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# Maricopa

April 2018

## GOVERNMENT

Difficult year  
in school bus  
inspections

## FAMILY

Boys vie for  
Mr. MHS title

## SENIOR LIVING

National Parks  
retiree finds new  
use for skills



## Dirty Business

MOTORSPORTS PARK  
OPENS AFTER LONG DELAY

 **Events  
Calendar**

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Source: Arizona Youth Survey 2016, Cenpatico Maricopa Community Survey



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# Contents

April 2018

## LEADING OFF

**Editor's Letter** *Page 6*

**Contributors** *Page 6*

**Social Media** *Page 7*

## PEOPLE

A **photo gallery** captures Maricopans around town. *Page 8*

**History** of pecan groves in Maricopa. *Page 10*

Award-winning teacher **Bernadette Russoniello** tackles new tasks. *Page 12*

Enter the **Best Mom** in Maricopa contest. *Page 13*

## GOVERNMENT

State **bus inspections** at MUSD raise eyebrows. *Page 14*

New ideas for a **city center** were under the microscope. *Page 16*

**Hotel feasibility** gets an update. *Page 17*

MPD **seeks a logo** for family advocacy. *Page 17*

**Election** dates and early candidates. *Page 18*

## FAMILY

**Gallery** of family-oriented activities. *Page 20*

**Mr. MHS** is set to debut. *Page 22*

**Virtual trip** to Italy for Saddleback students. *Page 23*

**Autism Awareness Month** means a lot to a local family. *Page 24*



23

Submitted

**Be Awesome** looks at kids' Instagram posts. *Page 26*

**Murray Siegel** celebrates local principals. *Page 31*

## BUSINESS

**Maricopa Motorsports Park** is open for real. *Page 33*

**Business briefs** include new openings. *Page 34*

**Food inspections** tag local restaurants. *Page 35*

**Directory** *Page 36*

## HOME

**Most expensive** and least expensive homes sold. *Page 40*

**New home permits** *Page 41*

Get the **master gardener's** advice on growing peppers. *Page 42*

**Housing possibilities** studied by the pros. *Page 44*

HomeSmart's **Dayv Morgan** explains curb appeal. *Page 45*

Saddleback Elementary teacher **Marjorie Stout** found a unique way to take her students on a trip to Italy.

## HEALTH

Longevity's **Aaron Gilbert** trains the core. *Page 46*

**Small changes** can mean healthy life. *Page 47*

## SENIOR LIVING

**Dorothy Charles** will share history of Scotty's Castle. *Page 48*

**Al Brandenburg** shares the Senior Corner. *Page 50*

**Joan Koczor** gives the facts about passport costs. *Page 51*

## THINGS TO DO

**MHS Theatre Company** will perform its spring musical. *Page 52*

Check the calendar for **Maricopa activities**. *Page 53*

A **golf tournament** helps a local school. *Page 54*

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**ON THE COVER:** Jacob Dolph tries out the course at the Maricopa Motorsports Park. *Photo by Victor Moreno*

## Taking it outdoors

Spring is a wonderful time to venture out and try new things. We've got plenty of examples of Maricopans doing just that in this month's issue.

Getting all the permits in order for the opening of Maricopa Motorsports Park was adventure enough for Mike Fay, but he now has the motocross tracks hosting riders on his property south of town. He shares what he loves most about the pastime and being able to offer it to the public.

April is Autism Awareness Month, and a young woman from Maricopa celebrates six months of venturing into more independence. Find out what programs at Southwest Behavioral & Health Services are helping her succeed.

Boys at Maricopa High School are venturing into uncharted waters in the first Mr. MHS Pageant. Organizers explain why they thought it was time for this contest, and participants told us why they're excited about it.

Also at MHS, learn why award-winning teacher Bernadette Russoniello decided to venture out of the classroom after 17 years to help goal-oriented stu-

dents in a different way. Marjorie Stout, a teacher at Saddleback Elementary, voyaged to Italy and took her students with her – virtually.

And then there is Dorothy Charles, who has been using skills she acquired over 25 years with the National Park Service to help Maricopa Historical Society's nascent efforts to archive its treasured items.

Check out how a golf tournament will benefit Sequoia Pathway Academy, get ready for MHS Theatre Company's big spring musical and find more events in our Things To Do section.

This month's issue will also teach you about growing peppers, new passport fees and the benefits of computer-use in your senior years.

Have an adventurous April.

*Raquel Hendrickson*

RAQUEL HENDRICKSON | Editor  
Raquel@InMaricopa.com  
520-568-0040 ext. 3



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*Publisher*  
SCOTT BARTLE

*Editor*  
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

*Writers*  
PRISCILLA BEHNKE  
AL BRANDENBURG  
PATRICIA BROCK  
JOYCELYN CABRERA  
MASON CALLEJAS  
MICHELLE CHANCE  
AARON GILBERT  
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON  
JOAN KOCZOR  
BREANNE KRAGER  
MURRAY SIEGEL

*Photographers*  
JOYCELYN CABRERA  
MASON CALLEJAS  
MICHELLE CHANCE  
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON  
VICTOR MORENO

*Designer*  
CARL BEZUIDENHOUT

*Advertising*  
SCOTT BARTLE  
VINCENT MANFREDI  
MICHELLE SORENSEN

Volume 13, Issue 4  
InMaricopa  
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 101  
Maricopa, AZ 85138

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**JOIN**

**About housing developers returning to Maricopa:**

**Kathy Inman Elias** Not only the road issues but the schools, there's not enough schools or transportation to handle more students.

**Mike Schwab** Let's come up with a traffic plan before new homes can be built.

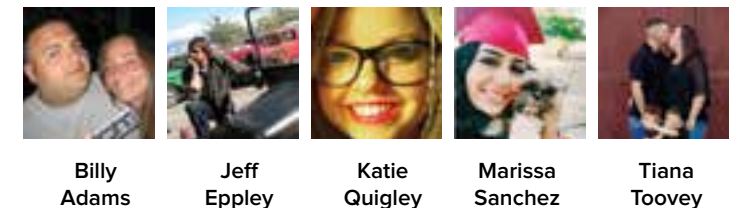
**Sally Ponce** Please STOP!! look at the other projects Maricopa needs!! Better road... more schools.. HomeDepot.. Target... ect.... Here is a Better idea Stop building. First and foremost it will be safer on the roads for Maricopa citizens. Traffic is getting at its worse day by day ... the Danger increasing!! All are welcome but concentrate on the safety of citizens!!

**Andrew Harrison** Sounds an awful lot like 2005.

**Bryan Williams** 60k people on 347! AWESOME

**Tony Gray** Bad long term economic idea based on the current conditions. Here is a Better suggestion:  
1. Stop building. First and foremost it will be safer on the roads for Maricopa citizens. It has already been established that 347 can't support the traffic now.  
2. If there really is a long term demand to live in Maricopa, this will lead to the housing prices going up. (With no new homes)  
3. Which will lead to Existing residents benefiting from an increased equity in their homes.  
4. Tax assessed value goes up, county and city gets more money by doing nothing.  
5. Increased value of homes (demographics), will lead and attract better businesses.

InMaricopa's recent followers on ...



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Katie Quigley

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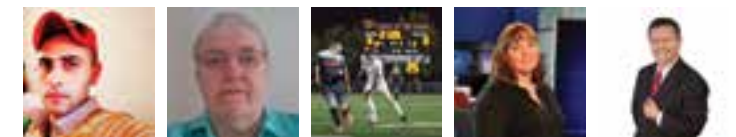
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Alaa Alazzam

Angela Smith

Diego Armando

Heather Dunn

Jake Romero

## Contributors



### RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

An Arizona native, Raquel enjoys history as much as future prognostication, so it was a pleasure to sit down with historical society archivist Dorothy Charles (page 48) to talk about her experience in preserving the past.



### PRISCILLA BEHNKE

In her continuing quest to keep kids safe, healthy and happy, the Be Awesome Youth Coalition coordinator decided to check out what local kids were doing on Instagram. She and board member Brandi Homan were surprised by the experience (page 26).



### JOAN KOCZOR

Joan has an eagle-eye for issues impacting senior citizens, perhaps because she is involved with so many senior-related organizations. This month, she felt information on April's new costs for passports (page 51) was timely for senior travelers.



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Chaz Jackson (left), president of the Arizona Chapter MC of the Buffalo Soldiers of America, brought his group's traveling museum to Maricopa High School Feb. 27, where they were greeted by MUSD volunteer Jim Irving (second from left). *Submitted*



Among local teachers wearing red March 7 in support of better pay in Arizona schools were Brian Burkett, Tyler Miller and Jason Goodwin. *Joycelyn Cabrera*



Brandon Harris, newly hired varsity football coach at Maricopa High School, dropped in on a middle school football game at Ram Stadium to meet players, parents and staff. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Local artist Brad Kammeyer displayed his paintings at Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship at a March 8 reception. *Michelle Chance*



Participants from Pinal County and beyond took a jog in Sun Life Family Health Center's For the Love of Chocolate 5K Run/Walk March 3. *Michelle Chance*



Enthusiastic gamers played craps and other games of chance at the annual Seeds of Change gala for Against Abuse March 3. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Businesses and crafters drew an all-ages crowd to the Spring Fling event at Maricopa Community Church March 3. *Michelle Chance*



Technicians from McLaughlin Air Conditioning and Heating Service installed new AC units at First Baptist Church March 1. *Michelle Chance*



Raquel Hendrickson

# Pecans in Maricopa

By Patricia Brock, Oliver Anderson and the Maricopa Historical Society

Maricopa lost its importance as a railroad junction when the railroad redirected a line through Picacho into the Phoenix area in the mid-1930s.

Maricopa people found the desert lands ideal for farming and began cultivating rows of green plants offering up snowy white blossoms of cotton (1940-60s) that lined the roadways and earned the Maricopa/Stanfield area the title of having the highest cotton yield average of any large area in the world. Throughout the years, farmers experimented with and grew a variety of other crops that included pecans.

More than 20 years ago, Farmers Investment Company planted over 700 acres of pecan trees in the Maricopa area. In 2005, Maricopa had a groundbreaking for Pacana Park, named in honor of the one-time pecan grove.

In the mid-1900s, John Cobb lived in Mobile. He was a hard worker in the pecan groves and took care of his money. He worked in the pecan trees on Pat Murphree's farm when he was 92 years old. He frequently brought his savings to the post office and



Submitted

**Years before developers discovered Maricopa, 700 acres of pecan trees were planted in the area, yielding annual harvests for Farmers Investment Company. Some acres remain standing along Murphy and Farrell roads on the east side of Maricopa.**

asked postmaster Fred Cole to store it in his safe.

John Smith experimented in the early 1970s with growing pecan trees and converted his cotton and wheat fields to mainly a pecan farm.


Have you been down Murphy Road to see the pecan trees getting a light trim? A severe tree trimming is done every few years to keep stems strong to ensure continued good harvests. "Skipper" Hall owns most of these trees and the custom maintenance has been done by the Ed Shappell family for decades.

The Murphy Road and other area pecan trees will soon leaf out and produce pecan nuts. The harvest begins after the first frost in October or November when the epicarp, the outer covering of the nut, begins to crack. The



Courtesy Green Valley Pecan Company

harvesting begins when equipment shakes each tree so the nuts will fall.

The nuts are gathered in rows for collection. Then leaves are removed from the nuts. The harvest is finally taken to Farmers Investment Company in Tucson. 

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# Russoniello ‘constantly recreating’ ways to help students

By Michelle Chance



Mason Callejas

**Bernadette Russoniello spent 17 years in the classroom before becoming the College and Career coordinator at MHS.**

Celebrated educator Bernadette Russoniello left the classroom at the height of her teaching career. She didn’t leave education, however. The consecutive Teacher of the Year awards presented to Russoniello in 2016 and 2017 were evidence to the recipient it was time to learn something new.

“I like to say I’m an ‘edupreneur’ because I’m constantly recreating what I do and doing it so I can help students,” Russoniello said.

After 17 years as a high school teacher, Russoniello transitioned to a new position as Maricopa High School’s College and Career coordinator. Russoniello works alongside the school’s guidance counseling team to provide students with resources and opportunities for life beyond high school.

She also presents workshops to teachers districtwide in an effort to prompt the conversation of post-high school planning that, for Russoniello, would ideally begin in kindergarten. Most recently, Russoniello organized a college fair at MHS with representatives from 20 universities, community colleges, trade schools and the military.

Inside the school library, students also have access to the College and Career Center, which Russoniello described as a “space for culture and planning.”

“It’s funny because it’s what I did in the classroom as well; I help kids,” Russoniello

said of her new responsibilities.

But instead of 150 students a day, Russoniello now meets with the entire student body.

Her previous marketing students said she has always encouraged their future goals through conversations about career exploration.

“It was because of her that I now know what I want to do with my life and how I learned to make the best out of every situation thrown at me,” said senior Harrison Edmondson.

Russoniello assisted 17-year-old Fides Bernales in declaring a college major and learning the first steps toward applying for a community college scholarship.

“You can tell her true passion is teaching and helping students find that path that was meant for them,” Bernales said. “Her dedication is one of the things I admire about her.”

Russoniello exhibited innovation in her career long before her evolution from the classroom to the front office.

