th
til Friday
September 18th**

**NO COST, NO
OBLIGATION**

INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL
50% OFF DURING OUR
SPECIAL EVENT
TRY BEFORE YOU BUY!
ABSOLUTELY FREE FOR 45 DAYS!

INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL!

Monday, September 14th
til Friday, September 18th

- Clarity that lets you focus on life
- Seamless streaming of music, calls and Auracast™ broadcast audio
- Easier conversations with advanced Phonak AI innovation
- All-day comfort and durability for your active lifestyle

TRY THE NEW **PHONAK**
Audéo EDn Sphere
FOR 45 DAYS ABSOLUTELY FREE
NO COST, NO OBLIGATION

PLUS, WE ALWAYS PROVIDE THESE SERVICES:



FREE
DEVICE TUNE-UP

Verify that your current hearing aids work properly.



FREE
HEARING EXAM

It is important to have your hearing checked annually.



FREE
VIDEO OTOSCOPY

Ensure that your hearing loss isn't just earwax buildup!

OTHER DIGITAL SPECIALS

The Lowest-Cost
Digital Hearing Aids
Available Anywhere

(Up to 40db Loss)



100% Digital
Open-Fit BTE **WAS \$795**
(Behind-the-Ear)

NOW \$395/EA



100% Digital ITE **WAS \$995**
(In-the-Ear)

NOW \$395/EA



100% Digital CIC **WAS \$995**
(Completely-in-Canal)

NOW \$495/EA



100% Micro CIC **WAS \$1995**
(Completely-in-Canal)

NOW \$595/EA

INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL!

Monday, September 14th til Friday, September 18th

50% OFF DURING OUR SPECIAL EVENT



TRY BEFORE YOU BUY!

We'll test you for **FREE** and fit you with
for a **45 day trial period**
ABSOLUTELY FREE!

PHONAK
EDN

Audéo
Sphere

FREE
HEARING
EXAM!

no cost, no obligation

WE FIT & SERVICE THE WORLD'S BEST HEARING AIDS

signia

ReSound

PHONAK

REXTON

audifon
hearing systems

Starkey

unitron

WIDEX

3 VALLEY LOCATIONS

Surprise

(623) 269-8067

15341 W Waddell Rd, B 106

In Bashas' Plaza - Next to Marley Park Dentistry

Sun City West

(623) 320-1799

14300 W Granite Valley Dr, Ste B-6

Across from Hospital, next to Webb Medical Plaza

Goodyear

(623) 253-0369

15557 W Roosevelt St, Ste 105

In Parkway Village Plaza - In between Pizza Hut
and Motor Vehicle Services



American Medical
Hearing Centers

Clinics located in Florida & Arizona

★★★★★ 5-Star Rated by Patients on Google



*Price based up on suggested retail price. Offer valid only when both hearing aids are purchased together. If either aid is returned, the 25% promotional device must also be returned or its full retail price will be charged.

City puts stamp on new community center

Official opening 'Sprouts' packs of residents, leaders

By Delarita Ford
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The nearly 250-person capacity Sprouts Dining Hall was standing room only at the new Surprise Community and Resource Center as people filled the chairs, lined the walls and spread out in to the hallway at the official grand opening.

Federal, state and local representatives, including officials from the city of Surprise and Maricopa County were among hundreds of attendees for the ribbon-cutting ceremony held Sept. 3, at the new facility, 12641 W. Santa Fe Drive.

"This is an exciting day as we celebrate the official grand opening of the Surprise Community and Resource Center," said Surprise Human Service and Community Vitality Director Seth Dyson, who welcomed the crowd by stating how he "didn't think that many people" would show up.

He appreciated the overwhelming response from the community and thanked those who had a part in making the multi-generational center come true for all ages to benefit from the programs housed under one roof, including the city's senior center, resource center and Hollyhock Library.

Beginning the program by honoring the "history of the land we are on today," Dyson shared the background on the significance of the 35,000-square-foot facility built in a historical area known as the Original Town Site. The city's original fire and police departments, town hall, a former RV park, a rodeo and more were once located in the area of Sante Fe Drive and Hollyhock.

"It's built on a foundation that has already been here," said Surprise

District 4 Councilmember Johnny V. Melton. "Where you are sitting, you are sitting in the genesis of Surprise--the Original Town Site."

The facility is in Melton's district and planned to be a haven for the whole Northwest Valley to access health and wellness programs, Head Start classrooms, workforce development, housing and homeless help, benefit assistance, veteran resources, senior services, after-school youth programs and the Hollyhock library.

Mayor Kevin Sartor thanked the families and community leaders responsible for making the center a reality.

"This is a community resource and it goes beyond Surprise," said Sartor, adding how the center will benefit the whole region.

Likewise, Dyson thanked the Original Town Site Stakeholders Committee among all the contributors and acknowledged many of the founding families who still live in the community.

He directed people to look at the many names on the family tree displayed on one of the hallway walls that showed the generations of families whose roots were in Surprise and how their families branched out.

"This is my childhood town. We've grown up here, generations of families. My parents were farmworkers in the city of Surprise," said Rebecca Ramirez, pointing to her family's names of Ramirez and Lopez memorialized on the tree leaves, noting original families from Surprise.

Paul and Mary Outlaw, who started the MLK Scholarship Program this year in Surprise, were featured in a video shown during the program highlighting some of the Surprise residents who have already begun enjoying the facilities. They were in-

• See **Community** on page 19



From ground breaking to grand opening, the new Surprise Community and Resource Center is open to serve the entire Northwest Valley. (Independent Newsmedia/Delarita Ford)



Rebecca Ramirez points to her family's names on the tree showing the original families who started in Surprise.

Take the Civility Pledge

Yes, I will do my part to help my community become a safe place for people to engage in civil discourse about public issues. Visit iniusa.org/civility-pledge/ to take the pledge.

Your Opinion

Our opinions page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We hope to stimulate debate, not to dominate or control it. We reserve the right to edit our opinions, and we insist on civility. Please include your name and phone number, so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. We welcome your photo. All opinions must be no more than 300 words. Those that are judged as personal attacks or complaints about neighbors, businesses or other opinion writers will not be considered. No person may submit more than two opinions for publication during a calendar month. Two submissions in the same issue will not be published. The content of a submission is the responsibility of the person who submitted it.

Speak Up

We support the use of pen names. Too many people don't speak up because they fear intimidation or even danger to their families and/or careers. Pen names are an important part of our nation's history.

Corrections

We will promptly correct all factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people about whom we write.

Readers who disagree with a news story are welcome to respond with a letter.

Arizona voters deserves the full story on Abe Hamadeh

As an Arizona citizen, I believe we should recognize public officials who demonstrate genuine servant leadership. Congressman Abe Hamadeh deserves that recognition.

We deserve to know what our elected officials actually accomplish — not simply what political opponents or partisan commentators say about them.

Hamadeh has brought energy and initiative to Congress and pursued concrete results for Arizona. He helped advance more than \$7 million in federal funding for Arizona priorities, including police and public-safety equipment in Peoria, Phoenix, Surprise and Glendale, as well as veterans' legal services through Arizona State University. Hamadeh also advanced \$1.5 million for the Phoenix Fire

Department to support first responders and their families. Two veterans' bills he introduced passed the House unanimously.

He also fought for Arizona's military installations, the National Guard and defense-industry jobs vital to our economy and national security.

His service extends beyond legislation. His office resolved more than 600 constituent cases and returned nearly \$2 million to constituents. That is public service in action, yet the public rarely hears this side of the story. That should concern all of us.

The press has a fundamental responsibility to practice journalism — not political advocacy. When journalists let political leanings determine which facts they report and

**Please send your comments to
AzOpinions@iniusa.org.**

We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

which accomplishments they omit, they fail the public.

It is disgraceful when legitimate accomplishments receive little attention while controversy and partisan criticism dominate coverage.

Readers deserve the whole record. Journalists do not have to praise Hamadeh or agree with him. They should report what he's actually done.

The truth matters. A free press should challenge everyone. We deserve journalism that informs rather than filters the news through partisan narratives.

Journalists can debate Hamadeh's policies and votes, but should not minimize his accomplishments simply because they do not fit a preferred narrative.

Congressman Hamadeh deserves credit for serving Arizona with energy and purpose. Arizona deserves a press corps willing to tell the complete story — the good, the bad and everything in between.

That is not partisan. That is journalism.

Analyn Megison
PHOENIX

Rep. Abe Hamadeh represents Congressional District 8, which includes parts of Surprise, Glendale, Peoria, north Phoenix, Sun City and Sun City West. Submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

Here is why my November vote is for Greene-Placentia

When I read Abe Hamadeh's

recent newsletter, I see that he has been very helpful to individuals struggling with the bureaucracy (otherwise known as our hardworking, understaffed Civil Service) and supportive of the military and police. But what about the 400,000 Arizonans who lost their SNAP food benefits and those who will not be able to afford health insurance after the election because of the Big Beautiful Bill his vote helped put into law?

What about his vote against the War Powers Act that might have stopped our war on Iran that is bringing suffering to people here and all over the world?

He refuses to engage with his Congressional District 8 constituents unless they are known supporters.

Take a look at the website of Abe's opponent Bernadette Greene-Placentia. She is a woman who has struggled with real-life problems, supported her family as an interstate truck driver, built it into a business and is now able to serve her country.

She is out talking to Democrats, Independents, Republicans, ready to work with all of them, wanting to earn your vote so she can help find solutions to the real problems of Arizonans — housing and healthcare, jobs and education.

Check out both of these candidates and see which one will do you the most good.

