

A woman in a dark blue U.S. Navy uniform, including a cap with "U.S. NAVY" on it, is seated in a car. She is looking directly at the camera. Behind her is a large American flag.

Maricopa

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November 2019

HOME

Thanksgiving
brings taste of
autumn

BUSINESS

Estrella Gin
gets a boost

THINGS TO DO

What is a
Turkey Trot?

WILY VETERAN

Navy WAVE found
adventure in WWII

GOVERNMENT

Pinal County vs.
Big Pharma



Events
calendar

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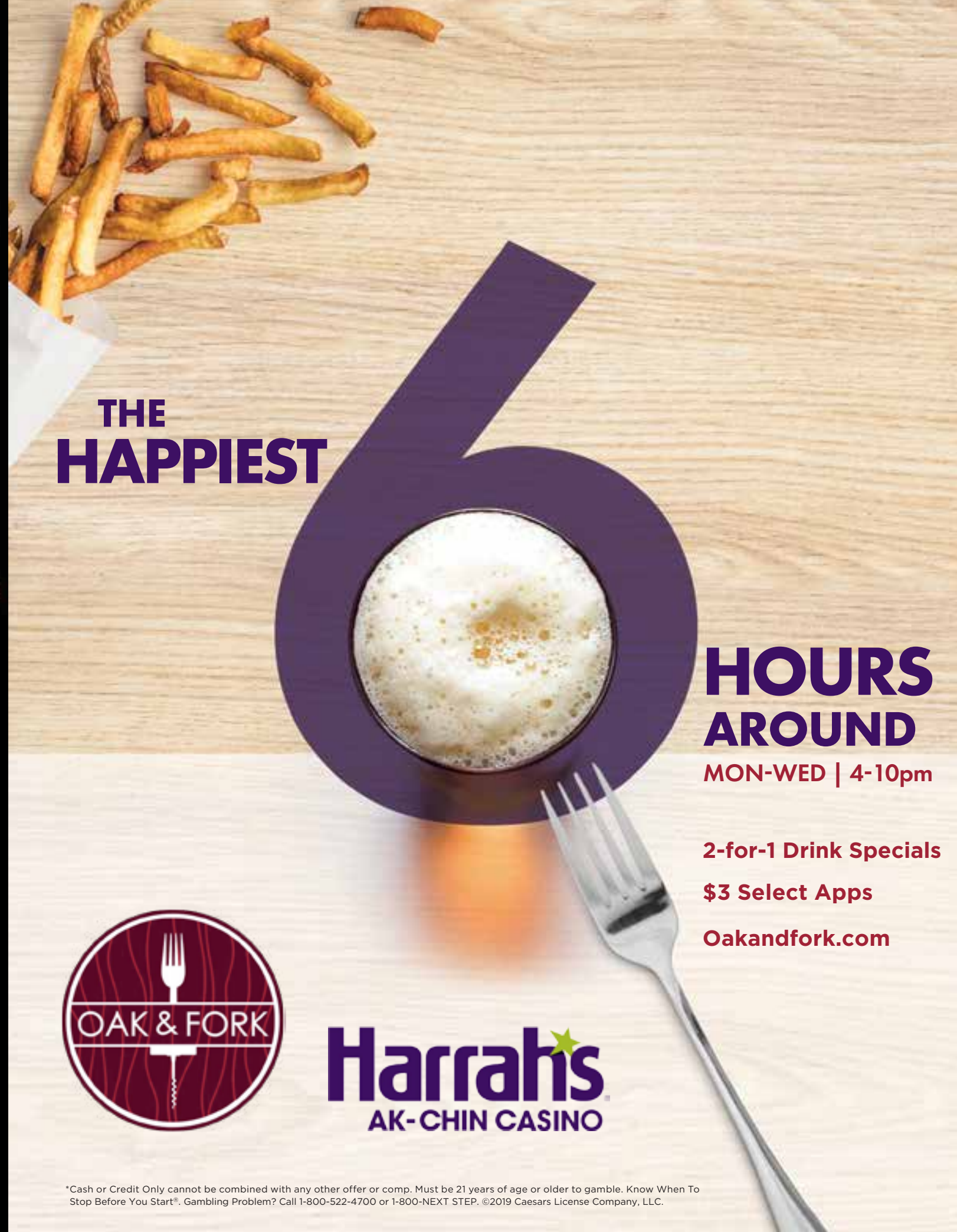
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Season of thanks

November is our country's great reminder to give thanks to veterans and to give thanks in general.

In this month's issue, we shine the light on Maricopa's military veterans, all of whom will be celebrated in the community's annual Veterans Day Parade. Learn about 3rd Class Petty Officer Mary F. Holmes Abrahams and what it meant to be in the Navy WAVES during World War II. Also in her 90s, Caroline Mill of American Legion Post 133 Auxiliary, which coordinates the parade, shares what it was like to be on the homefront while her husband fought overseas.

Grateful for home and family? Join the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning and help local food banks. Find out how inside. And you can also pick up a new recipe for your big dinner. If you really like your family, discover how to learn the story of your ancestors.



Grateful for the economy? Check out what businesses are planting themselves to grow in Maricopa.

This issue also looks at challenges ahead for Maricopa. Have you joined the debate on how to "fix" State Route 347 and what to do about overcrowded Maricopa High School? Do you know how Pinal County is taking on opioid manufacturers? It's all in this issue.

Also, meet the new county manager, see what's happening in the Heritage District and learn how Cub Scouts put their training to good use in an emergency.

Happy reading,

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History



Victor Moreno

What goes around comes around

After a 1931 fire destroyed Art Deal's hotel and the railroad station, Jack and Clara Burkett decided to build another hotel. It was located at the southwest junction of the railroad tracks and Maricopa Road on the lot now occupied by F.O.R. Maricopa's blue business barn. The new Maricopa Hotel included a basement, main floor and upstairs dance hall. It was reportedly the first place to buy liquor in Maricopa after Prohibition ended. The Burketts later added a café on the south side. For a time, the hotel also served as the post office. The hotel was destroyed by a fire in 1954.

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Our Lady of Grace parish is showing off its nearly complete installation of stained glass paintings.

Raquel Hendrickson

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RAQUEL HENDRICKSON
She moved back to Arizona from Missouri in the middle of the 1998 home run race.



AL BRANDENBURG
He is a transplanted New Yorker who has taken on local senior issues.



REBA COOK
She has been gardening in Arizona since 1975, creating her own unique style.

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What's behind MUSD's call for Prop 437

Story and photo
by Joycelyn Cabrera

Proposition 437 introduces a \$68 million bond on the November ballot for the main purpose of building a second high school in Maricopa Unified School District. The bond has sparked dialogue among Maricopa residents.

Residents within MUSD debate on social media about the proposition, the differences between bonds and overrides, and whether to vote on additional educational funding after just having approved an override.

Proposition 437 seeks \$68 million bond

Nov. 5 is a special election for registered voters of MUSD 20 to vote on a general obligation bond, which will fund the construction of a

second high school and general, long-term maintenance for school district property.

General maintenance will include improvement to roofing throughout the district and repairing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems on the current high-school campus, as well as safety enhancements for schools and the purchase of buses for the district.

The Arizona School Facilities Board approved \$23 million in early 2019 specifically for construction of a new high school and additional funds for the purchase of land.

Superintendent Tracey Lopeman said \$23 million is not enough funding to build a high-functioning school with the same standards as the current Maricopa High School.

"This is for a starter high school. It is not meant to build an entire, comprehensive high school. It doesn't cover football fields,

gymnasiums, it doesn't even pay for carpet," Lopeman said. "It only pays for the beginnings of a high school, for the beginnings of a population as well. It's not meant to cover the entire investment."

The \$68 million from the bond would be added to the \$23 million already allocated.

"We envision a comprehensive high school that provides the amenities and the enriched, robust programing," Lopeman said, "while not the same as at Maricopa High School, but the same quality, the same richness."

Leftover funding after reaching the \$70 million mark will be used for general maintenance, equaling out to potentially \$13 million for district maintenance to repair older buildings, upgrading buses and maintaining HVAC systems.

Maricopa High School over capacity

MHS was originally built for 1,900 students maximum, according to Principal Brian Winter. The school is 600 students – more than 30 percent – over capacity. And the 2,500-student enrollment increases daily,

making for a total of 2,500 students, and the school continues to enroll students on a daily basis, he said.

"I think that there is a host of benefits to the proposition passing," Winter said. "A second high school in our community will create a positive rivalry with Maricopa High School and take the stress and burden of the continued growth that we're experiencing off of this campus."

Temporary portable classrooms have been implemented on campus to relieve large class sizes, which began ranging from 25 to 40 students last year.

Aiden Balt is an English teacher at Maricopa High School and a National Board-certified educator.

"I've been working for the district for 10 years, and in that 10 years the student population has essentially doubled, but our campus footprint has stayed the same," Balt said. "Many people are aware that we have contracted for 16 portable classrooms that are currently on campus. That's a temporary solution to our numbers."

Students say their quality of education is affected by the school sitting at over-capacity.

Francis Trast is a junior and part of the Air Force JROTC program at the school as well as a member of the cross-country team.

"We do have some overcrowded classrooms. The German courses is one of the ones that's particularly overcrowded, because everybody needs to get a foreign language," Trast said. "I know my German classroom has, I would say, 35–40 kids in it, so it's always kind of loud and boisterous."

Freya Abraham is a senior, currently at the top of her class. Abraham said she personally cannot focus or efficiently learn in large classrooms.

