



Volume 91 Number 50

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OBITUARY

Albert Gutierrez

Albert Gutierrez passed away on Nov. 24, 2015 after a lengthy illness. He was born in Superior on April 8, 1934. He proudly served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Lupe Magana Gutierrez; daughters, Terry Ramirez of Mesa and Stephanie (Robin) Boykin of San Tan Valley; sons, Albert of Gilbert, Joe (Charlene) of Mesa and Robert of Tucson; and his only sister, Maria Elena Vasquez of Marana. He was fortunate enough to be honored with 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A Visitation and Rosary was held on Dec. 2 at Queen of Heaven Catholic Mortuary in Mesa. A Funeral Mass was held on Dec. 3 at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Gilbert. Albert chose to be cremated and have his remains interned at the National Cemetery in Cave Creek, 23029 N. Cave Creek Rd. in Phoenix. Those who wish to come and celebrate this final event are invited to attend on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 11 a.m. The National Cemetery of Arizona is located at: 23029 N Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85024 In Lieu of Flowers please

donate to the www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

The Superior Sun

	020
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"There are numerous countries in the world where the politicians have seized absolute power and muzzled the press. There is no country in the world where the press has seized absolute power and muzzled the politicians"



s" —David Brinkley



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Pinal County Sheriff's Report

The Pinal County Sheriff's Report is taken from the daily logs, based on the information provided by deputies. All persons arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Dec. 7

Criminal damage was reported in the 2600 block of W. El Paseo, Oracle.

Theft was reported in the area of E. Hwy. 60, Queen Valley. An accident without injuries was reported in the 1000 block of W. Third Ave., San Manuel.

Dec. 8

Fire was reported in the 2400 block of W. Hwy. 77, Oracle. Theft was reported in the 2100 block of W. American Ave., Oracle.

Theft was reported in the 1100 block of N. Justice Dr., Oracle. **Dec. 9**

Frank Howard, 56, San Manuel, was arrested in the 100 block of W. Fourth Ave., San Manuel, and was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. He was transported and booked into the Pinal County Jail in Florence.

A juvenile was reported as a runaway in the 36000 block of S. Mt. Lemmon Rd., Oracle.

Dec. 10

Criminal damage was reported in the 1100 block of N. Appleton Dr., Oracle.

Theft was reported in the 1500 block of N. College Dr., Oracle. Violation of a court order was reported in the 400 block of S. San Carlos St., San Manuel.

Dec. 11

An accident without injuries was reported in the area of S. Hwy. 77, Dudleyville.

An accident without injuries was reported in the area of E. Hwy. 60, Superior.

Dec. 12

Burglary was reported in the 18000 block of S. Hwy. 77, Mammoth.

An accident without injuries was reported in the 1400 block of W. Oracle Ranch Rd., Oracle.

Violation of a court order was reported in the 65000 block of E. Rocky Terrace Dr., SaddleBrooke.

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Superior Police Report

According to state law, police may arrest suspected offenders by two methods. The suspect may be physically taken into the department and booked into jail, or the arresting officer may write a citation and release the suspect to appear in court later. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Only criminal citations are listed. All damage amounts are estimates.

Items are given to The Superior Sun by the Superior Police Department

and reflect information available at the time the report is compiled.

Dec. 7 A sex offense was reported in the 200

block of Main St.

Dec. 8

Criminal damage was reported in the 800 block of Western Ave.

Dec. 9

An accident without injuries was reported in the 600 block of Sonora St. Dec. 10

Violation of a court order was reported in the 700 block of Sonora St.

Criminal damage was reported in the 700 block of Main St.