Carole Parnell
SURPRISE

Bernadette Greene-Placentia is seeking to unseat incumbent Abe Hamadeh in CD 8, which includes parts of Surprise, Glendale, Peoria, north Phoenix, Sun City and Sun City West. Submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters, or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.



URGENT CARE UP NEXT IN SURPRISE

Another urgent care option opened for future Surprise patients. NextCare Urgent Care held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 12 at 16921 N. 145th Ave., Suite 185 for its second Surprise location. Surprise Vice Mayor Earle Greenberg and El Mirage Vice Mayor Jacquelyn Parsons helped cut the ribbon, along with Clinic Manager Eric Pantoja, Regional Vice President of Operations Stephanie Swinbourne and Regional Manager of Operations Lydia Estrada. The other Surprise location for NextCare is at 14800 W. Mountain View Boulevard, Suite 190. Visit nextcare.com/locations/az/city-center. (Courtesy city of Surprise/Kris Cassens)

Opinions

• From page 12

Legal points of entry would solve immigration problem

There are better immigration solutions than ICE.

I disagree with Ron Moe, who recently disagreed with me and others regarding ICE as an immigration solution.

Instead of taxpayers paying to house and literally store immigrants, how about we go with the sustainable idea proposed by Hillary Clinton when she ran for president?

She said she'd create legal ports of entry.

Instead of paying \$100,000 a

month to roving agents, she'd hire judges and processors to quickly process any immigrant coming into the country, sorting out the potential workers from those who have criminal records.

Legal ports of entry are why we are here today, with the exception of Native Americans and descendants of early American slaves.

My solution is to pay for legal ports of entry, so people like Einstein and even First Lady Melania Trump can live here in peace.

Lorie Lux
SUN CITY

Submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters, or email them to AZOpinions@inusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

Be a Civility Advocate!



Civility Checklist

How to engage in respectful, honest & civil dialogue about public issues

- ☐ **Take the high road.** Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.
- ☐ **Be respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment, and threats directed at another person — or that person's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone's character or motives.
- ☐ **Be truthful.** Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes. When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.
- ☐ **Don't misrepresent.** Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.
- ☐ **Listen & learn.** It's both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don't agree with your own.
- ☐ **Look for common ground.** When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.
- ☐ **Respect privacy.** Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and, in many cases, illegal.
- ☐ **Set a good example.** Practice civil behavior online as well as in public and in your interaction with others. Encourage others to practice these civil behaviors. And it's OK to challenge disrespectful behavior — but be courteous, respectful and helpful in your approach.



Now that you've read the checklist, take the Civility Pledge at yourvalley.net/civility-pledge.

Surprise moves into 'selective' home market

City considered affordable in relation to other cities

By Jason Stone
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

As Surprise hit the mid-year, the city remained a relatively good bargain in the Valley for buying a home, but no Valley cities are really standing out from the pack with activity, a Valley Realtor said.

Despite the typical slowdown in home sales in July during the summer heat, Surprise has joined the slight buyers market that has emerged as prices have more or less leveled off this year.

The Phoenix Realtors Market Report for July showed the Valley market is becoming more selective, said Sammy Glassman, board president of Phoenix Realtors. Glassman said buyers are taking more time to make decisions, while proper sale prices are giving sellers serious offers sooner.

"There really isn't one Greater Phoenix housing market anymore," Glassman said. "Scottsdale, Surprise, Chandler and Gilbert can all be moving differently at the same time. That is why buyers and sellers need to look at their specific city, neighborhood and price point not just a Valley-wide headline."

According to the market report, the median sales price in Surprise was up 2.5% to \$435,500 in July, while the average sales price was at \$463,720, or 0.7% higher than the previous year. New listings of homes were up 2.4% over last July.

Glassman said Surprise's average price is still affordable in comparison to other cities, especially with new homes where builders are offering incentives like interest rate buydowns

to get people into homes.

"Affordability is about the payment that you make on the house," Glassman said. "If your prices are a little bit lower, buyers don't have to bring as much down to get their payment lower because of interest rates being higher, or they may not need as many seller credits to negotiate to get their payment down to make it more affordable."

Earlier this summer, WalletHub ranked Surprise third nationwide for its affordable, buyer-friendly housing market and selected the city second in the U.S. for first-time homebuyers. The city finished first in the latter category among midsize cities with populations between 150,000 and 300,000 people.

Existing single-family home sales rose 5.1% in the Valley over last year, according to the latest figures, and while new listings grew in Surprise, they dropped 2.8% in the metro area.

Glassman said the TSMC chip plant at Interstate 17 and Loop 303 is already impacting the Surprise home market.

"One of the things I think about when I talk about the development of this city is the planners have done a great job in creating these little micro markets where Surprise, if you don't have to commute into downtown, you can have a whole life out there," Glassman said. "All of your amenities and everything are out there. The same thing is if you go across town to Queen Creek, or you go up north to Desert Ridge, you've got this pocket within."

In her 22 years in real estate, Glassman said she has been through two buyer's markets — during the Great Recession of the late 2000s and

now. She said what is keeping it from being a strong buyer's market is fewer rundown properties available like before.



Surprise is seeing more of a selective home market this summer. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason Stone)

now. She said what is keeping it from being a strong buyer's market is fewer rundown properties available like before.

"We're not having the foreclosures and the years of you walk into a home all the cabinetry has been pulled out and all that stuff," Glassman said. "We're not getting a lot of that, but we are getting more buyers willing to negotiate, and sellers just kind of having to set that expectation that no matter where you are in the Valley — if you're selling a \$250,000 condo or \$40,000.000 house — people are negotiating."

Glassman said a balanced market can benefit a buyer by giving them more time to negotiate.

The Valley's uber luxury market has not slowed down at all, Glassman said, but only affects Surprise for cer-

tain buyers.

"There are pockets of strength across the Valley. Scottsdale and PV continue to perform extremely well at the higher end, while Surprise has been a standout for transaction growth and relative affordability," Glassman said.

"We're also seeing resilience in communities such as Chandler and Gilbert. The reasons for each of these cities are different. Scottsdale and PV benefit from luxury demand and limited supply while Surprise benefits from buyers looking for value and continued growth of the West Valley."

Jason Stone can be reached at jstone@iniusa.org. Submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.



HIGHLAND PREP

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

CLASS OF 2031

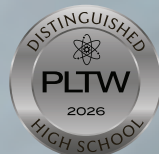


ATHLETICS

ROBOTICS

ENGINEERING

Highland Prep is a world class, STEM college-preparatory high school that offers a robust academic program preparing students to thrive in a highly competitive global arena.



100%
4-YEAR
COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY
ACCEPTANCE



HIGHLANDPREPAZ.COM

15600 WEST HERN RD. SURPRISE, AZ 85379 • PHONE:623-300-8385

Volleyball teams swing into 2026

Compiled By Richard Smith
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The high school girls volleyball season began Aug. 26 at schools across the state. West Valley Preps and the Surprise Independent asked local high school coaches about their teams. Here are their responses:

Valley Vista Monsoon

Coach: Lynne Myers (first season as coach)

2025 Record: 6-16 overall, 5-3 region

Region: 6A West Valley

Who are your top returning players?: Our senior returners, Kylee DeJesus and Jaliyah Hernandez, will be important pieces for us this season. Both bring varsity experience and understand what it takes to compete at this level. As seniors, we're looking for them to provide leadership, consistency, and help set the standard for the younger players in our program.

Who are some of the newcomers that may have an impact this year? We have a talented group of sophomores in Allie Hewitt, Elena Fraire and Ariella Chairez who have the potential to make an impact for us this season. They're young, but they've shown a willingness to compete, learn and take on bigger roles. I'm excited to watch their confidence grow as they gain varsity experience throughout the season.

What is your team's best attribute entering this season? I would say our willingness to work and grow together. This group is competitive and coachable and they're beginning to understand the importance of playing for one another. We're establishing a new standard for the program, and I've been encouraged by their willingness to embrace that process.

Which teams on this season's

schedule are you most looking forward to and will be the toughest?

We have several challenging matches on our schedule, and I'm looking forward to seeing how we respond to those opportunities. Our focus is less about one particular opponent and more about preparing ourselves to compete every time we step on the court. Those tougher matches will show us where we are, where we need to improve, and how well we can respond under pressure.

What are the primary goals for this year's team? Our biggest goal this season is to raise the standard of Valley Vista volleyball. That means establishing a culture built on discipline, accountability, consistency, and competing at a high level. We absolutely want to win and put ourselves in a position to compete in the postseason, but success for us is also about developing our players, building confidence, and creating a foundation for sustained success throughout the entire program.

Willow Canyon Wildcats

Coach: Matt Overfelt (10th season)

2025 Record: 23-16 overall, 4-6 region (5A first round)

Region: 5A Northwest

Who are your top returning players?: Our team will be lead this year by seniors Shia Chancellor (OH), Emory Scogin (L), Keely Blady (S) and juniors Aspen Edwards (OH) and Emylia Coffman. All of them bring extensive experience and positive attitudes to the court.

Who are some of the newcomers that may have an impact this year? Freshman Rylee Thompson will be a force at the net and Espy Blady is a defensive dynamo. Both will have a big impact this year.

What is your team's best attribute entering this season? Experi-



Willow Canyon junior Shia Chancellor hits an attack against Sunrise Mountain in a Sept. 15, 2025 home game. Chancellor is back for the Wildcats this season. (Courtesy Dysart Unified School District)

ence and endless optimism will serve us well. This team truly enjoys playing together.

Which teams on this season's schedule are you most looking forward to and will be the toughest? We have a very tough schedule this year, which includes Horizon, Notre Dame Prep, Campo Verde, ACP,

and our usual tough region of Sunrise Mountain, Centennial and Ironwood. We can't wait to compete against all of them.

