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# ARIZONA REPUBLIC

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

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## AZ librarians could become criminals

Law would expand ban, give prison time if they refer certain books to kids

Taylor Seely Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

Children and teenagers' access at public libraries could be significantly restricted if a bill at the Arizona Legislature were to become law.

Every year for the past four years, Republican lawmakers in Arizona have tried to build upon a 2022 law banning school employees from sharing material they defined as "sexually explicit" with anyone under 18.

The definition goes beyond the colloquial use of

"sexually explicit" to include material that textually describes sexual intercourse or even touching someone's "clothed ... buttocks."

The latest proposal would expand the ban to encompass every public library in Arizona, making it a Class 5 felony, punishable by up to 2.5 years in prison, for a librarian or library contractor to "refer" or "facilitate ... access" to so-called sexually explicit material to minors. That penalty also would apply

See LIBRARIANS, Page 15A



State Sen. Jake Hoffman is behind the new proposed library law. MEGAN MENDOZA/THE REPUBLIC



A sheriff's deputy watches the driveway outside Nancy Guthrie's home in Catalina Foothills on Feb. 10. PATRICK BREEN/THE REPUBLIC

## Search for Guthrie resumes in Tucson

Man detained for questioning at traffic stop released

Richard Ruelas, Sarah Lapidus and Perry Vandell  
Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

TUCSON — FBI agents scoured the neighborhoods surrounding Nancy Guthrie's home in the Catalina Foothills area on the morning of Feb. 11, hours after authorities detained a "person of interest" whom they ultimately released.

Agents were conducting an extensive search along multiple roadways in the area, the agency said in a post on X.

The FBI reiterated its \$50,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of Nancy Guthrie and to submit tips by calling 1-800-CALL-FBI.

### More online

For up-to-date coverage of the search for Nancy Guthrie, visit azcentral.com.

The neighborhood ground search followed what initially seemed to be a promising development in the case the evening before.

After law enforcement authorities had released images of an armed, masked and gloved person standing in the doorway of Nancy Guthrie's home,

See GUTHRIE, Page 14A

### INJURIES PLAGUE DIAMONDBACKS 1B



Arizona Diamondbacks pitchers and catchers started spring training on Feb. 10. ROB SCHUMACHER/THE REPUBLIC

### New police shooting video

A new video of the moment a Phoenix police officer mistakenly shot and killed a man in his home turns the police department's narrative on its head. 3A

### Event season in Arizona

Thirty of the best events — from festivals to concerts, parades, Bike Week and more — that are happening from now until May around the Valley. 1C

## AZ senators challenge ICE center

Demand answers from DHS on Surprise facility

Elena Santa Cruz, John Leos and Stacey Barchenger

Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

Arizona's U.S. senators and the state's top prosecutor are joining bipartisan calls for answers about an ICE facility in Surprise, including whether the federal government's plans have gone through the required environmental reviews.

Sens. Mark Kelly and Ruben Gallego sent a letter to the Department of Homeland Security chief Kristi Noem and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement acting director Todd Lyons on Feb. 10, expressing concerns about the future 1,500-bed processing facility in the suburban city northwest of Phoenix.

Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes sent her own letter to Noem a day earlier, on Feb. 9, after other congressional leaders had demanded answers from the DHS following its purchase of a warehouse off Sweetwater Avenue and Dysart Road for over \$70 million in cash on Jan. 23.

Surprise officials and U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar,

See SURPRISE, Page 15A

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