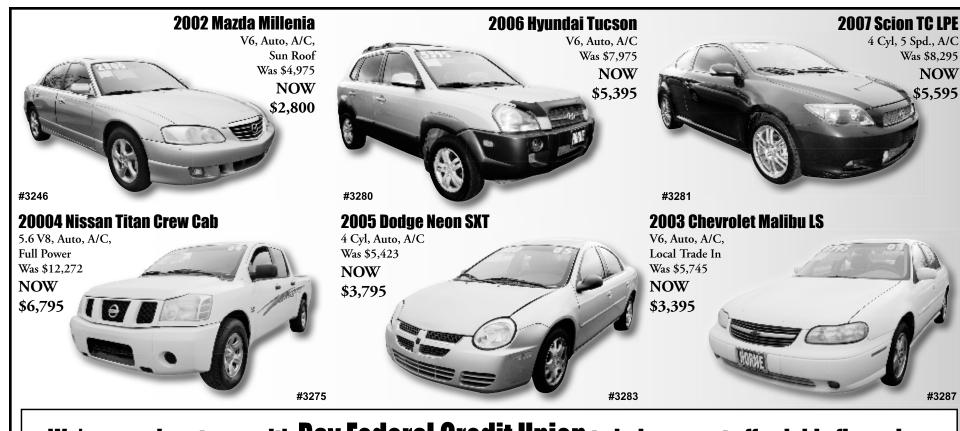
Assault was reported in the 200 block of Sunset.

Calls not listed include traffic stop (3), welfare check (4), disturbance (3), information (6), alarm drop (3), animal complaints (1), threats/harassment (3), attempt to locate (1), suspicious activity (3), fire (4), 911 hang-up (2), medical (1), abandoned vehicle (2) and agency assist (3).

Citizens are reminded to call Silent Witness at 1-800-358-INFO, Crime Stop at 689-5611 or the Information Tip Line at 520-827-0065 if they have information that may help the police department in solving a crime.

The Superior Police and Fire Departments have contracted all dispatch services to the Pinal County Sheriff (POLICE) and Florence PD (FIRE). As a result of these changes, you need to know some new phone numbers.

- Emergency (Police Fire Medical) 911
- Police Non-Emergency 520-866-5111
- Police Department Business 520-689-5255



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Town Clerk terminated after alleging financial wrongdoing by Mayor Valenzuela

By James J. Hodl Superior Sun

Accusations of financial wrongdoing by Superior Mayor Jayme Valenzuela were made as members of the Town Council were considering whether to retain Town Clerk Rachelle Sanchez past her six-month probationary period during the Dec. 9 Council meeting.

During the public hearing on her job, Sanchez dropped a bombshell during her statement to the Council that four cash withdrawals totaling \$1,311 were made on town credit and debit cards during December 2014 at locations that included the Wild Horse Pass Casino in Gilbert. It was further alleged that some of the cash withdrawals were made by Mayor Valenzuela.



Have a service man or woman you'd like us to recognize? We are proud to support our military and will publish the information at no charge. Email information to: editor@minersunbasin.com The accusations of financial wrongdoing caught Council members and other town officials by surprise, prompting an immediate counter-allegation that Sanchez was making the charges as retribution for the recommendation that she "wasn't working out" in the job and should be let go and replaced. A source privy to Superior finances confirmed to the Superior Sun that most of these withdrawals were made by Mayor Valenzuela, but that they were all reimbursed back to the town. Mayor Valenzuela had been unavailable for comment at

press time. Sanchez said the withdrawals were discovered in early

September after she found that they had been coded wrong when entered into the Town's computerized financial record keeping system in Accounts Payable. She said that this discrepancy was reported immediately to Town Manager Margaret Gaston, who ordered an investigation to discover how the withdrawals were miscoded.

"Cash withdrawals on government credit and debit cards are not something that is ever done," Sanchez said, adding that Tech Support for InCode software used by Superior said what happened was like a user rather than software error.

The withdrawals were made on cards issued to Superior by Bank of the West and Chase Bank.

Sanchez had asked for a public hearing on her continuing in her job at the Town Council meeting.

During her testimony, Sanchez described the town's attention to finances to be somewhat casual. On her first



day on the job on July 6, 2015, she described asking for help on using the InCode system but was eventually told that she'd figure it out. She admitted to making early mistakes but soon got the hang of things.

Sanchez said that she uncovered the card-related withdrawals in amounts of \$202.50 and \$302.50 at places she couldn't identify, \$403 at the Wild Horse Casino, and \$403 at Pinal Place in Florence. All were made during the Christmas Season of 2014.

It was after reporting the withdrawals that Sanchez said she received poor job evaluations, leading to the Town Council deciding if she was to continue beyond her sixmonth probationary period.

During the meeting, it was argued that Sanchez "wasn't working out" in the job as Town Clerk and should be let go. The final vote was 4 to 3 to terminate Sanchez, with Mayor Valenzuela casting the deciding "no" vote.