What are the primary goals for this year's team? We have a goal of competing every night no matter who our opponent is and getting better every match.



Sandy & Lew Cryer

602-402-4568

Allison Cryer McFarlin

480-416-9474

the 'TOWN CRYERS'



www.TownCryers.com

Email: homes@towncryers.com

(602) 402-4568

Office: 623-977-1776

17001 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City



HOT WEEKEND!

Keep cool, drink lots of water and if possible, stay indoors.



SPACE... AVAILABLE

Call the "Town Cryers" today to get a free, no obligation, market analysis of your home's value & the details on how your home can be featured in this space. Don't Wait! Call Today! ... 602-402-4568



\$244,875

12759 W Ballad Dr., SUN CITY WEST

MLS# 7064685

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-128th, R-Aurora, R-Ballad Dr.

Nicely maintained Gemini/Twin home just a half a block from SCW's Stardust GC club house. 1419 Sq. Ft., 2 Bdrms, 2 baths plus a large, screened patio. New HVAC 2023. Guest bath updated. Porcelain plank tile flooring. HOA allows pets (max 2) & rentals. Quick close of escrow possible. This one is one you'll want to see! Call today to view!



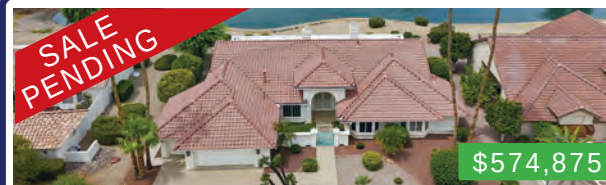
\$444,875

15192 W. Las Brizas Ln., SUN CITY WEST

MLS# 7059982

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-151st, L-Corral Dr., R-Acapulco. L-Las Brizas Ln.

Highly desired Prescott model is located on the 7th fairway of Desert Trails GC. This 1856 sq. ft. home has 2 Bdrms (split), 2 baths plus a den. New roof underlayment 2022, HVAC in 2020 & kitchen appliances 2019. Quick close of escrow is possible. Home has been well maintained. This one is one you'll want to see! Call today to view!



\$574,875

14114 W Whitewood Dr., SUN CITY WEST

MLS# 7068961

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-Meeker, L-Echo Mesa, L-Whitewood Dr.

Expanded Montero model with panoramic views of SCW's Trail Ridge GC 3rd fairway/ green & lake with fountain. Approx. 3000 sq. ft., 2 Bdrm suites, 3 baths plus a den/office & golf cart garage. The large, covered patio, dining/family/living Rm combination is designed for formal/casual entertaining. Quick close of escrow is possible. Centrally located & in SCW's lower tax area this home is one you'll want to see. Don't hesitate! Call today to view!



\$359,875

23100 N. Drifter Way, SUN CITY WEST

MLS# 7062138

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-Meeker, L-135th, L-Deer Valley Rd., R-Dusty Trail Blvd., R-Drifter Way

Popular Rio Verde model (expended). This 1612sq. ft. home has 2 Bdrms (split), 2 baths plus an added den/office/craft studio. Both bathrooms updated including walk in/roll in showers (2023). Paid off solar lease. Quick close of escrow is possible. No neighborhood HOA fee. This one is one you'll want to see! Call today to view!



\$654,875

12635 W. Eveningside Dr, SUN CITY WEST

MLS# 7040339

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, Dr. N-RHJ, R-128th, R-Sunglow Dr. which becomes Eveningside Dr.

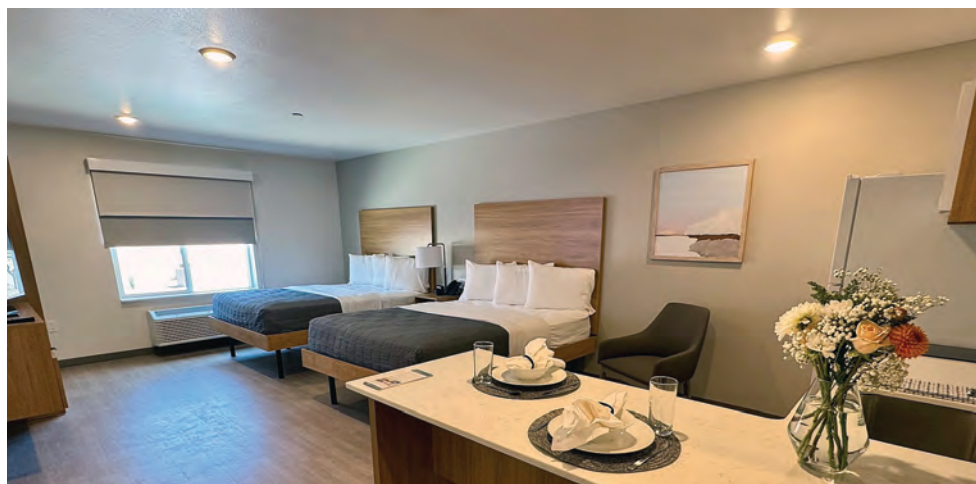
Fabulous panoramic view of Stardust GC's 4th & 5th fairways & greens. Home has 2599 sq. ft., 3 large bedrooms (split), 2 updated bathrooms, golf cart garage plus an added 175 Sq. ft. art/crafts studio or office. This home is truly special & an absolute must see! Call today to view!





PUT IT ON LIVAWAY

Surprise's hotel options grew Aug. 19 when LivAway Suites held its official ribbon cutting ceremony at 14020 W. Mountain View Boulevard. Chief Operating Officer Kevin Dailey participated in the ceremonial event with Surprise Assistant Economic Development Director Mike Hoover and others, including Surprise General Manager Alexey Bogdanov and Regional Director of Brand Sales Yvette Hiltl. The ribbon cutting also drew members of the Surprise Police, Parks and Recreation and Sports, Entertainment and Culture departments. The West Valley Regional Chamber sent representatives, including Business Development Specialist Cliff Yoder, as well as Ashley Carroll, the director of membership & engagement. Visit livawaysuites.com/locations/az/phoenix/surprise. (Courtesy city of Surprise/Kris Cassens)



FROM STEPHEN SCHWARTZ, THE COMPOSER OF *WICKED*.

PIPPIN

WHAT WOULD YOU RISK FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE?

OCTOBER 2 THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2026

ARIZONA BROADWAY THEATRE **26/27** SEASON

GET TICKETS NOW!
azbroadway.org
 623.776.8400

CHINA BUFFET

17119 N. Litchfield, Ste. 20 • Surprise
 623-584-9198

BEST ASIAN FOOD IN TOWN
 5 Years in the area!
 Crab Legs Now Available For Dinner & Sunday!

- AMERICAN STYLE
- CHINESE STYLE
- JAPANESE STYLE

WE ARE OPEN!

15% OFF BUFFET
 And Take Out Order
MUST PRESENT COUPON AT THE DOOR
 Not valid with any other offer or on holidays.
 Expires 10/10/2026
CHINA BUFFET

NOW DOING ONLINE ORDERING AT
[HTTP://GO KITCHEN DIRECT. COM/CHINABUFFETAZ.PHP](http://go.kitchendirect.com/chinabuffetaz.php)

MasterCard VISA
 Discover NOWUS

SUR



Mayor Kevin Sartor and Surprise City Councilmembers receive a proclamation from Michael Tree on behalf of Sen. Paul Gossar's office.



Dignitaries and the community participate in a ribbon-cutting for the official opening of the Surprise Community and Resource Center.

Community

• From page 11

involved in the community center project since its inception.

"Everything is here. You couldn't ask for anything more from this facility," Paul Outlaw said.

The project broke ground in January 2025, and its inception was in April 2022, when the Surprise City Council voted to approve an inter-governmental agreement with Maricopa County to build the \$27 million building.

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors also voted to approve the IGA with the city of Surprise.

The county dedicated \$18 million of its federal American Rescue Plan

Act funding to the project, and the city offered \$9 million from combined resources available through the federal ARPA and Health Resources and Services Administration funds, plus the city's General Fund dollars.

The city received a \$1 million Congressional Directed Spending Request from Senator Mark Kelly's office. Major donors included the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation's \$450,000 pledge to support community wellness, nutrition and resiliency programs.

See surpriseaz.gov/SCRC.

Delarita Ford can be reached at dford@iniusa.org. Submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

AS A THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR "FAMILY" FOR 27 YEARS...

DILLON'S RESTAURANT

Enjoy our 3 Meat Combo for \$27.00 ALL of September!

*Prime Rib
Smoked Meats
Full Service Catering
Dine in or Carry Out*

FREE 1/2 ORDER OF ONION RINGS
WITH PURCHASE OF AN ENTREE
Not valid with any other offers or discounts.
Not valid with Dillon's Bonus Cards.

CATERING@DILLONSCATERS.COM OR 928.671.1762	ARROWHEAD 20585 N 59TH AVE 623.566.8100	DILLON'S BAYOU 40202 N 87TH AVE 928.501.2227	WILDLIFE WORLD ZOO 16335 W NORTHERN AVE 623.566.8100
			WESTERN TRAILS RANCH 37839 W GRAND AVE 623.388.2000

The Valley's nonpartisan newspaper.



