



# Maricopa

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April 2019

## GOVERNMENT

Overpass  
taking shape

## PEOPLE

Dwarf car-makers  
on final projects



## Racing into Reality

Apex getting primed for opening

**+** Business  
Directory

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## 41 SPECIAL SECTION



**ON THE COVER:** Matt Williams, a co-founder of Apex Motor Club, is happy to see the private racetrack move forward with Phase 1 of the track being paved and construction of buildings on the horizon. *Photo by Jim Headley*



**Khloe Marcus is among volunteers who will perform good deeds during Church of Celebration's service week.**

Victor Moreno

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## On the move



**E**ngines revving in anticipation of finally getting on a long-awaited racetrack are an obvious analogy for Maricopa businesses opening doors after a long preparation. Apex Motor Club is more than just a symbol of that situation but an example.

With the club at last laying asphalt on Phase 1 of its track while coincidentally winning a court case, Apex lands on this month's cover. Other signs of development also show up in this issue, from a new meat shop to data of increasing sales to major advancement of the overpass.

Even as funding remains in flux via another court battle, improvements to State Route 347 are getting a serious look from both sides of the county line. We look at the beginnings of another collaborative effort among government entities to fix the problems that comprise the 347 commute.

This issue also has an early look at a planned expansion to the courthouse on Wilson Avenue and the ongoing work on the grade-separation overpass.

In this issue, you also catch up with the owners of the Dwarf Car Museum, meet members of the new American Legion Honor Guard, learn what it takes to be a Flint Scholar and find out what community activities are ahead in the very busy month of April.

Happy reading,

RAQUEL HENDRICKSON | Editor

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## Contributors



**SCOTT OLIVER**

A Maricopa Master Gardener, Scott uses humor in his gardening-advice column, even regarding creepy-crawlies, while keeping his facts straight.



**FRANCIS TRAST**

A sophomore at Maricopa High School, Francis has had a busy semester reporting on the activities of the AFJROTC.



**DAYV MORGAN**

A Realtor with HomeSmart Success, Dayv is an ASU grad known for his penchant for Christmas lights while staying on top of home trends.

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## Maricopa courthouse to expand

The courthouse at 19955 N. Wilson Ave. has expansion plans. The court serves as justice court for Western Pinal and magistrate court for the City of Maricopa.

The courthouse will undergo a 41,000-square-foot expansion. Many satellite county offices are planned for the expansion, including Pinal County Sheriff's Office.

City senior planner Rodolfo Lopez

told Heritage District Citizen Advisory Committee the county is hoping to break ground on the expansion by the end of 2019, hopefully in October or November, with completion of the project in 12 to 14 months.

The project consists of two buildings. One building is the Community Services Building for the county assessor, recorder, supervisor, planning and development services.

The second building is built around the

existing justice building and will house an additional courtroom. The Sheriff's Office satellite will be located on one end of the building, and probation will be added to the other end.

The project is designed to stay within the historic parameters of the Heritage District and be a government building that doesn't look like a strip mall. [📍](#)

**The current courthouse on Wilson Avenue (right) will be expanded with an additional courtroom (artist rendering above) while a building is added to the complex for county satellite offices.**



Jim Headley

## SR 347 improvement alternatives focus of planned study

By Raquel Hendrickson

With bumper-to-bumper traffic and frequent collisions on State Route 347 making it the hottest topic for Maricopans, there are plans afoot to study improvement alternatives to the roadway in both Pinal and Maricopa counties.

March 18, representatives of the City of Maricopa met three hours with counterparts from Pinal County, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Federal Highway Administration and Wilson & Company to kickoff the studies.

"This study is just so important to this area," said Charon Hill, MAG project manager.

Amy Moran, senior project manager for Wilson & Company, which has completed transportation studies for the City of Maricopa, said the purpose of the studies is to develop alternatives and evaluate strategies.

Alternatives named by residents include adding lanes and building overpasses. Ken Smith of HDR said the current realities of SR 347 will stymie economic growth in the area.

Andy Smith, general manager of Pinal Regional Transportation Authority, updated the group on the current lawsuit aimed at the funding of voter-approved improvements. The Goldwater Institute sued the Arizona Department of Revenue, Pinal County and PRTA on behalf of the Arizona Restaurant Association over Prop 417, which passed in 2017 as a sales tax to fund transportation projects.

Though the Arizona Tax Court ruled in favor of the ARA, the PRTA has submitted its paperwork to the Arizona Court of Appeals and is awaiting response from the Goldwater Institute.

Meanwhile, the county is still allowed to collect the tax, which has brought in about \$13.6 million. Smith said that was within \$100,000 of expectations.

Moran said the new studies are meant to help build consensus on SR 347 decisions. "We recognize there have been a ton of studies done on this corridor," she said.

However, two invitees not attending the kickoff were the Gila River and Ak-Chin

communities. Hill said she would make new efforts to get them involved in future meetings.

That includes the next gathering, planned as a corridor vision workshop in April.

Concerns voiced at Monday's session included safety issues, future costs and maintenance, failure to align with what stakeholders and the public want, building to standard, educating the public, how long improvements will take and how long they will last.

Carlos Lopez of ADOT said activity on the proposed Interstate 11 is also expected in April with a draft environmental impact statement. David Maestas, transportation manager for the City of Maricopa, explained meetings on I-11 had been delayed until now by the government shutdown.

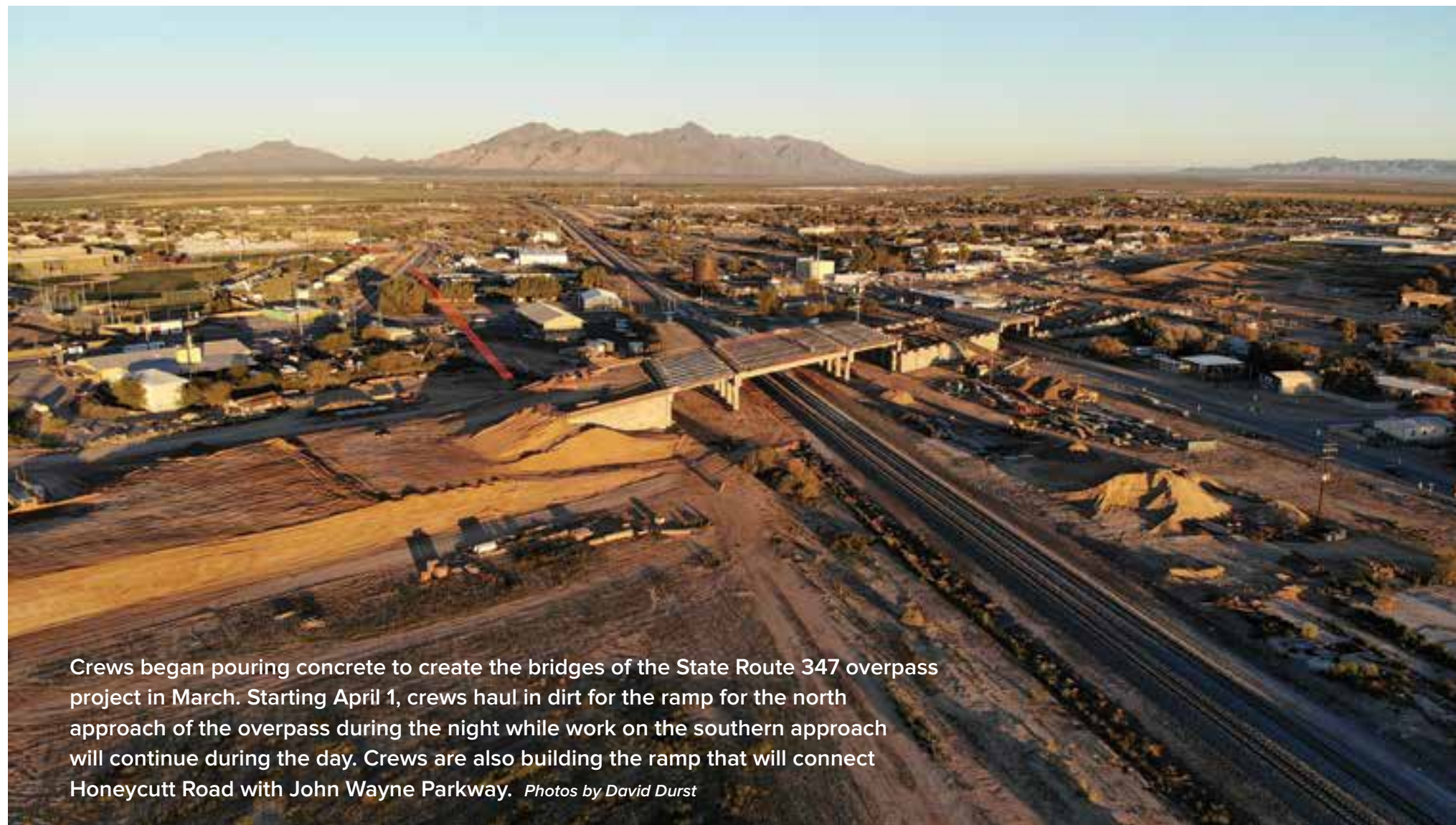
Andy Smith said it was important to remember the possible impact on SR 347 of any changes to other corridors, whether it is Interstate 10 and its access roads or future roadways like I-11, which is expected to take southern Arizona to the west side of the Valley and up to Las Vegas. [📍](#)



**Amy Moran (standing) of Wilson & Company guides officials through an exercise during a kickoff meeting for SR 347 studies.**

Raquel Hendrickson

## Overpass



Crews began pouring concrete to create the bridges of the State Route 347 overpass project in March. Starting April 1, crews haul in dirt for the ramp for the north approach of the overpass during the night while work on the southern approach will continue during the day. Crews are also building the ramp that will connect Honeycutt Road with John Wayne Parkway. *Photos by David Durst*





# On the road with Apex

Racetrack readied for private club's membership

Story and photos by Jim Headley



**The first phase of the track at Apex Motor Club was paved in March with an opening date planned for April.**

**Left: Co-founder Matt Williams tries his Porsche on the track.**

worked on in spots.

"I've been around it quite a few times actually," he said. "We had about 15 guys out here this morning to check it out."

For Phase 1 of the track, Williams said the 2.3-mile-long road course has 12 turns on 140 acres.

"And we have another 140 acres just to the north that will allow us to continue our expansion. It will be three tracks, but it will have the ability to be combined to one that will be 4.2 miles. It's very long," he said.

Paving Apex involved an echelon method. "So, there are no seams," Williams said. "There's not a seam on the asphalt anywhere. It was three pavers side-by-side to get the 40-foot width."

The Apex track is a road course but it's a fast road course, according to Williams. Speeds might reach 160 mph in a special car on the long straightaway.

"A lot of that is going to depend on what kind of a car you're driving," he said. "We

have members with open-style, Indy-type cars, vintage cars and modern stuff. They all do different things on a road course like this. Some cars might do 160 while others just aren't capable of going that fast."

The unique features of the Apex track are the long 3,400-foot straightaway, elevation changes, the bus stop chicane and turn 6 is slightly banked and on camber.

The track is touted as the longest in Arizona. Williams said there are some "club tracks" as long and even longer. He said there is one near Las Vegas that is 7.5 miles. One in Chicago is over 4 miles, and one outside Palm Springs is just over 5 miles.

Maricopa's Apex track is a membership track, a private club people join for the use of the facilities. Car condos will be constructed in "Gasoline Alley" fashion to house up to 30 cars inside each 300-by-50-foot building for those willing to pay for the privilege.

A clubhouse will be built at the track, complete with a restaurant and pool. The concept of Apex is to turn the sport of driving into a commodity, much like what has been done with the sport of golf.


"Where you can get in and get out in four or five hours and you're done with it," Williams said. "We thought we might be onto something. My business partner and I both have kids and we have other things that happen in life, like kids, sports and work. We thought if we could get something that is close to everybody, where they could get in and get out and you don't have to be gone for an entire weekend to get your car-guy fix, that we could probably build a business out of it. That's what we did. There are not very many of these."

Private Motorsports Group, which owns Apex, and the City of Maricopa had to deal with two lawsuits since 2017 over city zoning for the project. Both cases were ultimately dismissed by the Arizona judiciary but delayed the project. For all that stress, Apex President Jason Plotke said, "It's just been a very welcoming and enjoyable experience."

The Scottsdale-based company's board includes Jim Beatty and Jarrett Boon. The limited liability company is addressed in Scottsdale.

Next for Apex is the construction of the car condos over the next two months. Then the project can start adding the second phase track expansion to the north and the clubhouse.

Williams told members the track will be "fully up and running in April."

"We're going to do a ribbon cutting and some other things — but we're close, real close," he said. 



**"We thought if we could get something that is close to everybody, where they could get in and get out and you don't have to be gone for an entire weekend to get your car-guy fix, that we could probably build a business out of it."**

— Matt Williams, co-founder Apex Motor Club



# The Box Meat Shop an international affair

Story and photos by Jim Headley

Luis and Karen Pozzolo launched their American dream, The Box Meat Shop, on March 15. Uruguay native Luis Pozzolo has been working as a general manager at large national and international meat suppliers for several years. He's learned who are the best suppliers of beef, chicken, pork and seafood. He's put everything he has on the line and "quit his good-paying day job" to open his dream meat shop in Maricopa.