"I've heard and known students whose quality of education has taken a hit because of overcrowding," Abraham said. "When I talk to kids, even if they're not ready for that level, I recommend honors and AP solely because of the class size. With 45 people in the classroom, I don't know how you can be motivated in a class where you don't even have chairs to sit in."

Plan B?

Should Proposition 437 not get approval from voters, MUSD 20 still plans to begin working to relieve over-crowding at the high school by using the \$23 million to explore different avenues.

This could potentially include a small start-up school with basic necessities, adding classrooms on the current campus, or purchasing land before waiting on another election to turn to voters once again.

"We don't want to have overcrowded classrooms at Maricopa High School. That's one of the intentions of the bond is to build a second high school so that we can provide safe environments for all of our kids and quality instruction," Balt said.

“Our projected budget for 2020 only funds about 70% of our allotted capital items, and that is a direct effect of the cuts that have been made at the state level.”

– Aiden Balt, teacher

Financing and tax-payer money

Many residents of MUSD 20 turned to social media to voice their concerns about the resulting tax increase should the proposition pass, particularly because of the tax increase from passing an MUSD 20 override in 2016.

Informational pamphlets on the proposed bond were sent to Maricopa residents amid early-voting season. Should the bond pass, property taxes for Maricopa homeowners will increase at an assessed 10% value of residential property, according to the pamphlet.

The law uses assessed value rather than market value for determining property taxes. For instance, a property that sold for \$236,000 in October has an assessed full cash value of \$134,995.

Residential property assessed at a \$100,000 value would see a tax increase of about \$10.15 a month, creating an annual estimated cost of \$122 each year. The pamphlet specifies, "an owner-occupied residence valued by the County Assessor at \$250,000 is estimated to be \$311.91 per year" in additional taxes.

Chester Szoltysik, a 15-year Maricopa resident and director of Information Systems

at AmeriFirst Financial, previously worked in the Chicago Police Department and Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board. Szoltysik said he is concerned the growth of the community will slow down or come to a halt with tax increases.

"What you find is that property taxes increased so high over time that it forced people out of the community," Szoltysik said. "For example, in the state of Illinois, it's one of the few states that's actually seeing a population decrease. They're seeing people leave the state to go to places with lower property taxes."

Szoltysik has no children in the district and said his stance on the proposition may change if he felt a stronger obligation toward supporting additional educational funding.

Many Maricopa residents voiced their concerns on social media for tax increases in cases of fixed incomes or no personal connection with the school district.

Torri Anderson, a member of the Arizona School Boards Association and MUSD 20 Governing Board, said the state Legislature creates issues in tax increases for local districts.

"The state needs to be accountable to the taxpayers and put the money into public schools, which is taxpayer accountability," Anderson said. "It's really time for the taxpayers to start demanding that they know where their money goes."

Bonds and overrides

Money approved for an override can only be allocated for a specific purpose, just as money approved for bonds can only be utilized for specific projects.

According to the Arizona School Board Association, overrides can have money allocated for maintenance and operations expenses as temporary solutions (or with a short-term expectancy) or in supporting specific programs that may have to be renewed (such as funding salaries for additional staff).

Bonds are used to fund capital equipment that has a life-span of more than five years without getting renewed in any way, according to the ASBA. This would include funding the construction of buildings, long-lasting repairs and maintenance, and updated safety and transportation systems.

Both bonds and overrides require voter approval from residents in the district. MUSD bonds elections for capital improvements have fared better than override elections over the past 15 years.

In 2005, an override passed with 67% approval, followed by a successful bond election the following year in 2006, passing with 78% of the vote.

However, since 2009, five overrides were brought to voters and failed, with disapproval ranging from 55% to 68% up until 2016, when the first override in 10 years passed by 56% of voters to pay for more teachers and additional technology.

“The override was a maintenance and ops override that is permission from the voters to exceed the budgeted amount that is allocated to the schools by 10%. It’s maintenance and operations money that’s meant to be spent in one year,” Lopeman said. “Bonds are capital projects, things like construction of buildings, new roofs, new HVAC systems, buses... it’s things that have a lifespan of more than one year.”

Money approved for overrides, whether capital or special, cannot be re-allocated to fund bonds or anything outside of what falls under each category, according to state law. Likewise, money approved for bonds cannot be utilized for projects that would fall under an override.

The 2006 bond was the most recent long-term, capital-projects funding passed by Maricopa voters, according to county records. That bond built several schools in the district, Butterfield, Santa Cruz, Saddleback and Pima Butte elementary schools and Desert Wind Middle School.

Statewide trend

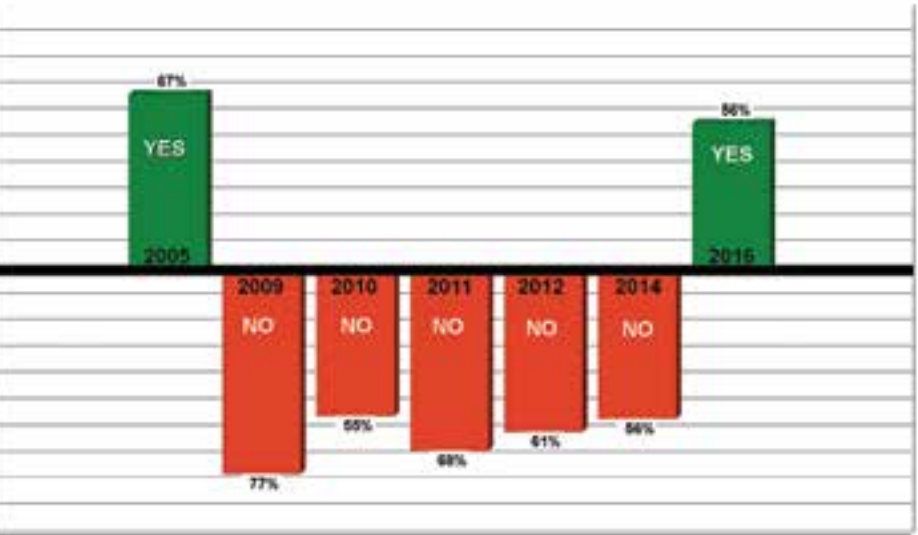
MUSD 20 is not the only district to turn to voters during the 2019 election season. School districts in all but five counties are asking voters for approval on bonds and overrides on their November ballots, according to Save Our Schools Arizona, an organization that works with the Legislature to improve Arizona public schools.

Dawn Penich-Thacker is the co-founder and communications director for Save Our Schools Arizona. Penich-Thacker weighed in on the statewide context of Proposition 437.

“Arizona politicians have cut the funding, but our needs are higher because people move here,” Penich-Thacker said. “It’s a math equation; more students need more resources, and the state hasn’t done it, so therefore we have to ask our neighbors.”

Many counties are proposing overrides and bonds for multiple school districts per county, with only a few counties voting on

MUSD Override History



“The override was a maintenance and ops override that is permission from the voters to exceed the budgeted amount that is allocated to the schools by 10%. It’s maintenance and operations money that’s meant to be spent in one year.”

– Tracey Lopeman

MUSD superintendent

one district. Pinal County will see four bonds and four overrides go to voters.

“Over the last 10 years, MUSD has incurred \$19.1 million in cuts to capital funding,” Balt said. “Our projected budget for 2020 only funds about 70% of our allotted capital items, and that is a direct effect of the cuts that have been made at the state level.”

Over 40 Arizona public school districts will be voting on bonds and overrides this Nov. 5.

“Public education serves every single child in the state. Public education services everybody, and we are a diverse, equitable education,” Anderson said. “It’s not pick and choose. We educate every child.”

Maricopa Unified School District #20 has had six bond approvals in its long history. Here are the previous three:

2006

Bond election for \$55,700,000 was issued over 5 series, the latest maturity is July 1, 2029. (\$6,220,000 authorization went unissued as it expired in November 2012). The bond helped build Butterfield, Santa Cruz, Saddleback and Pima Butte elementary schools and Desert Wind Middle School.

1996

Bond election for \$3,885,000 was issued in 3 series, the latest maturity was 2013.

1987

Bond election for \$3,000,000 was issued in 4 series, the latest maturity was 2002.

Projects Completed in 2019:

- SR 347 Overpass Project
- Six new professional level Pickleball Courts at Copper Sky
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- Welcomed an innovative private race track at Apex Motor Club

What We’re Building Next:

- 27,000 sq ft Library
- Federally funded widening project on MCG Hwy
- Pinal County Annex in the Heritage District
- Welcome monument at the city’s North Entrance on SR 347
- New business and shopping options at Copper Sky, Sonoran Creek and Madison Pointe

STATE OF THE CITY

OCTOBER 23

“If you build it, 2019 they will come”

County sues Big Pharma over opioid addiction fallout

By Raquel Hendrickson

There have been 308 reported opioid overdoses in Pinal County in the past two and a half years.

Pinal County is taking on big pharmaceutical companies over opioid addiction. The law firms of Fennemore Craig and Theodora Oringher filed suit for the county in Superior Court Sept. 25.

“We know how many pills were forced into our county,” County Attorney Kent Volkmer said. “Every pill is tracked by the federal government. Needless to say, it falls far outside of appropriate norms.”

In suing many large drug manufacturers and all pharmacies that do business in Pinal County, Volkmer said his office is not as interested in getting a monetary award from the case as it is the opportunity to litigate it in the public forum.

Among the 50 defendants named in Pinal County vs. Actavis LLC, et al. are American Drug Company, Costco, Walgreens, Osco Drug, Walmart, Bashas’, Johnson & Johnson, Mallinckrodt LLC, Safeway, Par Pharmaceuticals, Smith’s Food & Drug, Sun Life Family Health Center and Watson Laboratories. The suit also names eight members of the Sackler family, who Bloomberg estimates to be worth \$13 billion collectively.