In 2001, she began at Maricopa Unified School District as a first-year English teacher.

Later, she taught different grade levels and subjects including government, yearbook and marketing. Russoniello introduced AP programs and sponsored student clubs and organizations, including student council, LINK crew and DECA — earning two Master of Education degrees in the process.

“I feel I always went through these reiterations as a teacher because I love learning,” Russoniello said.

Like Russoniello, her husband Michael began his career at Maricopa Unified School District and both are leaders at their schools. Michael is a teacher on special assignment (TOSA) at Santa Cruz Elementary and is a 15-year veteran of MUSD.

They have four children and explore national parks when school is out.

Professional growth within districts is a standard and celebrated practice — often taking award-winning teachers away from the day-to-day dealings of a classroom.

Russoniello said her vacant classroom is just another opportunity for the next generation of educators.

“I don’t worry,” Russoniello said. “When there are more opportunities to grow and be involved, then more people will flourish.”

*Contributing reporter Joycelyn Cabrera*

# Who is the Best Mom in Maricopa?

To celebrate Mother’s Day, InMaricopa.com and local businesses are joining forces to find out who is the Best Mom in Maricopa. And it’s all up to your votes. Now through May 9, nominate your mother, your wife, your friend, your daughter as Best Mom by visiting our Facebook page and posting her photo or video on the contest post with a brief explanation of why she is the best.

Readers will then vote for their favorites. The earlier the nomination, the more votes Mom can accrue before the deadline.

The winning mom will receive prizes from Maricopa businesses and a special Mother’s Day bouquet courtesy of Fry’s Marketplace. Written nominations must be no longer than 100 words, and video nominations should be no longer than 1 minute. Moms must be Maricopa residents.

Winners will be notified on May 10 and will be announced on InMaricopa.com on Mother’s Day, May 13.

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Michelle Chance

# MUSD failed bus inspections higher than state average

By Michelle Chance

Around 8,000 school buses are inspected by the Arizona Department of Public Safety every year. Inspectors discover minor and sometimes major defects.

In 2017, nearly half of Maricopa Unified School District’s fleet had major violations, according to DPS documents and the Arizona Administrative Code.

Capt. Brian Preston, who oversees commercial vehicle enforcement with DPS, said if school district transportation departments cannot repair the defect while the inspector is on-scene, the bus is not allowed on the road.

What is considered a major defect is wide-ranging, however, from quick fixes like decals for emergency exits to mechanically-intensive repairs of the suspension or engine.

“There are things that will shut a bus down that will not shut your personal car down,” Preston said, adding school buses are held to a higher safety standard.

But between 2014-17, many of the violations included defects such as inoperative brakes, exit doors, lamps and alarms — and defects in tires, seats and suspensions.

**2017 a difficult year in the bus barn**  
Last year’s inspection of MUSD’s 37 buses included 18 that qualified for out-of-service violations, eight buses with no violations and

12 marked with minor violations.  
Preston said the state average for out-of-service school buses at any given district fleet is 30 to 35 percent. Last year, 48 percent of MUSD’s fleet was tagged with major defects.

“Obviously, that’s higher than what we generally have as a state average,” Preston said.

MUSD Transportation Department Director Sergio Pulido said staff shortage was partly to blame. Two shop mechanics were out with major surgeries for a period of time, leaving one mechanic in the garage to handle regular maintenance of the fleet.

Pulido and former Director Fred Laguna also pitched in at the garage while they prepared for a change in leadership.

“I had to do my job, and then I was learning to do his job because he was retiring,” Pulido said.

2017 was a year of transition for the transportation department that has for years dealt with an industry accustomed to a shortage of school bus driving staff.

This school year, Pulido’s two mechanics have returned to the garage.

MUSD Human Resources Director Tom Beckett said the department also hired a shop foreman. Pulido believes the additional mechanical muscle at the bus barn will lead to better inspections.

Newer equipment would help too, Pulido said.

## Aging fleet

The average age of an MUSD bus is 10 to 15 years old. The oldest, No. 36, was made in 2001.

But persuading district administration to replace an entire fleet is difficult given MUSD may have to build additional school sites to support growing enrollment, among other expenses.

The district typically purchases one used bus per year. In March, the transportation department received a large, 84-passenger bus. Pulido said one bus a year is not enough.

“It’s frustrating because you want to run a good fleet, you want your people to stay and you want to make your people happy,” Pulido said.

Last year’s violations are not new to the district. According to DPS documents, MUSD’s aging fleet received major violations above the state average in 2016 (39 percent) and 2014 (48 percent). MUSD was below the mark in 2015 with 28 percent.

Those data don’t mean nearly half of the fleet was taken off the road.

## Quick repairs

DPS inspection reports indicate much of the major defects were repaired during inspections. A DPS trooper typically spends two to three days inspecting a fleet.

Troopers tag buses that have passed inspection with a sticker displaying the current year.

Buses are usually shut-down when the transportation department is short the parts needed to make the repair during inspection, Pulido said.

**“The safety of the students, the safety of the driver and the liability of the district – you don’t ever want to put that in jeopardy,”**

—Sergio Pulido, MUSD Transportation Department Director

In that case, Pulido said the department consolidates and reassigns routes to other buses until the repair is made and a re-inspection can be scheduled with DPS. Combined routes often mean up to a 30-minute wait for school children — and myriad complaints from parents.

Pulido said he does not put an out-of-service bus on the road, even if the proper repairs have been made prior to re-inspection.

“The safety of the students, the safety of the driver and the liability of the district — you don’t ever want to put that in jeopardy,” Pulido said.

School administrators and employees who violate state statute concerning school buses are “guilty of misconduct and subject to removal from office or employment.” To enforce such misconduct, an informed person would need to report the allegation.

“DPS would investigate, contact the district, and the district would comply,” Preston said.

Preston said DPS has received reports that other districts allegedly operate buses that have failed inspection, but investigations rarely lead to disciplinary action because district administrators said they were unaware, or it was simply a mistake.

“In the past we prepared for these kind of things: cease-and-desist orders and potential for whatever type of sanction that could come, but it’s never come to that point,” Preston said.

MUSD’s next round of inspections is expected this fall.



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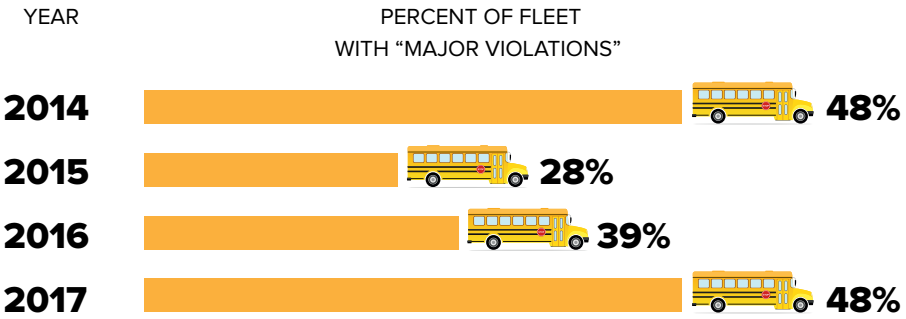
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## MUSD Bus Inspections



Source: DPS



Raquel Hendrickson

Woo Kim of WRT Designs talks to Maricopans about the future of the city center around City Hall.



and High Street in Phoenix. Stapleton, the redevelopment of the former Denver airport, was an example of varied housing.

“One thing Stapleton does really well is mix the traditional and the modern, contemporary architecture,” Kim said.


A diverse group, from college students to millennials to seniors, the stakeholders agreed on several concepts for a city center. Primary among those ideas were the mix of retail and civic uses and multifamily housing like townhomes.

“I don’t want this to be a retirement community. It’s so much bigger than that,” said Joshua Logan, who moved to Maricopa in 2007. “It can incorporate all those great assets, but it needs to have [high income and low income] to grow, to be exactly what it was meant to be. I have a long time before retirement. I want to see my values go up.”

Participants tagged their favorite design elements in green areas, mixed-use retail areas and buildings. College student Taylor Buchanan said she wanted to be part of the process, “to be a part of the community and to help decide what we can do to make it better to bring other people into the community.”

In his last meeting as a Planning & Zoning commissioner, Bryon Joyce reminded city staff the ultimate discussion in bringing people to certain areas of the city is business. Joyce is reluctantly leaving Maricopa as his job moves farther north.

“As of right now, I’m not seeing a centerpiece to draw people there,” he said of the village center concept. “There’s no major, well-paying employer. There have to be companies that are going to locate here.”

Another area of Maricopa already identified for Village Center planning is the Heritage District and the Redevelopment Area within it. 

# Residents have a go at designing a city center

By Raquel Hendrickson

Maricopa’s general plan describes a development pattern of mixed-use core areas called Village Centers.

They were an important component in the creation of the city’s 2040 Vision. As delineated by the general plan, “Village Centers are higher intensity locations within a distinct geographic area along transit corridors and are a cluster of community-oriented neighborhood character areas with local commercial, office and mixed-use spaces. These centers should contain public gathering spaces with civic uses, such as schools, libraries and parks and have a distinct identity and village theme.”

Now, the City of Maricopa has put itself first on the list of planning such a village center. Despite the major obstacle of being in a flood plain, the 140 acres of city-owned property around the City Hall complex are targeted as a new city center.

City planner Ryan Wozniak said Maricopa does not have a destination location, a place that lets a visitor know, “I’ve arrived.” The village center concept is meant to create that sense of place.

In March, the city reached out to stakeholders to solicit feedback on ideas that might suit a Maricopa city center. The ideas were drawn from other communities

in Arizona and around the country. Zoning Administrator Kazi Haque said the city would like to create a centralized corridor down Bowlin Road from City Hall to Central Arizona College and Banner and Walmart.

“I like the walkable space next to the college, and placing the retail next to the college is very good as well,” said Eli Pollard, a college student who plans to move to Maricopa. “I personally like to walk to areas that have parks and stuff, so I’d be inclined to go to the retail area, get a cup of coffee and then go and sit in the city center for a while. And I think the other college students would also be inclined to do that.”

Melissa Bailey, a resident, agreed. “I really like the idea of the mixed use, walkable, bikeable, arts and culture accessible, an amphitheater... just younger by like 30 years.”

Woo Kim, senior associate with WRT Design, walked residents through some of the case studies and incorporated their ideas as well. That included a library, senior center and community center around the City Hall plaza.

“There are some parking implications, but it’s manageable,” Kim said.

Communities used as case studies were Abacoa, Florida, Verrado in Buckeye, Stapleton in Denver, Colorado, Chandler Park in Chandler, The Glen in Glenview, Illinois,

# Hotel feasibility study shows accommodation needs

By Raquel Hendrickson



Submitted

The HVS study found Hilton’s Homewood Suites in Chandler to be a primary competitor for hotel traffic.

When the City of Maricopa last completed a hotel feasibility study, it was 2014 and Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino had not announced its hotel expansion.

Maricopa Economic Development Director Denyse Airheart said while that expansion has no effect on whether Maricopa can sustain a hotel, “as we began to talk to hoteliers and developers, they wanted to know how it would affect the feasibility of the project.”

Those requests turned into a new feasibility study, released in March, by HVS Consulting & Valuation.

# New family advocacy center looking for a logo

By Raquel Hendrickson

Maricopa Police Department wants the community’s help in creating a logo for its new Family Advocacy Center.

In the planning stages since 2015, FAC will be a place where victims of domestic violence and sexual assault can receive care and assistance. It will also be an initiatory venue for investigations into such assaults.

Community Programs Manager Mary Witkofski said FAC is reaching out to Maricopa artists to design a logo that will be used on letterhead, the website and inside the facility.

“We would like them to use the colors of the organization,” she said.


Those symbolic colors include purple

for domestic violence, teal for sexual abuse, blue for child abuse and green for safety. The design needs to represent the consortium of organizations providing help: law enforcement, prosecutors, child safety workers and others. The logo should also be gender-neutral.

Deadline to submit a design is April 6. Entries should be sent in PDF form to VAPS@Maricopa-az.gov.

A FAC steering committee will review the entries in May. The winner will be announced June 1.

FAC will serve all ages. Stakeholders include Maricopa Police, Pinal County Sheriff’s Office, Casa Grande Police, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Community Alliance Against Family Abuse, Bloom365, First Things First, Department of Child Safety and many others.

The care includes medical examinations and care, mental health care through MPD and Cenpatico, legal advocacy, case management, crisis advocacy and support groups. It has a Maricopa location that is being refurbished to fit the needs of the center. 



Other family advocacy centers have logos for their communications. Now Maricopa FAC wants local artists to create one.