All the meat is carefully packed into cryogenic packaging and sealed from oxygen and light. It is boxed, and the customer can look into the box when it's purchased. The meat was sealed in the CryoBag at the packing house and is only opened by the customer at home. It is guaranteed to be fresh, usually just a couple days from slaughter, all-natural and free from any chemicals and hormones.

"Our idea is to teach our customers that our shop's name is The Box," said Karen

Pozzolo, also from Uruguay. "When you go to a grocery or meat store you can see the meat. Here the meat is going to be inside the box in a CryoBag.

Luis explained because the CryoBag keeps oxygen away from the meat, ice cannot form to freezer-burn the meat. The box also keeps light from damaging the meat.

The Pozzolos have been in Maricopa for a year. Luis has been in the meat business four years, working for Amigos Meat as director of operations in Houston and general manager



**“We will bring in all-natural beef. The chicken will be all natural and no hormones. This is a great opportunity, and I really like the direction Maricopa is going and growing.”** —Luis Pozzolo

in Atlanta. He was also branch manager for Harvest Meats in Phoenix.

He was previously a senior business analyst. Before leaving Uruguay, he was a banker.

Pozzolo was going to open his innovative The Box Meat Shop a year ago, but Harvest Meats gave him an offer he just couldn't refuse, he said, so he delayed opening for a year as he helped Harvest Meats.

"I know the business. I really enjoyed serving our customers, and I think we can provide exceptional quality. I know all the brands, and I've been dealing with all of them," he said.

One of the largest motivators for the Pozzolos is to be self-employed.

"We will bring in all-natural beef. The chicken will be all natural and no hormones. This is a great opportunity, and I really like the direction Maricopa is going and growing. The city has the right attitude on growing, on the government side," Luis said.

Pozzolo knows a lot about government.

In Uruguay, his father, also named Luis Pozzolo, was a senator. Starting from nothing, his father rose from poverty to mayor of a city into the national parliament and even briefly was the president of Uruguay.

During the second presidency of Julio Maria Sanguinetti, in his capacity as substitute,

**Luis and Karen Pozzolo opened The Box Meat Shop in March at 4870 W. Hathaway Ave., Suite 2. Joining them on opening day are their children Cristian and Belen.**

Luis Bernardo Pozzolo held the presidency of the Republic for three days.

His father was the vice president of the Social Security Bank of Uruguay when he died in 2003.

Luis said his father was angry with him for deciding to leave Uruguay and migrate to the United States. He told his son he'd probably end up washing dishes in America and sure enough, Luis' first job was washing dishes in a restaurant.

"I was in international banking all my life in Uruguay. My father was a congressman, senator, vice president and president in Uruguay. He died, and three weeks later we came to the U.S. We applied for political asylum. We had \$2,900 in our pockets and she was four months pregnant. My father said I had everything I wanted but said, 'this country is going to hell in a few years.' That was in 2003 and in 2004 the socialists won," Luis said.

He held a variety of positions before joining Microsoft and then becoming a manager in the meat industry.

He said the quality of meat carried by Harvest Meat is the best available. Instead of being the company's branch manager, now he's going to be a customer. All the prime-grade beef he's selling at The Box Meat Shop will come from Cedar River Farms Natural Beef, grown by producers in Arizona, through Harvest Meats.

His back-up choice-beef cuts will be Blue Ribbon Angus coming from Greeley, Colorado.

Most of the pork is from Kansas, and the chicken will be from three or four packers but is all natural without antibiotics or hormones. Seafood is coming from California, China and Latin America.

"It has to be quality to put it in your mouth. I am very careful with what my kids eat, what my family eats and even what my dogs eat. We want to bring quality," Luis said, adding his meat is certified as all-natural.

Luis said price of the all-natural product might be a little higher than the grocery store, but the quality far exceeds the additional costs. "It's not going to be crazy. Not a huge difference," he said.

All beef, chicken and pork will all be fresh, not frozen. All meat sold at The Box Meat Shop is also fully guaranteed.

"That is our focus — selling good, fresh, quality meat," Karen Pozzolo said.

The Box is at 44870 W. Hathaway Ave., Suite 2. ☎

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# New development in Maricopa businesses

**Legacy Traditional School** received a permit for a commercial addition on its campus at 17760 N. Regent Drive and a grading permit. The charter school is adding a 3,760-square-foot classroom to an existing building at a value of \$564,000.

**Leading Edge Academy** started work on adding a 30-by-40-foot shade structure valued at \$2,500 on its campus at 18700 N. Porter Road.

**Circle K** at 41433 W. Honeycutt Road received its permit for new signs at a cost of \$29,000. Pearson's Enterprises is constructing the convenience store.

**Walgreens**, at 21274 N. John Wayne Parkway, replaced six HVAC units in a project valued at \$19,556.

**Earthwise Pet**, moving into office space that formerly housed a veterinary office at 20924 N. John Wayne Parkway, received a commercial tenant improvement permit for its work in the building. The work is valued at \$80,000.

**Bo Knows Auto LLC**, an automotive repair business, moved into the former Tommy's Auto at 19282 N. Maricopa Road. It is owned by Carlos Barajas.

**Student Choice High School** also received a permit for improvements at 20800 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 107, to create 1,400 square feet of open classroom space. The project is valued at \$35,000.

**Heritage Academy** received a permit to make onsite improvements for grading, paving, water, sewer and storm drain to 10 acres at 41004 N. Lucerian Lane. The school is building on property owned by Our Lady of Grace. The project is valued at \$2.3 million.

**Maricopa Wellness Center**, 41600 N. Smith-Enke Road, Suite 3, received a permit to create a new office layout in a 1,272-square-foot shell building.

The **City of Maricopa** received a permit for grading improvements at the site of a proposed new fire administration building, 45695 W. Edison Road.

**Sacate Pellet Mill** is now in the development-review-permit phase for its alfalfa pellet mill and warehouse at 38743 W. Cowtown Road. It is owned by Red River Cattle LTD.

**Seasons at Palo Brea**, part of Richmond American Homes of Arizona, received a free-standing sign permit for 44248 W. Palo Olmo Road.

**D.R. Horton** received a temporary use permit for a model home complex in Tortosa Parcel 8.

Among many **new jobs** available in Maricopa are interim office manager, a varsity boys' basketball coach, banquet server, school teacher, clerk, librarian, nurse, computer tech, ballroom dance teacher, lifeguard and pet groomer. Find more at [InMaricopa.com/Jobs](http://InMaricopa.com/Jobs).

## East Valley Cardiology brings full testing to Maricopa

After being in operation 29 years in Chandler, East Valley Cardiology opened a second office in Maricopa March 18. The office is open Monday-Thursday at 20924 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite D4-B.

"This is going to be a tremendous community," Dr. James Ganem said. "We are so excited about providing high-quality health care and high-quality services. We've been taking care of you guys for a long time, and we're just happy to do it here."

Ganem said to start, the office will have one provider and operate four days a week. But the office has space for a second provider.

Ganem credited office manager Linda Burdick with readying the new office space, which

includes four exam rooms, space for vein and vascular studies, echocardiograms and a treadmill. She has worked with him since 1990.

"One of the things we're offering is full testing, and I think that's important," Ganem said. "Most of the offices down here, you come, you see the doctor, but you've got to go to Chandler or Phoenix to get your testing."

The doctors would also like to see a hospital come to the area. EVC is involved in both Banner and Dignity networks.

"We'd like to provide some in-patient care and testing," Dr. Robert Hanson said. "We can't do nuclear stress out here. You need a nuclear room with lead walls. But we've got everything else."

### Clean health inspections for Maricopa eateries

All 18 food establishments inspected by Pinal County's health inspectors Feb. 16-March 15 received excellent scores. That included all nine Maricopa Unified School District campuses.

**EXCELLENT [No violations found]**

- The Box Meat Shop
- Butterfield Elementary
- Desert Wind Middle School
- Leading Edge Academy
- Maricopa Elementary
- Maricopa High School
- Maricopa High School — Culinary Arts
- Maricopa Wells Middle School
- Pima Butte Elementary
- Saddleback Elementary
- Santa Cruz Elementary
- Santa Rosa Elementary
- Starbuck's Maricopa Station
- Walmart
- Walmart — Bakery
- Walmart — Deli
- Water and Ice
- Yogurt Jungle

**SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]**  
None

**NEEDS IMPROVEMENT [Critical items noted during inspection cannot be corrected immediately requiring follow-up inspection]**  
None

**UNACCEPTABLE [Gross, unsanitary conditions necessitating the discontinuation of service]**  
None



Raquel Hendrickson

**City of Maricopa officials helped East Valley Cardiology in cutting a ribbon at its new Maricopa office: (from left) Jo Patty, Jessica Valenzuela, Aliza Siegel, Councilmember Rich Vitiello, Patricia Joseph, Linda Burdick, Dr. James Ganem, Councilmember Marvin Brown, Dr. Robert Hanson and Councilmember Vincent Manfredi.**

## Ak-Chin Chairman joins MEDA board



Robert Miguel, chairman of the Ak-Chin Indian Community, has joined the board of directors of Maricopa Economic Development Alliance (MEDA).

MEDA is the City of Maricopa's private-public partnership for economic development.

Miguel was the first elected chairman of the Ak-Chin Indian Community under its new constitution which allowed tribal members to officially vote for their chairman.

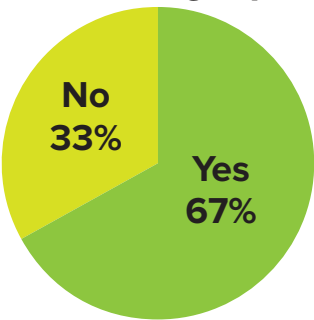
"I was born and raised on Ak-Chin and have watched the City of Maricopa, our neighbor, grow into a vibrant and dynamic city," Miguel said. "There is much synergy between what the elected leaders in Maricopa want for their community and what our tribal council wants for our community. Being a part of MEDA and the discussions regarding economic growth and development will be a benefit to all of us."

MEDA's board is comprised of the leading executives of Maricopa's major business sectors, representing expertise and experience in utilities, finance, development, health care and infrastructure development.

"We are thrilled that Chairman Miguel is a part of our board of directors, bringing not only his knowledge and expertise on tribal affairs, but the Community's perspective on strategic growth," said John Schurz, MEDA's chairman. "That knowledge will be an integral part of our collective success."

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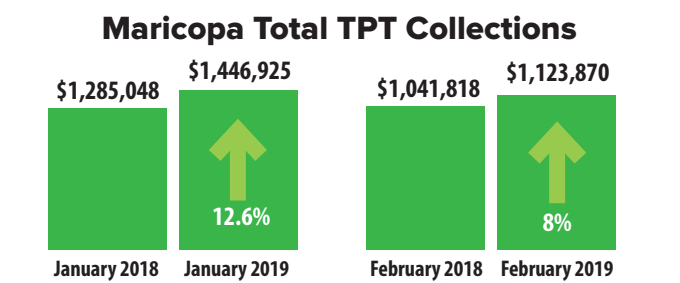
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# Sales tax collections show year-to-year growth

The City of Maricopa has collected more than \$10 million in transaction privilege tax in the first eight months of the fiscal year. Also called sales tax, TPT, one picture of the economic growth in the city, is ahead of numbers from a year ago.

Though February totals were less than January's (a typical trend), both months showed increases over last year. February had an 8-percent jump while January was up 12.6 percent over 2018. Retail comprises the most tax collection in sales this winter. December, January and February had the biggest retail numbers of the fiscal year so far.

Because of a very busy summer and fall, construction alone has brought in more than \$3 million in TPT collections.

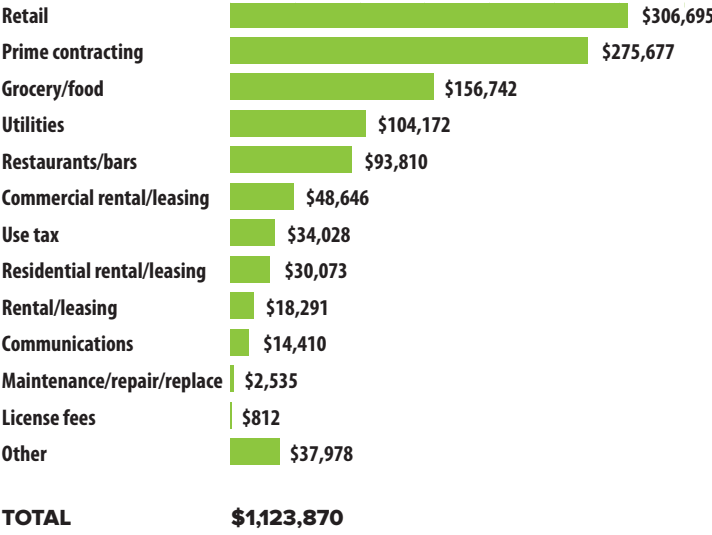


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## Maricopa February Sales Tax Collections



**Getting to KNOW NATHAN GUILFORD LIQUIDATE AZ**

Maricopan since: 2017  
Hometown: Detroit, Michigan  
Resides in: Hidden Valley  
Occupation: Auctioneer – Liquidate AZ  
Family: Wife Shelly, children Isabella, 13, and Luke, 10  
Pets: American bulldog named Diesel  
Like most about Maricopa: Small-town feel with location close to major city.