After the meeting, Sanchez told the Superior Sun that she was proud of the work she did as Superior Town Clerk.

"They gave no real reason as to why I was terminated. I worked hard beyond what was required for the job and was never accused of any major wrongdoing," she said. That Superior, like nearly all municipalities in Pinal County, is struggling financially makes it doubly wrong for town officers to use available revenues for non-municipal reasons, she added.

An investigation to determine the validity of the charges made by Sanchez and if there are any withdrawals in addition to those made by Sanchez, has reportedly been launched by Superior Town Government.



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Globe, Arizona

Voters to be asked to approve and fund 20-year Pinal County transportation plan next November

By James J. Hodl Copper Area News

A 20-year plan to develop a countywide transportation system consisting a new and improved roads and transit systems throughout Pinal County is currently being drafted, with an eye on bringing it along with a request to fund the requested projects - before voters next November. The developmental effort was launched last August when the Pinal County Board of Supervisors voted to create the Pinal **Regional Transportation Authority** (PRTA) as a special public improvements and taxing subdivision of the state of Arizona under state statute 48-5302. The statute applies only to Arizona counties with fewer than 400,000 residents, of which Pinal County qualifies.

Overseeing PRTA will be one representative each from each

municipality within the county, the county, and Central Arizona Governments (CAG), one of six regional districts in Arizona formed to support a number of planning activities, while complying with federal planning requirements. Each will have one vote when determining which projects go forward and in which order. Andy Smith, CAG transportation

planning manager, is overseeing PRTA. To develop a balanced regional transportation plan, PRTA with the Pinal Board of Supervisors contracted with Dibble Engineering for transportation consulting services. The purpose of the plan will be to boost economic activity within the county by making it easier and quicker to get around. Both the needs of business and citizens will be taken into consideration, Smith said. High on the planning list are roads

bisecting the county that will function as

a North-South Corridor (determining the route of the proposed I-11) and an East-West Corridor, the latter providing faster travel between Kearny and Maricopa. Other road projects will likely benefit Southern Pinal County, Hidden Valley, as well making major improvements to regionally significant roads.

The plan also could include transit systems, including buses and light rail, to areas where no public transportation currently exists. Park-and-ride lots would funnel customers into light rail systems.

At present there are only three bus services in Pinal County: Cotton Express in Coolidge, CART (Central Arizona Regional Transportation) connecting Florence with Casa Grande through Coolidge, and COMET (City of Maricopa Express Transit). These services operate primarily in morning and late afternoon rush hours. But how much extra bus service the county needs is not known. A bus service linking San Tan Valley and Queen Creek with Gateway Mesa Airport folded years ago for lack of riders.

Two of three light rail lines proposed by the Arizona Department of Transportation would benefit Pinal County with the Phoenix-Tucson route going through Queen Creek, San Tan Valley and Florence; and the Phoenix-Globe line skirting the county's northern towns.

Once a balanced fiscally-sound 20-year transportation plan is developed, it will be presented to voters in November 2016, Smith said. Details of the plan will be released well before the voting date, Smith said.

To fund the 20 years of projects, voters will be asked to approve a 0.5% hike in the county excise tax. That would be in Continued on page 10

Volunteers Needed

Are you a people person? Want to give unto others and assist those experiencing a challenging time?

Copper Communities Hospice is looking for volunteers that are interested in visiting with patients. Volunteers attend an 8-hour training session, must be able to pass a background check, have a driver's license, current auto insurance and their own reliable transportation. TB skin test is required (we will provide). Volunteers devote a minimum of 2 hours a week.

If your organization or group would like more information or would like to have a Hospice Presentation detailing the hospice volunteer services, please feel free to call Debra Green, Volunteer Coordinator, at 520-391-3000. We will gladly set up arrangements.

Volunteers "Plant Seeds of Kindness." PICK UP AN APPLICATION TODAY! We would love to have you join our dedicated group of volunteers.





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Next November voters will get their say in the next 20 years of transportation in Pinal County.





Fill our bowls, please. Attendees to the annual Fill a Bowl fundraiser were eager to try some soup.

DECA Fill the Bowl sets another record

The Superior High School DECA club hosted the third annual Fill the Bowl fundraiser for the Superior Food Bank. This year they raised \$1,775 for the Superior Food Bank. Last year they raised over \$1500.