INDEPENDENT
at YourValley.net



CHOCOLATE OVERLOAD

Chocolate lovers in Surprise received a big treat Aug. 20 with the grand opening and ribbon cutting of Russell Stover Chocolates at 16340 W. Waddell Road, Suite 100. Surprise store manager Felicia Purpura participated in the ribbon cutting with Surprise Assistant Economic Development Director Mike Hoover. Members of the Parks and Recreation and Sports, Entertainment and Culture departments also took part in the festivities. They also included Russell Stover administrators Angela Ellsworth, Christi Jones and Alejandro Piper. The candy store is open daily at 10 a.m., except on Sundays, which opens an hour later. Visit russellstover.com. (Courtesy city of Surprise/Kris Cassens)



More than hospice care

We provide specialized care for people living with chronic illnesses and all stages of dementia.

Call 24/7. We can help.
(602) 530-6900 | hov.org

Your not-for-profit
hospice serving all
in need since 1977



Southwest
DOOR & SASH INC
DOORS · WINDOWS · SALES · INSTALLATION
623.640.4561



**Cooler
Weather
SALE**



**24 MONTHS
WITH NO
INTEREST
FINANCING
or
20% OFF
WINDOWS
AND DOORS**



*see sales associate for details, excludes security screens & security door.. Valid through September 30, 2026.

15460 N. 99th Ave, Sun City
www.SouthWestDoorAndSashinc.com

WE OFFER
      

We Offer Financing  



DUSD TAKES SAFEWAY TO SCHOOL FUNDING

The Safeway at Cotton Lane and Bell Road celebrated its grand reopening on Aug. 12 with a special presentation benefitted all Dysart Unified School District schools. Each DUSD school received a \$1,500 check, with school principals present to accept the donations on behalf of their campuses. Superintendent Croteau also spoke at the event. (Courtesy DUSD/Ryan McGinley)

DANA · WHITING · LAW

PROBATE & TRUST ATTORNEYS

Thousands of Trusts Created • Licensed Attorneys in Arizona, Colorado, California, Nevada and Utah.



Matt Dana
Attorney, CPA and LLM
(Masters in Taxation)
41 Years of Experience

- **FREE Consult** - Out of State Trusts
- Establishing a New Trust
- Probate / Trust Administration

Call Today to set up an appointment!

928-271-8450

12455 W Bell Rd, Surprise, AZ 85378 • DanaWhitingLaw.com

**Dr. Fox is back to doing full service dentistry.
Now offering cleanings with our hygienist!
We are open for all of your dental
emergencies during these trying times!**

**HAVE A
BROKEN
TOOTH OR
BEEN TOLD
YOU NEED
A CROWN?**



NOW WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS! **FREE CONSULTATION!**

\$699 CROWN
PER UNIT ONE SIMPLE PRICE,
NO SURPRISE HIDDEN FEES!

Come see the experts for quality crowns at exceptional prices. We'll also replace missing teeth with bridges and provide cosmetic crowns to create the confident smile you deserve—all affordable, just \$699 per unit! Dr. Fox and the same staff that you have trusted to treat you for years in Sun City and Sun City West are now back together in surprise conveniently located on bell road.

**FULL TIME INSURANCE SPECIALIST TO
ASSIST YOU IN GETTING MAXIMUM
REIMBURSEMENT FROM YOUR INSURANCE.**



*If your insurance covers 50% of the cost of the crown, your insurance will reimburse you \$349.50.

In house financing available for larger treatment plans



Call Today!

623-229-6576

www.azcrowncenter.com • 15288 N. Brookside Ln., Suite 131 • Surprise, AZ 85374

'Bold' artwork reaches the soul in Surprise

Asante Library displaying healing artworks project

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A new public art piece featuring the soul-searching works of Tiesha Harrison is installed at Asante Library, 16755 W. Vereda Solana Drive in Surprise.

A story-telling visual artist, based in Phoenix, the Arizona native collaborated with the community and Surprise Arts to present her "bold art" and experiences for what is described as real stories. She has a story of her own to share through her own experience that inspired the Sunflower Soul Project, which she founded as a "trauma-informed care initiative that uses art as a means of promoting healing, self-expression and well-being," according to pub-

lished reports.

Her mission is to provide a safe and supportive space for individuals to explore themselves through creative expression by mixing art, storytelling, and community building.

"I create work about healing, culture and human emotion through mixed media portraits and vibrant contemporary abstract art. My art is describe as intuitive, fearless and bold that moves people to feel deeply," stated Harrison in a release.

The Sunflower Soul Project, a

• See **Art** on page 23

Right, Tiesha Harrison founded Sunflower Soul Project, which is a "trauma-informed care initiative that uses art as a means of promoting healing, self-expression and well-being." (Courtesy Surprise Arts)



"Advocates for **YOUR** Home Improvement"

SERVING
THE VALLEY
SINCE
1974!



PALMER'S
Kitchen, Bath & Beyond

CRAFTSMANSHIP • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

**YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE
FOR HOME UPDATES
INCLUDING:**

- Kitchens • Counter Tops
- Bathrooms • Flooring
- Walk-in Showers • Painting
- Walk-in Tubs • Outdoor Living



— ALL PHASES OF REMODELING —

**\$500 OFF ANY
PROJECT \$5000 OR MORE**

Must mention this offer at time of signing.

Call Today 623-977-4458

623-977-4458

www.PalmersandBeyond.com



ROC 269037 | Licensed | Bonded | Insured

WE HAVE OPENINGS AT MARY'S PLACE IN SUN CITY & WEST VALLEY IN PEORIA

Ad Sponsored by:
**INDEPENDENT
NEWS MEDIA**
Celebrating & Connecting Our Communities
YourValley.net

Engaging Daytime Care for Your Loved One. *Peace of Mind for You.*

If you're caring for a loved one and finding it harder to leave them alone during the day, you may be ready for more support. **Benevilla Life Enrichment Adult Day Programs** provide a safe, welcoming place where older adults can spend the day engaged and cared for, while caregivers have respite.

Our Programs Support Adults With:

- MCI (Mild Cognitive Impairment)
- Alzheimer's and Other Dementia
- Adults with Intellectual Disabilities
- Stroke Survivors
- Parkinson's Disease



Schedule a Tour

(623) 584-4999 TTY711



Scan
to Learn
More



Benevilla®

Benevilla.org

Art

• From page 22

healing arts initiative is dedicated to using art to support the mental and emotional well-being of families affected by violence, while offering spiritual healing to aid individuals in self-awareness through creativity, sharing stories, and engaging in a therapeutic process on their healing journey.

"We aim to create a positive impact on the lives of those who connect with their art, uplift and empower individuals to overcome adversity while building resilience," noted Harrison, who uses her expertise to help communities heal from trauma through the power of art.

Harrison has committed to advocacy and education as a dedication to the memory of her sister, Delores, who was "tragically lost to

gun violence," according to information on her her Instagram page. The Arizona State University graduate holds a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies, focusing on family studies and business.

She also completed the Milan Art Institute Mastery Program and is a graduate of The Collective Creative Leadership program at Mesa Arts Center, as well as the Women's Leadership Development Forum.

Her work was formally recognized by the Arizona House of Representatives, highlighting her impact, art and leadership. Among other notable achievements, she has helped lead and support important community initiatives, such as a healing art project involving 27 families and survivors of domestic violence.

For pricing or commissioned artwork email: iamundefinedart@gmail.com.

RELIANT

PLUMBING & ROOTER



High Quality Plumbing Svc & 24 Hr Emergency Service!

Pipe Leak Repair • Fixture Installs • Hydro Jetting • Roto Rooter
Camera Inspections • Trenchless Pipe Bursting • Sewer Lining

\$37 ANY DRAIN
UNCLOG
OR IT'S FREE!*

UP TO 15% SENIOR &
DISCOUNT* MILITARY

FREE
2ND OPINION/ESTIMATE*

FREE ESTIMATES
for
WATER LEAK REPAIR & REPIES

Locally & Family Owned

602-888-7060
www.reliantplumbingandrooter.com

**\$37 DRAIN
UNCLOG
SPECIAL!**

*TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. OFFERS CANNOT BE COMBINED • LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED • ROC 353346



Interactive puzzles at YourValley.net



Glendale

5890 W Bell Rd, Ste 103
Glendale 85308
(602) 938-9866

Goodyear

13824 W McDowell Rd, Ste 106
Goodyear AZ 85395
(623) 547-7415

Surprise

15332 W Bell Rd, Ste 121
Surprise, AZ 85374
(623) 200-5441

Peoria

24681 N. Lake Pleasant Pkwy,
Ste 102, Peoria, AZ 85383
623-850-8884

Buckeye

20640 W Roosevelt St, Ste 101
Buckeye, AZ 85326
623-335-9490

Phoenix North

Coming Soon
1710 W Happy Valley Rd
Phoenix, AZ 85085

**Free Decoration
with purchase of
The Bundt or
The Big Bundt**

Expires 09/30/26. Not valid online or on the Nothing Bundt Cakes Mobile App. Limit one (1) offer per coupon per day. Offer valid only on The Bundt or The Big Bundt. Valid only for the Nothing Bundt Cakes® bakery listed when you show this offer in bakery at time of purchase. Not applicable on previous orders. No cash value. Coupon code may not be reproduced, transferred or sold. Internet distribution strictly prohibited. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Offer may not apply to premium priced items. Other restrictions may apply.

MEET YOUR EDUCATOR

Hawari has all the information DUSD needs

CIO has 17 years as employee, time spent on governing board

The Surprise Independent periodically features a different educator in our city. This week, we shine the light on Dysart Unified School District Chief Information Officer Diana Hawari.

Your name:

Diana Hawari

What is your title?

Chief Information Officer

What school or department do you work at?

Information Technology Department

What are you excited about in your department and why?

One of the things I value most is knowing that our success is often measured

by what people don't notice. When everything works, IT can be invisible, but that invisibility is often the result of a tremendous amount of dedication, expertise and hard work.

What do you like most about your job?