**FAVORITE**  
Food: Pizza – Papa Murphy's  
Restaurant: Gyro Grill in Maricopa  
Words to live by: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.  
Learn more about Nathan at [InMaricopa.com/Getting-To-Know](https://InMaricopa.com/Getting-To-Know)

**The UPS Store**

Shredding services that protect your sensitive materials

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## Banner Health enhances G.I. and endoscopy services for Casa Grande and Maricopa residents

By David Lozano, Earned Media Senior Manager, Banner Casa Grande Medical Center

How do you make something great even better? Well, if you're Banner Casa Grande Medical Center, you keep enhancing services to complement the compassionate medical care you provide your patients every day.

In keeping with our commitment to provide safe, high-quality patient care to our local community, we recently upgraded our Gastrointestinal (G.I.) and Endoscopy Lab at Banner Casa Grande. Our dedicated team of G.I. and endoscopy professionals provides comprehensive care for diagnosing and treating digestive diseases. Our non-surgical endoscopy methods can diagnose and treat cases such as disorders in the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, colon, pancreas, liver and bile ducts.



Lloyd Perino, MD, is the hospital's new G.I. doctor who began seeing patients in mid-February. Dr. Perino and his team have been working hard to make a difference in the lives of our patients.

"We hope that by providing this specialty, people in our local communities will see value in coming to us without having to drive to Tucson or Phoenix," Dr. Perino said. "Besides providing this service in Casa Grande, we're excited that we can also offer it at the Banner Health Center in Maricopa every Friday afternoon. By providing these services where they're desperately needed, we're not only meeting the demands of our local communities, but also committed and focused on providing great care to our patients by living our mission of making health care easier, so life can be better."

Banner Casa Grande's patient-focused G.I. and Endoscopy Lab offers the latest technological advances for performing diagnostic procedures and treatments in a comfortable setting. Our highly skilled

medical experts provide personalized and compassionate care, focusing on our patients and their overall digestive health. We offer the following endoscopic procedures:

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- **Laryngoscopy** - examination of the larynx and throat
- **Upper Endoscopy** — examination of the upper digestive tract such as the stomach, esophagus and small intestine

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History

# A Man and His Cat

In the history of Maricopa, a man named Perry Williams is noted three ways. An entrepreneur, he built Hotel Williams in 1884 on the southside of the railroad tracks, just feet from the rails. (The building was destroyed by fire in 1913.) After the post office moved from Maricopaville to modern-day Maricopa in 1887, Williams became the postmaster and may have run the post office out of the hotel. Most noted, thanks to a preserved photo of the time, was his ownership of at least one bobcat, which he kept at the post office as a tourist attraction for several years. Williams eventually sold his land holdings in Maricopa and moved back to Phoenix.



Maricopa Historical Society

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Opposite page:

1. All Arizona Academic Team Scholars from Central Arizona College include Kelly Myszewski (far left) from the Maricopa campus. Myszewski will transfer to Arizona State University School of Nutrition and Health Promotion to earn a bachelor of science in nutrition science (dietetics). She also plans to pursue a master's degree in counseling. Her career goal is to become a Registered Dietitian to assist others in disease management and health maintenance. In addition to being an active member of Phi Theta Kappa, she has been a SEEDs Program Peer Advocate, NATN Mentor and MDS Wellness Committee volunteer. Scholars pictured with her are (from left) Sylvester Howard III (San Tan), Arcelia Avechuco-Lopez (Aravaipa), Jayden Riedel (Superstition Mountain) and Michaela Korges (Signal Peak). *Submitted*
2. Lt. Col. Allen Kirksey, an Air Force Junior ROTC instructor, gets a hug during a flag-raising event at Santa Rosa Elementary School. *Francis Trast*
3. Despite high winds, Friends of the Maricopa Public Library hosted an enthusiastic group of book-lovers for the fall Used Book Sale in the library parking lot March 16. *Raquel Hendrickson*
4. The former Shell station received a dramatic makeover March 7 as Signs Plus helped convert it to a Chevron. *Jim Headley*

This page:

5. Heritage Academy broke ground on a new charter school for grades 6-12: (from left) Assistant Principal Barry Halterman, Principal Kim Ellsworth, CEO Jared Taylor, teacher Lyle Hamblin, City Councilmember Rich Vitiello and Mayor Christian Price. *Jim Headley*
6. The Against Abuse Seeds of Change Gala in Province March 2 raised \$35,000 to maintain and supply La Casa de Paz, a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. Pictured are Lana Willaford, Suzanna Mabery and Rebecca Timmer. *Jim Headley*
7. Millar Airport hosted the annual Spring Break Extravangza Car Show March 16. *Jim Headley*
8. Half of the third annual Copa Short Film Festival was at Maricopa City Hall Feb. 24 after a day of student films on the Maricopa High School campus. *Raquel Hendrickson*



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# Honor Guard keeps patriotism alive one salute at a time

Story and photos by Jim Headley



**Members of the Maricopa American Legion Post #133 Honor Guard post the colors to open a Cub Scout meeting at Butterfield Elementary School.**

at celebration of life ceremonies and funerals. They are prepared to include a full 21-gun salute at funerals or special ceremonies.

“We did one funeral ceremony up in Phoenix for one of our members whose father-in-law passed away. We have done several other flag presentations. Most Legions, of any size, have an Honor Guard. Honor Guards instill patriotism in our youth,” Crane said, adding that 2019 is the 100th anniversary of the American Legion.

The Honor Guard has already become an important part of Maricopa’s Legion Post.

“The Honor Guard shows that we (Post #133) are active in the community. It allows us to have a military presence in the community and to honor those individuals connected with military,” said Post Commander Derek Jeske.

Jeske said the Maricopa post has a growing younger membership as about 40 percent of the members are under 50 years old.

Maricopa’s post was chartered in 2009 and welcomes veterans from all branches of the armed forces. Its main goal is to support veterans, veterans’ families and local youth programs.

Post #133 supports or sponsors two American Legion Baseball teams, the American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, a boys state program, Copa Crush girls softball team, Cub Scout Troop #997, Boy Scout Troop #993 and Venture Crew #2993.

The Maricopa American Legion Auxiliary is very active in the community and also supports a Girl Scout Troop.

**H**onoring those who have fallen has been a long tradition of the American Legion. About a year ago, members of American Legion Bernie G. Crouse Post #133 formed an Honor Guard to post colors and honor those veterans who have died.

“We’re new,” said Larry Crane, American Legion member and organizer of the Maricopa Honor Guard. “I am really the one who initiated this; that’s why I was put in charge of it. I came here from Iowa and I’ve been a Legion member for 53 years. Back where I came from, we had an Honor Guard. We performed a lot of functions — especially funerals.”

Crane said he brought up the idea at a Legion meeting.

“We got our rifles and ammo for nothing,” he said. “We’re going to have a lot of members that are going to be passing away and we really need to have a group to honor them. I know a couple of the guys were a little hesitant.”

After asking for a show of hands on who would be interested in being on the Honor Guard, about a dozen volunteered.

“Right now, I think we have 16 or 17 (Honor Guard members) but we still try to

recruit more,” Crane said. “Everybody can’t be here every time. My goal is to get some of the younger guys to take over. I’d just as soon be a follower. The more young guys we get, the more we will get. Then, they won’t think they’re joining a bunch of old guys.”

The Maricopa Honor Guard has presented the Colors at softball and baseball games, Cub Scout meetings and the city’s Fourth of July celebration as well as performing Honors

**Larry Crane**



**American Legion-  
Post133MaricopaAZ  
ALPost133AZ.org**



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Ernie Adams and Gene Tweedy are almost done creating dwarf cars and choose their projects carefully.

# Dwarf Car Museum

Classic cars you already love, only smaller

Story and photos by Jim Headley

They often say one must think small to make it big, but for Ernie Adams it's better to think big to make it small. Adams, 78, has turned nine old, discarded refrigerators into an amazing life. Adams, who lives south of Maricopa, is the creator of eight street-legal dwarf classic cars. He's also the inventor of Dwarf Car Racing, now called Legends Racing, which has become a national phenomenon.

The street-legal dwarf cars he builds are nearly perfect replicas of the original classic cars but at a fraction of the size. They drive well and are fully functioning. They were so adored by car aficionados that Adams opened the Dwarf Car Museum at his home in the countryside on Half Moon Road. The Dwarf Car Museum is a popular destination for car folks from across the nation. It's even been featured on several national television shows, including Jay Leno's. One car will take Adams about 3,000 hours of hard work to create. "That can be two-and-a-half to five years, depending on how much time I get to work

on it," Adams said. "Most of the time, we have to come out and work in the evenings because there are so many people here in the daytime." The Dwarf Car Museum hosts 100 to 250 people a day, seven days a week, including holidays. Even bus tours stop by to see the dwarfs. It's so busy that Adams and his car-building friend Gene Tweedy can do little more than talk with visitors and show off their little automotive gems during the day. "We're open seven days a week, holidays and all, 8-4," he said. "This is a working shop, so people can see them built from scratch." The museum is closed June 15 to July 8. Adams grew up in Harvard, Nebraska, a

small town about 20 miles east of Hastings. "My mother bought our home place in 1944 and it was a full city block," Adams said. "The city dump was less than a half-mile from us. There was nothing between us and the dump but a cornfield and a railroad right of way. At that time, they were taking gas motors off washing machines and putting electric ones on them. I was bringing those old motors home and getting them running. I didn't know what I was doing, but I was actually learning my trade." Adams became a car mechanic and was married in 1962. "By 1965, I was wanting an old, antique car and I couldn't afford one," he said. "I lived in a trailer park and I also didn't have room for one. I remembered when I was a kid, looking out the window, I saw an old refrigerator laying in the weeds. It had a black tire swing by it. It looked like a miniature white touring car with a black fender, so I



built a car out of nine refrigerators." After his first car, he also created "the first Dwarf Racecar." Many more dwarf race cars followed from a shop in Tempe but only eight street-legal dwarfs have been built by Adams. The first two Dwarf Race Cars were built in December 1979 and early 1980. The Dwarf Race Car idea came about after Adams and Daren Schmaltz attended motorcycle side hack races in Phoenix. During the drive home, Adams expressed concern three-wheeled racers were too slow in the corners. He said they could improve considerably by adding a fourth wheel to help through the corners. He suggested adding a car body would also help spectator appeal.

"I didn't know anything about bending metal and, after doing that for about 10 years with a real crude process, I decided I'd pick up a piece of metal and I could make anything I want out of it," Adams said. "So, I built the first street-legal car. Which is that little '39 Chevy. From then on, it was just one after the other." Adams' partner in building dwarf cars is Gene Tweedy. Tweedy, 76, has completed one car, a 1954 Chevy, and he's working on his second, a 1964 Chevy Impala SS Convertible. He said he picked the Impala "because I have the full-sized one. I started this in January of 2017. I have pretty much everything done on the outside except for the deck lid and the hood. I have to make my inner fenders on the front." After the body is together, Tweedy said he will then work on the interior and build a convertible top for it. "Compared to Ernie, I'm real new to it. It is right down my alley," Tweedy said. "Ernie is a

The Dwarf Car Museum draws up to 250 people a day to its remote location.

**I didn't know what I was doing, but I was actually learning my trade."**

—Ernie Adams, dwarf car-maker



Learn more about the process of creating a dwarf car at [InMaricopa.com](http://InMaricopa.com).

pretty good guy. He is cool, calm and he doesn't get rattled very often. He just won't steer you wrong. I couldn't have found a better teacher." After making just eight street-legal dwarf cars, Adams' last one is almost done. It is a 1932 Ford three-window coupe in turquoise blue paint. With the high-quality design of the dwarf cars, he could make a lot of money out of his creations but they're simply not for sale.

## Street-Legal Dwarf Cars

- 1928 Grandpa Dwarf by Ernie Adams
- 1939 Chevy Sedan by Ernie Adams
- 1942 Ford Convertible by Ernie Adams
- 1929 Ford Hillbilly by Ernie Adams
- 1949 Mercury by Ernie Adams
- 1934 Ford Sedan by Ernie Adams
- 1940 Mercury Sedan by Ernie Adams
- 1954 Chevy BelAir by Gene Tweedy

## Dwarf Cars in Production

- 1932 Ford 3-window coupe by Ernie Adams
- 1964 Chevy Impala SS Convertible by Gene Tweedy

"I wouldn't dream of selling one," Adams said. "I've had astronomical amounts offered for them, but I just won't sell them. There is no point in me selling them. We talked about it one time. I would rather have the car and I meet people. If I just had money in the bank, it would do me any good. I wouldn't meet anybody with that."

[DwarfCarMuseum.com](http://DwarfCarMuseum.com)

# COC plans acts of service, kindness

By Raquel Hendrickson



Volunteers for Church of Celebration's service week include Kevin Marcus, April Martinez, Khloe Marcus, Family Life Pastor Ben Gores, Brenda Abel, pastor assistant Shauna Perez and Matthew Perez.

Watch for a week of do-gooding this April. Church of Celebration will have members of all ages out in the community doing service projects.

The third annual event is April 7-13, with projects scattered throughout the week.

"It's kind of a balance between organized projects and random acts of kindness," said Family Life Pastor Ben Gores.