Each year the event grows in attendance and community support. Board members from the Superior Food Bank accepted the check from DECA members and thanked the students for their ongoing fundraising efforts.

The Superior Food Bank takes donations all year to feed hungry families in Superior. There is still time to make your tax deductible donation to the food bank. Contact Dennis Van Gorp at (520) 827-0988 to learn how you can help.



Superior High School DECA Club members present a check for more than \$1,700 to the volunteers of the Superior Food Bank. Mila Besich-Lira | Sun





First ever 'Second Friday' equals FUN

The merchants in downtown Superior have set out to grow a monthly event called Second Friday. The very first one was held Friday, Dec. 12, and featured live music in the Besich Park hosted by the Superior Optimist Club and an Ugly Christmas Sweater contest. The downtown had many cars parked and many patrons strolled Main Street looking for treasures.

Local musicians John Moreno, Tommy Macias, Veto Cervantes and Steve Holmquest played an assortment of live music pieces. Those wishing to join the community jam session are encouraged to attend the event. Winning the coveted first place in the Ugly Christmas Sweater contest was Ashley Valenzuela with her Christmas Tree Sweater which was her original design. JoAnn Besich won the second prize with a store bought sweater that the judges deemed "truly ugly." Participants who visited every shop received a chance to win a gift basket valued at \$350. The winner of the gift basket was Natalie Perez.

The next Second Friday is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 8, 2016. Stores will be open until 8 p.m. A theme has not been determined yet.



Local musicians performed at Besich Park during the Second Friday event. Mila Besich-Lira | Sun



Vendors on Main Street in Superior remained open longer hours during the Superior Chamber's first Second Friday event. Mila Besich-Lira | Sun



Enjoying the music.

Mila Besich-Lira | Sun



Top winners in the Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest.

Superior Senior Center News

The Superior Senior Center, 360 W. Main St., invites seniors to join the center and enjoy a nice meal and great company. Meals are \$2 for adults 55 and over. Under 55 is \$4.

Gemini Hospice is offering a blood pressure clinic every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. This is conducted at the Superior Senior Center at 360 W Main. There is no charge and everyone is welcome. Bingo is every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

There will be a Christmas/New Year's Eve Party on Dec. 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are welcome.

The menu for the Superior Senior center for the week of Dec. 21-24 is:

• Monday: Chicken Nuggets, Potato Wedges, Coleslaw, Wheat Roll, Apple Cake

• Tuesday: Chef Salad, Cottage Cheese, Carrot & Celerv Sticks, Avocado Wedges, Pineapple

• Wednesday: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Dinner Roll, Jell-O

• Thursday: Pork on a Bun, Corn, Pickle Spear, Coleslaw, Peach Cobbler

Need a ride to the center? Call 689-5182.

SUPERIOR CHURCH DIRECTORY

Presbyterian Church of Superior 100 Magma Ave., Superior

520-689-2631

Worship Service Sunday: 10 a.m. All are welcome

Anonymous prayer box located at Save Money Market. We will pray for you!

Superior Harvest Church

Hill St. & Stone Ave., Superior

Pastor Albert M. Rodriguez 480-354-4499 H 480-329-3647 C

Sunday Morning Service 10 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study 5 p.m.

Victory in Jesus

Calvary Superior 921 S. Belmont Ave., Superior

Pastor Rudy Paredes 480-917-8950

Sunday Service 5 p.m. Thursday Service 7 p.m. info@calvarychandler.com www.calvarychandler.com St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 11 Church Ave., Superior

Fr. Samuel Jandeh 520-689-2250

Weekday Mass Tues.-Fri. 8 a.m. Saturday 5 p.m. • Sunday 9 & 11 a.m. Confession: Sat. 4-4:45 p.m. or by req. www.stfrancissuperior.org

Family Life Christian Center 56 Kellner Ave., Superior

Pastors Dennis & Sandy VanGorp 520-689-2202

Sunday Prayer 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Everyone is Welcome Assembly of God

Superstition Foothills Baptist Church 6338 S. Kings Ranch Rd. Gold Canyon, AZ

Sunday Services Life Line Christian Institute 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Line Connect Groups 5 p.m.

We love people and would like to be your church home.