By filing suit at the county level rather than joining the many federal-level lawsuits, Volkmer said, there is a better chance of getting the evidence known. Ongoing suits against the Sackler family, owners of Purdue Pharma, brought by states and other levels of government, will likely be filed into a national settlement. At the federal level, a U.S. bankruptcy judge paused those lawsuits against Purdue Pharma in October.

But Purdue and the Sacklers are only part of the Pinal County suit.

“We are prepared to litigate it. We want a jury to hear what they did and to determine a remedy,” Volkmer said. “We’re confident they acted badly. We want the public to know. The best way to get that is to try the case.”



The complaint does not cite a number for the monetary damages the county is seeking from the 50 defendants named. It seeks “to recover all measure of damages permissible under the statutes identified herein and under common law, in an amount to be proven at trial.”

Volkmer said opioid addiction has cost the county manpower in law enforcement and health. And it is removing once-productive people from the economy because they can no longer work, shrinking the tax base that helps pay for the services impacted by opioid addiction.

Patients who could no longer afford an opioid prescription sometimes turned to heroin, causing more impact on law enforcement, the medical examiner’s office and county health resources. “And all of this cost was foisted on the county,” Volkmer said.

The complaint opens with the statement, “Opiates are killing people every day in this country and Arizonans have not been spared. Each of the [d]efendants in this action engaged in an industry-wide effort to downplay the dangerous and deadly potential effects of the misuse of prescription opioids. The opioid epidemic has hit every community in Arizona hard, including Pinal County.”

One of the defendants, Beverly Sackler, died Oct. 15 at the age of 95. Purdue filed for bankruptcy in September.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Robert Drain gave Purdue Pharma, the Sacklers and the government entities suing them until Nov. 6 to reach a disclosure plan that would show how much the company earned from OxyContin sales.

Fennemore Craig was hired by Pinal County this summer specifically for this case

against Big Pharma. Its attorneys claimed the actions of opioid manufacturers were “a sophisticated, manipulative scheme” particularly designed to be effective in places like Pinal County because it “is home to a multitude of economically and medically vulnerable populations that defendants knew were uniquely predisposed to opioid addiction, including the elderly.”

Big Pharma companies, Volkmer said, are “lining their pockets” as a result of front-end and back-end domination of a field they created. Some of the same companies that make the opioids also make the overdose antidote naloxone, he said.

Those companies include Hospira (acquired by Pfizer) and Mylan, both named in the suit, which describes both as “a top manufacturer of fentanyl, oxycodone, morphine and codeine in Pinal County.” Mylan is further accused of withholding ingredients to treat “opioid-use disorder and opioid addiction” from its competitors.

Pinal County also accuses Janssen Pharmaceuticals and its parent company, Johnson & Johnson, of pushing “bogus research” to promote opioids.

It is similar to claims made in other cases against Janssen in Oklahoma and Ohio, where Janssen denied wrongdoing, stating in court papers: “Janssen fully recognizes the opioid crisis that exists in this country. But one thing is clear: Janssen’s medications did not cause or contribute to that crisis... Janssen will prove that its marketing was and remains supported by scientific medical evidence, offered in good-faith and without a scintilla of fraudulent intent.”

In the mid- to late-1990s, physicians started classifying pain as a “fifth vital sign.”

That was allegedly pushed by the American Pain Society and resulted in pharmaceutical companies putting more attention on creating and marketing pain medication. Recent lawsuits from 23 states, as well as Pinal County’s suit, characterize the pharmaceutical companies as “pushing” drugs and turning up the heat on doctors to prescribe more.

Prescribed opioids like oxycodone and hydrocodone became commonplace.

“They said opioids addressed and alleviated pain. It was a miracle cure, supposedly,” Volkmer said.

He said, despite a lack of public research, opioids were marketed as addiction-free. Doctors who did not prescribe opioids to help their patients overcome perpetual pain virtually were “accused of malpractice.”

In Massachusetts’ claim against the Sacklers, they were accused of hiring hundreds more sales representatives to pressure doctors. “They directed reps to encourage doctors to prescribe more of the highest doses of opioids. They studied unlawful tactics to keep patients on opioids longer and then ordered staff to use them,” the Massachusetts’ complaint reads.

After the medical community started to acknowledge people were becoming addicted around 2010, the number of prescriptions began to decrease but the amount prescribed increased.

Harinder Takyar is the only physician named in the suit while other local doctors are grouped as so-called “John Does.” Takyar was a Florence-based doctor who was charged with 42 counts of prescribing opioids to his patients without medical need in 2014.

Gov. Doug Ducey declared a statewide emergency in 2017 after a health report found 790 Arizonans died of opioid overdoses the previous year. State tracking showed 431 million opioid pills were prescribed in 2016, “enough for every Arizonan to have a 2.5-week supply.”

Since the emergency declaration, between June 15, 2017, and Oct. 10, 2019, the Arizona Department of Health Services reported 3,633 deaths that were suspected of being opioid overdoses.

Volkmer said while the Pinal case is “very, very similar to Big Tobacco,” immediacy is the difference.

“If you smoke, in 20 or 30 years, you could get cancer,” he said. “Opioids have an immediate impact. It renders people unable to work. If one of my employees goes outside for a smoke break, they can come back to work. If they go out to pop a Percocet, they won’t be able to do that.”

Volkmer said he is “fairly optimistic” the case can be in court in 18-24 months.

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Q&A with new Pinal County Manager Louis Andersen

By Raquel Hendrickson

Louis Andersen became county manager in October upon the retirement of Greg Stanley. Previously the director of Pinal County’s Public Works Department for six years, Andersen was selected by the Board of Supervisors from three finalists that also included Assistant County Manager Leo Lew and Chris Keller, a chief deputy in the County Attorney’s Office.

Andersen estimates the county will need 15,000 workers in construction manufacturing over the next two years because of pending economic development.

What is your background?

“I was born in Snoqualmie, Washington. Mostly my family worked in the forestry industry. My father transitioned from logging to brick masonry. He also held a G permit (trash-collection permit) for the Snoqualmie Pass areas. My mother was a medical assistant. She lives part-time on Shaw Island in Puget Sound and partly in Bellevue, Washington. My father and two brothers reside in Arizona. My first job was a hod carrier for my father, then joined the Air Force. Following the Air Force, I worked at Seattle Housing for 11 years. My final position was the special service manager, which was Enterprise Operations i.e. Waste Management, Fleet, Hazmat. I moved from the Seattle area to Ellensburg, where I built a 1,300 gala apple tree orchard. In 2003, I moved to Gilbert and was the environmental services manager for the town. In 2013, I accepted the public works director position at Pinal County.”

Why did you want to be county manager?

“We have a good group of elected officials with vision. I also felt the timing was right for my career based on my experience, leadership and knowledge. [I worked] with Mr. Greg Stanley closely for the past six years along with great staff here at the county, assisting our citizens and seeing businesses thrive.”

What is looking up for Pinal County for the next five years?

“The continuation of economic development,



Submitted

LOUIS ANDERSEN

Title: Pinal County Manager
Hometown: Snoqualmie, Washington
Education: MBA from City University of Seattle
Military: U.S. Air Force
Worked for Pinal County since: 2013
Previous bosses: Seattle Housing Authority, Town of Gilbert

“We want to further develop the Arizona Technology Corridor as well as give continued focus to living-wage jobs.”

manufacturing, jobs and growing our workforce. Plus, building the East-West Roadway Connection from Maricopa to Florence, the North-South Connection and the 24 Extension.”

What challenges is Pinal County facing?

“Water. Pinal AMA’s (Active Management Area) fifth Management Plan’s effects on growth and our county for both municipal and agricultural use. We have challenges with available private lands, San Tan Valley size and the service needs.”

What are your top three priorities?

“Economic development is a priority. We want to further develop the Arizona Technology Corridor as well as give continued focus to living-wage jobs. We want our citizens to ‘Live, Work and Play’ in Pinal County. I want to continue the collaboration with towns, cities, State Land and Tribal Communities. Also, get to know the staff and departments; get a perspective on services we provide.”

Pinal County cannot currently use funds collected by Prop 417 for road improvements (like State Route 347) because of the Goldwater Institute lawsuit. What is the status of Prop 417?

“We are feeling very positive. We should hear back within six to eight weeks (from mid-October) from the Appellate Courts. We hope then to start building the much-needed roads that our citizens voted for us to do.”