He asked Mayor Christian Price what service projects COC could complete, and the mayor returned with a long list from the parks department. So, members have projects at Copper Sky and Pacana Park as well as City Hall, where they will be painting fire curbs.

"We want to establish a culture of giving back," said volunteer Matthew Perez. "We want to love people like Jesus did — friend or stranger."

One of their "classic" acts of kindness is passing out water bottles to anyone who

needs one at both city parks. They have also handed out free doughnuts to commuters waiting for lights coming out of Rancho El Dorado and The Villages.

"People give you a funny look. But when they hear doughnuts, they're all about it," Gores said.

Volunteer April Martinez said she has been among those handing out doughnuts at the side of the road.

"It's so fun to bring joy to someone on their commute to work," she said. That included handing out two boxes on a school bus.

Previously, they did work at Against Abuse, picked up trash on State Route 347, handed out dog treats at the dog park, weeded yards and planted a box garden for the Maricopa High School culinary program.

"We want to be a church that doesn't just tell people that we love them," Gores said. "We want to show people that we love them. We want to go where people are in everyday life."

 ChurchOfCelebration.com



A popular project for Church of Celebration during the service week is passing out doughnuts to commuters.



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Opposite page:

1. Maricopa High School senior Antonio Gonzales was named Mr. MHS March 8. Among the other contestants were Brandon Korittky (left) and Lucas Dial. *Raquel Hendrickson*
2. Legacy Traditional School winners of the Great Communicator Lincoln Speech Contest (from left) third place Alanna Mullins, second place Filimon Kednmarey and first place Emily Enriquez. *Raquel Hendrickson*
3. MHS senior Jose Leyva leads the varsity baseball team in innings pitched as the Rams built a record of 6-5 midway through the season. *Raquel Hendrickson*
4. The MHS beach volleyball team opened its season 1-2 after splitting games on the home sand of Copper Sky. *Jim Headley*
5. Maricopa DECA competed at state March 2, hitting a record for state test medalists. *Submitted*
6. Rotary students of the Month Levi Sholes, Chance Frutche, RyAnn Liermann, Brianna McVey, Katelyn Owens and Zoie Zimpleman, with Superintendent Tracey Lopeman, board members Joshua Judd, Torri Anderson and Vice President Ben Owens and Rotary's Alma Farrell and Jim Irving. *Raquel Hendrickson*

This page:

7. MHS counselor Amber Liermann operates CopaCloset with volunteers, distributing donations of hygiene products, food, shoes, clothes, jackets and school supplies to any student or teacher in need. *Raquel Hendrickson*
8. MHS senior Taryn Story performed "Me & the Sky" from "Come From Away" at a March 14 showcase of theater students who have qualified for Nationals. *Raquel Hendrickson*
9. The MHS varsity softball team started the season 6-3. *Kyle Norby*
10. Members of the MHS Orchestra performed for the Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board to tout the success of the program. *Raquel Hendrickson*
11. Kelly Campbell and twin daughters Brooklyn and Emersyn look at themselves in a photo from a year ago on an *InMaricopa* cover. *Raquel Hendrickson*
12. MHS hosted a College & Career Expo for all grade levels March 7, hosting colleges, recruiters and employers. *Benjamin Thompson*
13. MHS senior Alec Kramarczyk runs laps for the 4x800-meter relay team. He has posted personal bests in the 1600- and 3200-meter runs this season. *Raquel Hendrickson*



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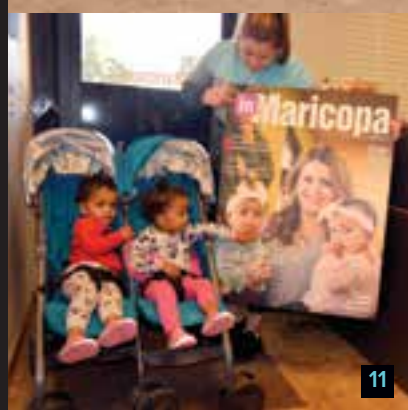
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# MHS grad earns national honor in women’s basketball

By Raquel Hendrickson




Danae Ruiz

Raquel Hendrickson

“What?” Danae Ruiz was nonplussed when a teammate’s mother spread word Ruiz had been named to a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) 2019 Division II Women’s Basketball All-America team. “I wasn’t prepared for that,” said Ruiz, a junior at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott. A 2016 graduate of Maricopa High School, she was a founding member of the ERAU women’s team. Now she is the first athlete from the women’s or men’s basketball teams to gain

the NAIA nationwide honor. A guard, she was named to the NAIA Third Team. An annual leading scorer for the Eagles since her freshman year, Ruiz had a drama-filled season. She came out of the chute cold and couldn’t quite get her game together. Then she lost her starting spot. “It was a rough, bumpy road,” she said. Teams put more pressure on Ruiz than ever before, even staying in her face beyond the arc. New head coach Michael Trujillo decided she would fare better coming off the bench. She had to learn to take that in stride


and just think about the playing minutes and not the starts. “Mentally, I had to grow. Physically, I had to grow,” she said. “And I had to find a creative way of doing things.” Despite starting only five of the 28 games this season, Ruiz led the Eagles scoring with 12.4 points per game, a total of 348. She let opponents come at her, resulting in 107 points from the free-throw line. It was her trademark way of getting back up and fighting, something she has been doing since at least freshman year of high school. Before the family returned to Maricopa, she had a basketball coach telling her she would never play college ball or even start varsity. “I like to prove people wrong for some reason,” Ruiz said. “When we came back to Maricopa, I had a coach who believed in me and helped me develop my shot.” By her junior year at MHS, Kati Burrows was the coach for a single season and guided Ruiz and the Rams to the state title. She also instilled a high-level work ethic that continued the next season under coach Melvin Mitchell and helped prep Ruiz for the style of ball she would play at ERAU. She also credits her parents for “always encouraging me to keep going” in very different ways. Anna is the softie while Gabe pushes her to toughen up by telling her, “You are the target now.” This year Ruiz was again named All-California Pacific Conference First Team. For the first time, she was named Cal Pac Player of the Year while Trujillo was named Coach of the Year. During the season, she scored her 1,000th college point. She is also on the ERAU Honor Roll as a forensic psychology major. Her college preparations had her enrolled in a variety of advanced-placement classes at MHS. At ERAU, she found the coursework a little easier than expected and found a way to balance classes and the travel demands of women’s basketball. She was even on track to graduate early but took on two minors to extend her time. The Eagles have become a sisterhood, Ruiz said, and she has been pushed into a leadership role, making sure the other women on the team are organized and on the same page. Those were not skills she had expected to acquire but are now part of her career “toolbox.” While she has been on the path to a career in forensic psychology since Day One at ERAU, she is also looking for post-college basketball opportunities overseas. 



Nia Lewis

Submitted

## Leading Edge student named CAA Female Wrestler of the Year

The Canyon Athletic Association has recognized Leading Edge Academy seventh-grader Nia Lewis as Middle School Female Wrestler of the Year. In just her second year of wrestling for LEA, Nia finished fourth at the CAA State Championships while competing in the 136-pound boys’ bracket. “Nia is an incredible athlete with great work ethic,” Athletic Director Stephen Campbell said. “She has always sought a challenge for herself by pitting herself against the toughest opponents, regardless of gender.” Nia also participates in volleyball, basketball and track & field. 

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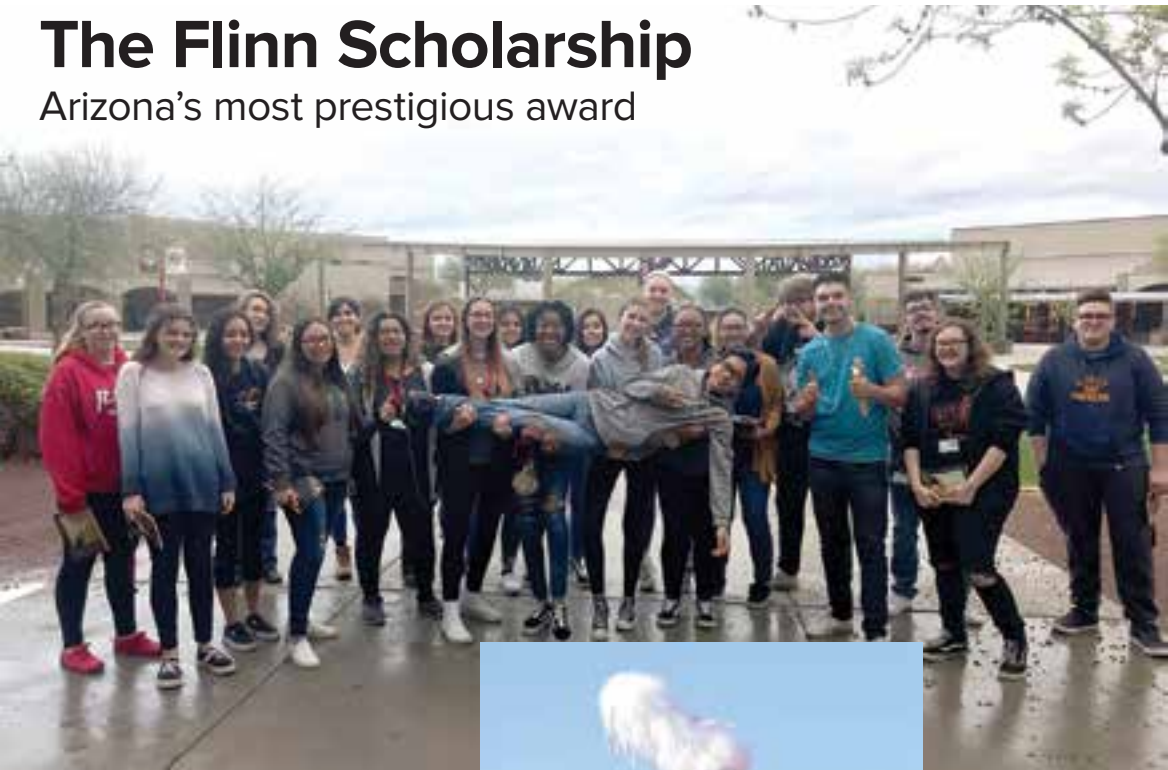


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# The Flinn Scholarship

Arizona's most prestigious award



**Top: Chandler Chang celebrated with his AP classmates when he learned he had been offered the Flinn Scholarship.**

**Left: Change a drum major in MHS Marching Band.**

By Bernadette Russoniello

Fewer than 1 percent of all graduating seniors will receive a “full-ride” scholarship to university. These opportunities are few and far between for most students.

Maricopa High School senior Chandler Chang received notification of his offer of the 2019-20 Flinn Scholarship.

The Flinn Scholarship offers amazing financial and programmatic benefits, including a network of mentoring and professional support that lasts far beyond graduating from university. Working with the Arizona universities and their respective honors colleges, the Flinn scholarship provides enriched educational offerings that expand a scholar's life and career options while creating the stimulating, intellectually challenging environment students might find at the nation's most selective colleges.

The value of the scholarship, including the tuition provided by the universities, exceeds \$120,000. The Flinn Scholarship benefits include:

- The full cost of tuition and mandatory fees, plus housing and meals;
- Funding for a three-week summer seminar after the scholar's freshman year in China and for at least one additional study-abroad experience;



**Bernadette Russoniello**

- Mentorship from top faculty and exposure to Arizona and global leaders in business, government, science and the arts.



Submitted

Chandler is ranked No. 1 in his class of 417 students at MHS. He is a “commended scholar” from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, placing in the top 2 percent of PSAT/NMSQT test-takers in the state. He is an AP Scholar with the College Board and takes the most challenging courses at MHS while working part-time at McDonald's, serving as drum major and class leader in the MHS Marching Band, tutoring with National Honor Society and helping classmates in their academics.

In January, he received notice of his selection as a semi-finalist. He prepared for an intense, panel interview by speaking with current Flinn scholars and participating in a mock-interview with administration and community members at MHS.

In February, he was selected as a finalist. He toured the state universities and honors colleges, networked with current Flinn Scholars and prospective applicants, and faced a second interview in March. The week before spring break he received the incredible news: the Flinn Foundation extended an offer for him to accept the scholarship.

Chandler also applied to Stanford University. When asked if he would take the Flinn Scholarship over the Ivy League opportunity, Chandler replies “in a heartbeat — I can always attend Stanford for graduate school.”

Chandler plans to attend Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University this fall.

The Flinn Scholarship is a competitive, merit-based scholarship that is open to Arizona high school seniors. This year more than 800 applicants vied for the approximately 20 scholarships—an acceptance rate of less than 3 percent.

As a rule, Flinn Scholarship applicants should have an unweighted grade point average of at least 3.5 and score a minimum 29 on the ACT or 1,340 on the SAT.

**Flinn.org/Flinn-Scholars**

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**–Emily McEvers, Pathway Class of 2015 and 2019 NAU PhD Student**

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**–Trecia Koozer, Teacher**

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Above: Families First CDC has hosted Prom Boutique for seven years.

Above right: Mother and daughter Sarah Aguilar and Athena Garcia search through the offerings at the Prom Boutique.



