SURPRISE
INDEPENDENT
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Volume 29 Issue 46

INSIDE

City honors veterans with banners: **11**



NOVEMBER 18, 2026

Surprise's Nonpartisan Newspaper

Veteran speaks at The Grand Connection event

By Delarita Ford
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Ret. Col. Richard "Dick" Toliver remembers graduating with a mechanical engineering degree from Tuskegee Institute University in 1963, learning from the Tuskegee Airmen, becoming a project engineer, completing pilot training, and being among the first five Black F-4 pilots under the notable Tuskegee Airman Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James.

The 88-year-old veteran, founder of the Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., in Phoenix, and "Black Wings Over Arizona" author also fondly remembers not wanting to disappoint "Chappie" or be on the receiving end of his size 14 shoe, he said as a guest speaker at The Grand Connection Interest Group Fall Fling, Nov. 7, in Surprise.

Speaking to more than 100 attendees, he shared stories

• See **Connect** Page **6**

Everett, Coniam chosen to govern Dysart Schools



Lisa Everett and William Coniam on Election Day while vying for DUSD Governing Board seats. (Independent Newsmedia/Delarita Ford)

By Delarita Ford
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

As humble as William Coniam was about the numbers not being final enough for him to be declared a winner for one of two seats on the Dysart Unified School District governing board, the numbers consistently showed him in second place behind Lisa Everett to be named as the newest education leaders.

On the afternoon of Nov. 13, a week after Election Day, the numbers still showed Everett's strong lead with 31,819 votes at 35.95%, followed by Coniam with 28,882 votes at 32.64%. Incumbent Dawn Densmore had 27,796 votes at 31.41%. At the time, there were a total 77,992 votes cast and 56.78% voter turnout.

"I am pleased so far," said Coniam, adding the possibility of voting numbers changing each night.

Although the numbers still showed him holding second place for the board seat, Coniam kept monitoring the status of votes.

"I have been tracking the latest tabulation releases. There was an unexpected one an hour ago. I'd expect another this evening.

"The quantities are pretty low, so we may be near the end. My lead has grown to 297 vote," he noted the afternoon of Nov. 5.

• See **Dysart** Page **6**

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NEWS IN BRIEF

MORE ONLINE
See more news at yourvalley.net

Spring training tickets available online

Individual game tickets for spring training at Surprise Stadium went on sale online Nov. 17.

Major League Baseball, in conjunction with the Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers, has game times for the 2027 Cactus League season. Surprise Stadium's home teams, the Rangers and Royals, are facing off at 12:35 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, on opening day.

The 2027 season runs through March 20, featuring 30 games at Surprise Stadium and matchups against every team in the Cactus League. Additional details regarding the upcoming season including promotional schedules, special events and ticket offers will be announced in upcoming weeks.

The city of Surprise celebrates its 25th season of spring training baseball.

Visit SurpriseStadium.com.

Surprise center hosting legal kiosk

The Surprise Resource Center has been selected as one of eight locations in the state to host a self-service legal kiosk through a partnership with Community Legal Services.

The kiosk is designed as an easy-to-use portal that helps users learn about civil legal issues, find court information and forms, access legal aid providers by appointment and locate community resources.

The kiosk inside the Surprise Resource Center is available to the public during regular hours: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on the third Saturday each month.

For information or to set up an appointment to use the legal kiosk, call 623-222-1600.



STADIUM ART RECOGNIZED

Bounce and Swing, two public art works found at the Surprise Stadium, 15850 N. Bullard Ave., recently earned recognition for the artistic interpretation and creative celebration of baseball and community. Designed by RSP Architects for Surprise, the two pieces welcome baseball fans with a new way to experience public art in Surprise, celebrating the excitement of the game and the community surrounding Surprise Stadium. Accolades include: Jill Brey Award for Art — International Interior Design Association Southwest Chapter; Award of Merit, Landscape/Urban Development — Engineering News-Record Best Projects Awards for the southwest region; and Top 100 — 2026 CODA awards. Visit surpriseaz.gov/Public-Art-Collection. (Independent Newsmedia/Jacob Bacome)

Diaper support program now available

The city of Surprise is partnering with Maricopa County's Human Services Department and Wildfire Arizona to offer a free diaper support program for families with children.

The program is available to qualifying families to ensure that babies and toddlers stay clean, dry and healthy.

Eligible families can receive up to 150 diapers per child each month. While supplies last.

The Diaper Hub is available at the Surprise Community and Resource Center, 12641 W. Santa Fe Drive, and will be held 8:30-10:30 a.m. or 3-5 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month.

Eligible applicants must be able to provide documents for eligibility.