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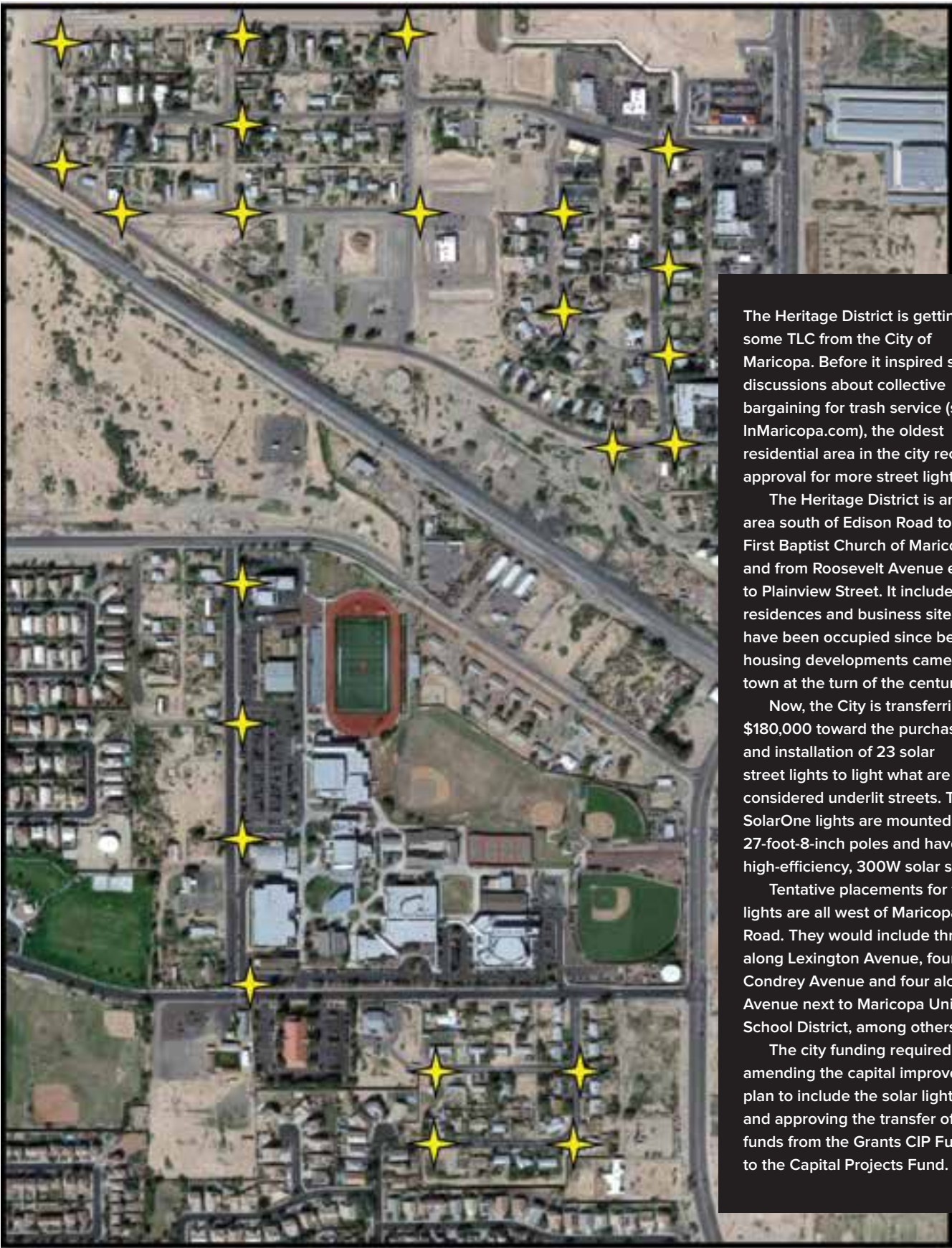
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Heritage District under the lights



The Heritage District is getting some TLC from the City of Maricopa. Before it inspired serious discussions about collective bargaining for trash service (see InMaricopa.com), the oldest residential area in the city received approval for more street lighting.

The Heritage District is an area south of Edison Road to the First Baptist Church of Maricopa and from Roosevelt Avenue east to Plainview Street. It includes residences and business sites that have been occupied since before housing developments came to town at the turn of the century.

Now, the City is transferring \$180,000 toward the purchase and installation of 23 solar street lights to light what are considered underlit streets. The SolarOne lights are mounted on 27-foot-8-inch poles and have a high-efficiency, 300W solar skin.

Tentative placements for the lights are all west of Maricopa Road. They would include three along Lexington Avenue, four along Condrey Avenue and four along Taft Avenue next to Maricopa Unified School District, among others.

The city funding required amending the capital improvement plan to include the solar lights and approving the transfer of funds from the Grants CIP Fund to the Capital Projects Fund.



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Traffic northbound on State Route 347 at the Riggs Road interchange is backed up for miles on a normal work day.

Scoping study starts hunt for remedies on SR 347

By Raquel Hendrickson

Only about five miles of State Route 347 is within the jurisdiction of the City of Maricopa.

The growth of the community, however, is pinned as the primary cause of transportation problems along the corridor that runs from Interstate 10 to State Route 84. Traffic jams and collisions are a daily part of life, even on weekends, putting the pressure on Maricopa to “do something.”

Without surrounding governments focusing on a solution, the City could do nothing. For years, the state, Maricopa County, Pinal County and Native American neighbors have looked at the stretch of highway from I-10 to Peters and Nall Road and have seen the twin challenges of remedy and funding.

Maricopa Association of Governments, comprised of communities and agencies in Maricopa County and Pinal County, is pushing for at least identification of the remedy while partial funding is debated in court.

“For several years, we’ve wrestled with how to improve the roadway, which actually is not in our jurisdiction, and it’s been a real wrestling match,” David Maestas, Maricopa’s transportation project manager, told his city council. “But this year, with Maricopa Association of Governments as a lead agency,

we were able to launch the long-awaited SR 347 corridor scoping study in February.”

The scoping study is inviting traditional and nontraditional solutions to traffic flow and interchange safety. It is just the beginning.

“There are other studies after this study that will have to come along until we can get to design,” said Dan Marum of Wilson & Company, hired by MAG to conduct the scoping. “There will be a design concept phase, then there will be money allocated to the project. Then there will be full environmental review, so those plans can be delivered, just like the 347 grade separation.”



David Maestas of the City of Maricopa and Chaun Hill of MAG represent entities trying to find solutions to the years-long problems on SR 347.



Raquel Hendrickson

Maricopans checked out possible plans for SR 347 at an open house in October.

Chaun Hill, MAG’s senior engineer project manager, said the organization has dealt with few projects involving as many layers of government as SR 347. Those that do are typically along the interstates.

In 2016, Pinal County received approval from voters for its list of planned transportation improvements, including SR 347, in Prop 416 and the appliance to fund them in Prop 417. But the latter has been tied up in a lawsuit and has no guarantee.

Maricopa County has a transportation funding proposal that would include its part of SR 347, but, unlike the rest of the Arizona’s counties, must go through the state Legislature for approval rather than the county board.

“We were aspiring for the 2022 ballot and now we’re asking for 2021,” Hill said.

The SR 347 scoping project is expected to yield a list of improvements to be presented by MAG in February. 

SR 347 ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES Corridor Strategies

- Traditional corridor widening to 6 lanes
- 6-lane Arizona Parkway Concept
- Widening to include reversible lanes
- HOV and/or future transit priority
- ITS strategies
- Alternate Modes (pedestrian & bicycle)

Spot Improvements

- Grade separations
- Interchange improvements
- Intersection solutions

Potential Improvements Strategies

- Alternative left-turn treatments
- Grade-separated intersections
- Reversible lanes
- Median treatments
- Signage (speed feedback, signal ahead, traveler information)

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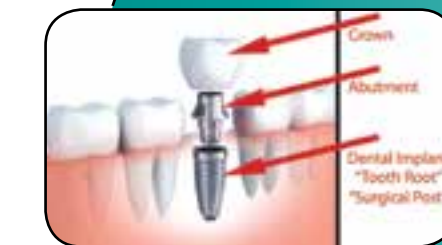
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Edison Place sells after construction completed

The newly finished Edison Place on the southeast corner of John Wayne Parkway and Edison Road sold for \$4.578 million to K&N Investors Aug. 30, according to county records.

The previous owner and developer of the lot was Signal Healthcare of Paradise Valley. K&N is based in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The 9,000-square-foot commercial building is fully occupied by SimonMed Imaging and Heartland Dental.

The sale was brokered by commercial real estate firm Newmark Knight Frank. "The Maricopa property is an example of how healthcare providers are occupying retail sites for convenient access and visibility for patients," NKF Managing Director Trisha Talbot said in a media release.



Walgreens resurrects 2nd location

City Councilmember Nancy Smith was first to announce Walgreens applied for a tenant improvement permit for the building located west of Walmart on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway.

Smith posted on her Facebook page the new store "should be opened by the end of the year or first of next." The application was submitted Oct. 7.

The shell building was constructed in 2009 on 1.52 acres with the intent to be a drug store, but the ensuing Great Recession halted its development. The current project is to complete interior alterations.

The land at 41840 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway is owned by Maricopa 7 LLC, which purchased it three years ago for a reported \$7 million from Maricopa WG LLC. It previously belonged to Shea Maricopa LLC and Homestead Village South, according to county tax records. The commercial area is officially known as Maricopa Power Center The Wells.



Maricopa Ace Hardware named Retailer of the Year in LD 11

The Arizona Retailers Association Maricopa Ace Hardware the Retailer of the Year for Legislative District 11 at an awards luncheon Oct. 18.

The store was nominated by LD 11 Sen. Vince Leach. "I am thrilled that Maricopa Ace Hardware is the winner of this award. It takes a lot of hard work and smart decisions to run a successful small business. Mike Richey does an outstanding job with Maricopa Ace Hardware. It

is a strong asset to Maricopa and all of LD 11."

Ace is a three-time winner of the Business of the Year Award from the City of Maricopa Chamber of Commerce.

"I am so pleased that Sen. Leach is recognizing Mike Richey of Maricopa Ace Hardware," said Michelle Ahlmer, executive director of ARA. "I know Mike personally and I know the dedication he has for his business, his employees and the community of Maricopa."

Business news in brief

A Jehovah's Witnesses' Kingdom Hall is planned at 40675 W. Honeycutt Road and received its commercial permit, valued at \$793,000. Contractor is Sutherland Construction Company. Volkswagen, 20053 N. Murphy Road, continues work on its new electric-vehicle charging station, receiving a commercial structural permit and a major electrical permit, which was valued at \$1 million. It also received a permit for a hydrant flow test.