What I have loved most about working in the community where I live and raised my family is that Dysart has never just been a place where I work, it is a part of who I am. All five of my children are Dysart kids.

I had the privilege of serving six years as a governing board member and have spent 17 years as an employee. I have experienced Dysart as a parent, a community member, a board member and a district leader. I have watched this community grow, celebrated its successes, and worked through its challenges.

There is a genuine sense of pride in knowing that the work I do directly benefits the community my family calls home. Dysart is in my blood, and that personal

connection is what has made serving this community so meaningful to me.

What do you like most about living here?

That it still feels like a small community to me. I know people who work at my local grocery stores, restaurants and gas stations. I live close to where I work, and I work in the school district where my children go to school. I don't have to deal with busy freeways, tall buildings, or one-way streets just to get where I'm going. There is room to breathe. Even though Surprise has grown tremendously over the past 28 years, it has managed to maintain that small-community feeling that I loved when I first moved here.

What changes would you like to see in this area?

I would like to see Surprise slow down just a little bit. I sometimes feel that too much change, too quickly can cause us to

• See **Hawari** on page 25



Dysart Unified School District Chief Information Officer Diana Hawari works in the district's Information Technology Department and was once on the district's governing board. (Submitted photo)



**PROTECT
WHAT YOU'VE BUILT.
YOUR HOME.
YOUR SAVINGS.
YOUR LEGACY.**

A Living Trust can help you avoid probate, organize your estate and make your wishes clear.

Don't Leave Your Family Guessing.

Living Trusts & Estate Planning

623-561-2323

**CALL TODAY
for Your Free Consultation**

99th Ave & Bell Road



No legal advice given - Not a law firm



Jared Gough

JoAnn Regan

OVER 25 Years
Of Your Security,
Your Peace of Mind

LOCALLY OWNED. ARIZONA TRUSTED.

**ALL
NEW!**
ARRIVING NOW!
BE ONE OF THE FIRST TO RIDE!



AVAILABLE NOW IN
CHAMPAGNE • PEARL WHITE
DEEP CRIMSON



**A NEW STANDARD.
A BETTER RIDE.**

- ✓ STYLISH. MODERN. BUILT TO LAST.
- ✓ SMOOTH RIDE & QUIET POWER
- ✓ PERFECT FOR NEIGHBORHOODS, RESORTS & ADVENTURES
- ✓ QUALITY YOU CAN COUNT ON

MODEL C4

\$9,795

LIMITED TIME INTRODUCTORY PRICE!

GET IN EARLY - QUANTITIES WON'T LAST!



623.974.4584

13525 W Camino Del Sol Sun
City West, AZ 85375

WWW.GCSUPERSTORE.COM

Hawari

• From page 24

lose some of the small-community character that makes Surprise special.

Favorite community cause and why?

My favorite community cause is supporting children and education. I believe strongly that the success of a community starts with its children. We need to invest in our schools, our teachers and our students.

When and why did you move here?

I moved to Surprise in 1998, shortly after my second child was born. Honestly, I moved here because the housing market was more affordable, and it seemed like a good place to raise my growing family. At the time, Surprise was very different. There were orange orchards and watermelon fields everywhere, and we didn't have grocery stores or even gas stations nearby.

Over the past 28 years, I have watched Surprise grow. My family grew up here alongside the city.

My adult children still live in Surprise. My sister also moved here, along with my two nieces.

Where did you live prior to Surprise?

I was living in north Phoenix, where I was renting a home. So what started as an affordable place to raise my growing family eventually became my long-term home. After nearly three decades later, my family has deep roots here.

Who is in your family?

I grew up the youngest of six children in an extremely close-knit family. Even though we are all adults with families and busy lives of our own, we remain incredibly close and communicate daily through group texts.

I have five beautiful children, who are my greatest source of pride. My two youngest are getting ready to graduate from high school, which is an exciting and an emotional time for our family.

I also have an extremely supportive husband, who also works in education, so he understands the demands and rewards that come with my profession.

If you ask any of my staff, they will tell you that I have always believed family comes first. I believe that our jobs are important, but at the end of the day, our families are what matter most.

I have always encouraged my staff to be there for their families, attend the important moments, take the time they need, and re-

member that work will always be there but some family moments only happen once.

If you could pick another occupation, what would it be?

I have spent my entire career in K-12 education technology leadership that it is difficult to imagine myself doing anything different.

Honestly, after 25 years in IT leadership, I think it would be an occupation where nobody expects me to answer an email.

What are your interests and hobbies?

This is actually a funny question because my husband and I were just having this exact conversation. We are planning for retirement and realizing that we need to figure out what we are going to do with all of the time we will suddenly have.

For most of my adult life, my kids and my career have been my hobbies. Raising five children while building a career in education technology didn't leave a lot of extra time to develop hobbies.

We are actually on the hunt for a hobby. Maybe travel?

Describe one of the happiest moments in your life.

My happiest moments aren't really about one accomplishment or one event. I am

happiest when I look around at my family and realize how incredibly fortunate I am.

What is your best and worst habit?

I would say my best habit is that I am dependable and persistent. When I commit to something, I follow through. I believe in following the rules and established processes, but I also understand that leadership sometimes requires recognizing the gray areas and using good judgment.

I also like to think that I am professional in how I conduct myself, regardless of the situation. I believe in treating people with respect, being prepared, and representing my department and school district well.

My worst habit is probably that I am confident and, if you ask for my opinion, I will give you one. I tend to have a perspective on most situations, and my opinions are usually based on logic, experience and what I believe is best.

The problem is not everyone necessarily wants the truth, especially when the truth isn't what they were hoping to hear.

What traits do you admire in others?

I respect people who are knowledgeable and continue to learn. I value people who are curious, willing to ask questions, and committed to becoming better at what they do. I admire a strong work ethic.

DESIGN ARRAY GARAGE DOOR STORE

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION • REPAIR

LiftMaster Model 2220L-7' DC
7' DC Chain Drive WiFi
Garage Door Opener

NOW ONLY! \$499 Plus Tax & Installation

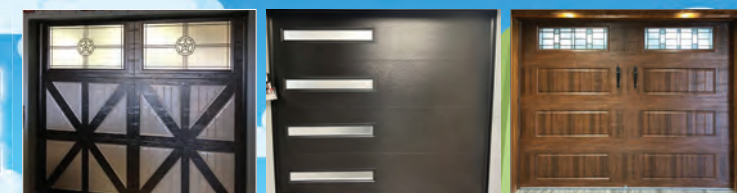
Must present coupon. Can't combine with other advertised offers. Prices subject to change after 9/30/26.

16 x 7 Garage Doors

Starting at **\$2,049** Installed. Plus tax.

Includes removing existing door & reconnecting existing opener.

Must present coupon. Can't combine with other advertised offers. Prices subject to change after 9/30/26.



THE WEST VALLEY'S LARGEST GARAGE DOOR SHOWROOM!

OPERATIONAL DOORS & OPENERS ON DISPLAY!

LiftMaster
PROFESSIONAL
Amarr

SUMMER SERVICE SPECIAL

\$75

Garage Door Tune-Up

Tighten hinges, lube and/or adjust door springs and opener.

Includes 16 point safety inspection.

Must present coupon. Can't combine with other advertised offers. Prices subject to change after 9/30/26.

\$200 OFF
Any Steel-backed Insulated
16' x 7' Garage Door

Must present coupon. Can't combine with other advertised offers. Prices subject to change after 9/30/26.



★★ **Located In Sun City For Over 26 Years!** ★★

Free Estimates! • www.MakeMyDoor.com

9008 N. 99th Ave. • Sun City • 623-915-7777

99th Avenue & Olive • Monday-Friday 8am-5pm • Saturday by appt only

Residential & Commercial • LIC # ROC 161375 • HOA • COA • PORA



Council gives boost to City Center fall festival

Event to get reimbursement money for next 3 years

By Jason Stone
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Before approving city funding to help out the upcoming Desert Fall Festival in City Center, Surprise Vice Mayor Earle Greenberg had an important question.

“What do we get to shoot this year with the apple cannon?” Greenberg asked at the Sept. 1 city council meeting.

Apple cannons are one of the attractions at the festival that will include Western-inspired, fall themed entertainment, unique attractions, food vendors and live performances from Sept. 25 to Nov. 1.

The council approved spending \$30,000 in tourism funds this year and adding it to the budget the next two to support festival, which is in its

second year on land in between Tierra Buena Lane and Greenway Road.

Producers West Valley Events and Marketing are estimating crowds of up to 60,000 people throughout the festival’s run. Last year, out-of-state attendees came from California, Nevada, New Mexico and Mexico.

The organizers are estimating the festival will bring 1,100 room nights to Surprise hotels, helping generate \$3 million to \$5 million in economic impact.

Founders Jordan and Shanelle Kunz are expected to spend \$1 million on an immersive destination experience. The Kunzes submitted a marketing plan that is expected to spend \$100,000 on digital, social media, radio, TV and print.

“One of the biggest things is that they really put in a lot of marketing effort to highlight both Surprise and the

City Center area to the (Valley) and other regions in Arizona,” Surprise Government Relations Director Jodi Tas told the council. “It is a large-scale seasonal event that’s designed to attract both residents and visitors to City Center.”

The tourism fund is a special dedicated fund for events and marketing that comes from the transient lodging tax and not part of the general fund.

Under the agreement the council approved, for every 100 hotel room nights the city verifies, the organizers would get \$2,500 back.

They would receive up to \$20,000 for attendance and up to 10 for hotel nights, not to exceed \$30,000 in each fiscal year.

The council plans to factor in the money for the next two years during the normal budget process.