Elections

PRIMARY ELECTION

May 30	Deadline to return candidate packets for city council
July 30	Deadline to register to vote
Aug. 1	Early voting begins
Aug. 4	InMaricopa.com Town Hall
Aug. 17 (5 p.m.)	Deadline to request early ballot by mail
Aug. 22	Deadline to return early ballot by mail
Aug. 24 (5 p.m.)	Deadline to vote early in-person
Aug. 28	Election Day

GENERAL ELECTION

Aug. 8	Deadline to return candidate packets for school board
Oct. 6	InMaricopa.com Town Hall
Oct. 9	Deadline to register to vote
Oct. 10	Early voting begins
Oct. 26 (5 p.m.)	Deadline to request early ballot by mail
Oct. 31	Deadline to return early ballot by mail
Nov. 2 (5 p.m.)	Deadline to vote early in-person
Nov. 6	Election Day

MARICOPA AREA REGISTERED VOTERS

Precinct	Rep	Dem	Lib	Grn	Ind/Other
Maricopa	810	740	28	7	1,170
Stanfield	149	165	1	0	177
Thunderbird Farms	663	372	22	2	605
Hidden Valley	431	318	9	2	527
Santa Rosa	539	431	11	2	609
El Dorado	769	738	22	5	1,103
Ak-Chin Community	32	235	1	0	156
Maricopa Meadows	839	680	30	6	947
Maricopa Fiesta	925	707	39	5	1,153
Province	1,634	1,172	47	10	1,776
Senita	671	691	27	4	1,036
Desert Cedars	619	622	18	4	913
Alterra North	726	774	20	7	1,072
Maricopa Wells	882	754	31	7	1,120
TOTALS	9,689	8,399	306	61	12,364
	31%	27%	2%	0.5%	40%

Source: Pinal County Elections Department, March 2, 2018

Democrat Republican Green Party Independent Libertarian Incumbent



FEDERAL ELECTIONS

U.S. Senate Seat

To be vacated by Jeff Flake

- Deedra Abboud
- Bob Bishop
- Chris Russell
- Richard Sherzan
- Kyrsten Sinema

- Joe Arpaio
- Craig Brittain
- Christian (C.J.) Diegel
- Michelle Griffin
- Martha McSally
- Nicholas Tutora
- Kelli Ward

U.S. Congress District 1

- Tom O'Halleran\*

- Kevin Cavanaugh
- Shawn Redd
- Wendy Rogers
- Tiffany Shedd
- Steve Smith

- Ray Parrish

ARIZONA STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

Governor

- Steve Farley
- Kelly Fryer
- David Garcia

- Angel Torres

- Noah Dyer
- Patrick Masoya

- Doug Ducey\*

- Merissa Hamilton
- Kevin McCormick

- Jeff Funicello

Secretary of State

- Mark Robert Gordon
- Katie Hobbs

- Steve Gaynor
- Kevin Gibbons
- Lori Klein-Corbin
- Michele Reagan\*

Attorney General

- January Contreras

- Michael Kielsky

- Mark Brnovich\*

Treasurer

- Mark Cardenas
- Mark Manoil

- Thomas Forese
- Kimberly Yee

Superintendent of Public Instruction

- David Schapira
- Katherine Hoffman

- Stacie Banks
- Robert Branch
- Diane Douglas\*
- Jonathan Gelbart
- Tracy Livingston
- Frank Riggs

- Stuart Starky

Mine Inspector

- Bill Pierce

- Joe Hart

Corporation Commission (2 seats)

- Bill Mundell
- Kiana Sears

- Brenda Barton
- Rodney Glassman
- James O'Connor
- Justin Olson
- Eric Sloan

Arizona Legislature District 11

State Senate To be vacated by Steve Smith

- Ralph Atchue

- Vince Leach

State Representative (2 seats)

- Hollace Lyon
- Barry McCain

- Mark Finchem\*
- Bridger Kimball
- Brett Roberts

PINAL COUNTY

Clerk of Superior Court

- Amanda Stanford\*

Justice of the Peace Precinct 4

- Lyle Riggs\*

Constable Precinct 4

- Andre LaFond

- William Griffin
- Glenn Morrison

CITY OF MARICOPA

City Council (3 seats)

Candidates who have pulled packets as of March 22

- Sarah Ball
- Linette Caroselli
- Vincent Manfredi\*
- Bob Marsh
- Cynthia Morgan
- Viola Najar
- Daniela Piceno
- Rich Vitiello
- Henry Wade\*

Maricopa Unified School District (2 seats)

- Patti Coutre\*
- Gary Miller\*



Dr. C. Jon Beecroft



Dr. Kelvin Crezee



Dr. Alex Stewart



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AHWFAC.com

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Just south of Chandler Blvd.

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VOTE 2018



Runners get doused in colored powder during the city-sponsored Copa Color Run at Copper Sky Feb. 24. *Raquel Hendrickson*



The Desert Wind Middle School Orchestra participated for the first time in the ABODA Regional Orchestra Festival in Mesa Feb. 28. *Submitted*



Butterfield Elementary School Assistant Principal Alan Gofron was taped to a wall for 2.5 hours March 9 as a school reward for the success of Jump Rope for Heart. *Michelle Chance*



Junior Jose Leyva (10) stretches for the put-out as the Maricopa High School baseball team posted an 8-5 record through spring break. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Desert Wind Middle School's football team (in orange) defeated Maricopa Wells for the junior high championship at Ram Stadium. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Junior Chantel Holguin pitches for the Rams, who were 3-7-1 through spring break. *Michelle Chance*



# Titleholders to host first all-boys ‘Mr. MHS’ pageant

By Joycelyn Cabrera

Pageant queens Lindsay Hubbard (Miss Pinal County) and Mackenzie Ford (Miss City of Maricopa Outstanding Teen) will host Maricopa High School’s first student pageant — and it’s for the guys.

Senior boys will compete for the title of Mr. MHS, a free suit and two free prom tickets April 6, at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

Scoring is based on the talent contestants showcase and how they score within each section of the pageant. All school rules in behavior and dress will be in place.

There will also be a raffle for the audience during the event.

At least 15 contestants will participate, including reigning Homecoming King Jalen Reyes, “Yo-Yo Guy” Patrick Flint and soccer player Kyle O’Hare.

Reyes, a dancer, anticipates a fun spin on typically female-dominated pageants and a different experience to being onstage.

“I already like to get up on stage, so it’s another opportunity to get used to being in front of people, but in a different kind of light,” he said. “This is more of a presentation rather

than a performance. This is more about my personality.”

Reyes said he is most excited about learning how to “walk” as they do in the modeling world.

Flint is excited to showcase his talent with a yo-yo and learn how to be more outgoing. “I’ve been yo-yoing for seven years. From this experience, I partially hope to try to get over my social anxiety by putting myself up in front of everyone, and just putting myself out there.”

O’Hare loves supporting his school and rose as a leader in February when he led a prayer for the 17 victims of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting during the MHS walkout. “I like to get out and support my school with any event that they’re doing, I thought it’d be fun, and I want to gain more confidence in front of an audience,” O’Hare said.

The pageant is run by Hubbard, Ford and a committee of six student council members. The committee is comprised of seniors Emily Aquino and Samantha Blaschke, juniors Mickaela Brown and Bailey Davis, and sophomores Jaqueline Maza and Cassidy

**Choreographers (from left) Chaienne Zoller, Crystabel Sanchez and Giselle Sanchez lead the boys through a rehearsal for the Mr. MHS pageant: Patrick Flint, Kyle O’Hare, Jalen Reyes, Zechariah Wooten, Nicholas Bradley, Alonso Chavez, Elias Alvarado, Jonavis Rodriguez, Ethan Smith, Caleb Wilson and Jayden Jensen.**

Zimmerman. The event is sponsored by Student Council advisor and chemistry teacher Amber Flores.

Flores introduced the idea of the all-boys pageant after having experienced a similar annual pageant at her previous school in Ohio. She hopes Mr. MHS will be something all boys at the school will look forward to once they reach their senior year. Flores described the contestants as outgoing, unique, talented and, above all, excited.

“I just hope that the students look back on this as a fun addition to their senior year,” Flores said.

Hubbard and Ford plan to make Mr. MHS an annual event. Ford, a junior, will take over the pageant next year once Hubbard graduates. They hope to invite this year’s winner to the second annual Mr. MHS Pageant to crown the next winner. The girls plan to extend the pageant beyond the high school and into the community.

“We want boys at our school to have looked forward to this ever since their freshman year,” Ford said. “We want to send them off in a fun way.”

# Ciao, Italia! Maricopa teacher virtually takes class to Rome

By Raquel Hendrickson

Maricopa teacher scored a trip to Italy for spring break, and she didn’t leave her class behind.

Marjorie Stout teaches second grade at Saddleback Elementary School. When her husband told her he was taking her to Italy, she was thrilled, and so was her class. They wanted to go, too, of course.

“One of the boys suggested that I buy a lottery [ticket] and if I won, we could all go,” Stout said. “That didn’t happen. I did what I could and took them to an online virtual field trip of Rome. However, the more they were bummed that they couldn’t go.”

So, Stout, who has been teaching 17 years, had a class photo printed on a shirt and on a vinyl poster. As she traveled around Rome, she would have a photo taken of herself with the class photo at various Italian landmarks. She would then share photos with the class on ClassDojo, a media app for teachers.

“When I told this idea to my class, they went crazy with excitement,” she said.

The Stouts were in Rome six days.

In the first two days, they (and the virtual class) visited the Colosseum, Memorial of Vittorio Emmanuel II, the Pantheon, the Vatican (“We saw the Pope too!!!”), Sistine Chapel, the Trevi Fountain, “too many churches to mention,” the Spanish Steps, Piazza Barbini and Piazza Nova.

“At one point, I got questioned by a police officer,” Stout said. “I guessed he thought I was making an advertisement inside the Colosseum. I had to explain who the kids on the picture were, and he totally applauded the deed.”

While she shared several of the photos with the class along the way, she brought many more home to share with her class so they could see themselves all over Rome.



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FAMILY



Jeff and Catherine Abbott at Southwest Autism Center of Excellence in Phoenix

# Family celebrates daughter's milestone at autism center

By Breanne Krager

April signifies a very important milestone for a local family. Not only is it Autism Awareness Month, but it also marks the six-month anniversary their daughter has been employed as an autism peer support specialist.

Catherine Abbott is a high-functioning individual with autism, and the Abbott family had experienced a difficult time finding the services Catherine would need to help her gain an education and eventually achieve some independence.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports one in 64 children in Arizona are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

"Catherine was diagnosed in 2008 when she was 10 years old," said Jeff Abbott, Catherine's father. "There was a little bit of a relief once Catherine was diagnosed. We felt as though the ball was finally rolling and we had found a special education plan for her. But once she graduated high school, it became evident that there was not a lot of help out there for young adults with autism."

After experimenting with several psychiatrists after her diagnosis, Catherine Abbott was eventually paired with Dr. Ramiro Guillen, Southwest Behavioral & Health Services' chief medical officer, and the timing could not have been better.

In recent years, Southwest Behavioral &

**"We felt as though the ball was finally rolling and we had found a special education plan for her. But once she graduated high school, it became evident that there was not a lot of help out there for young adults with autism."**

—Jeff Abbott, Catherine's father

Health Services obtained funding to create the Southwest Autism Center of Excellence. Mercy Care Plan and Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care selected the partnership of the Southwest Autism Center of Excellence and Touchstone Health Services to serve as ASD Centers of Excellence throughout the Valley.

When the center opened its doors in October 2017, the Abbotts were invited to the open house and asked to share their story. After their presentation, Catherine was offered a job as a peer support specialist, where she remains today.

"Catherine has been doing an excellent job at the Center," Jeff Abbott said. "She currently lives independently, having moved into her own apartment in Tempe. The Center has helped our family in so many ways and provides Catherine with a safe space where she can go for help when we're not available to drive up ourselves. It's given her an independence that we weren't always certain she'd be able to have."

Southwest Autism Center of Excellence's overarching goal is to provide the community access to a whole-health approach to diagnosing and treating ASD.

"Autism is one of the most commonly diagnosed developmental disorders in the United States. Approximately 50,000 individuals, like Catherine, with ASD turn 18 each year in the United States," Guillen said. "We are so impressed with the work that Catherine has been doing with us. We are looking forward to celebrating the six-year anniversary of both the Center and her employment at the Center."

[SACEAZ.org](http://SACEAZ.org); [CDC.gov/NCBDDD/autism](http://CDC.gov/NCBDDD/autism)

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF AUTISM

Diagnosing ASD can be difficult since there is no medical test, like a blood test, to diagnose the disorders. Doctors look at the child's behavior and development to make a diagnosis. Children or adults with ASD might:

- not point at objects to show interest (for example, not point at an airplane flying over)
- not look at objects when another person points at them
- have trouble relating to others or not have an interest in other people at all
- avoid eye contact and want to be alone
- have trouble understanding other people's feelings or talking about their own feelings
- prefer not to be held or cuddled, or might cuddle only when they want to
- appear to be unaware when people talk to them, but respond to other sounds
- be very interested in people, but not know how to talk, play or relate to them
- repeat or echo words or phrases said to them, or repeat words or phrases in place of normal language
- have trouble expressing their needs using typical words or motions
- not play "pretend" games (for example, not pretend to "feed" a doll)
- repeat actions over and over again
- have trouble adapting when a routine changes
- have unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel or sound
- lose skills they once had (for example, stop saying words they were using)
- Research shows early intervention services can greatly improve a child's development. In order to make sure your child reaches his or her full potential, it is very important to get help for an ASD as soon as possible.

Source: CDC

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# The lesson 2 moms learned on Instagram — and why it matters

By Brandi Homan and Priscilla Behnke

Social Media is a great way to connect with friends, family and community. We realized recently at Be Awesome the youth we were attempting to reach were not connecting with us on Facebook but love Instagram.