# Prom Season

For the seventh year, Prom Boutique has supplied local young women with new and used dresses for prom. The pop-up boutique, which also carried accessories, appeared March 22 as a place for high schoolers to pick up their dresses. Maricopa High School prom is April 13 at Garden Tuscana in Mesa. The free dresses were donated by the community, and most did not have to be returned.

 **ThinkFamiliesFirst.org**

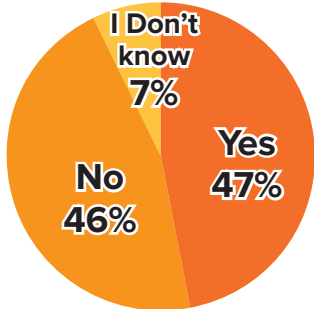
Photos by Jim Headley



LaMarri White, a home-school student in Maricopa, found a dress for prom at Mountain Pointe.



Do you support the idea of Maricopa building a new library and repurposing the current library?

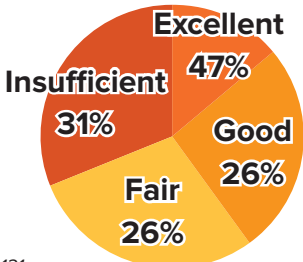


Votes: 327  
Source: InMaricopa.com March 4-10

**Background:** Maricopa City Council approved a \$830,530 contract with Hidell Associates Architects Inc. for design and construction administration services to build a new, larger city library. City Manager Rick Horst said the current library location on Smith-Enke Road will likely be turned into use by senior citizens, veterans, arts, performances, public meetings or special events. The current Maricopa Veterans Center, next to the new Heritage Park on the Maricopa/Casa Grande Highway, could be turned over to the Historical Society for a museum next to the Zephyr rail car, according to Horst.



How would you rate current services for veterans in Maricopa?



Votes: 121  
Sourece: InMaricopa.com March 11-18

**Background:** Around 10 percent of Maricopa's population is comprised of military veterans.

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## Trending on InMaricopa.com

- 1 Woman accused of abusing children to make YouTube series
- 2 Family arraigned after accusations of child abuse
- 3 Pretzel theft leads to felony charges
- 4 Committee to look at plans for retail, restaurants
- 5 Drought & Development: Planning Maricopa's hypergrowth
- 6 2 arrested on underage sex charges, luring minor
- 7 Man accused of hitting daughter with pipe
- 8 Fall flood damage in Hidden Valley still being assessed
- 9 P&Z gives nod to proposed daycare in Heritage District
- 10 Man hiding in attic charged with burglary, stalking



# MUSD NEWS

## BOARD RECOGNITION



**MUSD Governing Board pictured left to right: Torri Anderson, Joshua Judd, Ben Owens, AnnaMarie Knorr, and Patti Coutré**

In January, the Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board was recognized in honor of National School Board Recognition Month.

School board members tackle a difficult job and shoulder enormous responsibilities. These individuals are elected to establish the policies that provide the framework for our public schools. They provide vision and leadership in their roles as advocates and contin-

ue to stand up for public education and guard against anything that takes away from our children or undermines our public schools.

The District benefits from the tireless work and countless hours contributed by these local citizens who work without pay. Serving as a crucial link between the community and classroom, the board is responsible for an annual budget of 50 million dollars, 7,200 students,

720 employees, and nine campuses.

The MUSD Board is comprised of new and seasoned members resulting in truly dynamic leadership.

- **President AnnaMarie Knorr** — *Six Years of Service*
- **Vice President Ben Owens** — *Four Months of Service*
- **Governing Board Member Josh Judd** — *Two Years of Service*
- **Governing Board Member Torri Anderson** — *Eight Years of Service*
- **Governing Board Member Patti Coutré** — *Eight Years of Service*

It is more important than ever that people support public education so that today's students are prepared to be productive citizens and the leaders of tomorrow.

The MUSD Board deeply cares about children and gives so much to our community. Their dedicated service is recognized and truly appreciated. ■



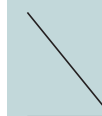
## MUSD Spelling Bee

**Congratulations to the 2019 MUSD Spelling Bee champion, John Reese, from Desert Wind Middle School! Second place went to Tyron Davis, from Santa Rosa Elementary School, and Bella Hennings, from Butterfield Elementary School, placed third! More than 75 families, friends, and spectators came out to support the annual event. A special thank you goes out to MUSD judges Jim Irving, Talitha Martin, and David Warren, and to the pronouncer, Governing Board Member Torri Anderson, who enunciated every syllable with precision and poise! ■**



## AFJROTC

**While most students are learning to drive a car in high school, our AFJROTC Cadets Gabriella Pereira, Brianna McVey, Jordan Roberson, Edgar Torres, Andrew Mase and Denali Vandam are learning to fly! The cadets recently practiced flying with the Civil Air Patrol in a Cessna 182 aircraft from Chandler Airport over MHS enroute to Ak Chin Airport. That's one way to avoid traffic on the 347! ■**



The mission of the Maricopa Unified School District is to ensure all students achieve excellence by preparing them to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens who value innovation and global diversity.

# Future City

Congratulations to Maricopa Wells and Desert Wind Middle Schools who finished first and second at the Arizona Future City Competition for the second year in a row! The competition was held in February, and MUSD teams showed up ready to compete and win!

Twenty-one schools competed in the Arizona Regional Future City Competition. The two MUSD middle schools walked away with nearly half of the awards, winning 17 of the 38 awards at the competition!

Desert Wind Middle School won the most awards of any other school. “Onagawa,” a team of six 6th-8th grade students were the second place winners. Team members consisted of 8th graders, Bella Ebner, Conner Manning, and Keegan Walters, 7th graders, Gabriella Fisher and Boston Hamrick, and 6th grader, Lauren Roman. Way to go Onagawa and Desert Wind Middle School!

So, who won first place, you ask? Well, that honor went to our very own Maricopa Wells team, “Arbre de la Vie”. Arbre de la Vie earned an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC to compete at the National Finals for Future City. Seventh graders, Marley Polosky, Allison Rice, Camille Troyer, and Ana Pumarino Arcos made up the team. Their engineering mentor, Joseph Rice, is a senior at Maricopa High School. Congratulations, Arbre de la Vie and Maricopa Wells Middle School, way to represent! ■



# Planning for Growth at Maricopa High School

**Maricopa High School’s wide range of innovative programming and extracurricular opportunities continues to drive enrollment.**

**As a result, our student population has outgrown our capacity. To accommodate increased enrollment for the 2019-20 school year, we are adding temporary classroom space.**

**A special thank you to our MUSD Governing Board. These busy volunteers have dedicated countless hours to ensuring we are providing the best possible learning environment for our students. They have not missed a detail, and have attended meetings,**

**met with consultants, supported and prioritized MHS Principal Brian Winter’s input and even toured the prospective portable classrooms to ensure safety and suitability.**

**We could not have done this without them and very much appreciate their leadership and ongoing support.**

**Facility planning for a permanent solution will be the result of the collaborative efforts of the Capital Planning Committee. The committee is comprised of students, parents, teachers, administrators, community partners, and industry leaders. We have some of the best and brightest putting their heads together to come up with a plan to ensure we accommodate every teacher and student in first-class facilities for years to come. ■**

# Maricopa High School to Offer AP Capstone Diploma Program

Holding true to its promise to offer multiple paths to graduation, MUSD will offer the AP Capstone Diploma Program to students beginning July 2019.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Wade Watson, is confident the program meets several areas outlined in the strategic plan including competitive programing and making MUSD a “Destination District.” The well-rounded program focuses on college-level research, collaboration, and presentation skills crucial for college and career success.

MUSD Superintendent Dr. Tracey Lopeman shared, “Maricopa High School is one of two schools in Pinal County to offer the innovative programming that will prepare students for college and the world outside our doors.” The program gives educators more flexibility with curriculum options, so their students can access more challenging coursework and sharpen their reading and writing skills.

In AP Seminar, typically taken in 10th or 11th grade, students choose and evaluate complex topics through multiple lenses; identify credibility and bias in sources; and develop arguments in support of a recommendation. AP Seminar is a project-based learning course. Official AP Seminar assessments include research reports, written arguments, and presentations completed during the academic year.

In the subsequent AP Research course, students design, execute, present, and defend a yearlong research-based investigation on a topic of individual interest. They build on skills developed in AP Seminar by learning how to understand research methodology; employ ethical research practices; and collect, analyze, and synthesize information to contribute to academic research. Like AP Seminar, AP Research is a project-based course. Each student’s official AP Research score is based on his or her academic paper, presentation, and oral defense.

In partnership with the higher education community, the College Board developed AP Capstone so students can practice skills that serve them well in college and career. Colleges and universities have voiced their support for the program.

Maricopa High School teacher, Jennifer Miller is anxious to get started. She shared in a Governing Board Meeting that “The Capstone program being spread over two years gives students the opportunity to dive in to something they are passionate about, and something that gives them some career exploration.”

She is also excited about the collaboration involved in such a rigorous program. Not only will students be learning to write concisely, read critically, perform analysis and synthesis, and perfect presentation skills, but they will also learn to work better as a team.

**About AP**

The College Board’s Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both — while still in high school.

Through AP courses in 38 subjects, each culminating in a rigorous exam, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments,



and see many sides of an issue — skills that prepare them for college and beyond.

Taking AP courses demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought the most rigorous curriculum available to them, and research indicates that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically experience greater academic success in college and are more likely to earn a college degree than non-AP students.

Each AP teacher’s syllabus is evaluated and approved by faculty from some of the nation’s leading colleges and universities, and AP Exams are developed and scored by college faculty and experienced AP teachers. Most four-year colleges and universities in the United States grant credit, advanced placement, or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores — more than 3,800 institutions worldwide annually receive AP scores.

In the last decade, AP participation and performance rates have nearly doubled. In May 2018, 2.8 million students representing more than 22,612 schools around the world, both public and nonpublic, took 5.1 million AP Exams.

Advanced Placement opportunities help build a solid foundation for academic excellence. MUSD and Maricopa High School are proud to offer rigorous programming, like AP, to prepare our students for the world when they leave our classrooms. ■

# MUSD — The Early Childhood Leader in Maricopa

Maricopa Unified School District is excited to announce Preschool Registration is underway! Research shows that high-quality preschool education has a lasting impact on children’s school success. The district is offering preschool on two additional campuses scheduled to open in July 2019. Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Elementary Schools will welcome preschool students next school year! Our district is in a unique position to partner with families from their child’s first day of preschool to the day he or she steps on stage to receive a high school diploma. It is a long-term relationship we take seriously, so quality programming is our first priority. Here are a few things that will set us apart:

- Certified Teachers
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- Wrap-Around Childcare for Before and After School Care
- Licensed Facilities
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  - o Early Reading
  - o STEM Activities
  - o Character Education
  - o Arts and Music
  - o Physical Education

Call 520-568-5100 ext. 1029 or stop by the District Office to begin the enrollment process. We can’t wait to meet you! ■



# Partner Luncheon

**On Friday, March 1, more than 30 Faith-Based, Business, and Community Leaders joined MUSD Superintendent, Dr. Tracey Lopeman, at the second Partners Luncheon. The Partners Luncheon is an opportunity for community leaders to collaborate and create meaningful partnerships with other leaders in the community. Culinary Career and Technical Education Students catered the luncheon and provided a five-star dining experience. Principals, Randy Lazar and Janel Hildick shared their journeys to becoming “A” schools, and Dr. Lopeman spoke about working together to support each other’s goals and initiatives. The District is fortunate to have such wonderful supporters and we look forward to building and strengthening lasting partnerships. ■**

# MUSD Strategic Framework

In the fall of 2018, students, parents, teachers, administrators and community leaders gathered to articulate a vision that would chart the course for Maricopa Unified School District through 2025.

As four major goals emerged, the planning team began to develop clear strategies that would systematically move the district closer to achieving the goals. Our commitments to student success, access and equity, collaborative culture, and community pride serve as guideposts to becoming a premier district that meets and exceeds the individual needs of students and broad expectations of our community.

## Goal 1 EVERY STUDENT GRADUATES PREPARED TO CREATE, INNOVATE, LEAD, AND SUCCEED.

### Strategies

- Create safe and orderly environments where every student can learn and every teacher can teach.
- Engage all students in a full continuum of services to elevate academic achievement and close achievement gaps among sub-groups of learners.
- Provide multiple paths to graduation to meet the diverse needs of all students.
- Provide alternative settings for students to maintain enrollment in MUSD.
- Engage pre-schoolers in dynamic research-based programs for early learners.

- Implement a multi-tiered system of support to provide intervention and acceleration based on students' individual strengths and needs.
- Engage all students in extracurricular activities.
- Involve parents in meaningful avenues for partnership and support.

## Goal 2 EVERY STUDENT HAS ACCESS TO AND EQUITY IN EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, RESOURCES, AND PROGRAMS.

### Strategies

- Implement Arizona College and Career Readiness Math Standards using research-based curriculum.
- Implement Arizona College and Career Readiness Reading and ELA Standards through research-based curriculum.
- Implement project-based learning opportunities for all students.
- Implement accelerated learning opportunities at all levels.
- Develop certified, classified, and administrative staff toward the achievement of the MUSD Professional Profile.
- Implement the technology strategic plan.
- Implement data-driven instruction, decision-making, and continuous improvement.
- Provide specialized programming for identified populations.
- Implement programs to serve the social and emotional needs of all students.