“The biggest driver for this event is

the amount of attendance that it gets and brings into City Center,” Tas said. “Their goal is really to deliver that meaningful economic and cultural benefit that all support Surprise broader tourism and development initiatives and engages the community and promotes tourism here in Surprise.”

The Kunzes are also the family behind the Desert Farm Lights holiday festival, which happens on the Justice Brothers Ranch just south of the Surprise city limit.

“When I talk to residents and families, they always want something to do in Surprise, and this puts us on the map as a growing city,” Mayor Kevin Sartor said.

Jason Stone can be reached at jstone@iniusa.org. Submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AZOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

Come Visit Our NEW LOCATION!
(RIGHT NEXT TO SAFEWAY)

HIGH-QUALITY DENTAL CARE

AZ Implant & Denture Center

FREE CONSULT & 3D X-RAY
FREE ORAL CANCER SCREENING
Call Now 623-214-7898

Denture Repair and Reline While You Wait

- General & Cosmetic Dentistry
- Implant Expert 30+ Years
- Do You Want To Save Your Teeth? We Can Help
- Lab On Site

13507 W Camino Del Sol, Suite B3, Sun City West, AZ 85375
www.azimplantdenturecenter.com

Choose Solstice Today!

See why **97%** of current residents would recommend Solstice to a friend.

Schedule your tour today at (623) 584-1999!

18626 N Spanish Garden Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375
SolsticeSeniorLivingSunCityWest.com

SOLSTICE
SENIOR LIVING
AT SUN CITY WEST

FROM THE COVER

BESS

• From page 3

ble by storing energy to power areas during high-demand times and add to the power portfolio for utilities like APS. The company plans to place more BESS units near power substations to reduce the need to place them near homes as much as possible, plus it would have a quicker line into the main system.

"I get really nervous with the possibility of dropping a battery storage facility right in front of someone's house, or real close to someone's house, even though we've spent the time talking to engineers, talking to people to understand they are safer now," Councilmember Chris Judd said before the vote.

Councilmember Jack Hastings said a shorter setback is also good for business reasons.

"When businesses come to our city, we talk about water a lot," Hastings said. "They look at the resources that we have, and water's a big one, but it's also power. And if we don't have the resources and we don't have the stuff they need, they go to other places."

The zoning text amendment includes an eight- to 12-foot perimeter wall around the BESS. Mayor Kevin Sartor wanted to make sure the wall would not be a chain-link fence, calling it an "eyesore" at the BESS he visited to learn more about them.

Sartor also said he favored a variable range for the setbacks to give the council some flexibility in determining future BESS projects.

Jason Stone can be reached at jstone@iniusa.org. Submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AZOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

57 Years

**Of Honest, Dependable Service.
We stand behind our work.**

SERVICE IS OUR SALESMAN



PEST • TERMITE • WEEDS



\$145

WEED CONTROL

Pre-emergent Application

Covers up to 8000 sq. ft. (over 8000 sq. ft. slightly higher)

Expires 9-30-26



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTED RATE

623.977.2100

12040 N. 111th Avenue • Youngtown, AZ WWW.GENERALX.COM

Office hours 8:30-4:00 (Closed 12 - 12:30 for lunch)

SEPTEMBER SAVINGS
ALL MONTH LONG!

REFRESH YOUR HOME

This September!

**PREMIUM COUNTERTOPS | FLOORING | WALK IN SHOWERS
CUSTOM CABINETS | BACKSPLASH**

10% OFF
ALL CAMBRIA® QUARTZ
KITCHEN AND VANITY SPECIAL

*Restrictions apply. See store for details
Expires 09/30/26

\$200 OFF
ANY SLAB
IN STOCK!

*Restrictions apply. See store for details
Expires 09/30/26

\$1,500 OFF
COMPLETE RENOVATION
KITCHEN & BATH
COMBINED W/ CABINETS,
COUNTERS & SHOWERS

*Both rooms required. Restrictions apply.
See store for details. Expires 09/30/26



TINTAS
GRANITE & FLOORING LLC

BUILT WITH PRIDE

**A LOCAL ARIZONA
FAMILY BUSINESS SINCE 1998**



ONE STOP SHOP
Design • Fabrication
Installation



FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
Over 25 Years of
Experience



PREMIUM QUALITY
Products • Service
Craftsmanship



**VISIT OUR
SHOWROOM
& SLAB YARD
TODAY!**



**13410 W. FOXFIRE DR #100
SURPRISE, AZ 85378**



FREE ESTIMATE
623-214-3599



tintasgranite.com



Restrictions Apply Must present original coupon at time of signing/contract; Tintas Granite will not accept coupons after signing. Not valid or combinable with other offers or discounts. Limit one per household. Expires 09/30/26. Reproductions or digital copies not accepted. Valid on qualifying purchases only. Non-transferable. No cash value. Offer subject to change. See store for details.

LICENSED BONDED INSURED | ROC # 278090 278093

Arizona Winds honors Route 66 to kick off season

Band honors iconic highway's centennial for new season

By Jason Stone
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Arizona Winds Concert Band will launch its 2026-27 concert season in Surprise with a high octane musical adventure celebrating the 100th anniversary of America's most iconic highway.

The Great American Road Trip (celebrating Route 66's centennial) opens Sunday, Oct. 11, at the Vista Center for the Arts, 15660 N. Parkview Place, inviting audiences to buckle up for a coast to coast journey told entirely through music and video.

The program begins at the very heart of the Mother Road with Robert Sheldon's "Sixty Six." Bright, rhythmic, and full of forward momentum, the piece captures the optimism and open road energy that made Route 66 synonymous with freedom. It sets the tone for the entire concert: a musical map unfolding mile by mile.

We begin our journey in the Windy City with William Chambers' "Chicago Tribune March." Its bold brass writing and confident stride evoke the bustling newspaper era of Chicago — one of Route 66's most storied start-



Arizona Winds is back for another season at The Vista Center for the Arts in Surprise with a celebration of Route 66 on Sunday, Oct. 11. (Courtesy Arizona Winds/Rich Shelton)

ing points. The march's crisp, urban character contrasts beautifully with the blues infused stop that follows.

W. C. Handy's "St. Louis Blues March" blends jazz, blues, and military precision, reflecting St. Louis as a cultural crossroads. Its unmistakable swing adds personality to the journey, reminding listeners that the road trip is as much about the people and sounds of America as it is about the geography.

The next stretch of the trip rolls into Oklahoma, where Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" bursts with frontier spirit. Its familiar melodies celebrate the wide open landscapes and pioneering optimism that shaped the

region — and the Route 66 travelers who passed through it.

Continuing southwest, Morton Gould's "Santa Fe Saga" paints the desert with color and drama. Its cinematic writing evokes adobe architecture, desert horizons, and the cultural richness of New Mexico. The piece deepens the concert's narrative, shifting from Americana to the mystique of the Southwest.

Rossano Galante's "Red Rock Mountain" pushes deeper into rugged terrain with soaring lines and powerful brass scoring. The work's grandeur mirrors the monumental rock formations of northern Arizona, a remind-

er of the awe inspiring natural beauty found along the iconic Route 66.

Our next stop offers a moment of reflection as we venture off the highway on a little side trip with Philip Sparke's "Sunrise at Angel's Gate". Inspired by the breathtaking views of the Grand Canyon, the piece captures the stillness and majesty of dawn breaking over one of America's greatest landmarks — an unforgettable stop on any western road trip.

Steven Reineke's "Sedona" continues the Arizona Route 66 chapter with vibrant color and rhythmic vitality. Its warm harmonies and sweeping gestures evoke red rock vistas, artistic energy, and the spiritual calm that makes Sedona a beloved destination.

Our journey concludes at the Pacific Ocean with Robert Sheldon's "Pacific Crest." Triumphant and expansive, it represents the end of the road—where Route 66 meets the California coastline in Santa Monica and we finally stand at the edge of the continent.

Together, these selections form a complete musical portrait of the Great American Road Trip: a celebration of history, landscape, culture, and the enduring spirit of American adventure.

All concerts are free. Doors open at 3 p.m., and shows begin at 4 p.m.

Faith & Values

 Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
Worship With Us

Weekend Worship
Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:30 AM

CONNECT WITH US

(623) 584-2000 | www.LOLaz.org | info@LOLaz.org
13724 W Meeker Boulevard, Sun City West, AZ
Corner of RH Johnson & W Meeker Boulevards

 **CROWN
OF LIFE**
Lutheran Church

Join Us For Worship
Saturday 4:00pm • Sunday 9:00am
Online at colchurch.com/services

Pastor Mark Logid
13131 Spanish Garden Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375
www.colchurch.com • 623-546-6228

Join us for worship
Sun. 8am & 10am
Wed. Healing Service 10am
Also Livestream on Facebook or YouTube

 **Advent**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Connect • Inspire • Transform

13150 W. Spanish Garden, Sun City West, AZ 85375
www.adventaz.org • 623-584-0350

Faith Presbyterian
Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10 AM

 **Come and Hear**
Desert Aires
Barbershop Chorus
September 13, 2026
Pastor Greg Emery

16000 N. Del Webb Blvd. Sun City 85351 623-974-3611
And Live-Streamed at www.scfaith.org

BUSINESS DIRECTORY & CLASSIFIED ADS

VISIT US @ iniusa.org/classifieds | EMAIL US: azads@iniusa.org | OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

EMAILS

azads@iniusa.org
legals@iniusa.org

To place your ad call us at

888-665-3848

AUTOMOTIVE, GARAGE SALES & MERCHANDISE RATES

\$20 per market - 30 words
 Your ad appears in the newspaper
 of choice plus online
 \$5⁰⁰ for color and each additional photo
 25¢ extra per additional word

BUSINESS/SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES

Starting at **\$45**
 for one column by three-inch advertisement
 \$15⁰⁰ per inch after (maximum size 8.55 inches)
 Logo and photos included
 4-weeks minimum

EMPLOYMENT ADS

Starting at **\$45**
 for one column by three-inch advertisement
 \$15⁰⁰ per inch after (maximum size 8.55 inches)
 Logo and photos included
 No minimum commitment requirement

Announcement

NOTICE
Independent Newspapers
 will not knowingly
 accept any
 advertisement that is
 illegal or considered
 fraudulent. In all cases
 of questionable value,
 such as promises of
 guaranteed income from
 work-at-home programs -
 if it sounds too good to
 be true, chances are
 that it is.