For information on qualifying household income limits or documents needed, call 623-222-1600 or email earlychildhood@surpriseaz.gov.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

November 2010:
Surprise residents had their say in the hiring of a new police chief. A firm hired by the city noted public input in this phase would be followed by more input later in the recruitment process.

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• From page 1

about his life from being a Louisiana native to living in Litchfield Park. He recounted flying 446 combat missions in Southeast Asia, mentoring from the Tuskegee Airmen, meeting Martin Luther King Jr., Jackie Robinson and more.

"This is your story. This is your legacy. It's an American story. It's an American legacy. It's American history," said Toliver, noting the sacrifices of people's blood, sweat and tears "paid for our land."

He added how the shared American history is worth preserving and passing down to encourage younger generations, so they can also pursue "one way or another to make this country great."

"It's good to reach the kids, carry the legacy around...know they can accomplish anything they want to do," said Toliver about the importance of motivating children as his book will soon be in Arizona high schools and reservations.

> *"This is your story. This is your legacy. It's an American story. It's an American legacy. It's American history"*
>
> **Ret. Col. Richard "Dick" Toliver**

Recalling wanting to fly planes at 8-years-old, the retired Command Fighter Pilot with 26 years of service in U.S. Air Force was inducted in the 2016 Class of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society. Toliver described how he accomplished his goals by embracing the power of fear, faith, education, attitude and relationships, which is the same message he imparts onto youths.

"Perceive. Prepare. Perform. Never quit. Never give up," Toliver said about perserverance, while crediting "Tuskegee Airmen and women of the Six Triple Eight who made it possible for me to tell the story."

"My mother was a Six Triple Eight so this is special to me," said L.G. Williams, of Surprise, who brought her personal copy of "Black Wings Over Arizona," for Toliver to sign.

Williams' mother enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, which included the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion during World War II. The story of "Six Triple Eight," a Black Women's Army Corps unit stationed in Europe is enshrined in American history. In 2024, that history was spotlighted in an award-winning movie, "The Six Triple Eight," written and directed by Tyler Perry.



"Black Wings Over Arizona" author retired Col. Richard "Dick" Toliver autographs a personal copy of his book for L.G. Williams, whose mother was a part of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion during World War II. (Independent Newsmedia/Delarita Ford)

Viewers witnessed the ingenuity of Black women tasked to send a backup of 17 million pieces of mail to American troops abroad during wartime.

Not only is Williams' mother's Six Triple Eight contributions memorialized in the pages of Toliver's book, but the late Mary E. Walker Stevens, received a Congressional Gold Medal, and her portrait hangs at the Mission BBQ in Goodyear as of Nov. 8 when family members surprised Williams with the display of their military matriarch.

According to the Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Inc. website, The "Black Wings Over Arizona" book is a compilation of stories about 19 original Tuskegee Airmen assigned to bases in Arizona after World War II, plus the "heroism of the 855 African American women sent to Europe during World War II to clear a two- to three-years backlog of mail for the American troops."

The book and more information is available at aractai.org.

Dysart

• From page 1

Meanwhile, since polls closed on voting night showing Everett in the lead, she was gracious about the support she received to secure the governing board seat.

"I am truly honored to have earned the trust of our community and the opportunity to serve on the Dysart governing board. This is a responsibility I do not take lightly," she said.

Election results revealed Everett with 22,329 votes and a 36.1% voter turnout, followed by Coniam with 19,801 votes, and a 32.01% turnout in votes by 5:30 p.m. Nov. 4, as Densmore had 19,724 with a 31.89% voter-turnout at the time.

HAVE AN OPINION ON THIS ISSUE?

Want to contribute to the conversation? Email us at **azopinions@iniusa.org**

Foreshadowing how Everett and Coniam would work together on the school board, they unifed earlier on Election Day as they sat across from each other in a distance from the Surprise City Hall polling station. They gave candy and information so voters could put their faces to the board candidates named on the ballot.

"I have been out there all day. It's going to be hard for them to surpass that," said Everett on Nov. 3, noting her exhaustion from staying 5:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

The Texas native, who is the former chair of the Arizona Legislative District 29 Republican Committee, said she looks forward to serving students, staff and community in her new leadership role. Everett has a bachelor's degree in public administration and political science.

DUSD will have its school board member training early morning Nov. 13-14 at Marriott Phoenix Resort Tempe at The Buttes in Tempe. This is not a formal meeting and no board business will be discussed.

Updated election results were reported at yourvalley.net.



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OPINIONS WITH CIVILITY

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YOUR OPINION

We hope to stimulate debate, not control it on our opinions pages. We reserve the right to edit submitted opinions. We insist on civility. Please include your name, physical address 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.