Buff City Soap, describing itself as a "soap makery," received a permit to do some non-residential demolition for its new location in a storefront at 21101 N. John Wayne Parkway. **Omni Storage**, 42200 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, a planned self-storage company off Stonegate Road, also ran a hydrant flow test as it moves forward with construction.

Mountain Trace Development, planning an apartment complex at 41337 N. Shea Way, received a permit for a hydrant flow test for its 5.83 acres at Oasis at the Wells, between Walmart and Banner Health.

A+ Charter School, a planned high school in Glennwilde, received a permit to run a hydrant flow test at 41949 W. Barcelona Drive.

Meritage Homes received a subdivision final plat amendment for 41897 W. Friendly Place on Parcel 10 in Province. New projects getting their fire sprinkler systems prepped were the electric charging station at **Volkswagen**, the new location for **Domino's Pizza**, 20024 N. John Wayne Parkway, the new location for **Mount Moriah Church**, 19275 N. Gunsmoke Road, and **F.O.R. Maricopa** food bank.

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Inspectors mark down 2 food establishment

Two eateries in Maricopa were cited by health inspectors in Sept. 16 through Oct. 15 inspections, mainly for having refrigerators not working properly. Twenty-three other establishments, including most pizza joints in town, received excellent marks. McDonald's on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway had a reach-in, two-door refrigerator that was not holding food at the required 41 degrees or below. The inspector found tomatoes, corn and lettuce at temperatures ranging from 59 to 61 degrees. In a glass-door refrigerator, yogurt and burritos were at 58 degrees. Food items were embargoed to be discarded. The inspector also noted at least one employee multi-tasking with the same gloves. The Circle K at 21212 N. John Wayne Parkway was marked down for having a self-serve display refrigeration unit holding sandwiches at 45-51 degrees. The manager took action at the time of inspection, and the food was embargoed.

EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Ace Vending at Central Arizona College
- Barro's Pizza
- The Box Meat Shop
- Circle K (east)
- Circle K (east) – Made to Go
- Circle K (north)
- CVS Pharmacy
- Dollar Tree
- Good 2 Go Store
- Helen's at Copper Sky
- Helen's at Pacana Park
- Helen's Kitchen
- Honeycutt Coffee
- KFC/Long John Silvers
- Little Caesar's Pizza
- Papa John's Pizza
- Papa Murphy's Pizza
- Pizza Hut
- QuikTrip
- QuikTrip – Kitchen
- Taco Bell
- Walgreens
- Water and Ice

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- Circle K (south),
- McDonald's (Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway)

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

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

Business park gets new owners to jump-start development



Kyle Norby

By Raquel Hendrickson

Estrella Gin Business Park effectively was sold by the City to two companies for development.

Maricopa City Council approved the purchase agreement of 12.32 acres to J.E.T. Real Estate Holdings and 16.96 acres to Elpida LLC. The total purchase price between the two is \$1.9 million.

Estrella Gin, which is located on Edison Road from Roosevelt Avenue to State Route 238, has been a focus of the City's economic development department for years. The City sold two acres to Mel's Auto (NAPA Auto) for around \$152,000 and sold 10 acres to Electrical District No. 3 for \$612,500.

The only structure on the acreage is the City of Maricopa Fire/Medical Department administrative office trailer, which is temporary as an admin building is being built across the street.

City Manager Ricky Horst said he "couldn't be more delighted" to present two projects to the council for their vote. He said the projects create 275,000 square feet of mix of office, flex



Submitted

space, light industrial and warehouse.

"We're talking about the full and complete development of the Estrella Gin Commerce Park," Horst said.

The city is working with two different parties, but Woodglen Opportunities is the master developer working with Construction Solutions Company as the builder and contractor, Horst said.

The Elpida LLC portion of the development is controlled by developer Joe L. Cook. Realtor Shane Cook of MHG Commercial expects to lease office space of 1,000 square feet and up

MHG Commercial Real Estate rendering of possible building at Estrella Gin, which is now mostly undeveloped.

and offer build-to-suit construction of 10,000 square feet and larger.

MHG described Estrella Gin as "the hub for business development and growth in the City of Maricopa."

Groundbreaking could be as early as the last quarter of this year. The companies are aiming for a diverse array of businesses to fill the space.

Ultherapy the gold-standard of anti-aging

By Kristina Donnay, FNP-C


As we age, we lose collagen causing wrinkles, loose skin and sagging. Ultherapy is the gold standard in anti-aging treatments.

Ultherapy is a non-surgical, non-invasive procedure utilizing precisely targeted ultrasound waves and the body's own natural healing process. Unlike lasers, radio frequency, surgery and other technologies, non-surgical Ultherapy bypasses the surface of the skin delivering the right amount of focused ultrasound energy to the skin's foundational layer at the right depths and the right temperature. It is similar to cosmetic surgery without cutting or disrupting the surface of the skin. This energy triggers a natural response under the skin, jumpstarting the regenerative process that produces fresh, new collagen.

Ultherapy raises, tones and tightens loose

and saggy skin on the face, brow, neck, under the chin and the décolletage. Some patients see an initial effect right after their treatment, but the real results appear over 2-3 months as new collagen works to lift and tighten skin. Many patients have seen a significant reduction in fine lines and wrinkles as well, making this a very popular procedure and less harsh than treatments such as the "face lift."

With Ultherapy, there are no foreign substances being injected into the body. This makes it a safe option, especially for those patients with particular sensitivities or allergies.

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Kristina Donnay



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Brian Lindblom opened the comics store at 20800 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 108.

Mr. E Comics turns page in Maricopa business

Story and photo by Kyle Norby

Geeks and nerds, rejoice. A brand-new comic book shop has opened in Maricopa.

Since moving to Maricopa last November, Mr. E Comics owner Brian Lindblom has been working night and day to get his shop off the ground.

"The community here has been awesome," Lindblom said. "Just the support for things that are local is great."

Located in the Shops at Maricopa Fiesta, Mr. E Comics offers rows upon rows of current issues, vintage titles, trading cards and collectibles.

Fans have already welcomed the store. "I could never find a shop near me," Zachary Morris wrote on InMaricopa's Facebook post about the opening. "I love comic shops, but Chandler was just so far."

Lindblom said he wants to maintain an open and inviting atmosphere in his store.

This includes a plan to eventually host large tabletop/card games events with titles such as "Magic: The Gathering," "Pokémon," and "Yu-Gi-Oh!"

"The geek culture is kind of what I wanted to embrace," Lindblom explained. "So, I'm sort of going to let the community speak as to what I should hold for events in this store."

Originally from Washington, Lindblom moved with his family to Phoenix when he was 13 and spent most of his life in Arizona.

"I lived in Colorado for a couple of years at the top of the mountains," Lindblom said. "I was planning on opening a much smaller version of this place out there."

With less of a focus on graphic T-shirts and posters around the store, Lindblom emphasized wanting to focus on purchasing local art for the walls of the shop, showcasing the talents of local artists.

When asked about the evolution of geek culture becoming mainstream to general audiences, Lindblom said the popularity and


interest in Maricopa is obvious.

"The market in this industry is generally older teens and people from 20 to 40 years old," Lindblom said. "There's been a significant amount of families who come in, I guess just excited that there is something more for kids than there has been in the past."

With the comic industry catering to a mainly male audience, Lindblom noted another strong factor for his business is the progressive surge of female readers.

"Almost 50% or more of the market is women at this point. I have many female customers that come in already," he said.

With the goal of eventually sponsoring the esports league and other events around town, Lindblom is excited to be part of the Maricopa business community.

"It's more the community that gives me a sense of belonging," Lindblom said. "The way that other businesses come in and want to work with you as opposed to feeling like competition. I feel like that's how it should be." 



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Tax credits reduce your liability dollar-for-dollar

By James A. Chaston

With the increase in the standard deduction only about 12% of taxpayers will itemize and be able to write off mortgage interest, state taxes, medical and charitable deductions.

That doesn't mean you shouldn't donate to charities. The State of Arizona has some tax credit programs that allow you to choose how your tax dollars get used. The following Arizona tax credits reduce your tax liability dollar for dollar. Every dollar you give to the "qualified" charities reduces your taxes by a dollar. You don't lose any money; just decide where it goes, and your chosen charity gets that additional funding. If you understand this, you will always take advantage of it. Here are the Arizona state tax credit programs that you can participate in.



James A. Chaston

- Public Schools Credit
- Private School Tuition Organization
- PLUS Private School Tuition Organization
- Arizona Charities Credit
- Foster Care Credit
- Military Family Relief Fund

In addition, if you itemize your deductions on your federal return you can also take a deduction for these donations.

Here's how it works. You give \$400, the maximum for a married filing joint tax return, to a public school for something that qualifies for the credit. Then, when you file your tax return, you either get that \$400 back or your liability is reduced by \$400 from the State of Arizona, assuming you have that much in liability. If you are in the 22% tax bracket for federal income taxes, you save \$88 or 22% of the \$400 donation from your federal taxes. The result is you give your public schools \$400 and get \$488 back from the government.

You combine all the credits at the maximum if you file jointly and itemize, and you could get up to \$5,940 back from the government while giving \$4,869 to your choice of schools and charities depending on your tax bracket (limit for filings other than jointly is \$2,435). The overall limit of state tax credit you can claim this year is your state tax liability.