If you have questions or
 doubts about any ad on
 these pages, we advise
 that before responding
 or sending money ahead
 of time, you check with
 the Better Business
 Bureau at 877-291-6222
 for previous complaints.

Guns/Supplies

**BUYING &
 SELLING GOLD,
 GUNS, AMMO, &
 RELOADING
 SUPPLIES.**
 Will buy one gun or
 whole collection.
 Licensed dealer.
 Best prices around.
 Allen
602-918-1999
623-875-4565

Employment

**Valley
 Newspapers is
 Hiring!**
 Full-time delivery
 driver for busy
 print shop.
 26-foot box truck
 with lift gate.
 Must have clean
 driving record and
 pass physical.
 Competitive wages
 with benefits
 Contact Mike
 Jacobs at
mjacobs@iniusa.org

Help Wanted
 EXP. House Cleaner
**Immediate
 Opening**
 Paid % of Job
Great Opportunity
 41yr. Company
 Must Have Own
 Products, Vacuum Etc.
Barb's House Cleaning
623-521-4196

**BOATS
 FOR SALE!**

 To Sell Your Items call:
888-665-3848
iniusa.org/classifieds

Pets/Supplies

Say 'Hi' to **FINNEGAN!** This handsome black gentleman is almost 6 years old and is the definition of a big, lovable lap cat. Finnegan was found by a trapper living in a large feral colony, but when they discovered that he had a microchip and had originally been adopted from Sun Cities 4 Paws, he came back to us when he original owners could not be reached. Finnegan absolutely loves climbing into your lap and settling in for some serious cuddle time. He is affectionate, sweet, and happiest hanging out with his favorite person. He will let you know when he's had enough cuddle time though! Since he spent time living outdoors, his new family will need to keep an eye on doors because he may occasionally try to make a dash back out. Finnegan would likely be happiest as the one and only feline king of his castle. His experience with dogs and children is unknown. He has no current health concerns and is ready to trade colony life for a comfortable lap, a safe home, and someone of his very own. If you're looking for a big, cuddly boy who would love nothing more than to curl up in your lap and keep you company, Finnegan may be your guy! Meet him at the Peoria Shelter, 10807 N 96th Ave, Peoria or call 623-773-2246. Additional cats at PetSmart, 13764 W Bell Rd, Surprise AZ.



**SUN CITIES
 4 Paws
 CAT RESCUE**
 Saving Cats Since 1996

Automobiles

602-469-5005
CAR
GOOD USED
FOR A
LOOKING
Private Party

WANTED older cars
 1940's 50's 60's 70's
 80's. Running or not.
 Can tow non running car.
 Please Call or Text me
 what you have
 480-375-8959 or email
oldcar@usa.com

**CLASSIFIEDS
 ARE AN
 EASY
 SELL!**

Golf Carts

Buying Running &
 Non Running
 Golf Carts.
**We Pick Up
 & PAY CASH!**

602-348-8967

**\$CASH\$
 \$CASH\$
 \$\$ CASH \$\$**
 For Your
 Old Golf Cart
 Running
 or Not
602-576-5937

AC/Heating

WARM TEMPS ARE HERE!
Schedule Your A/C Tune-up Today!
\$7500 Installation Special
Need a New System?
 Mention this ad for a
5% DISCOUNT
ON NEW INSTALLATION
AND FOR ALL VETS
623-999-8226
LevelUpHVAC.com
 Licensed • Bonded • Insured • ROC#328964

Appliance

**APPLIANCE
 REPAIR**
WE'RE OPEN
 Ex-Sears Repairman
 26+ Years' Experience
 • Washers
 • Dryers
 • Coolers
 • Refrigerators
 • A/C - Heaters
 • Ranges - Microwaves
 • Disposals
 • Water Heaters
**\$15
 Service
 Call**
COLWILL'S
623.492.9356

Cleaning

**ANNA'S
 HOUSEKEEPING**
 HOUSES • OFFICES • APARTMENTS
 Monthly • Bi-Weekly • One Time
 References Available
FREE ESTIMATES
623-261-6360

Clean Windows

WINDOW CLEANING

**Brighten
 Up
 Your Day!**
 Reasonable
 Dependable
 Screens & Tracks
 Cleaned at
 No Extra Cost
 References Available
FREE ESTIMATES
**FABOREO
 WINDOW
 CLEANING**
(602)252-6499

**Excellent
 Window
 Cleaning
 &
 SUNSCREENS**
10% Off Sun Screens!
 Interior/Exterior
 Local/Reliable
 Steve
623-341-8197

Concrete

**Superior
 Concrete Coatings**
Our Specialty:
 *Cool Deck
 *Simulated Flag-Stone
 *Garage Floor Epoxies
 &
 *Fixing Old Coatings
 Serving the Valley Since 1987
 With No Complaints!
Senior Discounts
602-486-9598
 ROC# 354469 Lic/Bond


**BE
 SEEN!**
 In the Classifieds!
888-665-3848
iniusa.org/classifieds

Computers


Computer Problems?
 Need friendly, individualized, onsite assistance?
 Call Kagons Tutoring and Technical Support, Ilc:
623-377-3440

Shop the Classifieds first!
iniusa.org/classifieds

Floor Coverings

KEIGHER'S FLOORING

Got Cracked, Chipped, or Lifted Tile?

Call Dan or Marsha
602-789-7770

Residential/Commercial
35+ Years' Experience

Licensed-Bonded-Insured
PORA

ESP Floor Covering LLC

- Tile
- Hardwood
- Laminates
- LVT & LVP
- Carpet

Sales ~ Installation
Re-stretches's
Serving ALL the
Sun Cities
Also Valley Wide
40+Yrs Exp

HOA & PORA Listed
Call Eric S. Pelletier
623-972-5388
623-329-0995

Licensed-Bonded-Insured ROC# 275244

Junk Removal

3R JUNK REMOVAL

Best Price Guarantee!

No Job Too Big or Small
Schedule Us
Call
623.698.1438
Or Online
3RJUNK.COM
AZ's Premier
Junk Removal Co

Let Us Help You With Your Business Advertising

Call us for details
888-665-3848
iniusa.org/classifieds

Garage Doors

Family Owned & Operated

APEX

Bonded & Insured - Lic#300097

602-867-7111

www.apexgaragedoorandrepair.com

VISA M.C. DISCOVER ATM yelp X CLOPAY

SAME DAY SERVICE

Call today for a FREE in-home estimate for door replacement.

FALL SPECIAL
\$400 OFF
INSULATED GARAGE DOORS
APEX GARAGE DOOR • 602-362-0561
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Expires 10-31-26.

\$140
QUIET DOOR SPECIAL
Premium Set of Nylon Rollers w/Ball Bearings
APEX GARAGE DOOR • 602-362-0561
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Expires 10-31-26.

SPRING REPAIR
HIGH CYCLE SPRINGS WITH LONGER LIFE
Safety inspection, lube and tune both the door and opener PLUS an assessment of your system.
APEX GARAGE DOOR • 602-362-0561

INTEGRITY GARAGE DOORS LLC
ROC 359454

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

Commercial/Residential
Installations & Repairs
Serving the Valley
Since 1999

FREE Estimates
623-780-2687

PHILLIPS OVERHEAD INC.
RESIDENTIAL GARAGE DOORS & OPENERS

Garage Door Springs Replaced

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

New Doors & Openers

- Service
- Installations • Repairs

(623)853-3311
ROC #336907

Gutters

THE GUTTER GUY LLC

5" & 6" SEAMLESS GUTTERS & LEAF FILTER SYSTEMS

Office: 602-675-0949
Doug: 480-363-3464
Cindy: 623-329-8980

FREE ESTIMATES

Licensed, Insured, Accredited

Ask About Our Senior & Military Discounts

MasterCard VISA

Public Notice

Public Notice:

Dr. Sanjay Bommanati is no longer with CenterWell Surprise as of July 31, 2026. Current patients will automatically be transferred to another provider at the center. If you are a patient and you choose not to continue care at CenterWell Surprise, you can obtain your medical records by calling 623-428-8189.