## Goal 3 ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE THAT PRIORITIZES PEOPLE OVER PROGRAMS AND INVESTS IN THE SUPPORT OF STUDENTS AND STAFF.

### Strategies

- Employ recruiting strategies for maximum return on investment.
- On-board new staff and mentor all employees through user-friendly systems and strategies.
- Include staff in transparent communication and decision-making processes.
- Provide competitive compensation and benefits packages.



- Engage staff in fun and motivational wellness initiatives.
- Prioritize personal interaction by leveraging digital and electronic systems to capacity.
- Expand and maintain open avenues of two-way communication.
- Engage staff in implementation and evaluation of strategic plan.
- Transport students in a friendly, safe, and efficient manner.
- Meet students' nutritional needs with delicious meals in a clean, friendly environment.

## Goal 4 COMMUNITY PRIDE THROUGH EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE, SOUND BUSINESS PRACTICES, OPEN AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, AND SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE FACILITIES.

### Strategies

- Demonstrate accuracy and efficiency in all fiscal management and accounting systems and processes.
- Prioritize and leverage district resources to support the MUSD Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan.
- Demonstrate transparency and collaboration regarding financial resources and decision-making.
- Impact and influence public policy resulting in increases in funding for MUSD and public education through collaboration with the Arizona legislature and lobbying groups.
- Exemplify MUSD CARES Customer Service Standards in all interactions.
- Grow relationships and expand resources through purposeful marketing and advertising plans.
- Create, share, and influence the MUSD story through a purposeful presence on social media.
- Develop mutually beneficial partnerships.
- Maintain safe and attractive facilities for all students, staff, and community members. ■

# Remember to recognize those doing a good job

By Brandi Homan

When interacting and working with others we seek to be recognized. In fact, study after study shows the No. 1 factor that keeps an employee satisfied is being recognized. Harvard Business just published an article all about it as a great way to both recruit and retain talent.

One form of recognition is acknowledgement of our existence, which we get when people talk with us, listen to us and take an interest in our thoughts, actions and well-being.

The next recognition is praise and reward, acknowledging our achievements and so encouraging continued effort. Without this we easily become demotivated and unsure of the real value of our work.

My brother-in-law has been in Syria and is on his way home. He has already sent us pictures of his medals. He is proud to serve

his country and to be recognized for his hard work and determination.

In this densely populated and highly interconnected world, it is easy to get lost in the crowd. Teachers instruct hundreds of children each year. Managers in companies may interact with hundreds, even thousands.

So, let's go backward; when we are recognized, we feel that we exist and have purpose.

Did you know, according to the 2018 Arizona Youth Survey, 41 percent of students reported they don't feel noticed when doing a good job and 58 percent don't feel recognized by their teachers? The same survey found kids don't get much recognition at home, either. Fifty percent of the time they feel parents don't notice when they do a good job at home.

This makes sense when you move on down the survey and read that 81 percent of kids said they don't feel the schools let their parents

know when they do a good job at school. I hate reading so many students don't feel supported at home or at school.

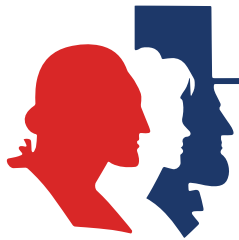
People do all kinds of things to gain recognition, particularly working hard in aiming to please. If this seems too difficult, then they may attract attention by other means such as under-performing, acting out or abusing substances to numb out negative feelings.

I believe making the effort to recognize the genuine efforts of our young people at home and at school is a simple yet profound step we can all take to have an awesome effect on our children. At Be Awesome, we as a team believe we can impact our world by developing confident, connected and successful youth by offering community-focused programs and services. Sometimes it's just a simple "that was awesome." 🗨

Brandi Homan is the co-founder of Be Awesome Youth Coalition.



Brandi Homan



Heritage Academy  
Maricopa

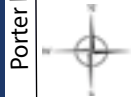
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# NFL Flag Football Tournament coming to Maricopa

By Jim Headley

A unique flag football tournament is coming to Maricopa April 6-7. The Southwest Showdown NFL Flag Football Tournament will take place at Copper Sky.

Greg Johnson, co-owner of Playmakers Youth Sports, the organizers of the Southwest Showdown, said he expects between 80 and 100 youth, flag football teams to attend. With an average of 10 players per team, the event will draw 800 to 1,000 players to the community plus family and friends.

“The Southwest Showdown is an NFL Flag youth national football tournament,” Johnson said. It is a qualifier for the annual national championship tournament in Orlando, Florida.

Johnson said the tournament has taken place across different locations in the Phoenix area over the past four years.

“We have grown from a very small, little, 20-team tournament into what I just described,” Johnson said.

This is the first time the tournament has come to Maricopa.

“The City of Maricopa was looking to do more things out at Copper Sky Park. They invited us out to check it out,” Johnson said. “We were like ‘Wow, what a beautiful facility.’ It is a great place to host a tournament. That is how we ended up connecting.

“Fortunately, our tournament has been able to tour through a couple different cities in the Valley because of the popularity of it. It is great for us to have an opportunity to bring events to an up-and-coming area,” he said.

NFL Flag is one of the fastest-growing sports in the nation, according to Johnson. With the current concerns about concussions in football, flag football is a growing alternative to youth football.

“More and more people are pushing families to the flag game,” Johnson said. “What you’re seeing is the evolution of a recreational sport that is popular and becoming more and more competitive. We are tracking teams from multiple states.”

Teams playing in the Arizona tournaments over the past few years have travelled from as far away as Hawaii.

“This is something that I’ve been talking about,” said Nathan Ullyot, Maricopa’s director of Community Services. “The value that we can provided, from an economic development standpoint is to attempt to bring in larger multi-day sports tourism events or tournaments. This is the first one that we set out to recruit, received interest and ultimately booked a multi-day tournament that will bring anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 people into the city over April 6-7.”

Ullyot said the influx of that many people brings an economic impact to restaurants, gas stations and retail businesses.

“While it’s not going to fund our whole operation, what we can bring into the city is a benefit,” Ullyot said. “Our parks staff are phenomenal. They are among the best that I’ve seen.”

“We don’t just bring local flair; we bring economic impact to an area because a lot of teams come in and rent hotels, visit restaurants and all that stuff,” he said. “They will stay for the entire weekend.”


There are two divisions of tournament actions, with 5-on-5 and 7-on-7 teams.

In the 5-on-5 division, teams play in age groups of 6 and under and 14 and under. The 7-on-7 age groups are high school and under.



“The 7-on-7 is something that we’re seeing a lot of interest in. It’s not just a tournament; it’s an event,” Johnson said, adding beside the tournament games there will be food trucks on site, a mobile DJ and related field activities.

“One of our sponsors is Dick’s Sporting Goods, so we have a fastest-kid contest and a swag bag competition,” said Johnson. “Most of these teams have custom uniforms, and we do social media voting on them. There are a lot of interactive activities that we do at the tournament.”

Registration start at \$400 per team, though Johnson said there are discounts available for teams from Maricopa. Admission is free. 

 [SouthwestShowdownAZ.com](http://SouthwestShowdownAZ.com)



Submitted

# Education beyond high school is a buffet

By Murray Siegel

Bernadette Russoniello, in her February column in this magazine, provided stark statistics about student results beyond high school.

Forty-seven percent of Arizona high school graduates do not enroll in a two- or four-year college. Those who enter college have a disappointing level of success, since only 27 percent have completed college within six years of high school graduation.

She points out that many careers do not require a college degree for entry.

Do most high schoolers have enough information to select a career? Yes, a student might truly want to explore psychology, French literature, art history, music theory or Egyptian history, but what will they do with a degree in such subjects? Families must decide whether it is wise to incur debt to pursue an interest with little hope of finding a financially rewarding job.


Many parents want their children to have a four-year college experience without realizing the cost and the outcome. In Arizona, we have some wonderful two-year colleges that are more affordable and can prepare a student for a four-year degree program. Two-year schools have exceptional programs that allow students to obtain a certificate that is an entrée into a rewarding career.

Given the numerous high-tech jobs already available in Pinal County, with many more to arrive soon, students can take advantage of cutting-edge certification programs at Central Arizona College (CAC), such as computer, diesel, manufacturing and welding technologies. Positions obtained with one of these certificates pay a great deal more than a barista’s wage.

How about those students who want a four-year degree and do not want to be strapped with thousands of dollars in debt? Generally, excellent academic performance in high school is rewarded with meaningful scholarships, yet students cannot begin demonstrating excellence in ninth grade. Developing a successful work ethic, learning how to learn and how to accept a real, academic challenge begins in elementary school.

When seeking scholarships, students should use a broad search. A school in Vermont may provide better financial aid to an applicant from Arizona simply to generate geographical diversity.

There are many scholarships that go unawarded due to lack of applicants. Financial aid based on family income, parental career fields, military service and church affiliation are out there. They must be sought, and the Internet is a worthwhile tool. Once a student has proper academic habits, parents can look at programs, colleges and possible financial assistance starting in ninth grade. If a student has not found academic success, examination of programs available at low-cost community colleges such as CAC could prove rewarding. There is not necessarily only one program or one college for a student.

Post-secondary education is a buffet, and the earlier one starts “tasting” the better the results will be. 

*Murray Siegel, Ph.D., has 44 years of experience teaching mathematics. He is in his fourth year as a volunteer at Butterfield E.S.*



Murray Siegel

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Submitted

Meeting your first hornworm face to face, on your tomato plant, is a moment you won't forget. These worms grow to be 4 inches in length, can get as fat as a finger and have curved posterior horns to boot.

The first clue to a hornworm invasion usually comes with the discovery of leafless tomato plants. Not known as dainty



Scott Oliver

eaters, these oversized pests cause extensive damage — fast.

Fond of tomatoes and other plants in the same family, including your peppers and eggplants, hornworms don't just create a few holes as they eat.

They devour entire leaves and feed on flowers and fruit. The upper part of the plant is usually hit first.

Camouflaged by their fresh-green color, tomato hornworms blend in against stems and leaves. Even when the damage is widespread, these culprits avoid detection by easily hiding on plants during the day.

You would think this fat, four-inch-long caterpillar would be easy to find, but it has spent millennia learning how to resemble tomato stems and leaves. You don't know it's there until plant-chomping damage is done.

Catch hornworms in action at dusk, dawn or nighttime, when these pests come out to feed in the open. Large, black droppings left on leaves and the ground below give clues to hornworm hangouts. They've also been known to reveal themselves if you spray leaves vigorously with a hose.

Here is a fun fact. Armed with a black light at night, you can easily stalk your prey as it glows a greenish color among the tomato vines.

The adult forms of these hornworms are known regionally as sphinx moths, hawk moths or hummingbird moths. These large moths emerge in the late spring and lay their eggs at night on plant leaves. They prefer tomato, but they'll use related plants, too. Under optimal condition, a single adult female moth can produce up to 2,000 eggs.

### Eliminating Hornworm Problems

Handpicking hornworms and drowning them is an effective way to fight these pests. That is, if you can find them while your plants are still standing and you don't mind spending time in dark gardens thinking about 2,000 4-inch caterpillars.

Fortunately, there are other options. Easy-to-use "nonsystemic" insecticides make it simple to treat hornworms using a targeted spray or powder. Nonsystemic means they do not penetrate vegetables or plant tissue. You can treat tomatoes and many other garden favorites right up to one day before harvest.

When used at the proper time BT (Bacillus thuringiensis) is an effective organic way to eliminate hornworms. Sunlight degrades BT after a few hours, so it's best if you apply it late in the day so it can be consumed during the nightly feedings. Repeat treatment every seven to 10 days. 🐛

Scott Oliver is retired from Pacific Bell Telephone Company and a member of Maricopa Master Gardeners.

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Raquel Hendrickson

**1. 22076 N. Balboa Drive, Rancho El Dorado**

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa Feb. 16-March 15 was a two-story house in Rancho El Dorado overlooking The Duke golf course. It sold for \$10,000 under its asking price and \$8,500 less than its selling price one year earlier but still \$155,000 more than its mid-recession price. It had been on the market since Nov. 2 despite its large lot and swimming pool.

**Sold:** March 14  
**Purchase price:** \$350,000  
**Square footage:** 3,874  
**Price per square foot:** \$90.34  
**Days on market:** 132  
**Builder:** unknown  
**Year built:** 2002  
**Bedrooms:** 5  
**Bathrooms:** 3  
**Community:** Rancho El Dorado

**Features:** Upgraded cabinets, oversized lots, tile flooring, covered patio, pool, washer/dryer included  
**Listing Agent:** Michael Escobedo, A.Z. & Associates Real Estate Group  
**Selling Agent:** Kristen Petronio, Platinum Living Realty

<b>2. 42206 W. Bravo Drive, Rancho El Dorado</b>	<b>\$330,000</b>
<b>3. 42204 W. Rummy Road, Province</b>	<b>\$325,000</b>
<b>4. 42470 W. Bravo Drive, Rancho El Dorado</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>5. 16964 N. Palo Verde St., Palo Brea</b>	<b>\$296,000</b>



For a full list of last month's Maricopa home sales, see [InMaricopa.com/Real-Estate](http://InMaricopa.com/Real-Estate).