We took some trainings. We set up an account, found some memes, took some photos and launched. We were ready. We were not ready. We knew it all wouldn't be roses and we wouldn't appreciate all posts, but how bad could some kids' pictograms really be? A selfie with the occasional curse word? We were blindsided by a dumpster fire.

The least of our concerns were the frequent bird flipping of the camera. We witnessed video of vaping and showing off weed, couples commenting about the previous night's fellatio, kids suffocating themselves with plastic bags, self-harm accounts, suicide ideation, nude

selfies, and the gun threat that landed us on the phone with out-of-state sheriff's deputies filling out a statement for the court.

Before you get a false sense because it was "out of state," let us mention it had lots of hearts from local teens here.

Instagram has calmed down. We disrupted the anonymity they thought they were operating with and lost access in some cases. It turns out, when you tell a parent an account exists that isn't supposed to, there are no more follow backs. Word gets out when you tell the authorities an individual wants to shoot the person who said something mean to them. If we started a new account under the handle Mandy\_Bear\_

Spam\_96 it would be unveiled again. We invite you to do so and see for yourself what youth are filling the emptiness with.

We asked students why we were like this. They said there was a desperate need for attention. In some cases, a legitimate cry for help. Others were dramatic attempts to be noticed. The more likes and hearts, the more you popular you are. The more popular you are, the more accepted you are. Translation: The more you matter.

We asked what would help. We expected to hear "more things for teens to do." We were wrong. They said, "parents need to pay more attention;" "more family events for parents and kids to be together;" and "more teacher involvement for those who don't have parents who can or who have parents who won't." Translation: Kids need to believe they matter.

This is new territory and its going to take brave, competent adults if we are going to change the hearts and lives of teens willing to live-stream their hickey session for validity. If you want to help, please contact us, join us or support us financially at [www.mcaasa.org](http://www.mcaasa.org).



Priscilla Behnke



Brandi Homan



# MUSDNEWS



## MHS STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTEND STATE CONVENTION

Submitted by Ms. Amber Flores MHS Science Teacher and Student Council Sponsor

Jan. 25-27, 12 delegates from Maricopa High School Student Council attended the Arizona Association of Student Council State Convention held at Independence High School in Glendale. They listened to prestigious keynote speakers like Dr. David Garcia and Mr. Aric Jackson,

attended breakout sessions and networked at a vendor fair. The students benefitted from the messages from the motivational speakers. Mr. Jackson told students they have to break-out of the ways we often create for ourselves.

Senior Phuc Ly said, "That is the message that stuck with me the most, because I know that is something I struggle with."

Sophomore Jefferson Wiemiller said, "I learned that in order to be a leader, you have to do your own thing and not worry about what others think."

Senior Shakala King said, "No matter what you do, right or wrong, you're always going to have haters." Additionally, she loved how speaker Aric Jackson turned the word "haters" into an acronym meaning, "Having Attitude Towards Everyone Reaching Success."

Senior Jayda Jackson appreciated the message from David Garcia. She learned that, "it is easy to become the best in the world at something, because no one can do it like I can."

Senior and Student Body President Favour Odubamowo

learned that "there are two ways to live, in fear or in action. As leaders, we should always live in action, and not be scared to break out of our box."

The MHS Student Council was awarded the bronze level for the Service Project Award (for performing Service Projects that range in dollar amounts up to \$500) and Silver level for the Charity Recognition Award (for charitable contributions ranging from \$501 to \$1000).

Ms. Flores commented, "We can't wait to apply our newfound knowledge at MHS and in the city of Maricopa."

The District is very proud of these outstanding student leaders and grateful they were able to attend this positive and affirming event. ■

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## Desert Wind Middle School staff strikes!

Feb. 11 at 8:00 am, several Desert Wind Middle School Staff Members participated in the Keeping Teachers Teaching Fundraiser Event at the Main Event in Tempe.

Desert Wind had four bowling teams in the tournament along with one team from Maricopa Wells. Mr. Daryl Gooden, founder of Keeping Teachers Teaching, provided a free day for teachers to bring their families, eat breakfast and participate in the bowling tournament.

Desert Wind was proud to win first place in the tournament and bring home the trophy!

Keeping Teachers Teaching Mission: Keeping Teachers Teaching's purpose is to ensure a higher quality education for our children by giving them valued, respected and appreciated teachers, free of financial strife and adversity by assisting in supporting their efforts to acquire advanced certifications or licenses, and revitalized by a stronger connection to their community. Through KTT's national efforts, our teachers will be supported and our children's futures will again be secure as we work directly to restore stability to the teaching profession and fulfill our promise of a competitive education our children. "Providing for our Teachers so they can Provide for our Future." ■

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.

## Pima Butte student featured in Scholastic News debate

Recently Devin Lewis, a fourth grader at Pima Butte Elementary School, was chosen to contribute to the Feb. 12 edition of Scholastic News. Devin is a student in Mrs. Lori Ihms' class. The student-centered print and online publication frequently prints students' view on topics of interest, and Devin had to debate the topic, "Are Video Games Good for You?"

Devin is the son of fourth-grade Butterfield Elementary School teacher Ms. Teasha Gilliam. ■

## District hosts School Safety Forum

The Maricopa Unified School District hosted a School Safety Forum on March 1, at the Administrative Offices.

The forum was moderated by Pastor Rusty Akers from Maricopa's Community of Hope Church. A panel representing public safety and the area's public and charter schools were present to answer questions from the community related to school safety.

Scheduled panelists include: Maricopa Mayor Christian Price, Maricopa Police Chief Steve Stahl, Maricopa Fire and Medical Chief Brady Leffler and Maricopa Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Steve Chestnut. Administrators from Legacy Traditional School and Sequoia Pathways Academy also participated as panelists in this important community event.

The panelists talked about school policies and student safety in the wake of a mass shooting at a high school in Florida. Students, parents and other community members questioned the panel about past incidents and hypothetical emergencies. ■



**Front row: Tuesday Borst, Vincent Latona, Emma Morano, Cassidy Chang, Nikki Watson, Angelica Vesconi. Back row: Kalen Scott, Zachary Kalnasy, McKay Jones, Porter Jones, Joshua Hctor, Madison Creamer**

## Maricopa High School students place on the National German Exam

*Submitted by Mr. McKay Jones — Maricopa High School World Language Instructor*

Eleven Maricopa High School (MHS) students earned national honors on the 2018 National German Exam.

Seniors Porter Jones and Angelica Vesconi earned gold medals (top 10 percent nationally), while juniors Madison Creamer, Vincent Latona and Nikki Watson and sophomore Cassidy Chang earned silver medals (top 80th-89th percentile nationally). Seniors Joshua Hctor and Zachary Kalnasy as well as juniors Tuesday Borst, Kalen Scott, and Emma Morano earned Leistungsurkunden (Achievement Awards) for scoring just below bronze medal range.

"This is the second year we have offered a German program at Maricopa High School, so these students represent our first group with two years of German. I'm very proud of how they

performed, and excited to see how the German I students do on their national test in April," said McKay Jones, MHS German teacher. "We have some really diligent first year students, and I have high expectations for them."

In its 58th year, the National German Exam was administered to more than 26,000 high school German students around the country and offers German teachers a means of comparing students with other students nationwide. Students with at least a full year of German who score in the 90th percentile are eligible to apply for a paid summer study trip to Germany. Forty-four trips were awarded in 2017.

For more information about Maricopa High School or about the Maricopa Unified School District please call 520.568.5100 or visit the District's website at [www.maricopausd.org](http://www.maricopausd.org). ■

## MUSD busy recruiting staff

**Maricopa Unified School District is continuing its ongoing efforts to recruit employees for next school year. See all available jobs and apply online at: [MUSD20.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx](http://MUSD20.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx)**



## MUSD hosts annual Spelling Bee

*Submitted by: Diane Vigil, Karen Vieira, Janet Stensgard and Valerie Wyant*

Jan. 23, the MUSD held the annual District Spelling Bee at the District Administration Building. The bee was very well attended, and our outstanding spellers went a total of 11 exciting rounds. The following students are the District's winners and the alternates who represented the Maricopa Unified School District at the Pinal County Spelling Bee to be held in Casa Grande on Feb. 16.

### WINNERS:

**First place:** Lexie Nordhoff - *eighth grade - Maricopa Wells Middle School*  
**Second place:** Wyatt Clark - *fifth grade - Pima Butte Elementary School*  
**Third place:** Ramsey Henny - *seventh grade - Desert Wind Middle School*

### ALTERNATES:

Hassan Okou - *fourth grade - Butterfield Elementary School*  
Milagros Urquilla - *fifth grade - Maricopa Elementary School*  
Joseph Russoniello - *eighth grade - Maricopa Wells Middle School*

A special thank you goes out to Board Member Mrs. Torri Anderson for acting as the District Spelling Bee announcer and also to our three judges: Mr. Jim Irving, Mr. David Warren and Mrs. Christine Dickinson. Please congratulate these students if you see them. We are so proud of all of them. ■

## JROTC cadet earns 2 academy nominations

*By MHS student Joycelyn Cabrera*

Maricopa High School senior Dylan Hill has received congressional nominations for the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Military Academy (also known as West Point).

After months of preparation, paperwork and interviews, the Air Force Junior ROTC cadet is on the road toward acceptance to one or both prestigious service academies. After a long waiting process, Dylan was excited to get the news of her nomination from Rep. Tom O'Halleran (D-District 1).

"Aside from the clear reason of wanting to serve my country, I also want to be in a leadership position as an officer, so I can advocate for the enlisted and contribute to the safeguarding of America and its interests."

Dylan, 17, and her family have called Maricopa home for 10 years. Her favorite classes are AP American Government and JROTC. Dylan has been involved in JROTC all four years of high school. She has been interested in the military since her middle school years and would be the first member of her family to join the U.S military since World War II. Rather than simply enlisting after graduation, Dylan has gravitated toward an academy for the rigorous environment and training, exposure to military environments, and leadership training. Dylan believes an academy would better prepare her to lead others in any situation, as well as offer her many academically challenging opportunities.

She has been taking steps toward this goal since her freshman year. She practices time-management by constantly juggling AP high school courses, JROTC obligations, a job and extracurriculars. She has participated in cross country, Pinal County Teen Court, Youth Council and Governor's Youth Commission. She also exercises at least four times a week. Above all, Dylan makes it a priority to follow through with the responsibilities she is given. Dylan envisions a career as a ground intelligence officer. She would be responsible for many aspects of a military unit, including deployment, tactical employment, planning and welfare of troops.



Victor Moreno

MHS JROTC Master Sgt. Dishon Gregory considers Dylan a superior student, cadet and citizen. He was "not surprised at all" she received the congressional nomination. Gregory lists Dylan finest qualities as her high standards, attention to detail, motivation, drive and leadership skills. "I am honored to be able to work with Dylan for the past four years," said Gregory, who believes she will be successful in anything she chooses to do.

Dylan's aerospace science teacher Allen Kirksey says she is a proven individual with the highest standards of commitment and dedication to the U.S military. "Without a doubt, she is ready for increased responsibilities as a cadet at West Point or the Naval Academy... I feel that she will prove to be an invaluable asset to the U.S military as a future officer."

Maricopa High School also had a graduate in last year's class — John Blodgett — be nominated for admission to West Point and the Air Force Academy. He chose West Point. MHS Principal Rick Abel said he hopes the successes of his students will encourage others to make the same level of effort to show what MHS graduates can do. "Both students have been good examples of good examples."

For more information about Maricopa High School's Junior Air Force ROTC Program or about the Maricopa Unified School District please call 520-568-5100 or visit the District's website at [www.maricopausd.org](http://www.maricopausd.org). ■

*Previously published in InMaricopa.*

## MHS football scholar athletes receive state recognitions



Kemo Tyshawn Akins



Brenden James West

“Congratulations! You have been chosen as a Valley of the Sun Chapter ‘Top 60’ High School Football Scholar Athlete — Class of 2018, representing over 258,000 students, from 186 high schools in central and northern Arizona.”

This was the message that Maricopa High School (MHS) student athlete Brenden James West received recently. The letter continued, “We have determined, based on your school and coach’s recommendations that your successes in the classroom, accomplishments on the gridiron, and commitment and devotion to your school and community are deserving of this prestigious lifetime designation ~ National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete. A blue-ribbon selection committee has deemed that you will be recognized with the Chapter’s Shaw Courage Award for extraordinary success in the face of adversity. A one-time scholarship in the amount of \$1,500, applicable toward tuition, will be paid directly to your chosen college or university.”

Additionally, MHS student Athlete Kemo Tyshawn Akins was selected as an Honorable Mention Top 60 High School Football Scholar Athlete. Both Kemo and Brenden were recognized and honored at the 37th Annual NFF Awards Banquet, at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas, on March 24. Coach Chris McDonald proudly commented, “This is big ... the first MHS nominee since 1981.”

For more information about Maricopa High School’s Athletic Program or about the Maricopa Unified School District please call 520-568-5100 or visit the District’s website at [www.maricopausd.org](http://www.maricopausd.org). ■

## MHS goes to Hamilton

Submitted by Mr. Jason Goodwin

Feb. 23, 49 U.S. history students from Maricopa High School (MHS) were able to attend the musical Hamilton at Arizona State University’s Gammage Hall.