Publish: Surprise Independent, August 26, September 2, 9, 16, 2026/47410_1

Handyman

All Aspects of Home IMPROVEMENT

JC CROSSROADS CONSTRUCTION

Kitchen & Bath Remodels

- LVP & Laminate Flooring Installation
- Plumbing & Electrical
- Custom Crown Molding & Baseboards
- Entertainment/Media Centers

Cell phone users please include the area code when dialing
623-466-3683
ROC 221600 • Licensed/Bonded

Buy! Buy! Buy!
Sell! Sell! Sell!
iniusa.org/classifieds

Landscaping

Water Works

IRRIGATION & LANDSCAPING

Pavers & Artificial Turf Installation
Demo Driveways

- Repairs • Leaks
- Valves • Timers

FREE ESTIMATES
Clean-Ups
623.261.1741
ROC #339066

LIBRA LANDSCAPING & HARDSCAPING LLC

MAKE YOUR DREAMS A REALITY

Specializing in Trees
Palm Trimming
Pavers
Artificial Grass Installation,
Rock Scaping & More

FREE Estimates & Low Prices
602-762-4766 Juan
602-301-8194 Libra

Landscaping

LANDSCAPING

FIRST OPTION LANDSCAPE

DESIGN/INSTALL
MAINTENANCE
IRRIGATION

Turf - Pavers - Tree Service
Weeds - Cleanups - Lighting
All Major Credit Cards Accepted
623-687-6312
firstoptionlandscaping.com
ROC#344171

Handyman

Homes Fix Mix
Homes don't fix themselves, We do

HANDYMAN SERVICES
Electrical Plumbing Carpentry Tile Odd Jobs

CALL NOW — FREE ESTIMATES
480-364-2460

Homesfixmix.com Big & Small — We do it all

20+ YEARS' EXPERIENCE

Find It Here

Shop the Classifieds for the best local deals!

Homes Cars Jobs Merchandise & More

To place a Classified ad, go to iniusa.org/classifieds or call 888.665.3848

Independent Newsmedia
CLASSIFIEDS
In Print & Online | 888.665.3848 | www.YourValley.net

WAYNE'S LANDSCAPING

Complete Landscaping
Irrigation Systems
Maintenance
Tree Service
Deep Root Fertilizing

SUMMER SPECIAL
10% Discount With Ad

623-877-2902
ROC 153581
Licensed • Bonded • Insured

To Advertise
CALL
888-665-3848

YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO

Moving/Hauling

SUN CITIES FIREFIGHTERS MOVING



(602)401-0886

- ✓ Operated by Local Firefighters
 - ✓ Packing Service Available
 - ✓ Free In-home Estimates
 - ✓ Full Service Moving
 - ✓ Serving the Valley for Over 30 Years
- firefighter moversaz.com



AI's IN or OUT MOVING

And Junk Removal Starting @ \$50

Call
623-221-7454
Referrals Available
Local Mover

Painting

DZ PAINT, INC.



- Interior/Exterior
 - Cabinet Repaints/Stains
 - Drywall Repairs
 - Cool Deck Repaints
 - PORA Members
- (623) 975-1871**
daniel@dzpaint.com
www.dzpaint.com
Roc #240852

Plumbing

DON JONES PLUMBING
INSTALLATION • REPAIR

- Replacement of**
- * Sewers • Toilets
 - * Faucets
 - * Water Heaters
 - * Garbage Disposals
- 623-670-8060**
Licensed
Bonded
Insured • BBB
Roc# 272507

Plumbing

RELIANT
PLUMBING & ROOTER

High Quality Plumbing Svc & 24 Hr Emergency Service!
15% Discount for Seniors & Military

Pipe Leak Repair • Fixture Installs • Hydro Jetting • Roto Rooter • Camera Inspections
Trenchless Pipe Bursting • Sewer Lining

\$37 ANY DRAIN UNCLOG OR IT'S FREE!*

FREE ESTIMATES
for
WATER LEAK REPAIR & REPIPER

\$37 DRAIN Unclog Special!

Locally & Family Owned

602-888-7060
www.reliantplumbingandrooter.com

*TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. OFFERS CANNOT BE COMBINED
LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED • ROC 353346

Remodeling

ALBRECHT AND SON LLC
Painting and Bath and Kitchen Remodeling
Serving Since 1989



YOUR FULL-SERVICE REMODELING SPECIALISTS

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING | DOORS WINDOWS & TRIM BASEBOARDS |
| DRYWALL REPAIRS AND TEXTURES | CROWN MOLDING |
| POPCORN REMOVAL | FULL INTERIOR REMODELING |
| CUSTOM CABINET PAINTING STAIN & REFINISH | PLUMBING |
| BATHROOM REMODEL | ELECTRICAL |
| KITCHEN REMODEL | AND MUCH MORE |
| COUNTERTOP QUARTZ & GRANITE | |

TRUE WORRY-FREE REMODEL!

623-933-4312
We Bring Design Into Your Home!

www.albrechtandson.com



Remodeling

TRU Builders
AZ ROC Licenses
275722 & 361072

DESIGN, BUILD, REMODEL



(623) 546-8681
trubuildersaz.com

Tree Removal

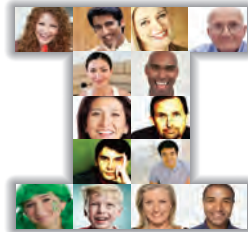
BENNETT TREE SERVICE

Professional
Arborist Tree
Care

- *Trimming
- *Removals
- *Stump Grinding

Fully Insured
FREE Estimates
SENIOR
Discounts

623-204-1225



MADE MONEY WITH THE CLASSIFIEDS

It's easy to sell your stuff with a little help from the Independent Classifieds.
Let our sales team help you place an ad today, in print or online!

Call 888-665-3848
or go to
iniusa.org/classifieds

INDEPENDENT NEWS MEDIA
Celebrating 40 Years of Connecting Our Communities

Roofing

PRIORITY ROOFING

We Make YOUR Priorities OURS

- Residential - Commercial
- Roof Replacement & Repair
- Shingle, Tile, Foam, Coating, Flat & TPO Roofing

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!

Locations in Glendale and Sun City West

602-761-6591

ROC #324307



Painting



PAINTING
COMPLETE INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR \$1.50/sf

Includes Dunn Edwards Paints

SENIOR DISCOUNTS

27 Years' Experience • Reliable Family Business
Free Written Estimates • Pay Upon Completion

623-418-9194

THE CLASSIFIEDS ARE AN

EASY SELL!

To Advertise go to: iniusa.org/classifieds

Make Room for Change!

With the Classifieds, you can clear the clutter, earn extra cash and find great deals on the things you really want!



Rates starting at **\$20**
Call or go online to place your ad today!

INDEPENDENT NEWS MEDIA
Celebrating 40 Years of Connecting Our Communities
888.665.3848
iniusa.org/classifieds

2022 & 2024 AAA MOUNTAIN WEST TOP SHOP FINALIST!



TOP SHOP WINNER FOR 15 YEARS! CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

SUN CITIES TIRE & AUTO

Same Family Owned & Operated Repair Facility Since 1999

13701 W. Camino del Sol • Sun City West

**AAA MEMBERS
GET 15% OFF LABOR
UP TO \$150.00**



15% OFF LABOR FOR MILITARY AND 1ST RESPONDERS
** Up to \$150.00

- Engine Light Scan
- Estimate Comparison
- Fluids & Air Pressure Check

LUBE OIL FILTER, TIRE ROTATION, WIPER BLADES, AIR & CABIN FILTER

**Semi Synthetic oil \$129.99
or FULL Synthetic \$149.99**

**Frequent, vital engine maintenance includes refill up to 5 qts.
of semi synthetic or full synthetic oil.**

Valid with any paid service. Schedule today to experience a new way of car care. Price does not include oil disposal fee of \$2.50. Present offer at time of service. Cannot be combined with any other coupon. Most Cars & Like Trucks. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE TIME OF SERVICE. Offer expires 10/31/26

SPECIAL &/OR CARTRIDGES, OIL FILTERS MAY BE ADDITIONAL CHARGE

**LUBE, OIL, FILTER
\$24⁹⁹**

**Frequent, vital engine maintenance
includes refill up to 5 qts. of
semi synthetic 5W-30 oil.**

Does not include Shop Supplies. Plus sales tax. Most vehicles. Price does not include oil disposal fee of \$2.50. Coupon must be presented at the time of service. Cannot be combined with any other coupon. Most Cars & Like Trucks. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE TIME OF SERVICE. Expires 9/30/26

SPECIAL &/OR CARTRIDGES, OIL FILTERS MAY BE ADDITIONAL CHARGE

**FULL SYNTHETIC
LUBE, OIL, FILTER
\$49⁹⁹**

**Frequent, vital engine maintenance
includes refill up to 5 qts. of
full synthetic 5W-30 oil.**

**BEAT
THE
HEAT!**
SUMMER SPECIAL
\$399⁹⁹

Plus sales tax. Up to 160Z freon. YF Freon may be additional. One coupon per customer. Most vehicles. Cannot be combined with any other offer. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE TIME OF SERVICE. Expires 10/31/26.

Complete Digital & Safety Inspection

Complete vehicle health check

A/C System Tune-Up

Restore cold, efficient cooling

Cabin Air Filter/HVAC

Cleaner air, better airflow

Battery Test & Inspection

Check battery health & charging

Full Coolant Exchange

Protect engine from overheating

COMPLETE FLUID EXCHANGE PACKAGE

\$274⁹⁹

Power Steering Fluid Service, Brake Fluid Service with brake inspection, Transmission Service (up to 5 quarts of transmission fluid), Cooling System Service (up to 2 gallons of coolant)

Most Vehicles. Transmission Filter is Additional cost. Does not include Shop Supplies. No cash value, must present coupon at service. Cannot be combined with any other coupon. Most Cars & Like Trucks. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE TIME OF SERVICE. Expires 10/31/26

**ALL WHEEL ALIGNMENT
\$89⁹⁹**
4-Wheel

Helps prevent early tire wear with computerized accuracy. Plus we inspect steering/suspension.

Does not include Shop Supplies. Plus sales tax. Most vehicles. Vans, trucks, Parts and rear shims extra, if needed. Coupon must be presented at the time of service. Cannot be combined with any other coupon. Most Cars & Like Trucks. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE TIME OF SERVICE. Expires 10/31/26



Mon-Fri 7:00-5:30 • We Honor Most Extended Warranties

Call For An Appointment: 623-975-1737