Raquel Hendrickson

**1. 42430 W. Oakland Drive, Rancho El Dorado**

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa Feb. 16-March 15 was a compact three-bedroom in Rancho El Dorado. Over the past seven years, it gained 20 percent in value. The 5,800-square-foot lot includes desert landscaping front and back while the house sits on 1,666 square feet.

**Sold:** March 13  
**Purchase price:** \$124,000  
**Square footage:** 1,666  
**Price per square foot:** \$74.43  
**Days on market:** 28  
**Builder:** Unknown  
**Year built:** 2003  
**Bedrooms:** 3  
**Bathrooms:** 2  
**Community:** Rancho El Dorado  
**Features:** Master bedroom with en-suite bathroom and walk-in closet, covered patio, den convertible to bedroom  
**Listing Agent:** James Patrick Sanson, Keller Williams Realty  
**Selling Agent:** Non-MLS agent

<b>2. 19002 N. Toledo Ave., Tortosa</b>	<b>\$163,000</b>
<b>3. 22705 N. Davis Way, Rancho El Dorado</b>	<b>\$168,000</b>
<b>4. 41243 W. Little Drive, The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado</b>	<b>\$172,000</b>
<b>5. 42658 W. Sunland Drive, Rancho El Dorado</b>	<b>\$173,000</b>

# Spring busiest time for Maricopa real estate

By Dayv Morgan

Spring is here, and that means a lot of activity in Maricopa real estate.

Spring and early summer is typically the peak for sales in Maricopa as families use the summer break to move to new locations. Many home sellers are now listing their homes in anticipation of the increasing demand.

For example, there were 137 new listings in December compared to 266 in January and 203 in February. The median prices and average prices also rise from spring to summer. Last year, the median sales price in Maricopa increased from \$192,000 in March to \$210,000 in July.

As the supply of active homes decreased 17 percent in that time period, the average days on market decreased from 74 to 55. That is the impact of both competition and demand in the housing market in spring.

Now is prime time for home sellers to get their houses on the market in front of most likely home buyers.

In 2018, the month of May had the largest closed listings at 242 homes. That coincided with the end of the school year. Young families are still one of the primary buyers in Maricopa and tend to move between school years.

That home-buying window is shorter than ever as many schools in Maricopa return to classes at the end of July. Families that want to be moved in with escrow closed well before that time tend to push the market in spring. That means they are shopping in March and April.

And resale properties face a lot of competition this year.

New home construction has been reinvigorated in some Maricopa subdivisions that have been practically dormant until

recently. That could make the resale market slightly slower this year. About one in six active listings in the Multiple Listing Service is a new build.

Spring is good for home sellers and buyers, if they jump into the Maricopa market as soon as possible.

Maricopa median home sales prices 2018		Maricopa average home sales prices 2018	
<b>\$192,000</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>	<b>\$201,000</b>	<b>\$218,000</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>JULY</b>	<b>MARCH</b>	<b>JULY</b>

Dayv Morgan is a Maricopa Realtor and owner of HomeSmart Success.

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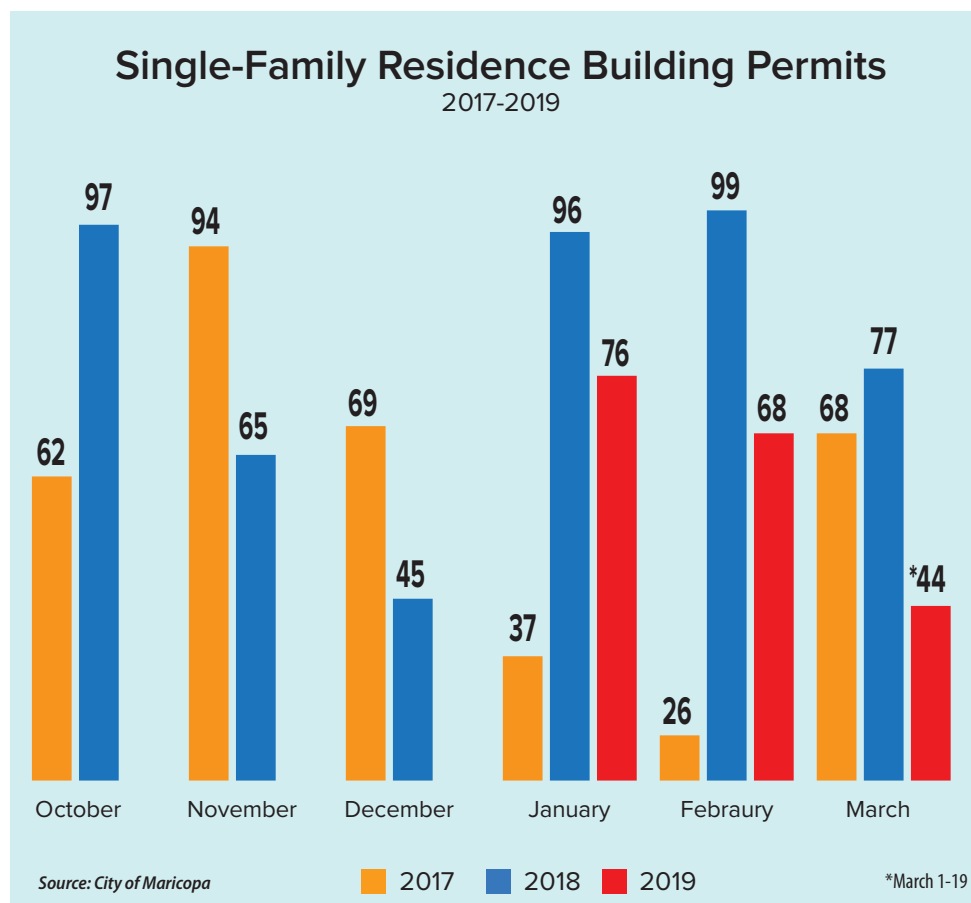
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## Permits

# Are seniors living the American Dream?

By Joan Koczor

The meaning of the American Dream has seen many changes since first introduced as early as the 1600s.

The American Dream is mentioned in the Declaration of Independence, which states "all men are created equal" with the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Freelance writer James Adams popularized the phrase "American Dream" in his 1931 book "Epic of America." In his 1963 "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," Martin Luther King Jr. based the civil rights movement in the African American quest for the American Dream.

As young adults, many believed they could achieve the American Dream by working hard, saving a little to provide an education for their kids so they could have a better life than they did, and retire with sufficient funds to see them through their retirement or golden years – hopefully, mortgage- and debt-free.

The new reality is people are living longer, more expensive lives with very little money in reserve.

The result is nearly one in five Americans older than 65 is working. Over the past decade, those numbers have risen faster than any other age group. Today, there are 9 million seniors working compared to 4 million in 2000.

Some seniors are returning to the workforce by choice while others are returning out of need. A recent poll showed many older people are more concerned with running out of money than dying.

Theresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist said, "There is no part of the country where the majority of middle-class older workers have adequate retirement savings to maintain their standard of living in their retirement."

Seniors are traveling the nation looking



for seasonal jobs offering hourly wages and few or no benefits.

Amazon's Camper Force program hires thousands of seniors to box online orders during the Christmas rush. Websites such as Workamper News have been created listing various types of jobs.

This is not the case with all seniors. There are some who have adequate funds to enjoy a carefree lifestyle. That makes some of us

wonder where we went wrong. How did they

accumulate all that money?

A little grim? Reality can be like that.

Ask yourself — how important are money and possessions. You can't put a dollar amount on sharing each day with the person you love, and having reasonably good health, a place to call home, food on the table and friends to share the good times and bad.

Joan Koczor is a senior advocate and a member of the Age-Friendly Maricopa Advisory Committee.

This column was originally published in February 2018.

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7. Use high-speed or extended-spin washer cycle.
8. Dry towels and heavier cottons separately.
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Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)

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### Senior Tech

## Pilot project could help seniors digitize historic photos

By Jim Headley

Bob Marsh said there is a nationwide problem that could be turned into a golden opportunity for Maricopa.

"Everybody my age has a shoebox or 50 of photographs in a closet somewhere in their home," said Marsh, a graduate of MIT with a degree in computer science. He has decades of experience working for and with Microsoft.

"When they moved here from Iowa or Minnesota, they brought those shoeboxes with them. Those photos contain historical records, faces, clothing, special scenarios and names of people who can be tagged if you digitized the photos."

Marsh said if those images were then placed into an online cloud and people tell a story about what is known about the photo, they become historically valuable.

"That will become part of the knowledgebase for future generations. Once the Boomers die off, those photos go away. They aren't time-stamped the way today's iPhone photos are. The facial recognition doesn't exist for them in the cloud. They lived in the 1920s, '30s, '40s, '50s before the digital camera was really a force."

Marsh said he's trying to connect with Ancestry.com and see if they are interested in adding these images to their data base and get a pilot project going with seniors in Maricopa to start moving these historic images into the cloud.

"We are an insular community, just as if we were an island off the coast of Hawaii," Marsh said. "We are between two Indian reservations. You can do things here and word doesn't leak out. We can get a pilot project going here with a senior center of some sort to use Android and iPhone technology to digitize photos."

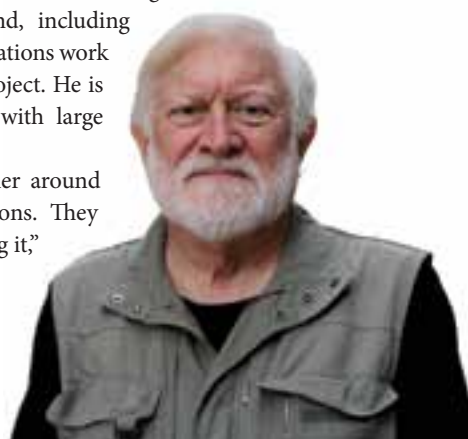
Marsh said with the proper application on a phone, the digital images taken of these old photographs are as good as, and even better than, computer scans of the images.

"With the right app, a senior could scan some photos and get four or eight at a time in one shot," he said. "Bring them up on a big screen, go in with a mouse and keyboard and tag those photos. Give them a title and sub-title, add names and locations."

Marsh hopes to nail down several things to get the project off the ground, including determining what phone applications work best and a place to start the project. He is also hoping for partnerships with large technology companies.

"Where seniors could gather around and have multiple work stations. They can socialize while they're doing it," Marsh said.

Bob Marsh



### Survey

## What would you like to have at future Maricopa senior centers?



#### Top vote-getters in Food and Meal Programs category:

1. Hot meals served at Senior Centers
2. Meals prepared for pickup/delivery
3. Holiday meals at Senior Centers

#### Top vote-getters in Social Gatherings category:

1. Meet-ups: Hobbies, crafts, music, etc.
2. Field trips, tours
3. Drop-ins: Table games, card games, etc.

#### Top vote-getters in Coordination of Senior Resources category:

1. Health and dental
2. Legal
3. Independent living
4. Transportation

Source: Maricopa Multi-Cultural Consortium survey of attendees at January's Senior Expo

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**APRIL  
5-6**

**Stand-up comedian Dave Chappelle is scheduled to give two performances at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino.**

Submitted

## Dave Chappelle to perform at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino grand opening

Tickets went on sale in February to see stand-up comedian Dave Chappelle perform at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino for two nights, April 5-6, at 8 p.m. Chappelle's performances are part of Harrah's Grand Opening Celebration, marking the completion of the resort's multi-million-dollar expansion project.

A two-time Grammy winner, Chappelle has performed more than 1,500 concerts in the past four years, selling out shows within minutes of the announcements. In 2017, Chappelle celebrated 30 years in comedy by releasing four highly anticipated stand-up specials on Netflix, including *The Age of Spin* and *Deep in the Heart of Texas*. He received an Emmy Award for his debut episode on "Saturday Night Live." He capped off the year by releasing the remaining two stand-up specials, *Equanimity* and *The Bird Revelations*.

In 2018, Chappelle received Pollstar's Comedy Tour of The Year Award as well as a Grammy Award for the Best Comedy Album for *The Age of Spin* and *Deep in the Heart of Texas*, delivered on vinyl. *Equanimity* and *The Bird Revelations* won the Grammy for best comedy album this year.

Chappelle was the mastermind behind the 2003 sketch comedy hit, "The Chappelle Show" – one of the highest-rated programs on Comedy Central. The show earned three Emmy nominations and went on to become the bestselling TV show in DVD history.

The Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin seats 2,000. Tickets are on sale at TicketMaster.com. There is a limit of four tickets per purchase. No cellphones, cameras or recording devices will be allowed at this show.