U.S. history teacher Jason Goodwin applied on behalf of Maricopa High School to the Gilder Lehrman Institute for tickets to the musical. Students across Arizona were given a chance to attend at a discounted rate of \$10, thanks in part to The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation.

After the high school was chosen as a recipient of the heavily discounted tickets, students from the U.S. history courses created poems, songs, raps, monologues or scripts based on primary sources from the Founding Father era and from a source-based history unit. Students submitted their final projects to a panel for evaluation and 49 entries were given a chance to see the award winning musical firsthand.

One MHS submission was videotaped and submitted to the Hamilton Education Program, and that submission was chosen to be performed live in front of the over 2,700 Arizona high school students along with the cast



of Hamilton. From the over 40 different schools in attendance, MHS students Aidyn Curtis and Taryn Story were one of 14 acts that performed.

Mr. Goodwin commented, “These young ladies received glowing reviews and much praise afterwards.” Students went on to participate in a question and answer session with cast members and then finally saw a matinee performance of the musical.

Additional information can be viewed by visiting the following web link, <https://www.azcentral.com/story/entertainment/arts/2018/02/23/hamilton-education-project-eduham-asu-gammage/1067823001/>

For more information about Maricopa High School or about the Maricopa Unified School District please call 520.568.5100 or visit the District’s website at [www.maricopausd.org](http://www.maricopausd.org). ■



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## Maricopa’s Principals: Part 2 Meet some of MUSD’s education leaders

By Murray Siegel

*This is the second in a series of columns featuring the principals at Maricopa’s district and charter schools.*

Loraine Conley, Ed.D., principal at Santa Cruz Elementary School in the Maricopa Unified School District, received her undergraduate degree from Langston University (Oklahoma), has a master’s in educational administration from Iowa State university and her doctorate in education from ASU. In her 25 years in education, she has been an elementary teacher, a middle school language arts teacher and an assistant principal.



Murray Siegel

She is most proud of the numerous awards received by the school, its students and faculty. Dr. Conley looks forward to sustained improvement at Santa Cruz with the continuing support of the school community.

Maricopa’s principals come to us from all over the United States, and one principal started out overseas. Eva Safranek, principal at MUSD’s Santa Rosa ES, was born in the Czech Republic and arrived in Tucson at age 13. Her BA in elementary education was received at ASU, and she has two masters degrees from University of Phoenix. During her 15 years as an educator, she has served in various teaching, coaching and coordinator positions before coming to Santa Rosa six years ago.

A major accomplishment at her school this year is the implementation of the new math curriculum, which is challenging and brings more rigor to the study of math. She is excited about the improvement expected from the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) program. Ms. Safranek’s credo as a principal is building relations with students and staff to allow all to be the best that they can be.

Felicia Williams is the principal at Saddleback ES at MUSD and grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. She received her undergraduate degree from Ohio University. She obtained masters degrees at University of Phoenix and NAU. Her 16 years of experience include teaching positions in a number of elementary grades, academic coach and principal. She has been at Saddleback for eight years.

When asked about this year’s primary accomplishment, she points to the enhanced use of technology by students which was led by Enna Post, a phenomenal technology teacher. Mrs. Williams looks forward to the total implementation of the PBIS program next year. Her guide as a principal is a statement by Harvey Firestone: “You get the best of others when you give the best of yourself.”

*Murray Siegel has a PhD in MathEd and 42 years of teaching experience.*



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# Motorsports park opens after years' long permitting process

By Fran Lyons Photos by Victor Moreno



**Opposite page:** Jacob Dolph (137) tries one of the tracks at Maricopa Motorsports Park. **Left: A.J. Larson hits a turn.** **Below: dirt bikers (from left) Jacob Dolph, owner Mike Fay, Koan French and A.J. Larson.**

Motorcross is back on track in Maricopa.

After months of delays caused by Pinal County stipulations, Maricopa Motorsports Park opened Feb. 3. The venue is 46 acres of land near the junction of state routes 347 and 84 in Hidden Valley.

Owner Mike Fay said one of the reasons he created Maricopa Motorsports Park is for people to participate together. “What I love to see is entire families enjoying recreational sports that promote satisfaction and enjoyment whenever they’re here at the park.”

The facility is south of SR 84 off Liebre Road, a dirt road maintained by the county.

Fay, who seems to have been born to race, has worked in motorcycle shops all his adult life. He has been a rider since age 4 and a racer since 10.

“Riding and racing have been my passion since I was a little kid,” he said. “It’s what I love to do.”

There are three tracks accommodating different levels of intensity. Fay, in tandem with other experts, created the concept for the park. He designed and built the tracks and oversees the day-to-day events and activities.

“What’s exclusive and unique is that we offer a track for side-by-sides, too,” Fay said.

Rules are important to MMP, however, and one’s vehicle has to meet required standards to participate. The first and foremost objective is safety and security for all participants and attendees.

Riders must sign a release and waiver of liability, and minors’ forms must be signed by parents or guardians and notarized.



“Our prepared and groomed tracks provide a controlled environment of structure and safety and a place for all who enjoy motorsports,” Fay said.

He estimates he lays down at least 10,000 gallons of water a day on the tracks and on Liebre Road. Pinal County had requested Fay pave Liebre Road to cut down on dust, but he worked county staff to a compromise. That requires him to spray down the road regularly.

Another point of contention has not found a final resolution. Pinal County stipulates Fay put in permanent toilets rather than portable toilets. MMP has no power, plumbing or other utilities. Fay was allowed to open and given an extension of time to solve the problem, which may mean building a latrine or outhouse structure.

Fay had planned to open the park in late 2015 while working through the permitting process. The waiting part of that process was frustrating, he said.

“There would be a three-month wait, and then they’d tell us to have our engineer tweak something,” he said. “And she would do that, and it would be another three months.”

Since quietly opening in February, the park has seen participant numbers grow, with many returning customers. As Maricopa Motorsports Park expands, offerings will include professional clinics and riding classes and food vendors.

According to Fay, what he has built is “great recreation and physical exercise for all ages, and definitely fun to watch.”

 **MaricopaMotorsports.com**

# Business openings, expansions

Businesses and buildings within the new Edison Pointe shopping plaza, 20595 N. John Wayne Parkway, received commercial licenses in late February. That included **Burger King**, a \$426,669 restaurant to be built on the northwest corner next to Fry’s fuel station.

**Planet Fitness** and a **Goodwill** store also received their business licenses. Goodwill opened its doors March 16. Planet Fitness had a grand opening event March 27, though it opened earlier to sign up new members.



**Mythical Gardens**, a home-based business in Maricopa, was one of 13 companies statewide to receive a Success Award on March 22 from the Arizona Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Owner Jenny Zaragoza, who creates CosPlay clothing, previously won the Pitch Competition by Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship and is involved with the Central Arizona College SBDC.

As **KB Home** wrapped up home construction in Homestead, the company received remodel permits to convert two sales offices back into standard garages in houses on Hopper Drive. Costa Verde Homes opened a sales office for its residential construction in Santa Rosa Springs.



**Denny’s** opened its doors Feb. 26 at 21195 N. John Wayne Parkway. The 4,041-square-foot chain restaurant is open 24 hours a day.

**Global Water** is officially opening its expansion April 2. The company expanded its water-reclamation facility to be able to serve up to 11,000 more connections.

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## OUT-OF-TOWNERS DOMINATE BUSINESS LICENSES

Of the many new business licenses applied for in Maricopa last month, the majority were for out-of-town companies and vendors.

**COMMERCIAL:** GoWireless Inc., H&R Block, Maricopa Family Psychiatry, My Maricopa Plumber, Planet Fitness, Smiley Dental, Treasured Smiles Children’s Dentistry, True Hearts II

**HOME-BASED:** Ashley’s Parties, Bags and More by Julie, Charmed Bath & Body, Comfort Care Assisting Living Home, Crossland Training Connections, Desert Ice, JC & Laney, LenzKing, Ms. Sparkle, Nana’s House of Childcare, Origami Owl, PCs by D’vine, Positively Posh Events, Skurtsy/Peaches & Seams, Sonora Candle & Oils, Usborne Books & More, VanGo 4 Kids, VIPTV

**OUT OF TOWN:** Arizona Correctional Industries, Arizona Foundation Solutions, Banner Casa Grande Medical Center, Cordova Contracting & Development, Different Smokes BBQ, Digital Video Networks, Flippin’ Rice Food Truck, Garth Vacuum Truck Service, Good Ruby Apple Christian Book & Gift, Guzman Fence Company, Horrocks Engineers, The Ice Tea Guy, Joseph’s Graneries, Liquid Habit, Lislie Heft Premier Designs Jewelry, Metro Traffic Control, MRC Construction & Electrical, Ms. C’s BBQ Chicken N Ribs, Pace Pacific Corporation, Phoenix Psychic, RT Underground, Seacret Direct, Soil Works, Sonya’s Feather Duster, Starlight Homes Construction, Tac-O-Bout It, Tribal Waters, Tupperware The Fanatics

**NONPROFIT:** Ballet Folklorico Quetzalcoatl, Goodwill of Central and Northern Arizona, Maricopa Pantry, Waypoint Church

## DAIRY QUEEN, MCDONALD’S RUN INTO TROUBLE WITH HEALTH INSPECTOR

Of 22 eateries inspected by the Pinal County Health Department Feb. 16-March 15, three were marked down, and two of those had serious problems.

**KFC** was cited for two violations regarding water temperature in the handwashing sink and equipment sanitation. Two out of the three available handwashing sinks were able to meet the standard of reaching 100 degrees F within the time allotted. The third sink, next to the fryer, reached only 76 degrees F.

KFC was also marked down for food debris buildup on counters and other surfaces used for food preparation. There was also noted debris on surfaces used for holding nonfood equipment. Aside from debris, a “yellow substance” was found inside a table top cooler. The store received an “S” for satisfactory.

**Maricopa Shell’s Dairy Queen** received an “N” for needs improvement (one step from failure), cited for three violations regarding item storage, temperature control and food preparation. Multiple items had been found on the floor in the walk-in of the storage area rather than at least six inches off the floor — the required standard.

Another violation was cited when food kept at the prep table (lettuce, sliced tomatoes, sliced onions and condiments) was recorded at 47-52 degrees F. The safe cold-holding temperature is 41 degrees F or below.

The final violation cited for Dairy Queen was recorded when an employee was seen handling money without gloves on and handling raw, ground, frozen beef before reaching into a hamburger bun bag without washing their hands between tasks. Hands are required to be washed between all tasks when handling food.

Also scoring an “N” from the inspector was the **McDonald’s inside Walmart**. The site continues to have problems with water temperature, and the inspector also noted issues with debris, food sitting out too long and cross contamination.

One hand-washing sink continued a failure to reach 100 degrees. Visiting on March 13, the inspector gave management 10 days to correct the repeat violation. Another repeat offender was an ice-machine described as covered in calcium and rust buildup, and the inspector recommended having it replaced before the re-inspection. The restaurant was also marked down for having mustard, a rag and ice in two hand-wash sinks.

The inspector observed cracked egg shells in an egg carton next to raw eggs in a container next to fresh beef. Lettuce and chopped onions were left out more than an hour past the appropriate time of use. A bin attached to the grill was “filled with food debris spilling over out of catch bin onto sides of machine and neighboring refrigerator.”

### EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Arby’s Roast Beef Restaurant
- Carl’s Jr.
- Children’s Learning Adventure

- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Denny’s
- Firehouse Subs
- Freddy’s Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
- Honeycutt Coffee
- Leading Edge Academy
- Legacy Traditional School
- Little Caesar’s Pizza
- McDonald’s, 20700 N. John Wayne Parkway
- Papa Murphy’s Pizza
- Saddleback Elementary School
- Sequoia Pathway Academy — K-6
- Sequoia Pathway Academy — secondary
- Starbuck’s Maricopa Station
- Yogurt Jungle
- Zoyo

### SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- KFC

### NEEDS IMPROVEMENT [Critical items noted during inspection cannot be corrected immediately requiring follow-up inspection]

- Maricopa Shell — Dairy Queen
- McDonald’s — Walmart

### UNACCEPTABLE [Gross, unsanitary conditions necessitating the discontinuation of service]

None

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**Like least about Maricopa:** Accidents on 347

**FAVORITE ...**  
**Charity:** Compass Christian Church and local opportunities that strike home for us as a family  
**Meal:** Anything my wife cooks  
**Restaurant:** The Range  
**Website:** HousingAroundAZ.com  
**Words to live by:** Choose a job you love, and you will never work a day in your life.  
**Anything else we should know?** I'm known as the husband to the "Crazy Cranberry Salsa lady."

Learn more about Kent at [InMaricopa.com/Getting-To-Know](http://InMaricopa.com/Getting-To-Know)

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1. 19828 N. Swan Court

Mason Callejas

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa from Feb. 16 to March 15 was a one-owner, waterfront property in Province that went for \$355,000. The home is full of upgrades, from the water heater to the window shutters and lots of natural light. The property also came with a guest casita. The house was on the market nearly three months and had \$20,000 shaved off the asking price.