Letters 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. Letter content is the responsibility of the person who submitted it.

SPEAK UP

We support the use of pen names. Too many people do not 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 promptly correct factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people we cover. Readers who disagree with a news story may respond with a letter.

Loud exhaust sounds increasing in West Valley

What is with the loud exhaust? What used to be just a few annoying exhaust sounds from motorcycles, cars and trucks has now increased in frequency to where a walk outside or an evening rest on the back porch sounds like an afternoon at the Indianapolis 500.

Bell Road toward Buckeye is the new race track. It appears the boys love to hear their engines roar and it seems worse after dark.

Self-expression is one thing but it's become so common now and it appears that there is little to no enforcement.

Maybe those drivers can invest their hard-earned money in other things and stick with the original stock exhaust system. They'll eventually grow tired of all that noise and likely save their hearing!

Chris Simmons
SURPRISE

PORA plays important role in Sun City West

Regarding the recent utility rate increase meeting at Palm Ridge, the Property Owners and Residents Association greatly appreciates the Sun City West Independent and the important role the paper plays in keeping our community informed. However, we were disappointed that the recent article covering the meeting failed to acknowledge PORA's role in making that important meeting happen. PORA sponsored, organized and marketed the event to the community, bringing residents and key representatives together to discuss an issue that directly impacts household budgets.

One of the biggest challenges we face is community awareness. We continually hear, "Who is PORA?" and "What does PORA do?"

This meeting was a perfect example. We identified an important issue, brought the right people to the table and created an opportunity for residents to become informed, ask questions and have their voices heard.

We're not just talking about making a difference; we're out in the community making great things happen.

We don't seek recognition for everything we do, but acknowledging PORA's involvement in events like this helps residents understand who we are, what we do and the value we bring to Sun City West.

We hope future coverage will help make that connection. Thank you for your continued coverage of our community.

Jim Scott
SUN CITY WEST

The author is president of the PORA Board of Directors.

ATTENTION PLEASE!

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

Please send comments to azopinions@iniusa.org. More letters are on **yourvalley.net**.

What it took for Trump to lose Republican support

I always wondered what President Trump would have to do to make him lose Republican support. Now I know: Lose an election decisively.

Up until they lost the midterms, his policies and behavior appeared to be acceptable to most Republicans.

They seemed just fine with the war in Iran, destroying the East Wing, tariffs, talk of taking over Canada and Greenland, calling people in the military losers, mocking a disabled reporter, pulling out of NATO and the treaty with Iran, pulling support for Ukraine and taking Russia's side, gutting health care and food stamps, alienating our allies, firing 52 top generals, giving tax breaks to the wealthy, running up the national debt to $40 trillion, accepting a plane from the Qatari royal family, lying, fraud, gaslighting and claiming falsely an election was stolen, to name a few.

Apparently, all it took for them to jump ship was for them to lose the 2026 election decisively.

Shame on them! Republican candidates got shellacked and they deserved it. In my opinion, they need to be reminded of it in every interview and discussion.

They profess to be Christians but I don't believe they understand Christianity. They live under the Old Testament law and not the New Testament gospel.

They appear to lack morals, integrity and character and should never be in a political position of power.

John R. Braun
SUN CITY WEST

This writer is using a pen name.

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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.***

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Payne: U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mellysa Payne (Submitted/Navy Office of Community Outreach)

Army warrant officer with Surprise ties serves on Navy aircraft carrier

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mellysa Payne, who has family ties in Surprise, serves as a liaison officer alongside the U.S. Navy aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier operating out of San Diego.

A native of San Clemente, California, Payne graduated from San Clemente High School in 1999 and earned a bachelor's in advertising from Boston University in 2003. He earned an associates degree in intelligence operations studies from Cochise College in 2013 and an MBA from University of Maryland Global Campus in 2024.

"I enlisted in the Army in 2011 with a desire to serve, mentor, train and coach soldiers," stated Payne, who joined the Army 15 years ago. "I wanted to work in a career field that would challenge me, bring me personal satisfaction and allow me to take care of others while in service to the nation. I became a warrant officer in 2020, and it continues to be an amazing decision and rewarding responsibility every day."

Payne serves as a liaison officer from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency on behalf of the Army Element Command to promote and foster Army-Navy interoperability in Geospatial Intelligence. Grateful to others for helping to make an Army career possible, Payne notes proud moments stewarding soldiers to be their best selves and navigating through difficulty to reach success through teamwork.

