

# SURPRISE INDEPENDENT

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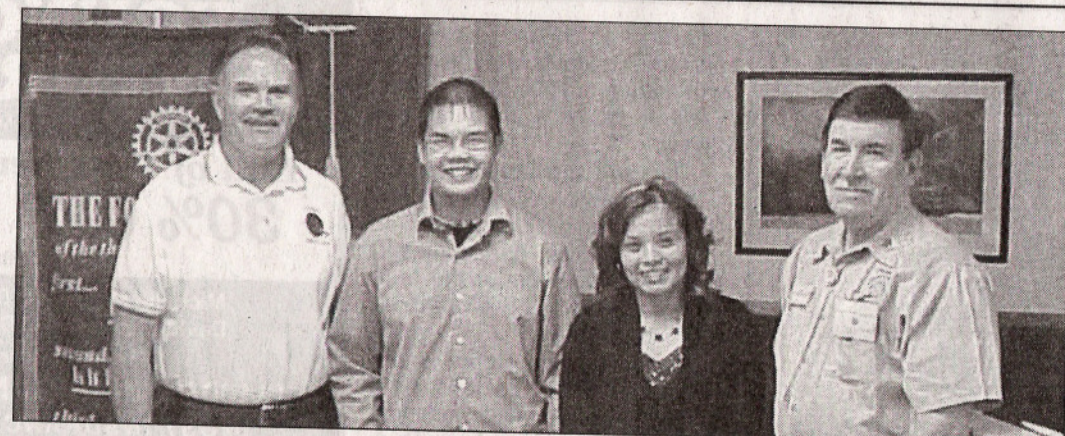


Special to the Independent/Bill Lipscomb

## Student honor

Willow Canyon High School student Stephanie Miller, center, was honored by the Surprise Rotary Club as student of the month for November. Joining her in receiving the honor from club president Ralph Wirebaugh, right, was WCHS teacher and Interact Club advisor Michael Kaufman. Interact is the high school version of Rotary. The Surprise Rotary Club recognizes students of the month from both Dysart and Willow Canyon high school.

SURPRISE INDEPENDENT



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## Dysart achievers

A pair of Dysart High School students were recognized for their achievements when the Surprise Rotary Club named them students of the month for November. Teacher Joe Rodriguez, left, joined students Bryan Nguyen and Edyth Haro, center, when they received the honor from club president Ralph Wirebaugh.

## From the Editor

# Surprise Police want to know: Are you OK

By **Rusty Bradshaw**

Independent Newspapers

It is "a call you can count on."

The Surprise Police Department's "Are You OK" program is up and running. Surprise home-bound residents looking for the added safety of a daily checkup call can enroll in the program.

Funded entirely from grants and donations, the Are You OK provides an automatically generated phone call once each day to a resident's home to make sure they are alright.

"This program does not cost the city anything," said Surprise Police Chief Dan Hughes.

The Surprise Rotary Club and the Target store provide donations to the program, along with numerous residents of the city.

The system will generate three calls to the residence, according to

Surprise Police officer Chris Tovar, the program coordinator.

"If there is no answer after the third call, the system generates an alert report with information about the resident and an officer is sent to the home to check on their well being," Officer Tovar said.

The police utilize both on-duty officers and members of the Citizen Patrol to make the in-person checks at the homes.

Surprise residents eligible for the program are those who are vulnerable due to ill health or age.

The Are You OK program has a tie-in with the Surprise Fire Department. One of the pieces of information on the alert is the location of a spare key to the home in case officers need to enter the residence. The fire department is utilizing heavy duty lock boxes with a spare key inside, according to Chief Hughes.

Residents interested in enrolling in the Are You OK program can call the police department, 583-1085, or Citizen Patrol, 594-5615, to start the process. Applicants will fill out a questionnaire, which provides information used in the alert messages. Officers then conduct a

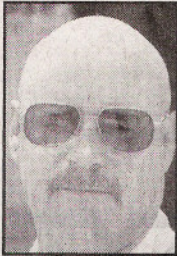
home visit and interview, according to Officer Tovar.

"The residents will determine the time of day and the frequency of the calls," Officer Tovar said.

Program enrollees select the days the calls will be made. They

must also notify the police department two days in advance when they plan to be out of town for an extended period of time.

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**Rusty Bradshaw**



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw  
**Surprise Police officer Chris Tovar explains the Are You OK program to members of the Surprise Rotary Club Nov. 22.**



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

## Food bank bucks

The Westside Food Bank got a boost from two Valley groups. Surprise Rotary Club president Ralph Wirebaugh, right, presents Bill Ennis of the food bank a check for \$500 from the club Nov. 22. Mr. Wirebaugh also presented a check for \$250 from the Phoenix Model A Club, of which he is a member.