To be included in the weekly church listing, call the Superior Sun at 520-363-5554.

Christmas Toy Drive

This year, the Superior Police Department is sponsoring a Christmas Toy Drive for the children of Superior. The mission is that no child in our community goes without a Christmas Gift this holiday season. We are seeking donations of new, unwrapped toys for children between the ages of 0-17 years of age. Now until Wednesday, Dec. 23 drop off will be at the Superior Police Department, 734 W. Main St. Superior on Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact Francine at 520-689-5255 for afterhours and other information. Register for Toys for Tots at the Superior Police Department before Thursday, Dec. 10, and call to register children in need this holiday season.

Free In-Home Blood Pressure Checks Offered by Gemini

Gemini Hospice is offering free In-Home Blood Pressure Checks. Call the office at 520-689-0104 to schedule. The check takes 10 minutes. We leave you with a card to keep track of your blood pressure and can put you on our schedule to return in two weeks.

THIS 'N THAT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Free Blood Pressure Checks **Offered by Gemini**

Gemini Outreach of Superior will be hosting FREE Blood Pressure Clinics at the Superior Public Library, on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, starting Monday, Dec. 7, from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Hope to see you there. If you need more information please call Gemini's office at 520-689-0104.

DECEMBER



Christmas Candy Giveaway

Express Stop in Superior will have its annual Christmas Candy Giveaway on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 5 p.m. sharp, while supplies last.

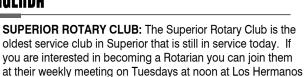
ON THE AGENDA

Restaurant.

SUPERIOR TOWN COUNCIL: The Superior Town Council meets the second Thursday at 7 p.m. at the old Roosevelt School Auditorium.

SUPERIOR OPTIMIST CLUB: The Superior Optimist Club meets the first and third Tuesdays at Edwardo's Pizza at 6:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to join the club can contact JoAnn Besich at 520-827-0592.

SUPERIOR SENIOR CENTER: The Superior Senior Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A hot nutritious lunch is provided at noon. Bingo is played every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 10:30 a.m. Come in and join us for lunch or Bingo. You do not need to be a senior to join us, but must be over 21 to play Bingo. Need a ride to the center? Call 520-689-5182.



SUPERIOR SCHOOL BOARD: Regular meetings of the Superior School District Governing Board are held at 6 p.m. in the Auditorium, at Kennedy Elementary School, 1500 Sunset Drive in Superior, usually on the first Wednesday of each month.

SUPERIOR, ARIZONA COWBOY ROUND-UP ASSOC: Anyone interested in joining the Superior, Arizona Cowboy Round-up Association should call Sandra Doyle at 509-936-0604.



Santa Claus is coming to town

Saturday, Dec. 19, Santa is coming to the VFW in Superior. From 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. kids will get a gift, sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they want, and cookies and drinks will be served. At 6 p.m., there will be a Christmas 'Ugly Sweater and White Elf' party for adults. There will be prizes and auctioned raffles.

JANUARY GCC's Spring Semester Schedule D

Gila Community College's Spring 2016 semester begins on Wednesday. Jan. 6. Registration is underway. The schedule is available on-line at www. gilaccc.org. For more information call the Gila Pueblo Campus at (928) 425-8481.

Submit information to CBNSUN@minersunbasin.com or call 520-363-5554. Listings are free. The Superior Sun reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions. Submissions are due the Friday before Wednesday publication.

Calvary Superior, new church on a mission

By Mila Besich-Lira Superior Sun

For two generations the Paredes family has been ministering and bringing people to God's word in Superior and after all of those years of faithfulness and prayers, Pastor Rudy Paredes is leading Calvary Superior, a new church to Superior. Today, Pastor Rudy is ministering to the children and grandchildren that his father Rudy Sr. originally ministered to many years ago.

Pastor Rudy began ministering in Superior with his father, Rudy Paredes Sr., about 15 years ago. They would offer services at the Senior Center on Saturday nights. They worked with Pastor Bart. Pastor Rudy and Rudy Sr. traveled from Tucson every week to minister to the people of Superior. They faced many challenges at that time and eventually Pastor Bart moved on to another church in Kearny and the Paredes family re-directed their focus on to the **Chandler Calvary Chapel**

as Rudy Sr. had some health issues to manage. Over the years the family continued to pray about starting a ministry in Superior. Most recently, Pastor Rudy explained they kept praying and asking God for confirmation about starting a ministry in Superior, and then many locals and other church supporters started to ask him to consider starting a church in Superior.