"Seeing them grow is the most rewarding part of my job. Championing modernization across branches and building relationships between leaders to spearhead GEOINT's future across the force continues to be my quest," Payne stated.

This year, the Navy is commemorating its contribution to the nation's defense as the United States celebrates 250 years of independence. "Serving in the Army at home and abroad has been the greatest honor of my professional life," Payne stated. "I am humbled and proud of this call to action."

Surprise honors veterans with banners

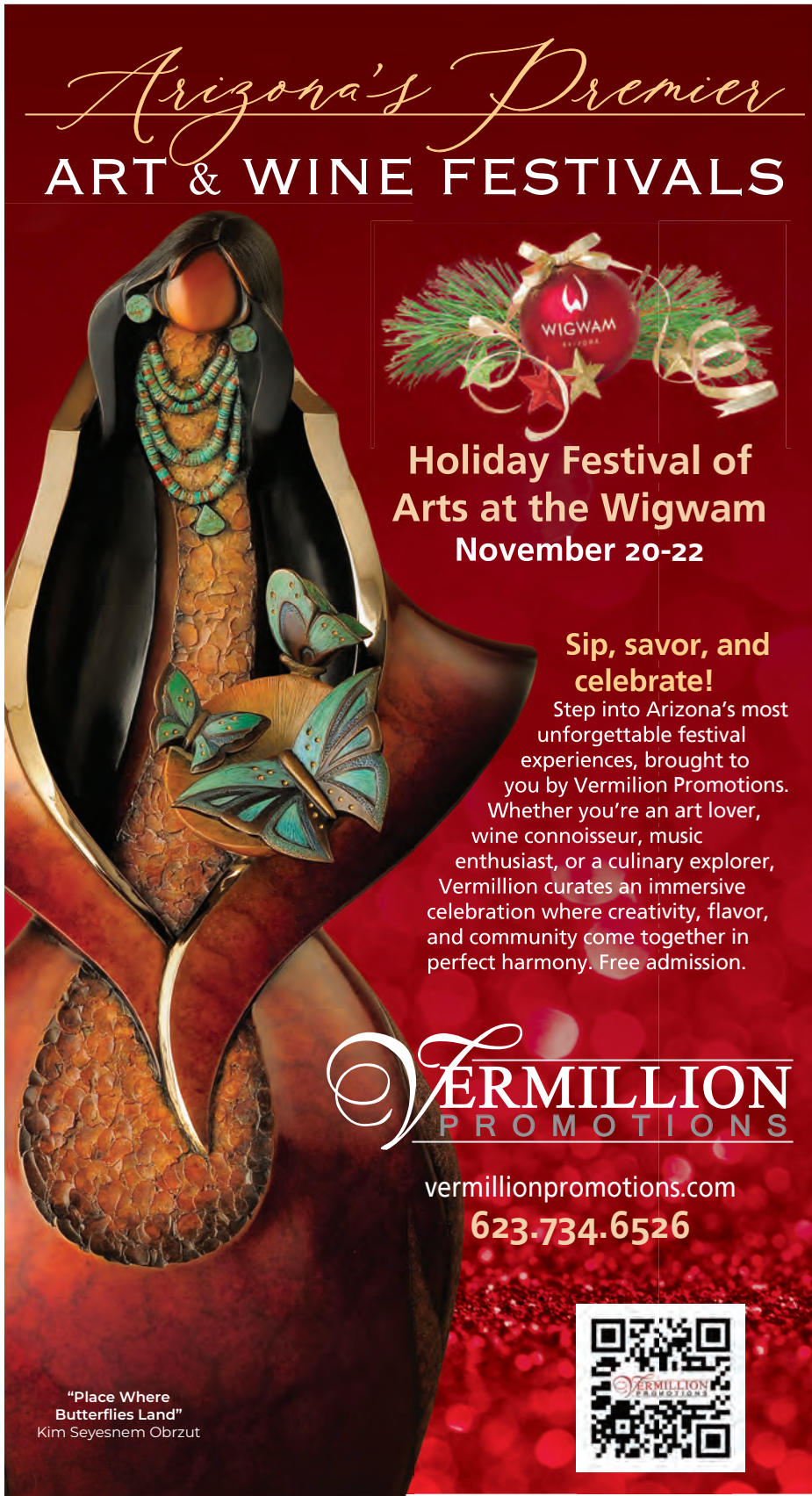
The city of Surprise recognizes local veterans through its Hometown Heroes Banner Program, honoring the men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The new banners are displayed on select light posts and will remain in place through March 2027 around Surprise Community Park and the Surprise Regional Library, creating a visible tribute to local veterans, recognizing their service and dedication to our country.