**Sold:** Feb. 17  
**Purchase price:** \$355,000  
**Square footage:** 2,206  
**Price per square foot:** \$160.92  
**Days on market:** 84  
**Builder:** Engle  
**Year built:** 2006  
**Bedrooms:** 3  
**Bathrooms:** 3  
**Community:** Province

**Features:** Lakefront, two fireplaces, new tile, new HVAC, new exterior paint, double convection oven, patio, 2.5 spaces in garage, full bath in casita  
**Listing agent:** Pat A. Lairson, The Maricopa Real Estate Company  
**Selling agent:** Jill K. Dames, Realty ONE Group

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 2. 20988 N. Get Around Drive, Province | \$330,000 |
| 3. 42395 W. Abbey Road, Province       | \$329,000 |
| 4. 40522 W. Art Place, Smith Farms     | \$285,000 |
| 5. 43322 W. Maricopa Ave., Senita      | \$264,900 |

LEAST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD



1. 21867 N. Kirkland Drive

Mason Callejas

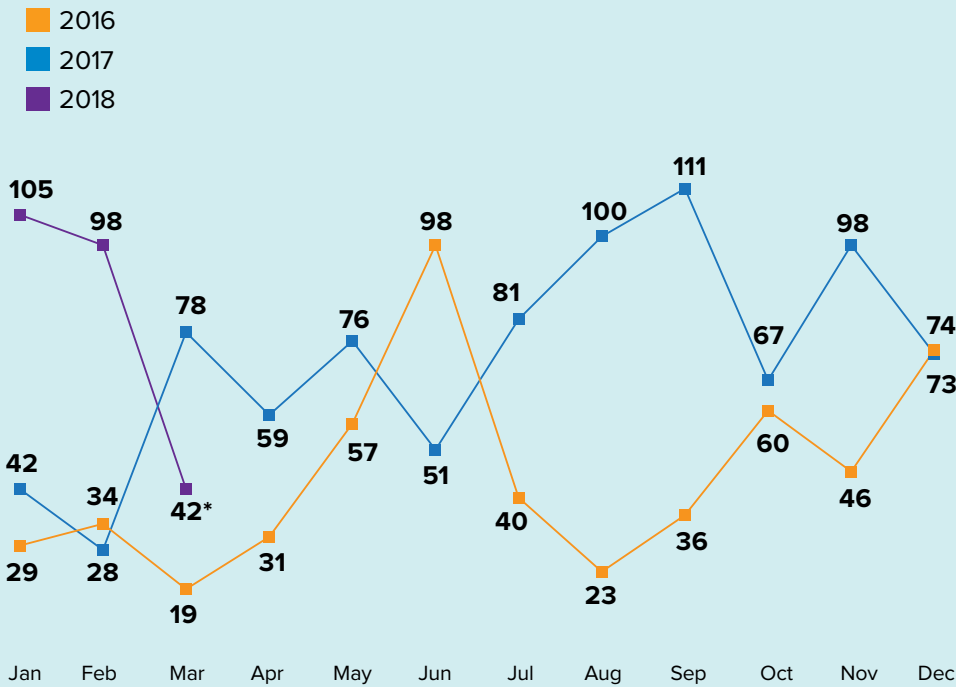
The least expensive home sold in Maricopa from Feb. 16 to March 15 was worth \$272,000 in 2005 but this year was listed at just \$25,000 after extensive fire and smoke damage. Listed as lender-owned, it was sold as-is, sight unseen, for \$56,000. Room designations and uses were set aside for this sale.

<b>Sold:</b> Feb. 22 <b>Purchase price:</b> \$56,000 <b>Square footage:</b> 1,976 <b>Price per square foot:</b> \$28.34 <b>Days on market:</b> 11 <b>Builder:</b> Unknown <b>Year built:</b> 2002 <b>Bedrooms:</b> 0 <b>Bathrooms:</b> 0	<b>Community:</b> Rancho El Dorado <b>Features:</b> Covered patio, desert landscaping in front, cable TV and high-speed internet available <b>Listing agent:</b> Clay Strawn, Legion Realty <b>Selling agent:</b> Daniel C. Valdez, Westgate Homes Realty
--	--

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 2. 45147 W. Lexington Ave., Heritage District | \$80,000  |
| 3. 40108 W. Sanders Way, Homestead North      | \$127,000 |
| 4. 40001 W. Sanders Way, Homestead North      | \$148,900 |
| 5. 43293 W. Cowpath Road, Senita              | \$149,000 |

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

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Source: City of Maricopa

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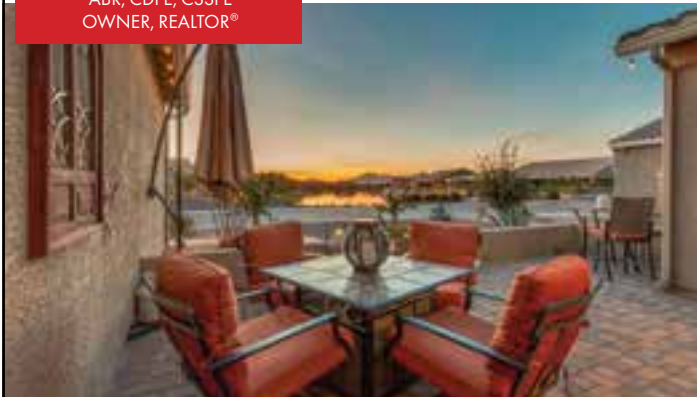
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# Peppers: The real story on growing in Maricopa

By Al Brandenburg

Did you know that peppers have genders?

As an example, three-lobed bells are considered males and are best used for frying. Four-lobed bells are considered female and are best for stuffing and salads. Non-bells are all males.

That said, peppers are a breeze to grow. Basically, you plant them and watch them take off. But, for maximum production, a little pampering helps.

Plant peppers in a bed that receives full sun (at least six hours a day) and contains plenty of organic matter. Unless you want all hot peppers, keep hots and sweets well separated. Depending on the size of the pepper varieties planted, spacing should be 12-18 inches apart. Most sweet peppers mature in 60-90 days; hot peppers can take up to 150 days.

Keep in mind, however, the number of days to maturity stated on the seed packet refers to the days after transplanting until the plant produces a full-sized fruit.

## Prepare the soil and plant

The right site and soil will make a world of difference in how peppers do. Choose a sunny, well-drained spot where peppers haven't grown recently. Peppers like warmth, so wait to plant until all frost danger has passed. If possible, set out your peppers on a cloudy day to help reduce stress on the plants. Set them a bit deeper than they were in their containers.

Consider staking or caging some varieties so that the stems do not break in strong winds or because of a large fruit load.



Al Brandenburg

After you plant the pepper seedlings, water them well. In addition, to maintain a proper balance, before transplanting, work some organic matter into the soil to enhance moisture retention.

## Feed your soil

Peppers and tomatoes are heavy feeders, so they need plenty of organic food. I suggest a balanced vegetable fertilizer such as Miracle Grow or Arizona's Best Vegetable fertilizer. Water well after feeding.

Warning: Don't over-fertilize. This tends to make the pepper plants develop lush foliage at the expense of fruit production. If you work 5-10-10 fertilizer into the soil prior to transplanting, that's probably sufficient.

## Water & Mulch

Throughout the growing season, make sure your pepper plants receive adequate watering. Deep watering every three to four days is better than a short water every day. Check the peppers often during periods of extreme heat and drought. The trick is to maintain adequate water without drowning a plant or drying it out.

You can use mulch to prevent excessive evaporation from the soil during the dry summer months.



Do not overwater. Peppers are thirsty plants. They need a moderate supply of water from the moment they sprout until the end of the season. However, peppers won't tolerate a saturated soil that waterlogs their roots. The soil must drain well yet hold enough moisture to keep the plants in production.

## Pinch off first flowers and use companion plants

As difficult as it might be for you (and me), pinch off any early blossoms that appear on pepper plants. This won't harm the plants. It helps them direct their energy into growing and results in lots of large fruits later in the season instead of just a few small fruits early on. Spray Neem Oil on the underside of the leaves to help control our favorite pests, white flies. It's claimed that growing basil next to peppers boosts their flavor and may help to repel some common garden pests. Plus, you get pesto!

## Harvest

You can harvest the peppers at their immature green or purple stage, but the flavor will be sweeter if you wait for them to turn their mature color — usually red, but sometimes golden yellow or orange. Italian fryers and jalapeños are possible exceptions as many people prefer the flavor of these peppers when they are full size but still green. To harvest the peppers, cut them off with hand pruners. Pulling them off by hand can damage the plant. Now get ready to enjoy your stuffed peppers as well as sausage, onion and pepper sandwiches.... yummy! 🍴

Al Brandenburg is a Master Gardener and Maricopa resident.

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# Study shows housing growth possibilities

By Michelle Chance

In a presentation to the Maricopa Unified School District last month, Phoenix-based consulting firm Applied Economics estimated the impact future housing development could have on enrollment.

Consultants Rick Brammer and Don Graves said Maricopa has a higher concentration of young families and school-age persons compared to other metropolitan areas in Arizona.

The study prompted the district governing board to assign future discussions on its agenda surrounding the possibility of constructing new schools, but the 45-page report provides a snapshot of what Maricopa could experience:

- 1,200 new housing units built every year for the next five years.
- 13,200 new homes in the next decade.



- Current trends reflect those from the pre-recession era Maricopa: most housing is entry-level.
- Santa Rosa Springs and Glennwilde are forecast to have the highest production

- levels in the next few years.
- Future development in Glennwilde by D.R. Horton and Fulton Homes is expected to provide economic diversity with slightly higher price points.
- In 2017, Fulton purchased 474 lots in Glennwilde and is currently developing.
- Additional construction in Glennwilde is close to completion by D.R. Horton.
- 400 lots are expected to build-out at Santa Rosa Springs within three years, including 109 homesites at Oasis at Santa Rosa Springs by Costa Verde Homes.
- Santa Rosa Springs' price points are expected to attract young families.
- If future construction projects become a reality, the city could grow by 42,000 housing sites in 20 years.
- At the elementary level, the report predicts in the next five years, new housing developments will impact enrollment growth at Saddleback and Santa Cruz elementary schools.
- Brammer suggested the board may have to consider redistricting those areas or adding facilities to accommodate new students.

# Improved 'curb appeal' often leads to quicker sale

By Dayv Morgan



While there is often a lot of focus on getting a home ready to sell by improving and cleaning the interior, what a buyer sees on the exterior is equally as important. When I take potential buyers to look at a home, they begin making their decision on whether they like the property from the moment they get out of the car. Here are some focus areas and simple things you can do to improve the first impression of your home:

purchase and install it in a 10-by-20-foot area for about \$300.

## Flowers

A burst of color from some flowers can provide a nice accent amid all the shades of tan paint and rocks. Try adding two or three small pots with some flowers on the front porch. The majority of yards already have an automatic landscape watering system, and you could easily connect it so that they are watered and maintained without any extra effort.



Dayv Morgan

cars and unkempt yards, they won't want to buy in that area despite how much they love the home itself. Unfortunately, you can't pick your neighbors, but you have nothing to lose

by politely asking them to keep their dog inside during the day or requesting they move the cars farther down the street until the home sells. And, even if you had to pay \$100 for a landscaper to clean up someone else's yard, it sure beats making a price reduction of \$5,000 or more because the house isn't selling.

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

844-811-7653  
DayvMorgan@gmail.com

## Neighbors

The surrounding houses and yards can also impact the value of a home. If a buyer hears barking dogs or sees streets crowded with

## Paint

Over time, the exterior paint will fade and make the house look older than it is. Instead of repainting a whole house, you can give it a fresh look by repainting the trim or "pop outs" around the windows. This shouldn't cost more than a few hundred dollars but will vary depending on the size of the house.

## Porch

As buyers are standing on the porch waiting for the front door to be unlocked, they are examining the area around them. Make sure the ground is swept, cobwebs are removed from the ceiling, and lights are dusted and cleaned of any bugs. Also invest \$10 to \$20 in a new welcome mat and give the front door a fresh coat of paint, if needed.

## Lawn

The majority of homes have desert landscape, so if you have grass in the front yard it can really be a nice feature. However, this time of year, most lawns have grass that is still dormant from the winter and filled with weeds. If the grass does not look lush and green, then the buyer will assume it is too much work to maintain and view it as a negative. Replacing the existing grass with new sod is not that expensive — a professional landscaper can

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# How to train the core



By Aaron Gilbert

Training the core is where most people run into trouble, because they try to train the core like a beast — with heavy weights, or a full range of motion. However, the key to core training for a healthy back is muscle endurance (not strength) and stability (not mobility).

In most day-to-day activities and the sports we play the core's job is to stop movement.

For example: You open a door — your core stops your spine from twisting as you pull the door open with your arm. You kick a football — your core stops you from keeling forward.

Pause for a moment and think about what that means. You want your core to be stable and resist movement. So why are we stretching, over-bending, and turning ourselves into pretzels?

Try these four exercises for a healthy and resilient back — modified curl-up, stir the pot, side bridge and bird dog.

**The modified curl-up** is different from a regular curl-up because one leg is bent while the other is straight; the hands are under the lower back and only lift the head and neck.