Example: You generated an Arizona tax liability of \$5,000, you had \$4,800 withheld from your wages, so normally you would owe \$200 when you file your tax return. If you make the donations of \$4,869, it would reduce your tax liability from \$5,000 to just \$131 and you would get a refund of \$4,669, essentially getting your \$4,869 back. Then you would also get the \$4,869 as a deduction on your federal return increased your refund or decreasing what you would owe.

Here's a closer look at these credits. The credit for a "qualifying charitable organization" is one that spends at least 50% of its budget on services to Arizona residents who receive temporary assistance for needy families' benefits or are considered low-income households. There is also an additional \$500 and \$1,000 credit if you give to a qualifying Foster Care Organization. Check AZDOR.gov/sites/default/files/CREDITS_2019_qco.pdf for the most current list of qualifying charities. You must itemize deductions to claim the credit.

The credit for contributions made or fees paid to a public school must be made in support of extra-curricular activities or for character education programs. Fees paid to the school for your own child qualify

for the credit. Also, you can just make a general donation whether you have children in the school district or not. The annual credit limit for someone filing single or head of household is \$200 and \$400 for a couple filing jointly.

The private school tuition credit must be made to a tuition organization that provides scholarships or grants to qualified schools. Again, anyone can make a donation whether they have a child in the school or not. Most private schools have tuition organizations set up to handle these donations. A good list of these organizations can be found at AZDOR.gov/sites/default/files/REPORTS_2019_sto-i-list.pdf. The annual credit limit for someone filing single or head of household has increased to \$569 for single and \$1,138 for a couple filing jointly.

There are several other credits, but many of them are specific to certain circumstances.

The donation deadline for these donations for tax year 2019 is April 15, 2020. But make them before December to get the federal write-off also.

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RO 101

By Terry Leamon
My Maricopa Plumber

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Toma Fitzgerald
and Terry Leamon

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Agnes' Center bringing domestic violence support to Maricopa

Grace Crockett became an overcomer after experiencing violence in her life through several marriages. Once she was fed up, she stood up, and began to face it head on.

Crockett subsequently founded Agnes' Centers for Domestic Solutions in Tempe, providing counseling, mentoring, life-skills training and coaching to victims and abusers to help them overcome. Agnes Centers is in the process of opening its first residential facility in the city of Maricopa, which will house five individuals who have been identified with a behavioral health diagnosis. It will also provide individual and group counseling to area residents.

"Basically, when I went through domestic violence there was limited resources and services in the community," Crockett said. "I started Agnes Centers to end the domestic

violence cycle by providing services to both the victim and perpetrator."

Agnes' Centers' programs and services focus on empowering victims and educating perpetrators who are ready to end the cycle of abuse in their lives by addressing their childhood adversities with trauma-informed care. Since its inception in 2012, the 501(c)3 non-profit organization has helped over 300 people overcome some form of abuse.

Crockett describes herself as renowned author, mother, grandmother, public speaker and advocate against domestic violence. In her book, "Overcomer: How I Survived Domestic Violence," Crockett tells her story of being a repeat victim and shares insight to her healing. Crockett has appeared on radio and television bringing awareness to intimate partner violence and the negative affects it has



Grace Crockett

on families and the community. She also travels the country speaking at conventions, schools, churches and expos.

Education is key and Crockett instructs her clients and outside professionals on how to recognize a victim, how to respond to them and how to properly refer them for help. Her professional training program, F.A.C.E. I.T. (Family Awareness Crisis Education Intervention and Training), focuses on families being made aware of the signs of domestic violence.

Crockett is a member and secretary of Zonta Club of Maricopa, member of Sista's with Style Empowerment and member of #BossMom.

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9

1. Maricopa Music Circle stood for applause during ArtsFest Maricopa at the Performing Arts Center Oct. 19. *Victor Moreno*

2. Fire Capt. Chaz Dupree held 18-month-old Cate Jump, whom Maricopa firefighters helped save from drowning. She and her family returned to thank them. *Kyle Norby*

3. Councilmember Nancy Smith, a three-year cancer survivor, reminded residents of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. *Raquel Hendrickson*

4. Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board member Patti Coutre (left) congratulated Tammy Ash on a community award. *Kyle Norby*

5. Haley Raffaele (left) and Bernadette Russoniello starred in Maricopa Community Theatre's production of "Freaky Friday the Musical." *Raquel Hendrickson*

6. The Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino High Roller Team of Julie Madrigal, Justin Sansaver and Lauren Conley raised \$1,209 for the Susan G. Komen 3-Day with a bake sale and will participate in the event in San Diego Nov. 15-17. *Submitted*

7. Central Arizona College hosted a Hunger Banquet with a real-life experience of hunger as a benefit for F.O.R. Maricopa. *Raquel Hendrickson*

8. Maricopa Historical Society President Paul Shirk (left) and Library Manager Erik Surber looked over items donated to MHS by Joan Koczor (right). *Raquel Hendrickson*

9. A fall fly-in at Millar Airport brought flight enthusiasts to the Vietnam Aviation Veterans of Arizona museum. *Kyle Norby*



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7



8



Submitted

VETERANS DAY

At War: Fresh-faced WAVES recruit did her part

By Raquel Hendrickson

After the United States declared war on Japan in 1941, Mary Fran Holmes Abrahams was just 16. Three years later she talked her girlfriends into joining her in serving their country by signing up for the U.S. Navy WAVES.

They all lived in landlocked Wichita, Kansas. They were all just old enough to sign up — all except Holmes herself, who was still only 19. So, she had to put her enthusiasm on hold for a year before she could qualify for the new Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service in 1945.

“I loved the Navy,” Abrahams said. “We were a whole gang of people. We traveled all over the States and got to know so many people.”

Now 95, she lives part-time in Maricopa. The World War II veteran was a grand marshal in the 2018 parade and will be back this year in her WAVES uniform.

“It doesn’t quite fit the same,” she said.

Formed by the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration in 1942, WAVES gave women a chance to serve at enlisted and officer levels. One of its recruitment lines was “Release a man to fight at sea.” That, in fact, was its main function, to fill noncombat duties with women so the Navy’s men could be used in combat.

WAVES duties ranged from healthcare to parachute rigger to gunner’s mate. Abrahams was trained in communication. Boot Camp was at Hunter College in New York.

Her teletype training was in Washington, D.C., and she was stationed at a relay station in San Francisco as a 3rd class petty officer.

“It was a great time,” she said.

Base pay was \$78 per month. Her work was comprised of re-routing ticker-tape messages.

“She had a lot of wonderful experiences,” said her daughter Barbara Adamson of Maricopa, “including the celebrations of V-J Day.”

After the war, at the end of 1945, she married



Raquel Hendrickson



Submitted

Mary F. Holmes Abrahams (top) was a grand marshal of the 2018 Maricopa Veterans Day Parade as a member of the U.S. Navy WAVES. Above, new WAVES recruits at boot camp at Hunter College in New York City in the 1940s. Right, WAVES get ready for duty in San Francisco during World War II. Inset, while still in the service after the war, Mary Fran Holmes married Albert Abrahams, a technician in the Army’s 3rd Medical Battalion.





Abrahams was a grand marshal in the 2018 Veterans Day Parade. She served in the U.S. Navy WAVES 1945-46.

Technician 4th Grade Albert Raymond Abrahams, who was in the U.S. Army's 3rd Medical Battalion and nine years older.

The couple settled in Arizona, a state Mary Fran had frequented as a child visiting relatives. Her military service paid for her education, and she received her master's degree from Arizona State University. Three years after marrying, she and Albert started a family, which would eventually include four children.

When the youngest was in school, Abrahams decided to go back to work.

"I took a job in the Tempe School District as a PE teacher," she said. "I taught there until I retired."

Daughter Karen Moses, with whom Abrahams lives part-time in Ahwatukee, said her mother was always something a tomboy

and loved sports and teaching sports.

"She played about every sport," she said. "She even played in a national tourney in basketball for Kansas."

The military service of their parents did not come up much in family conversations.

"Dad would say, 'It was something that we felt had to be done,'" Adamson said. "But then we found this box of letters."

That gave the children a fuller understanding of their WWII experience, as they had frequently corresponded during the last year of the war.

When the American Legion Veterans Day Parade organizers signed her up to ride in a seat of honor last year, Mary Fran Abrahams was grateful for the opportunity.

"It was fun," she said. "I would wave at everybody."



Both of Caroline Mill's husbands fought on D-Day. She is now a member of the American Legion Post 133 Auxiliary in Maricopa.

Kyle Norby

ON THE HOMEFRONT

Oldest auxiliary member helps plan parade

Caroline Mill was already married when the United States entered World War II.

"I married young before he went into the service," said Mill, now at 98 the oldest member of the American Legion Auxiliary of Post 133 in Maricopa.

The post is planning the third annual Veterans Day Parade, and Mill loves to see a crowd for the local veterans.

"We need more people to come out and give support," she said.