Select veterans were identified with assistance from the city of Surprise Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission. Individuals with city banners honoring their service, sacrifice and contributions:

- Michael Ellion, U.S. Coast Guard
- Roy J. Cirincione, U.S. Air Force
- Robert Colony, U.S. Air Force
- Marc Lee, U.S. Navy
- Kristofer Lee, U.S. Marine Corps
- John Billcheck, U.S. Navy
- James Morris Duncan, U.S. Marine Corps
- Jack Coyle, U.S. Army
- Geoff Partridge, U.S. Army
- Arnold Kohl, U.S. Army
- Paul E. Reichenbach, U.S. Air Force
- Alfred Spruell, U.S. Navy
- William Fryer, U.S. Army
- Daniel D'Acierno, U.S. Army
- John Cala, U.S. Army
- Charles Manuel, U.S. Air Force
- Michael Tree, U.S. Air Force
- Cynthia Olórtegui, U.S. Marine Corps





Surprise SciTech Festival is Nov. 21

The Surprise SciTech Festival returns with more than 65 different interactive science, technology, engineering, art and math activities and vendor booths 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at the Surprise Recreation Campus, 15960 N. Bullard Ave.

This free event is for all ages to explore, discover and innovate with live science presentations, solar telescopes and aerospace activities, health and wellness activities.

The first Lego League scrimmage and student robotics teams will be present. There will be food trucks and giveaways including gift cards and baskets, spring training tickets, a refurbished laptop, STEAM kits and more.

The Surprise Police and Fire-Medical departments will also be present along with local schools, businesses, universities.

Sensory-friendly spaces provided by RISE Services will be available.



Youths check out a gaming display at the 2022 Surprise SciTech Festival. The 2026 event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 21 (Submitted/Surprise)

Free parking for the event will be in the Surprise Stadium parking lot, south of Mark Coronado Park, and can be accessed from Paradise Lane to Buck O'Neil Way. Marked ADA parking will be on the east side of the parking lot. Overflow parking is also available across the street on the north side of W. Paradise Lane (on the east side of Bullard Avenue).

These roads will be closed Thursday evening, Nov. 19, through Saturday, Nov. 22:

- Northbound and southbound Bullard Avenue between Tierra Buena and Paradise lanes.
- A portion of Buck O'Neil Way and Fastball Drive will be closed near Bullard Avenue.
- The south parking lot of Surprise Regional Library will be closed all day Friday, Nov. 21, and Saturday, Nov. 22.

Presented by Ottawa University Arizona with the city of Surprise and the SciTech Institute and Dysart Schools with support from sponsors, the SciTech Festival is a signature event of the Arizona SciTech Festival.

Visit surpriseaz.gov/SciTech or email scitech@ottawa.edu.

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Primary Care is Getting a Makeover in Surprise. And it's About Time.

Longer appointments, less waiting, and no fees. Corner Health is rethinking how primary care works in Arizona

Finding a primary care provider close to home shouldn't be this hard. Yet, nearly one in five adults in the state doesn't have a personal doctor or healthcare provider, according to 2024 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For those who do, getting an appointment can mean waiting weeks or months, only to spend a few rushed minutes discussing their health concerns.

A growing network of local providers thinks Arizonans deserve better, and they're working with Corner Health to build a different kind of primary care practice to prove it.

Through Corner Health, more than 100 local practices are putting the focus back on the patient-provider relationship, including several right here in Surprise.

Their approach? Fewer patients. Longer appointments. And more time to actually listen.

Across the Corner Health network, appointments average 34 minutes and new-patient visits average 40 minutes. Instead of racing through a packed schedule, providers have time to ask questions, understand their patients' concerns and develop a plan together.

While this type of personalized healthcare is often associated with concierge medicine and expensive fees, practices on the Corner Health network accept major insurance plans, including Medicare, without requiring a membership fee.

The model gives highly vetted, experienced nurse practitioners the freedom to own and operate their practices, while Corner Health handles the behind-the-scenes work. Providers get to spend more time caring for patients and building lasting relationships instead of getting bogged down in paperwork and corporate red tape.

Meet Your Neighborhood Primary Care Providers in Surprise.
These locally owned practices on the Corner Health network are welcoming new patients:

Jennifer De La Garza, MSN, ACNPC-AG
Monarch Medical LLC
15142 W Bell Rd, Ste 121/122,
Surprise, AZ 85374
Book an appointment:

Christine Coombs, FNP-C
Desert Wildflower Wellness
15543 N Reems Rd, Ste 139,
Surprise, AZ 85374
Book an appointment:

Heather Geyman, FNP-C, MSN
Desert Wildflower Wellness
15543 N Reems Rd, Ste 139,
Surprise, AZ 85374
Book an appointment:

Services vary by practice but may include preventative care, annual wellness visits, chronic condition management and women's health. Appointments across the network are typically available in under two days.