"We were asking God for confirmation and in that time we started getting calls from people in Superior asking us to come and minister to them," he explained.

When they started researching the opportunity, they found a partnership with the Baptist church in Superior which closed their church but still owned the building on Belmont Ave. After a few months of praying and listening to God, they received the call that the Baptist church would allow them to utilize the building and the grounds. Their parent Church, Chandler Calvary Chapel helped to

arrange sound equipment and other needs to get the new church planted in Superior. Calvary Superior has been open for three months, offering a Sunday night service at 5 p.m, a Thursday night service at 7 p.m. and on Friday nights they offer a movie night and fellowship for the public.

Quickly many locals began attending the church and with prayer and guidance many of the regular attenders have turned their life over to the Lord and turned away from a life of drug and alcohol addiction. Pastor Rudy stressed that providing the faith based principals are critical but the church aims to serve the whole person and they would plan to offer job skills to those in need as well as

possibly develop a training center or incubate jobs for those in need. These are just a few of parts of the long term vision that Pastor Rudy, believes God has for the church here in Superior.

"God wants his people to see a hope for their future," he explained.

The mission for the Calvary Superior church is "Reach: Teach: Mend: Send:" and they are dong just that as they help to train their members in the operation of the high tech audio visual equipment that help to run the weekly services. They offer Sunday School

They offer Sunday School and other youth programs during each service and they plan to expand on those services as the church grows. Another service the church offers is a food pantry for those in need.

Calvary Superior will also be hosting a 3 p.m. Christmas Eve Service; the community is invited to attend.

The church is located at 921 S. Belmont Ave. You can learn more about the church online at wwww. calvarysuperior.com.

Weather					
Date	High	Low	Рср		
Dec 7	79	45			
Dec 8	78	43			
Dec 9	76	43			
Dec 10	81	45			
Dec 11	61	47	.19		
Dec 12	47	37	.36		
Dec 13	58	33			
Weather readings courtesy Boyce					
Thompson Arboretum.					

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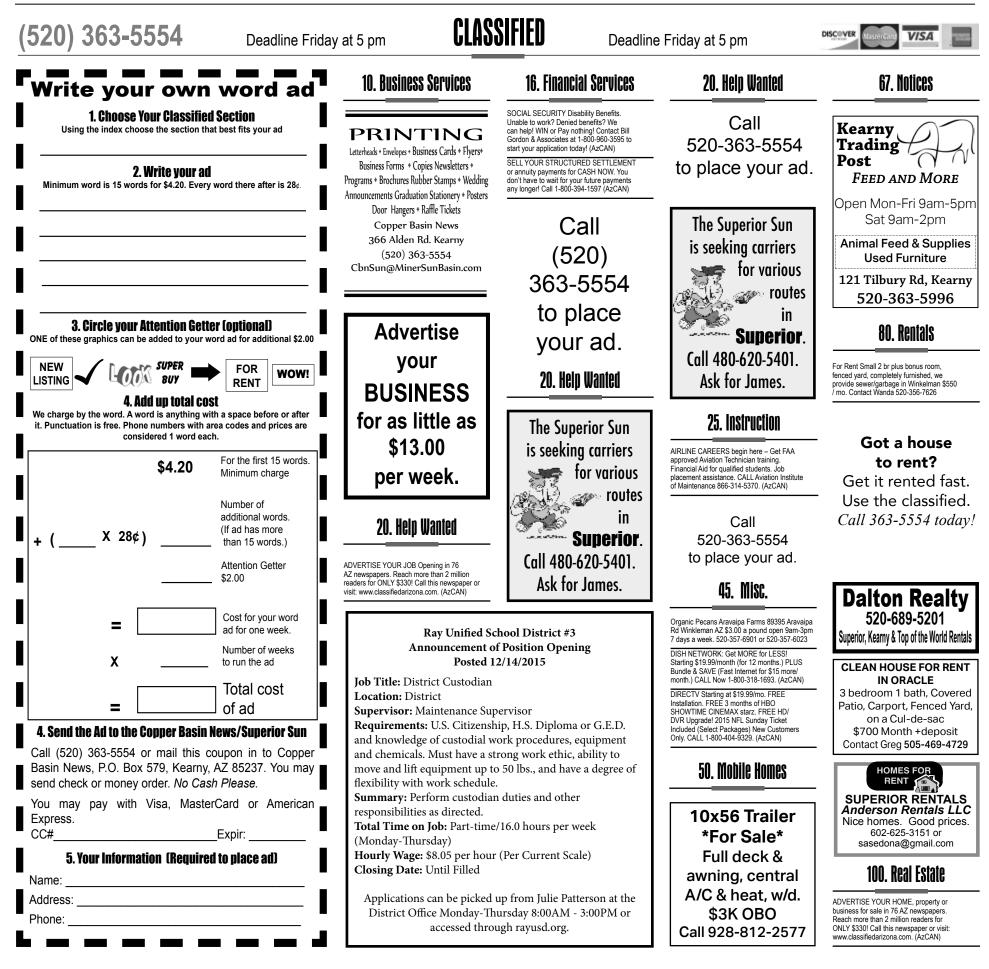
TRANSPORTATION