Mill sustained two veterans in her own way. While her first husband, Virgil Bradbury,



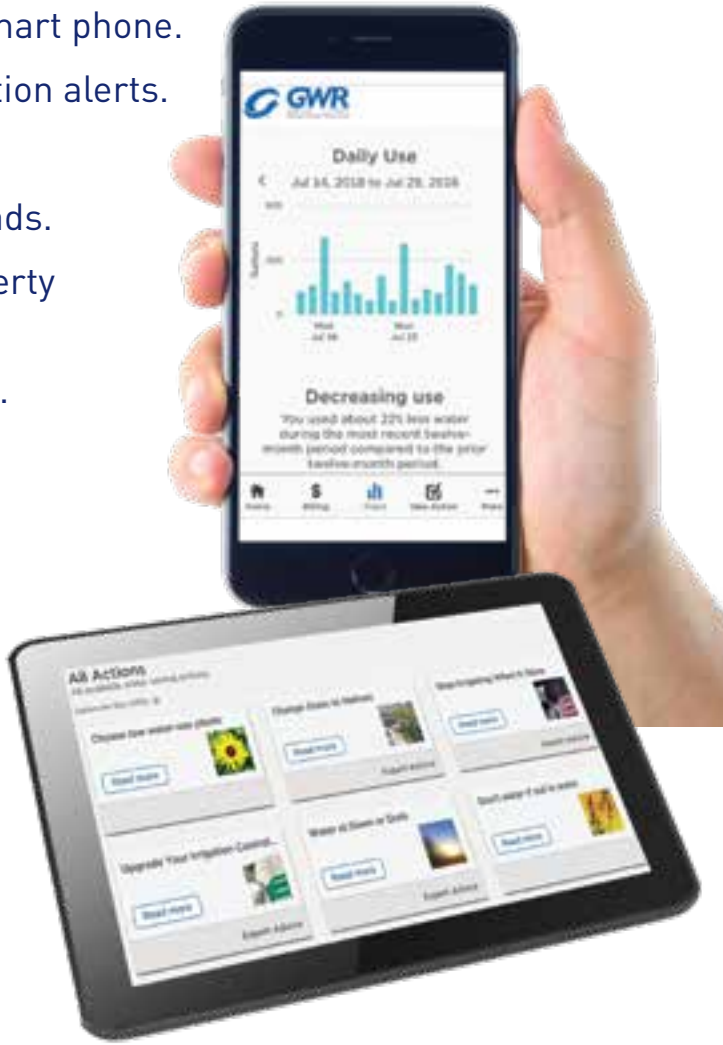
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joined the U.S. Army, Caroline was a teacher. She finished out the school year before moving with friends near his training camp.

"I never was sorry," she said. "It was the thing for me to do. It's the way things were."

When Virgil was sent into combat in Europe, Caroline described it as "terrible." She stayed with family for the duration. Virgil participated in the D-Day invasion of France. He was also captured by the Germans.

"He was prisoner of war for Germany, but the camp was in Austria," she said. "As the war went on the sergeants from Russia came and killed the guards, so they were loose. They could go where they wanted but they couldn't go back to Germany. So, they walked all the way across Austria, all the way to Russia. When they got there, they wouldn't let them walk. They put them on a railcar and took them to a ship and sent him home."

While he was a POW, Caroline received cards from him: "There wasn't much to write, and they wouldn't dare to write it anyway."

When he came home, however, his health was never the same. They moved from Iowa to buy a farm in Wisconsin with a VA loan. They took in two foster daughters. But Virgil was ailing.


"He died fairly young because he had leukemia," Caroline said. "We always kind of thought it was because he was in prison camp and all they had to eat was cabbage soup. He wasn't real healthy when he came back."

Two years after he died, Caroline married Robert Mill, who was also a veteran of D-Day and had been a cook in the service. He brought two daughters into the marriage.

"They are both real good to me," Caroline said.

She joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars Women's Auxiliary in Wisconsin and later joined the American Legion and stayed with the organization when they moved to Casa Grande. For 10 years, until she stopped driving, she volunteered at Oasis Pavilion caring for elderly less elderly than she.

A lifelong Packers fan, Mill maintains an independent spirit. She was among Legion Auxiliary members who jumped ship from the Casa Grande post to join the women at the Maricopa post. The Maricopa Veterans Day Parade has been a growing venture for the auxiliary.

"I want to see people that are patriotic," Caroline Mill said. "That's what we need in this country. The way the country is, we need more people who are patriotic and loyal to their country." 

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O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

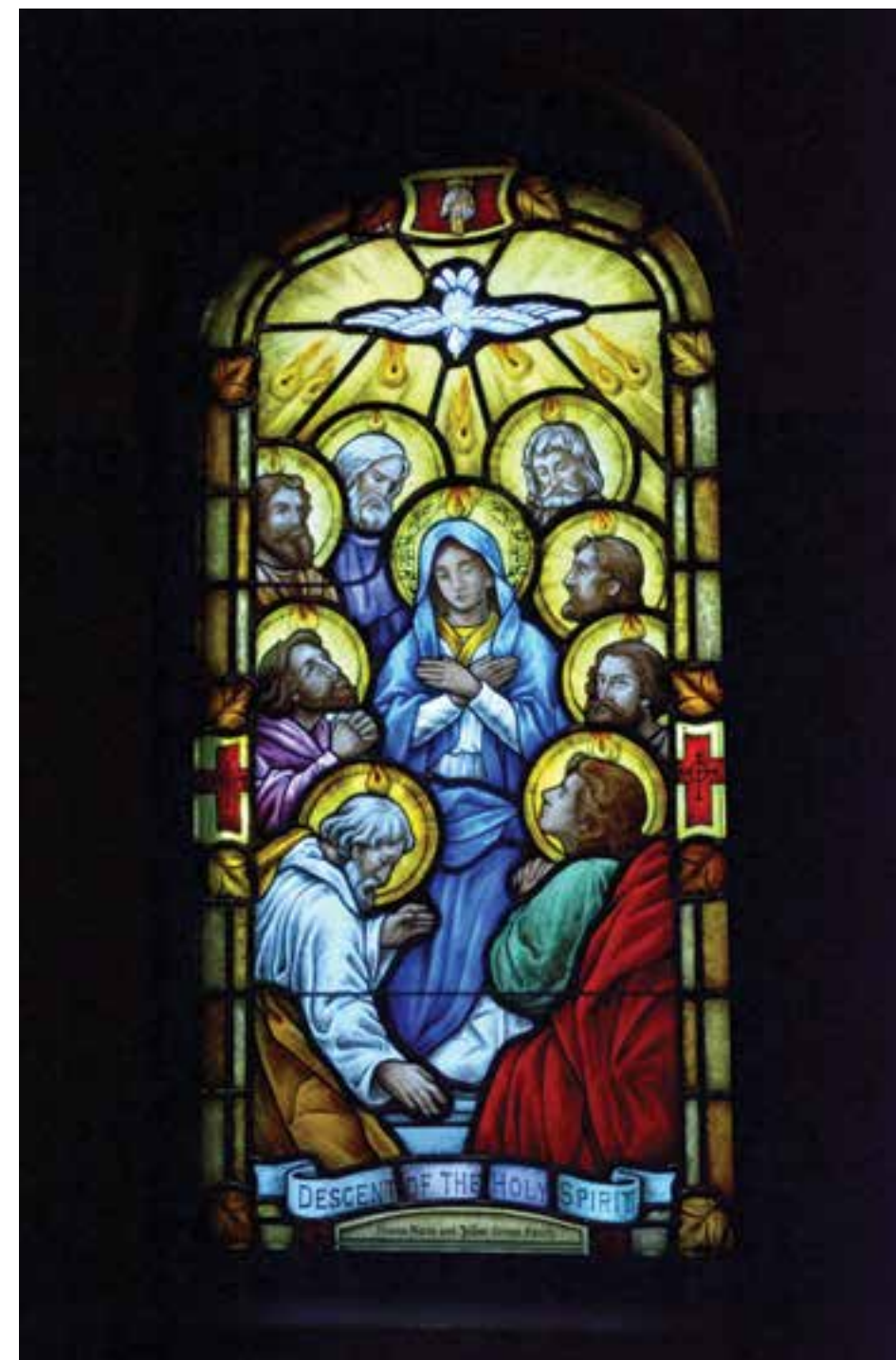
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Stories in stained glass

All but one stained-glass window have been placed in the Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, each window hand-crafted and designed by the parish's former priest, the Rev. Marcos Velásquez, architect Steven Schloeder and primary artist Andrea Guzetta. "The methods and materials used are the same that have been in use for hundreds of years," said Ken Lepper, who chaired the church's Construction and Design Oversight Committee. "The glass comes from a factory in Germany. There are over 25 windows with scenes from the Bible and saints."

Photos by Raquel Hendrickson



All the glass was paid for by parishioners. The second window placed, a portrait of St. Mark, was sponsored by a family to honor Velásquez. Rita and Anthony Magliocco sponsored portraits of St. Rita and St. Anthony (right).



The stained glass is created by the artist through a series of painting and firings in an old technique used throughout Europe and the U.S. East Coast. Each window at Our Lady was pre-assigned a saint.



Figures range from archangels before the creation of the universe to St. Jose Sanchez del Rio, a child who was martyred just 100 years ago in Mexico.

Judson Studios is a fifth-generation American stained-glass window studio in California. After the design is completed and approved, the artist moves forward with a full-sized print she uses to cut each piece of glass like a jig-saw puzzle. Glaziers then add lead seams, frame and braces.



"All the glass has strong symbology in it that is consistent with Catholic and Christian. Some of it, you have to look really hard to find them; some they're really obvious." - Ken Lepper



The windows are called 50-year windows for the length of time they are expected to keep their vibrant colors. They are protected from the elements outside by double-pane glass and glare filters.

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Athlete: My husband

Drink: Paradise Margarita at Z'Tejas

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Words to live by: Treat others as you would like to be treated, with respect and kindness.

Learn more about Tracey at
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BIG BOY

The appearance of Union Pacific’s historic Big Boy steam locomotive No. 4014, commemorating the transcontinental railroad’s 150th anniversary, drew a herd of professional and amateur photographers to railyard in Maricopa Oct. 16. The engine was in service during World War II.