To find additional providers, visit CornerHealth.com.

Take a Veteran to School Day has mayor among panelists

About 120 students gathered with veterans in the Shadow Ridge High School Fine Arts Auditorium in Surprise, and joining them was Mayor Kevin Sartor.

A room full of juniors met for Take a Veteran to School Day Nov. 10 to ask questions from those with lived experiences to share with them.

The program from Spectrum and The History Channel brings veterans into classrooms to share firsthand accounts of military service, sacrifice and leadership.

Sartor moderated a panel of local veterans, several of whom serve on the Shadow Ridge staff and walk the school's halls daily.

"As a 20-year veteran, I know how powerful it is to connect our youth with those who have served," said Sartor. "It's especially meaningful to do that at Shadow Ridge High School, a Purple Star School that recognizes and supports military families and the sacrifices they make. I'm grateful to Spectrum and the History Channel for making events like this possible."

When the conversation opened to the audience, students asked the panel questions beyond history-book basics, including how serving changes a person's world view, what rules service members must follow, and how military service shapes the work veterans do today.

The event is part of The History Channel's Mission to Honor initiative, which recognizes and supports veterans and military families.

Take a Veteran to School Day connects veterans with students in schools and communities nationwide. Participating schools can access free curriculum-based materials, videos and other resources.



Mayor Kevin Sartor with panelists from the Spectrum team, Shadow Ridge Principal Antonio Vining and students gather after the event. (Submitted/Spectrum)

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CLUB TENDS BUTTERFLY GARDEN

A few members of The Grand Garden Club volunteered to help maintain the butterfly garden on the north end of the Palm Center patio. Members focuses on low Sonoran Desert gardening and discuss various topics, such as desert plants, irrigation, soil improvement, pruning, pest and disease management and more. Residents can join the club meetings, which regularly feature guest speakers, a hospitality table with coffee and snacks. In addition to socialization and education there is monthly plant sharing at meetings. Visit grandgardenclub.org. (Independent Newsmedia/Delarita Ford)

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TREMBLE CLEFS SLATE HOLIDAY CONCERT

The four choirs of Tremble Clefs Arizona, directed by Dr. Sun Joo Lee, will perform a holiday concert 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, at the Granite Reef Senior Center, 1700 N. Granite Reef Road. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. The Tremble Clefs operate through four geographically distinct groups in the Phoenix area, including The West Side Tremble Clefs, which meet at the Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sun City and includes members from Sun City West and Surprise. Visit TrembleClefsArizona.org. (Submitted/ Kathy Ames)

AI CLASS

ABOUT: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd.
INFO: "Artificial Intelligence in Everyday Life" presentation. Larry Laursen, retired technical manager and Grand Tech Club instructor, will share practical examples of how AI is being used today and how it influences the tools and services people encounter daily.
Contact: 623-584-2280 or visit shepherdumc.org.

STORIES OF AMERICA

ABOUT: 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at Surprise Regional Library, 16089 N. Bullard Ave., Surprise
INFO: "Reflecting America: A Semiquincentennial Living History" explores personal stories, struggles and achievements that helped shape the nation. The program is part of activities marking America's 250th anniversary.
WEB: surprisepubliclibrary.gov/Programs.

MUSIC UNDER STARS

ABOUT: 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at Asante Library, 16755 W. Vereda Solana Drive, Surprise
INFO: Jacob Acosta & the Golden Hearts perform during the city's LIVE at Asante outdoor concert series. The free event also features arts activities and a food truck. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.
WEB: surprisearts.com/Events.

HAVE AN EVENT?

Have something happening in or near Surprise? We welcome submissions from clubs and groups, as well as nearby nonprofits, churches and community organizations. Include the event name, date, time, location, a brief description and contact information.
Email: **jcarr@iniusa.org.**

IN EVENTS

The Surprise Independent will host a senior expo 9 a.m.-noon Jan. 19, 2027 at The Colonnade, 19116 N. Colonnade Way, Surprise. Individuals wishing to participate may reach out to the sales team.
Email: **azad@iniusa.org**

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(Submitted photo/Sam Palma)

IOWA CLUB

ABOUT: 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, at Tailgaters II Primo, 15529 W. Bell Road in Surprise.
INFO: The Iowa Club of the West Valley is hosting its monthly luncheon. Membership will be free for 2027. Request a membership form at iowaclubaz@gmail.com.
CONTACT: Call 623-910-7704.