**Stir the pot** is a plank-type exercise done on a stability ball with the added challenge of stirring the pot (moving your arms as if you're trying to stir a large pot). If that is too hard, you can just do a plank on the ball or even on the floor.

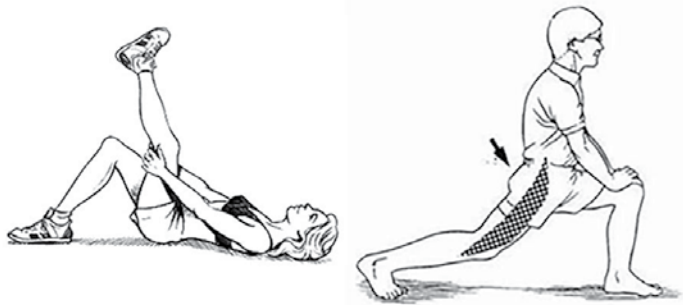
**Side bridge** is a side plank from the elbows.

**Bird dog** starts on all fours, like a dog. You lift the opposite arm and leg, focusing on stiffening the core. To make this harder instead of just lifting your arm and leg straight up and down, make squares at the top of the movement.

Keys to the exercises are to keep the tightening part of the exercise to 10 seconds and add reps to progress in the exercises, and to maintain form — once you can't keep your spine tight, stop.



Aaron Gilbert



## Stretching for a healthy back?

While lower-back stretching is a no-no, certain stretches to keep the hips mobile are important.

**Hamstrings:** The key to hamstring stretching is to bend only at the hip only and not the back. A good hamstring stretch that supports the lower back is to lie on your back and lift one leg up, keep the knee slightly bent and use a belt around your foot to pull the your lower leg toward your chest. Don't worry, you don't have to be Gumby. If you can get your leg perpendicular to the floor, you're doing well.

**Hip flexors (front of hip):** Lunging with your hands over your head stretches the hip flexors (muscles in front of the hip), but remember to keep your back straight and torso upright, the front shin perpendicular to the floor, the rear knee pointed down and focus on stretching the front of your hip (squeezing the glute of the rear leg will help).

Aaron Gilbert, CSCS, owns Longevity Athletics.

520-261-4661  
Aaron@LongevityAthletics.com

# One small change

By Andrew H. Jones  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Sun Life Family Health Center



A community comes alive when the residents share their love for their neighbors and friends enough to help improve it. Helping your community helps to build stronger bonds within which can make life better for your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors whom you share your life with. The more love you pour in, the better it will become.

Implementing positive small lifestyle changes are one of the most effective ways to improve your overall health and well-being. Even the smallest positive changes can help form healthy habits. We, the employees at Sun Life Family Health Center, want to offer a few suggested small tips and changes to help you on your journey toward a healthier you. We call them #OneSmallChange. Creating a healthy lifestyle doesn't have to be some extravagantly outrageous New Year's resolution that makes or breaks you. Adding in just #OneSmallChange incrementally will add up and make a Big difference.

**DANIELLE JENNINGS, WHNP-BC —**  
Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

**#OneSmallChange:**

**Touch it Once**

After reading an article about the habits of tidy people I have adopted the "touch it once" strategy. Rather than putting stuff on a chair or leaving things where they might have to be moved again. I put things where they belong the first time I pick it up. Dishes don't go in the sink, they go straight into the dishwasher. Shoes are taken off where they belong. Trying to get my kids to adopt this has been more of a struggle.



**PAULINE MILLER — RN Team Lead**

**#OneSmallChange:**

**Work Hard — Play Hard**

Make sure to reward yourself for your hard work, drink lots of water and get enough rest!



**BERONICA M. — Medical Assistant**

**#OneSmallChange:**

**One Prayer**

One prayer a day will make a huge difference.



**SONIA O. — Front Desk Registration Clerk**

**#OneSmallChange: Do a Small Act of Kindness for Others**

Pick a few small acts of kindness and do one a day for a stranger, or pick something small to make a loved one feel loved. It will have a big impact on others and get you out of the narrow self-centered perspective that most of us get stuck in.



**MAISEY B. — Front Desk Registration Clerk**

**#OneSmallChange: Less focus on electronics**

Limit time usage of all electronics including tablets, gaming systems, cell phones and television for everyone in the household. There is so much focus on social media and gaming in today's world that we tend to forget about that good quality family time.



**ELIZABETH A. — Site Manager**

**#OneSmallChange: Be The Change You Wish To See**

Eye contact and a smile goes a long way for many having a bad day.



**DANA RODRIGUEZ, CPNP, PhD —**

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

**#OneSmallChange: Cut Down on Sugar Intake**

Look at the sugar in the food and drinks you consume. Start by reading food labels. Pay special attention to the sugar and carbohydrates. Start by eliminating sugary beverages like juice and soda.



**BERNADETTE F. — Licensed Practical Nurse**

**#OneSmallChange: Encourage Positivity**

Encourage physical activity for all of the family, there is a website called MGR: MesaGilbertRocks. Basically it is like geocaching but instead you look for painted rocks which you can take home for your garden, house or wherever you wish to decorate or you can re-hide them for someone else to find. Libraries, Parks, trails are great places to look/hide. Get creative! Let your children paint the rocks.



Encourage hydration especially among the homeless, place 1—2 bottles of water and a protein bar in a Ziploc bag and hand out to those in need. You can include a happy thought!

**BRITTANY K. —**  
Registered Medical Assistant

**#OneSmallChange:**

**Enjoy Life**

Build a healthier and more enjoyable life by taking a walk to relax and enjoying what's around you. Bring your kids or pets with you to make it more fun.



**LUCY V. — Clinical Laboratory Assistant I**  
**#OneSmallChange: Good Mood**

**To Start Your Day**

Make your alarm clock tone your favorite song, so it can help you to get up easier in the morning while bettering your mood to start your day. The best way to start a conversation with a person you don't know is to start with giving them a complement. Not only will that break the ice but it also makes them more confident and you even more like-able.



**SHAYLA S. — Medical Assistant**

**#OneSmallChange:**

**Time With Family Well Spent**

Turn off all media 3 hours before bed and spend 1on1 time with family.



**NICHELLE T. — Front Desk Registration Clerk**

**#OneSmallChange:**

**Live—Love Well**

Treat people the way you want to be treated. Live every day like it could be your last.



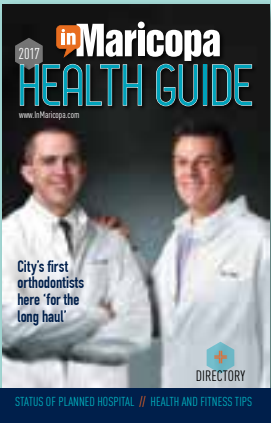
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# Career in National Parks honed retiree's skills in archiving history

By Raquel Hendrickson

When Dorothy Shally Charles started working for the National Park Service, singing was a job requirement.

"I told my boss I couldn't sing. He said, 'No, that's what we do.'"

Still in college, Charles was a seasonal naturalist at Grand Canyon National Park in 1965. The naturalists told visitors what was going on, sang them campfire-style songs and then presented nature programs. Being a rookie, Charles was already petrified without suddenly learning she had to lead some songs, but she did it through the summer.

That job requirement, along with the dresses, low-heeled pumps and nylons necessary for female staff, eventually went away during Charles' 25-year career. Besides Grand Canyon, her work took her to Badlands National Monument (which later became a national park) in South Dakota and Death Valley National Monument in California.

Her time specifically at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley culminated in co-writing a book about the historic hacienda. April 2, she is scheduled to talk about Scotty's Castle in a presentation to the Maricopa Historical Society.

Dorothy and her husband Kent Charles have lived in Tortosa since 2011. About a year after her introduction to the city, Dorothy Charles became an important part of the society's archival work.

"I'd work with Dorothy on any project and know that it would be well organized and a project well worth doing," said Joan Garrett, who has been a cohort in making sure the historical society's assets are managed correctly for future generations.

Growing up the San Francisco Bay area, Charles credits her mother with her love of the outdoors. The family commonly did a lot of hiking and camping and spent summers with grandparents in the Sierras. When her father had his annual two weeks' vacation from New York Life Insurance Company, he would drive up to meet them and take them camping at even higher elevations.



Mason Callejas

**Dorothy Charles, a Tortosa resident, is using her past career with the National Park Service to help archive items for Maricopa Historical Society. She will give a presentation on Scotty's Castle at the library April 2.**

Dorothy's first job was clerical work as a teenager for New York Life. While attending Humboldt State College (later university) majoring in outdoor resources, she started working summers at Grand Canyon, despite being uncomfortable with heights.

"When nobody was around I'd hang onto the rails," she said.

Her work involved "point duty," during which rangers were placed at locations along the rim where visitors typically parked. They would explain what they were seeing, direct them where they needed to go, pick up trash, butts and diapers and even have some latrine duty.

Charles was giving a presentation at Grand Canyon Village in 1969 when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

"I had them bring me a radio, and the moon was coming up behind me, and we talked about this man walking up there on the moon," she said. "I'll always remember where I was then. It was sort of anticlimactic saying, 'Well, now we have some nature walks you can go on.'"

In her early years at the canyon, she spent the winter months working at Death Valley National Monument. Her title was park technician.

National Geographic published a lengthy

feature on Death Valley in its January 1970 issue. Dorothy can be seen in two of David Hiser's photographs — one in her skirt and flats directing hikers in Mosaic Canyon and one bundled up and hiking through snow on Telescope Peak.

Her work in Death Valley included research and fact-checking to give visitors a true history of Scotty's Castle. In 1973, she and maintenance leader William Bolton wrote the 40-page book "Scotty's Castle," published by Flying Spur Press.

The "castle," which was under construction 1922-1931 and never quite finished, averaged 100,000 visitors a year before a devastating flood in 2015. It is not expected to reopen until 2020, so the closest most can get to understanding the unique hacienda is through books like "Scotty's Castle."

"We tried to not only make it fun but to tell the true story of Scotty's Castle," Charles said. "He had stuff brought over from Germany and Italy, Majorcan rugs throughout the castle made special for it."

In his introduction, former Superintendent Robert J. Murphy said Dorothy "researched facts pertinent to the text or guide script; checked on paintings and other historical items in the

Castle; interviewed former workers and visitors who know [Albert] Johnson and Scotty [Walter Scott], or knew of events at the Castle when they were living there. She also assisted in identifying and preparing items for shipment that were in need of restoration, as well as finding qualified specialists for the purpose of cleaning and repairing delicate Castle furnishings."

That job description would come to sound very familiar to members of the Maricopa Historical Society 40 years later.

Dorothy's career path changed when she met a new procurement clerk named Kent Charles in Death Valley during a "long, hot summer." She married Kent in 1975 after she completed ranger school. She continued working with NPS part-time until they followed Kent's career to Seattle for a year and then to Denver for 31 years.

She said her years at Scotty's Castle peaked her interest in history. When the Charleses moved to Maricopa, she decided joining the historical society was the best way to get to know the background of the area.

At the time, Mary Lou Smith needed help putting together historical displays in the library. Dorothy Charles put her past organizational and display knowledge to use

and was soon the MHS archivist, working closely with Judi Shirk and Joan Garrett, who calls Dorothy "absolutely one of the most organized people I have ever known."

They gather, list, tag and organize items donated or acquired by the historical society.

"The listing of these items has been tedious but with the three of us working together and using Dorothy's organized listings, it's also been educational for us," Garrett said. "We are pleased that the items that people have entrusted to us are now carefully listed and we know exactly where they are and all the information we have concerning each one. She never seems to tire and, with a little banter back and forth, the hours have flown by and we've accomplished more and more each week."

Charles said her past work with NPS has helped her prepare information from the historical society, research and manage the collection.

"My background has helped with adapting to the desert and adapting to the things that need to be done with the historical society, which is also newer, so we were starting at the bottom," she said. "So, I guess I like the challenge."

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# Computer use by seniors may be good for mental health

By Al Brandenburg

What is the fastest growing group of new computer users? Teenagers? No, it's senior citizens. And did you know it's good for senior citizens' mental health to learn how to use a computer?

Seniors who become adept at and use a computer appear to have better mental health and fewer depressive symptoms than older adults who aren't technologically connected. That's the finding of a recent research study, presented last August to the American Psychological Association.

The data regarding computer use and depressive symptoms was collected as part of a study designed to determine the changes over time in physical health, mental health and social activity of



Al Brandenburg

older adults living in lower Manhattan. The research was sponsored by Village Care of New York, a not-for-profit, long-term care provider. Villagers refers to persons living in Manhattan's Greenwich Village and environs, representing the core group of individuals being followed over the course of the study, which began in 1998.

The study's findings said the researchers decided to look into the impact of the growing use of computers by seniors on the hypothesis those using computers would report fewer depressive symptoms than non-users. Through observations at one of the senior information centers in New York City, computer use there seemed to give older adults a greater



**Maricopa Multi Cultural Consortium will be providing free educational programs once a month on various subjects important to seniors. A talk on Alzheimer's disease's effects and challenges on the patient and the family as well as potential prevention and treatments is April 4 at 2 p.m. at Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship, 20800 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 108.**

connection with the world around them.