Continued from page 6 addition to the existing 0.5% excise tax county residents already pay to fund county road maintenance projects. The current 0.5% excise tax raises about \$16 million annually.

PRTA was created to fill the gap left by a steady decline in recent years of federal transportation project funding. Currently the county only receives about \$500,000 in federal transportation revenues.

Smith has already appeared before city and town council meetings throughout Pinal County to build support for the transportation project.

The need for the program to be balanced and provide improvements for all corners of the county was driven home when in November a Casa Grande councilman said he wouldn't be inclined to support a North-South Corridor highway if it ran through San Tan Valley, Coolidge and Eloy but missed Casa Grande. That would take business and economic development away from his town. Superior Christmas Toy Drive Brighten a Child's Christmas Bring a New Unwrapped Toy to the Superior Police Department NOW Through Dec. 23rd No child should wake up sad on Christmas. We have an opportunity as a community to make sure that doesn't happen. Drop Off: 734 W. Main St., Superior Monday thru Friday 8am-5pm For more information or after hour pick up, call Francine at 520-689-5255. Donations of Wrapping Supplies Appreciated. Register for Toys for Tots at Superior PD Before Dec. 10 www.copperarea.com



Third-quarter run lifts Panthers to victory against Sabercats

"Once we start focusing on fundamentals

and finishing, we are taking good shots."

apparent as the Panthers dominated the

game, limiting the Cats to one shot on the

defensive end and giving themselves extra

That combination allowed the Panthers to

go on the 10-point run in the third quarter,

which allowed them to extend their lead to

"With our kids, the football season went a

Indeed, Superior's athleticism was

Sabercats on the glass throughout the

opportunities on offense.

41 - 30.

By Andrew Luberda Superior Sun

A 10-point run near the end of the third quarter proved to be the difference for the Panthers boys' basketball team in its 60 - 51 victory at San Tan Foothills last Wednesday. After a slow start, the Panthers were able to recover during a back-and-forth second quarter that ended with them holding a 23 - 20 lead at halftime.

"We're a very athletic team," Superior head coach Ryan Palmer said after the game.



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little longer so we missed the fundamental work and we need it," Palmer answered when asked what adjustments his team made at halftime following the slow start. "It wasn't that we did anything different (in the second half), we just started hitting our shots."

Junior Austin Navarrette was one of three Panthers to score in double figures in the win with a team-high 16 points. Jalon Murray finished 13 points and Nicolaus Cruz added 11 points, including nine from the free-throw line.

Murray, a junior, scored six of his 13 points during the decisive 10-point run in the third. "We were pretty good," he said. "We moved the ball well."

The win was the Panthers second of the season and second in as many nights as they defeated Salome on Dec. 8, 55 - 44. Upcoming schedule: Dec. 17 vs. San Tan Foothills at 7 p.m.



The Panthers' Jesse Lopez dribbles around a Sabercats' defender during last Wednesday's game. Kelli Luberda | Sun



Superior head coach Ryan Palmer gives instruction to his team during a timeout in the Panther's 60 - 51 victory against San Tan Foothills last Wednesday. Kelli Luberda | Sun