(Submitted photo/Helen Shadowens)

BOOK SALE

ABOUT: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at the R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd.
INFO: Friends of the R.H. Johnson Library quarterly book sale. Open to the public
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THANKSGIVING MEAL

ABOUT: 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 26, at Desert Garden United Church of Christ, 18818 N. 128th Ave.
INFO: Desert Garden United Church of Christ is serving a free Thanksgiving meal. Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, various side dishes and pumpkin pie will be served. Hot apple cider, coffee and water will be available. Individuals can bring another beverage. Seating is limited to 140 people. Reservations are required.
RESERVATIONS: 623-584-1795 by 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19.



SUNDAY MARKET ON ELM

ABOUT: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, along Elm Street in front of Jet's Pizza in the Surprise City Center area.
INFO: The Sunday Market brings together local small businesses and features vendors offering handmade goods, treats, gifts and local produce.

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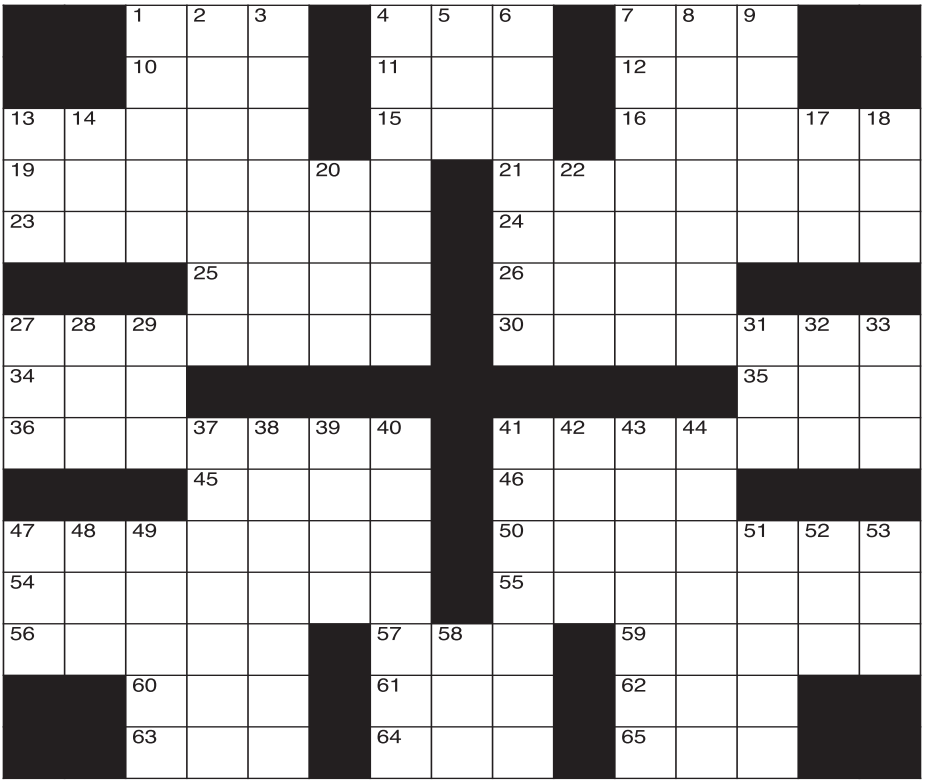

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4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator Fleming
11. Male adult
12. Norse mythological figure
13. Coffin cloths
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Nobleman's jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Unable to move
26. Type of horse
27. Parted
30. Woman's cloak
34. South American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Something one takes
41. Dish detergent manufacturer
45. Romanian river
46. Personification of pity
47. Makes upset
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instrument
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Automobile
62. "Losing My Religion" rockers
63. High-resolution scientific instrument
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Indoor plant
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish rap group
7. Ageless
8. Lists indicating curriculum
9. Pokes at
13. Public television station
14. They __
17. Cooking tool
18. Separately managed account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Lists of items to be discussed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Indispensable quality
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place to dock
44. Festive singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Northernmost point of mainland Wales
49. Most worthless parts
51. Type of "bear"
52. Take or consume
53. Defunct European organization
58. Swiss river

SOLUTION ON PAGE 26

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15108 W. Via Manana, SUN CITY WEST

MLS# 7090877

Dir: Bell Rd./RH Johnson, N-RHJ, R-151st., L-Domingo Ln., R-Baja Dr., R-Via Manana

Popular Havasu model. Home has 1547 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, great room floor plan & a large block wall fenced private backyard. Owned solar. Cul de sac lot. No Neighborhood HOA fee. Call today to view!



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!