"Given the social and informational nature of older adults' computer practices — e-mail, chat rooms and health information-gathering, for example — it seemed likely that this would be beneficial to an individual's overall mental health," the study said. Computer-using seniors reported significantly fewer depressive symptoms than the seniors who did not use the computer, regardless of the number of hours they spent on their computer.

Participants in the survey included an urban community sample of 206 adults over age 65 (with a mean age of 80) randomly selected from three ZIP codes in lower Manhattan.

So, you should encourage your mother, father, grandfather or favorite aunt to start using their computer more. And if they don't own a computer yet, why not help them buy one? It will help keep their minds sharp. ☎

Source: [TodaysSeniorsNetwork.com](http://TodaysSeniorsNetwork.com)

Al Brandenburg is secretary of Maricopa Multi Cultural Consortium.

# Passport changes include higher fees

By Joan Koczor

U.S. passport fees are going up \$10 on April 2. Adult passport books will be \$145, children 16 and younger \$115.

The less expensive passport cards, which are good for border crossings and travel by sea to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean but are not valid for international air travel, will increase to \$65 for adults and \$50 for children.

The price hike is due to an increase in the passport acceptance, or "execution," fee. The U.S. State Department says it is increasing the passport acceptance fee from \$25 to \$35 to better cover the costs of processing passport applications.

The \$10 increase does not apply to passport renewals by mail. Application fees, the biggest part of the cost of a passport, are not increasing.

This year, travelers from some states may need a passport card and not just a boarding pass and driver's license to get through domestic

airport security. While Arizona is already compliant with the REAL ID Act, which

went into effect in January, other states received an extension to become compliant.

Ohio, for instance, is scheduled to become compliant in July, and

Michigan will be compliant in October. Until then, travelers from those and other non-compliant states may need to show TSA agents a passport card.

REAL ID established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses (and ID cards) and prohibits the Transportation Security Administration from accepting cards that don't meet the standards.

Passport cards were largely designed to be a smaller, less expensive alternative to a



Joan Koczor



traditional passport book. It serves the same purpose as a regular passport book in that it allows you to prove both your U.S. citizenship and your identity while you're traveling around the world. Instead of being a large book such as a passport book, a passport card is similar in size to a traditional credit card.

It also contains a radio frequency identification chip, also commonly referred to as RFID, as a security measure to help protect against identity theft. ☎

☎ [Travel.State.gov](http://Travel.State.gov)

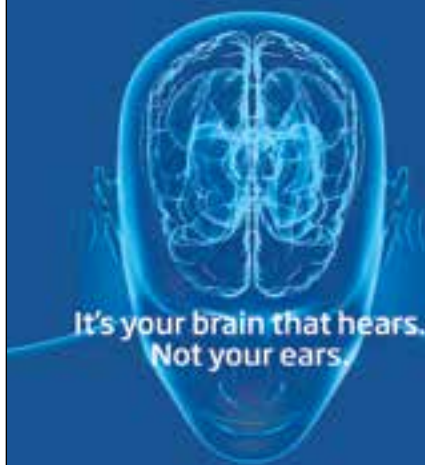
Joan Koczor is a senior advocate and a member of the Age-Friendly Maricopa Advisory Board.

Source: <https://go.usa.gov/xn7Ph>

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# Things to do

APR  
19-21



Mason Callejas

## MHS stages musical ‘The Baker’s Wife’

By Raquel Hendrickson

After years of staging musicals that have had their runs on Broadway and are engrained in the musical-theater psyche, Maricopa High School Theatre Company is tackling a far less known show for its spring musical.

“The Baker’s Wife” by Stephen Schwartz and Joseph Stein has a long history that includes a brief run on London’s West End but never a production on Broadway. Through regional and international productions, it was changed over the years and gained a cult following.

### IF YOU GO

**What:** “The Baker’s Wife”

**Who:** MHS Theatre Company

**When:** April 19-21, 7 p.m.,

April 21, 2 p.m.

**Where:** Performing Arts Center, 45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**How much:** \$7 adults;

\$5 students

Set in provincial France, the story opens when a baker finally arrives in a squabbling village long without a bread baker. While welcoming the baker, gossipy villagers take note of his much-younger wife Genevieve. A handsome, young man pursues Genevieve, who resists his advances — for a while.

“She’s challenging, because she does something that I personally would not ever do,” said junior Kjirsten Lemon, who plays Genevieve. “I have to play her like, to me, that’s what’s right.”

The humble baker’s humble response to what befalls him is censure to the villagers, who take another look at their own relationships.

“It’s a sweet story,” said teacher Cynthia Calhoun, who is directing the musical.

She said though the show is not well-known, its creators are. Schwartz wrote a collection of hits, from “Pippin” to “Wicked,” and Stein is revered in theater circles for “Fiddler on the Roof.”

“When you listen to the first song, *Chanson*, it’s so beautiful, especially with Britney [Montgomery] singing it,” Lemon said. “Right when I heard that song, I thought, ‘Oh, this is going to be a great musical.’”



Mason Callejas

**Left: director Cynthia Calhoun rehearses with the students.**

**Above: Antonio Gonzales is the baker and Kjirsten Lemon is wife in “The Baker’s Wife.”**

### CAST LIST

Aimable ... Antonio Gonzales

Genevieve ... Kjirsten Lemon

Denise ... Britney Montgomery

Claude ... Carlos Aguilar

M. Martine (teacher)

... Stirling Luckey

Therese ... Aidyn Curtis

Pierre ... Jae Luna

Doumergue ... Genevieve Burno

Antoine ... Kobe Hinton

Barnaby ... Logan Spaulding

Hortense ... Taryn Story

M. le Cure (Priest) ...

Douglas Moulton

Marquis ... Collin Martin

Dominique ... Brandon Korittky

Philippe ... Emma Schrader

Inez ... Ivie Keene

Simone ... Chaienne Zoller

Nicole ... Alexia Esquivel

The Villagers ... Emmeline

Boothe, Mary Brokenshire, Keara

Burke, Aleyna Call, Isabella

Chitwood, Zephania Coleman,

Morgan Cutrara, Astraya

Ellyson, Autumn Fausz, Fallon

Fruchey, Angelina George,

Katie Gilmore, Emily Goncalves,

Wynter Grissom, Hailey Gross,

Tamara Hanania, Katie Hanks,

Azeri Hanson, Makayla Horn,

Scotland JanFrancisco, Princess

Jimenez, Ashlyn Kelley, Rachel

Knight, Dakota Larson, Haley

Lemon, Isabelle Lopez, Aubrey

Maas, Kylie Nolan, Michael

O’Dell, Andrea Ortiz, Caterina

Rizzi, Chloe Seekings, Heidi

Smith, Katelyn Stroschein,

Francis Trast, Alex-Ann Velasco

# Things to do

## APRIL CALENDAR

**1**

### Easter Community Sunrise Service

6:30 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**3**

### City Council Work Session

6 p.m., Maricopa City Hall  
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

### City Council Regular Session

7 p.m., Maricopa City Hall  
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

### Engineering Night at CAC

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

**4**

### Alzheimer’s Disease Presentation

2 p.m., Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship  
20800 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 108

**5**

### Art & Entrepreneurship Mixer

5:30 p.m., Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship  
20800 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 108

**6**

### 8-Bits

4 p.m., Maricopa Public Library  
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

### Mr. MHS Pageant

7 p.m., Performing Arts Center  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**7**

### Lions Club Golf Scramble

7:30 a.m., The Duke Golf Course at Rancho El Dorado  
42260 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway

### Maricopa Music Fest

1 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**8**

### Pete Masiel & Deb Grosbusch Memorial Ride

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

**10**

### Lions Club Meeting

5 p.m., Copper Sky Police Substation  
17985 N. Greythorne Drive

### Kindergarten Roundup

5:30 p.m., all Maricopa Unified School District elementary schools

**11**

### MUSD Governing Board Meeting

6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District  
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

**14**

### 2nd Saturday Maricopa Market

8 a.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy  
19265 N. Porter Road

### 5K Poker Run

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

### Sequoia Pathway Prom Night

6 p.m., The Duke at Rancho El Dorado  
42660 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway

**17**

### City Council Work Session

6 p.m., Maricopa City Hall  
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

### City Council Regular Session

7 p.m., Maricopa City Hall  
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

**19-21**

### MHS Musical “The Baker’s Wife”

7 p.m. (2 p.m. Saturday matinee), Maricopa Performing Arts Center  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**20**

### Family Camping in the Park

4 p.m.-10 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**24**

### Lions Club Meeting

5 p.m., Copper Sky Police Substation  
17985 N. Greythorne Drive

**25**

### MUSD Governing Board Meeting

6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District  
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

7th ANNUAL

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APR  
28

Raquel Hendrickson

## Golf tourney raising funds for teachers, Chromebooks

Sequoia Pathway Academy hosts its second annual Big Drive for Education Golf Scramble on April 28.

The goal is to raise \$10,000 for teacher continuing-education opportunities and 30 Google Chromebooks in the classrooms.

For \$100, participants will receive a round of golf with cart, swag bag, lunch and adult beverage, as well as the opportunity to bid on silent auction items, photo fun booth and various hole contests and prizes. Sponsorships are available from \$300 hole sponsors to \$100 event partners. Organizers are also looking for items to be included in the raffle and auction.

Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. Shotgun start is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. at The Duke at Rancho El Dorado.

A charter school, Sequoia Pathway Academy opened in Maricopa in 2009 as a K-8 campus, later expanding to high school. This year the graduating class of 74 students will include university acceptances at Villanova, Johns Hopkins, Michigan State and Brown. Ten percent of the graduating class will be attending Northern Arizona University on a Lumberjack scholarship, and the sports program has had 21 athletes sign and commit to play at the college level since 2014.

Chromebooks are notebook laptop computers that store most of their data on the cloud and allow for collaborative team projects and other shared information. They have been particularly popular in schools for education-based apps.

SPA wants to send up to 10 teachers to professional development.

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Big Drive for Education Golf Scramble  
**Who:** Sequoia Pathway Academy  
**When:** April 28, 7:30 a.m.  
**Where:** The Duke at Rancho El Dorado, 42660 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway  
**How much:** \$100 per golfer  
**Info:** [AlbertoHinmar@gmail.com](mailto:AlbertoHinmar@gmail.com) or [KAnderso1@fmi.com](mailto:KAnderso1@fmi.com)

## Things to do

### 27

**Multigenerational Game Night**  
6:30 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

### 28

**Big Drive for Education Golf Scramble**  
7 a.m., The Duke Golf Course at Rancho El Dorado  
42260 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway

### Hot Shots Memorial Hike

8 a.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

### May 3

**MUSD Art Walk**  
6 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District  
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

### May 5

**Maricopa Historical Society Golf Tournament**  
7 a.m., The Duke Golf Course at Rancho El Dorado  
42260 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway

### 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

**Coffee with Friends of the Maricopa Library**  
1 p.m., Maricopa Public Library  
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

### Celebrate Recovery Coffee & Karaoke

5 p.m., Maricopa Community Church  
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

### Al-Anon Meeting

7 p.m., Community of Hope Church  
45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

### WEDNESDAYS

**Babytime**  
9:30 a.m., Maricopa Public Library  
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

### Grief Journey

2 p.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.

### AWANA

6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of Maricopa  
18705 N. John Wayne Parkway

### THURSDAYS

**Color Me Calm**  
9 a.m., Maricopa Public Library  
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

### 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.

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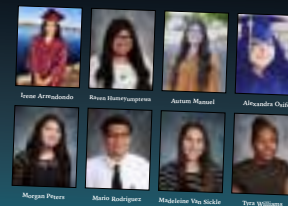
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Ace Hardware.....	IBC
Affiliated Cardiologist of Arizona.....	7
Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club .....	25
Banner Casa Grande Medical Center .....	15
Be Awesome Youth Coalition.....	2
Brutinel Plumbing & Electrical .....	56
Caliche Senior Living.....	49
Central Arizona College .....	26
Comfort Keepers .....	44
Copple & Copple, P.C.....	3
DCM Medical Supplies, LLC.....	26
Dignity Health.....	11
Druwest Landscaping.....	56
Electrical District No. 3.....	56
Far Horizons Travel.....	49
F.O.R. Maricopa Food Bank.....	51
Golf Cart Parts Company .....	35
Harrah's Ak-Chin .....	13
The Hearing Centers of Arizona.....	50
HomeSmart Success   Brian French.....	42
HomeSmart Success   Dayv Morgan .....	41
Housing Around AZ powered by MREC/	
Jase Leonard .....	45
InMaricopa .....	43
J Warren Funeral Services.....	26
Lizard Heights Glass .....	23
Maricopa Eye Care .....	39
Maricopa Foot and Ankle.....	19
Maricopa Historical Society .....	53
McLaughlin Air.....	39
Mr. Appliance of Maricopa.....	45
Mr. Electric .....	41
Native Grill & Wings.....	31
Orbitel Communications.....	1
Pizza Hut.....	55
Premier Orthodontics .....	5
Relay for Life.....	35
San Tan Oral Surgery.....	49
State Farm   Lance Lane .....	55
Sun Life Family Health Center.....	IFC
UltraStar Multi-tainment Center.....	BC
Victor Moreno Photography.....	53
Vincent J Morrissey Insurance.....	51
Water & Ice.....	41
Your AZ Realty Guy   Jeremy Winegard .....	41



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