**Ticketmaster.com**

## Things to Do

### APRIL

**1**

**Rethinking the Past: Heritage, Tourism and Ordinary Places**  
5:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library  
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

**2**

**City Council Meeting**  
7 p.m. Maricopa City Hall  
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

**5**

**Dave Chappelle**  
8 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino  
15406 N. Maricopa Road

**6**

**Copa Color Run**  
8 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.



#### Custom Car Show

9 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

#### Laugh with Us featuring The ImproVables

3 p.m., Central Arizona College  
17945 N. Regent Drive



#### Dave Chappelle

8 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino  
15406 N. Maricopa Road

**Spice of Life Variety Show**  
6 p.m., MHS Performing Arts Center  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**8**

**Escape the Vape**  
6 p.m., Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**10**

**Copa City Dems Meeting**  
6:30 p.m., Copper Sky Police Substation  
17985 N. Greythorne Drive

**MUSD Governing Board Meeting**  
6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District  
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

**11**

**Chamber Breakfast**  
7 a.m., Central Arizona College  
17945 N. Regent Drive

**12-16**

**Ak-Chin Smash in the Sun World Long Drive**  
7:30 a.m., Ak-Chin Circle  
16000 N. Maricopa Road

**13**

**Pinal County Robotics Showcase & Expo**  
8 a.m., Maricopa High School  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

#### Poker Run

8:30 a.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino  
15406 N. Maricopa Road

#### Shamrock Farms Easter Farm Tours

9:30 a.m., Shamrock Farms Farm  
40034 W. Clayton Road, Stanfield



For details on these and other local events — and to list your own — visit [InMaricopa.com/Calendar](http://InMaricopa.com/Calendar).



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**APRIL  
6**

**Carlos Schulz of Professional Firefighters of Maricopa at Fire Station 571.**

Raquel Hendrickson

## Firefighters host charity Custom Car Show

By Raquel Hendrickson

The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Professional Firefighters of Maricopa are hosting their inaugural Custom Car Show April 6 at Copper Sky.

The event, which runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Great Lawn, benefits Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children and Firefighter Charities.

"We'll be collecting toys and monetary donations through the car show to help with other medical costs," said engineer Carlos Schulz of Maricopa Fire/Medical Department. Firefighters are asking for new, stuffed toys to give the children of the Foundation.

Firefighters Charities provide temporary relief for families displaced by fire "until help from the Red Cross kicks in," he said. The relief fund also assists families who may have had a death or a hardship.

The car show will have 25 class awards and five specialty awards. Entry is \$25 for pre-registration or \$35 the day of the show. There will be a \$5 discount for anyone donating a new stuffed toy on the day of the event.

Schultz said specialty awards will be Best of Show, People's Choice Award, Best Paint, Best Interior and Kids Choice Award. The event will be DJ'd, and there will be a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, food trucks and giveaways. The first 100 cars to enter receive a dash plaque.

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Custom

**Car Show**

**Who:** Professional

**Firefighters of**

**Maricopa**

**When:** April 6,

**9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Where:** Copper Sky

**Regional Park, 44345**

**W. Bowlin Road**

**How much:** Free

**admission; \$25-**

**\$35 to enter car**

**Info:** PFFMCustom-

**CarShow@gmail.com;**

**623-826-2816**

## Things to do

### Tortosa Easter Eggstravaganza

10 a.m., Santa Cruz

Elementary School

19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.

### 14

**Shamrock Farms**

**Easter Farm Tours**

9:30 a.m., Shamrock Farms Farm

40034 W. Clayton Road, Stanfield

### 16

**Ak-Chin Smash in the Sun World**

**Long Drive televised competition**

1-3 p.m., Ak-Chin Circle

16000 N. Maricopa Road

**City Council Meeting**

7 p.m. Maricopa City Hall

39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

### 18

**Zonta Club of Maricopa**

5:30 p.m., Headquarters

19640 N. Maricopa Road

### 19

**Maricopa Easter Egg Hunt**

5-9 p.m., Community

of Hope Church

45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.



### 24

**MUSD Governing Board Meeting**

6:30 p.m., Maricopa

Unified School District

44150 W. Maricopa-

Casa Grande Hwy.

### 25-27

**"Fiddler on the Roof"**

7 p.m., Maricopa High School

Performing Arts Center,

45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

### 26

**Character Counts Assembly**

8:30 a.m., Leading

Edge Academy

18700 N. Porter Road

### 27

**Arizona Teacher Appreciation**

**Health & Wellness 5K**

7 a.m., Phoenix Premium Outlets

4976 E. Premium Outlet

Way, Chandler

**Driving Permit Seminar**

9 a.m., Sequoia

Pathway Academy

19287 N. Porter Road

**"Fiddler on the Roof"**

2 p.m., Maricopa High School

Performing Arts Center

45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**Chamber Annual**

**Awards Banquet**

6 p.m., Global Water

22590 N. Powers Parkway

## MAY

### 4

**MUSD Music-a-Thon**

All day, Maricopa High School

Performing Arts Center

45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

### 11

**Movies Under the Stars**

7 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park

44345 W. Martin

Luther King Blvd.



**APRIL  
13**

File

## Eggstravaganza returns to Tortosa

The annual Tortosa Easter Eggstravaganza is April 13 at Santa Cruz Elementary School.

There will be over 4,000 eggs to be "hunted" by children divided into age groups. Wrist bands for all activities are free for resident children of Tortosa and \$3 for nonresidents. The Eggstravaganza is one of the subdivision's biggest events of the year.

The event starts at 10 a.m. Parking is available at the school and the neighboring park. The big egg hunt starts at 11 a.m.

Once again, there will be lots of activities, including a visit from the Easter Bunny after the egg hunt. Face-painting is back, and there will also be a balloon artist twisting fun creatures. Bouncers will include the obstacle course and 20-foot slide.

Kids can hop a ride on a trackless "train" while parents shop local vendors. There will also be food trucks, a DJ and lots of Easter games.

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Tortosa Easter

**Eggstravaganza**

**When:** April 13,

**10 a.m.**

**Where:** Santa

**Cruz Elementary,**

**19845 N. Costa**

**Del Sol Blvd.**

**How much:** Free/

**residents; \$3**

**nonresidents**

**Info:** TortosaHOA.net

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**AHWFAC.com**

**15810 S. 45th St., Suite 190**  
*Just south of Chandler Blvd.*

## Things to do

**Dwight Yoakam**  
8 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino  
15406 N. Maricopa Road



### SUNDAYS

**Narcotics Anonymous**  
7 p.m., Maricopa  
Community Church  
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

### MONDAYS-FRIDAYS

**Senior Drop-In**  
8 a.m.-4 p.m., Santa Cruz  
Elementary School  
19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.

### MONDAYS

**Senior Bowling**  
10 a.m., UltraStar Multi-  
tainment Center  
16000 N. Maricopa Road

**Narcotics Anonymous**  
7 p.m., Maricopa  
Community Church  
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

**Parents of Addicted  
Loved Ones (PAL)**  
7 p.m., Maricopa Behavioral  
Health Services  
21300 N. John Wayne  
Parkway, Suite 103

### TUESDAYS

**Celebrate Recovery  
Coffee & Karaoke**  
5 p.m., Maricopa  
Community Church  
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

### WEDNESDAYS

**Babytime**  
9:30 a.m., Maricopa  
Public Library  
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road  
**Harrah's Club 777 Toastmasters**  
3 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino  
15406 N. Maricopa Road

**S.M.A.R.T. Kids**  
3:30 p.m., Maricopa  
Public Library  
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

**Maricopa Police Explorer  
Post Meeting**  
5 p.m., Maricopa High School  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

### THURSDAYS

**Family Story Time**  
4 p.m., Maricopa Public Library  
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

**Narcotics Anonymous**  
7 p.m., Ak-Chin Social Services  
48227 W. Farrell Road

### FRIDAYS

**Al-Anon Meeting**  
7 p.m., Community  
of Hope Church  
45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.



*For details on these and other local events — and to list  
your own — visit [InMaricopa.com/Calendar](http://InMaricopa.com/Calendar).*



**APRIL  
12-16**

## Longest hitters to compete in World Long Drive

**By Raquel Hendrickson**

The World Long Drive is back.

Ak-Chin Smash in the Sun is April 12-16 on the field at Ak-Chin Circle next to UltraStar Multi-tainment Center. The competition starts with an Open Division of 32 and a Women's Division of 16. Last year, Will Hogue of Tennessee won the Open Division with a drive of 421 yards, and Phillis Meti of New Zealand won the Women's Division with a drive of 380.

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes is partnering with World Long Drive Association for the event. Competition starts at 7:30 a.m. each day. By the last day, April 16, there will be eight men and four women competing in the finale, which will be televised live on The Golf Channel from 1 to 3 p.m.

"This year we have an extra day of qualifying," Ak-Chin Southern Dunes General Manager Brady Wilson said.

Golf fans can come out and watch for free and enjoy shaded stadium seating. Wilson said there is a lot of excitement in the early rounds, when up to four competitors are driving golf balls at the same time.

This year, the event has moved from May to April, putting it first on the tour.

"We've had a whole year to plan to make sure it's pristine," Wilson said. "We've really produced a great venue."

He said the agronomy team of Dan Payson and Wes Hamer have the grid looking great. He credited Brittany Sourjohn with the smooth running of last year's event and said she has been excellent at dealing with the many moving part that make up this year's Smash.

Organizers also need volunteers for grandstand attendants, runners/floaters, hospitality, retail and player registration. Volunteers must be age 18 and up. Contact Amanda at [ARoninger@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:ARoninger@ak-chin.nsn.us).

The five-day competition is two events. One is a regional qualifier for the Volvik World Long Drive Championship in Oklahoma in Aug. 30-Sept. 4. Anyone can try out, Wilson said. The other event is the Smash in the Sun Tour Event.

In addition, there will be a Masters Division on Saturday for age 45 and up.

### IF YOU GO

**What:** World Long Drive & Ak-Chin Smash in the Sun  
**When:** April 12, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
**April 13,** 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.  
**April 14,** 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**April 15,** 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
**April 16,** 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
**(televised 1-3 p.m.)**  
**Where:** Ak-Chin Circle Field, 16000 N. Maricopa Road  
**How much:** Free  
**Info:** [AkChinSouthernDunes.com/WLD](http://AkChinSouthernDunes.com/WLD)

Things to do



Raquel Hendrickson

APRIL  
25-27

Playing sisters in “Fiddler on the Roof” are (from left) Hannah Panter, Taryn Story, Aidyn Curtis, Kiki Lemon and Alexia Esquivel.

MHS Theatre to present ‘Fiddler on the Roof’

By Raquel Hendrickson

The big spring musical this year for Maricopa High School Theatre Company is a big Broadway show.

“Fiddler on the Roof” is April 25-27 at 7 p.m. plus a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m.

This production will have music performed live by MHS orchestra members and teachers. While teacher Alexandra Stahl directs the play, MHS music director Ivan Pour conducts the music.

Stahl said she’s wanted to direct the musical since she was 18. “It’s beautiful, and it has good themes,” she said. “It’s a beast of a show.”

One of the longest-running shows in Broadway history, “Fiddler” is memorably scored by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick with a book by Joseph Stein. Among the well-known tunes are the title song, “Matchmaker, Matchmaker,” “Tradition,” “If I Were a Rich Man” and “Sunrise, Sunset.”

In the story set in 1905 Russia, a poor, Jewish couple Tevye (played by Antonio Gonzales) and Golde (Emma Schrader) are struggling to get by while their daughters are coming of age to marry. Yente the matchmaker (Mary Brokenshire) sets up the oldest daughter Tzeitel (Aidyn Curtis) to marry the wealthy but old butcher Lazar Wolf (Douglas Moulton). Tevya agrees to this, not knowing Tzeitel is in love with childhood friend Motel (Brandon Korittky).

Meanwhile, second daughter Hodel (Kjirsten Lemon) is falling for Bolshevik tutor Perchik (Ricky Rafaele), and third daughter Chava (Taryn Story) has befriended gentile Fyedka (Derek Blakely). The breaks from traditional behavior cause tumult in the family. Meanwhile, the Russian authorities are pushing to drive out all the Jews.

“It just inspires me,” Stahl said, “because I think of it as in today. There’s the whole theme of Tevye disowning his daughter, and I think of parents today who have gay kids. So, it breaks my heart, but it’s definitely a very real thing that happens in society today.”

Many of the cast members had at least heard of “Fiddler,” and Stahl did not have trouble selling them on the production.

“There’s a lot of really good roles,” she said.

Community members, too, have told her they are champing at the bit to come see the show, “so I’m hoping we do it justice.”

Other cast members:

Hannah Panter – Bielke  
Alexia Esquivel – Shprintze  
Chance Batton – Mordcha  
Kade Cruse – Rabbi  
Simon Ty – Mendel  
Ashton Chrosniak – Avram  
Julie Goodrum – Nachum  
Fallon Fruchey – Grandma Tzeitel  
Astraya Ellison – Fruma-Sarah  
Miles Starks – constable  
Zephania Colppeman – Shaindel  
Alex-Ann Velasco – the fiddler  
Alex Hurley – Sasha  
Joey Russoniello – Yussel

Ensemble:

Tyler Hanks, Kasey Cowert, Aleyna Call, Brenna Fitzpatrick, Ash Porras, Eonna Mooney, Zariah Marsh, Lindsey Coms, Olivia Kurpaska, Mia Gross, Destiny Shane, Emme Borthé, Katie Hanks, Scotland JanFrancisco, Morgan Cutrara, Gracee Clark, Emma Carr, John Jackson, Alex Haywood, Haley Raffaele, Nick Perez, Faith Ayala, Princess Jimenez



Raquel Hendrickson

Antonio Gonzales plays Tevye the dairyman in “Fiddler.”

IF YOU GO

What: “Fiddler on the Roof”

Who: MHS Theatre Company

When: April 25-26, 7 p.m.,

April 27, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Where: MHS Performing Arts Center auditorium, 45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

How much: \$5

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