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!



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!

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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

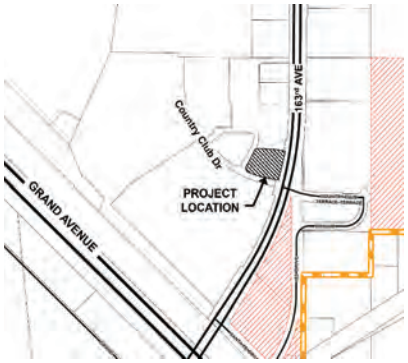
Please be advised, Ms. Maravi Moore with APMI Inc, will host a Neighborhood Meeting to discuss the project referenced below. Any member of the public may participate in this conversation as it pertains to this project by utilizing the information provided under Neighborhood Meeting Details below. According to Surprise Municipal Code, the applicant is required to host a Neighborhood Meeting to present their project to the public while soliciting feedback and providing answers to questions. Please note, the City of Surprise is not the host of this meeting; however, the assigned City Planner will be available to provide information as needed in response to inquiries received from residents.

Applicant: Maravi Moore, 480-622-3684, mmoore@apmi.com
City of Surprise Planner: Aslesha Basnet, 623-222-3152, aslesha.basnet@surpiseaz.gov

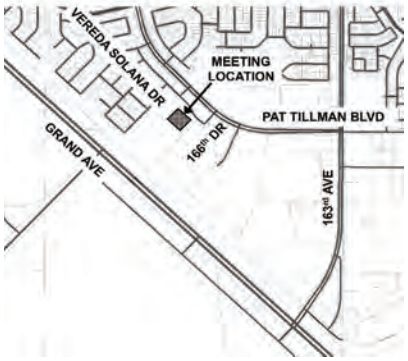
NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING DETAILS

DATE: *Tuesday, December 08, 2026*
TIME: 6:00PM
LOCATION: *Asante Library, Asante Imaginarium Program Room 16755 W. Vereda Solana Dr. Surprise, AZ, 85387*

Project Location



Meeting Location



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
A request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) with Site Plan for a Bank with drive-through to allow for the development of Chase Bank. The site is generally located on the Northwest corner 163rd Ave and Country Club Dr., Surprise Planning Case #FS26-0214.

Publish: Surprise Independent, November 18, Phoenix Independent, 20, 2026/51869_1

Public Notice

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

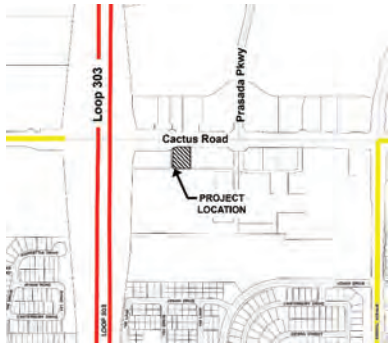
Please be advised, Mr. Ryan Nelson with Kimley-Horn and Associates, will host a Neighborhood Meeting to discuss the project referenced below. Any member of the public may participate in this conversation as it pertains to this project by utilizing the information provided under Neighborhood Meeting Details below. According to Surprise Municipal Code, the applicant is required to host a Neighborhood Meeting to present their project to the public while soliciting feedback and providing answers to questions. Please note, the City of Surprise is not the host of this meeting; however, the assigned City Planner will be available to provide information as needed in response to inquiries received from residents.

Applicant: Ryan Nelson, 408-581-5916, ryan.nelson@kimley-horn.com
City of Surprise Planner: Aslesha Basnet, 623-222-3152, aslesha.basnet@surpiseaz.gov

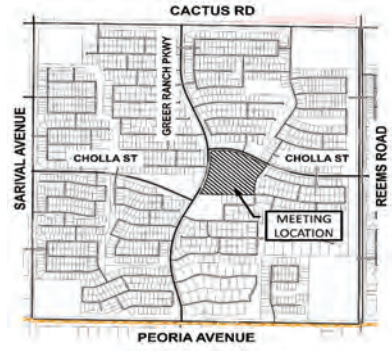
NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING DETAILS

DATE: *Wednesday, December 09, 2026*
TIME: 6:00PM
LOCATION: *Media Center at Sonoran Heights Middle School 11405 N Greer Ranch Pkwy Surprise, AZ, 85379*

Project Location



Meeting Location



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
A request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) with Site Plan for a drive through facility to allow for the development of a Zaxby's restaurant with drive-through. The site is generally located on the Southwest corner N Prasada Parkway and Cactus Road, Surprise Planning Case #FS26-0337.

Surprise Independent, November 18, Phoenix Independent, 20, 2026/51871_1

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