Joe Castillo



Joe Castillo



Dennis McCormac



Angelica Ramis

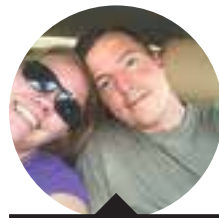


Victor Moreno

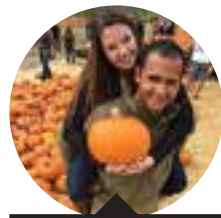
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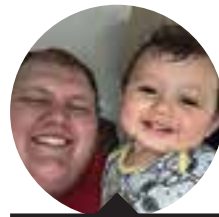
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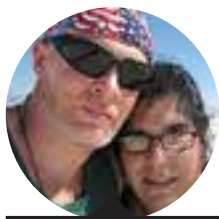
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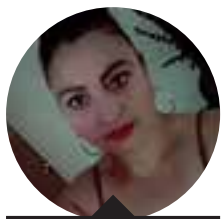
Karla Torres



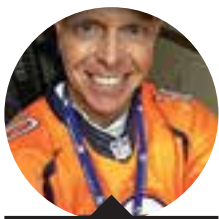
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Laura Chivone-Bristow



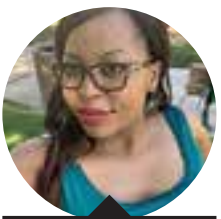
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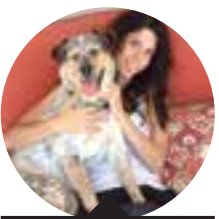
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7

1. Be Awesome Youth Coalition helped run Maricopa Teen Hall, presented by InMaricopa, Councilmember Nancy Smith and Be Awesome Oct. 19 at Maricopa City Hall. *Kyle Norby*

2. Musicians from Heritage Academy, Tanyon Berry, Valerie Glasgow, Jayden Briones, Rebecca Glasgow, Raegan Moore and Samantha Cottam performed during ArtsFest Maricopa. *Victor Moreno*

3. Ilijah Johnson stretches for the football during Senior Night for Maricopa High School. *Raquel Hendrickson*

4. Gianna Garcia and the Pathway volleyball team played their way into the CAA playoffs. *Raquel Hendrickson*

5. MHS sophomore Connor Schrader set school records throughout the swimming season, including the 500 freestyle. *Raquel Hendrickson*

6. Students at Sequoia Pathway's secondary school protested the termination of a popular teacher and other decisions Oct. 21. *Raquel Hendrickson*

7. The Pathway football team was on top of the CAA's open division with a 7-0 record heading into its final game. *Victor Moreno*

Cub Scout troop helps find missing teen

By Kyle Norby

During its annual camping trip, Maricopa's Cub Scout Pack 389 goes over lessons like the buddy system and flag-retirement. These trips bring all levels of scouts together and their parents to experience the outdoors and form strong bonds. This year's campout Oct. 5-6 took place at Woods Canyon Lake in Payson.

Pack 389 had to put their skills and training to the test when they learned of a missing girl in the area.

Scoutmaster Adam Geron was the first to receive information about a missing girl after their flag-retirement ceremony Saturday night.

"Walt, who was the host of our campground at Woods Canyon Lake, came up with a gentleman and said they needed to inform us there was a lost 13-year-old girl," Geron said. "I essentially just turned around to everybody there and told them we have a problem, we have an issue, we need to help."

Parents and scouts all agreed and were out searching within minutes. Geron said they had gone over a buddy system during this trip and he was proud to see the scouts implement it so quickly for the situation.

An obstacle in the search was the fact the young girl they were looking for was reported as being non-verbal.

The Hoke-Northup family, who ultimately found the girl about a mile away, explained their strategy and triumph during the search.

"We knew she was non-verbal, so we could shout to her, but she couldn't shout back," said Cub Scout parent Crystal Hoke-Northup. "But we figured she could hear us and walk towards us if we were calling her name."

Their group consisted of Crystal and her two children, Airiana and Reed. Reed is a 9-year-old Bear Scout. The family went through a rocky creek and came to an open area with scattered trees.

Crystal said she was ready to turn back with night quickly approaching and no sign of the girl.

"But then, my daughter, she goes, 'What's that? There's a person up there!'"

Sure enough, it was the missing girl. They approached and met with the girl and let her

Crystal Hoke-Northup with her children Reed and Airiana at camp, where they found a girl who had gone missing.



Submitted



Kyle Norby

know she was safe. According to her family, the girl had wandered off looking for firewood along the creek near their site and hadn't realized how far she had gone. When she was found by scouts, she was still carrying a handful of firewood.

"We went looking and we went to the right spot at the right time," Reed said. "I was ready to use my high-pitched scream to let everyone know that we found her. I used everything

Crystal Hoke-Northup, Reed and Scoutmaster Adam Geron.



Kyle Norby

from my head to the bottom of me to get her back safe."

Other scouts and parents met up with Crystal, Reed and Airiana to help get the girl back to their campground.

"We sat her down at the campfire to warm her up; we knew the poor thing was probably freezing," Crystal said.

Geron drove down to the lost girl's campsite and saw fire rescue was still filling out paperwork, not having started their search yet. He informed them the girl was found and she was being taken care of at their camp.

"In about 45 minutes we had found her," Geron said. "Just good planning and teaching, knowing what to do allowed to potentially save her life, I don't know."

The family reunited with their daughter and thanked Pack 389 for their aid in locating her.



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FAFSA first: Affording post-secondary options

By Bernadette Russoniello

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form to determine students' eligibility for post-secondary financial aid. The annual application opened Oct. 1 for high school seniors and is an important first step to affording college options.

FAFSA qualifies students and families for grants, student loans, Parent Plus loans and special programs like Federal Work Study. Students and their parents submit the application together until the student reaches the age of 24. Both the student and one parent must set up an FSA ID in order to complete and submit the application.

Students whose families make less than \$72,500 annually typically qualify for the federal Pell Grant – a cash award up to \$6,195 per year. Grants are gift aid – they never have to be repaid (unless a student leaves school mid-semester). Pell Grants can be used at

university, community college and trade schools.

Arizona State University and University of Arizona both offer college attainment programs that guarantee full tuition (\$10,800 value) for Pell Eligible students. Central Arizona College also requires a completed FAFSA for Promise for the Future. Many universities match or further enhance the Pell grant if students apply by priority deadlines.



Bernadette Russoniello

Meeting priority deadlines for universities ensure students have access to maximum grant and scholarship funds. Students must submit FAFSA and a completed college application by the priority deadline to be eligible.

FAFSA also provides eligibility for student and parent loan applications. Subsidized loans are best as the government covers interest until repayment (six months after graduation).

FAFSA Priority Deadlines:

		
Nov. 15	Jan. 15	March 30

Unsubsidized loans begin to aggregate interest from the moment the loan is incurred. Student loans for state universities typically max out at \$5,000 per year. Additional monies must be borrowed by parents through Parent Plus loans. Federal work study guarantees students jobs on campus to help them afford costs.

Many students feel they shouldn't bother applying because they may not receive grants. The best advice is to apply, know your options and review financial aid letters and awards from the various schools you are considering.

Bernadette Russoniello is the College and Career coordinator at Maricopa High School.

Meaningful connection is no joke

By Priscilla Behnke

If you haven't seen the film *Joker* yet, this is your spoiler warning.

As someone who has worked in the mental health field on some level for 20 years, I invite the social commentary on how we treat those afflicted. The film takes tragedy and turns it up to an 11. It's intentionally painful to watch. There is, however, a takeaway for the audience on how we can ensure those in our community become heroes, not villains.

Meaningful connections matter.

Early in the film, Arthur Fleck, the Joker, fantasizes he is in the audience of his hero, late-night host Murray Franklin. In the fantasy he is picked out of the crowd and shares how he has been the man of the house since his father walked out on his mother and him years earlier and has been caring for her ever since. The audience admires this, and Murray tells him, "If I had a son, I would

want him to be like you." Ultimately, he is betrayed by Murray.

A coworker pretends to be his friend only to set him up. He makes enthusiastic attempts to meet the man he believes to be his father, who ultimately rejects him in a cruel and abusive manner. He starts a romantic relationship with his neighbor but realizes it's all a delusion; he's never had a meaningful relationship with her. Even his relationship with his mother is destroyed.



Priscilla Behnke

By the end of the film he has a long list of violent crimes and an enthusiastic following of supporters. He has what he has always wanted — admiration, acceptance. He's connected. The desire to belong is intense. A lot of people will go to great lengths to experience it, and even greater lengths to numb out the pain of not.

Villains make for great narratives in

the movies, but they make for devastating stories in the real world. These results are preventable. We can start by ensuring our kids are provided opportunities to forge healthy relationships and meaningful connections.

Church youth groups, community programs, school sports and activities are all great ways for our youth to forge positive connections, and they can all use your support. You can volunteer your time, provide monetary or in-kind donations to these programs or even sponsor a student who may otherwise have to forego the opportunity.

To learn more about how you can help ensure Maricopa's youth are connected to those who would have their best interests at heart, visit BeAwesomeYouth.life.

Priscilla Behnke is program director for Maricopa CAASA and Be Awesome Coalition.

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The need for financial education in school

By Murray Siegel

State Treasurer Kimberly Yee has pointed out the need for financial education in public schools. She cited the following:

- Outstanding student loan debt stands at \$1.6 trillion, up from \$1.52 trillion the previous year.
- Only 41% of adults in the United States have a budget and keep track of their spending.
- Of millennials ages 18-34, one in eight individuals has debts in collections.
- 39% of millennial women don't pay their bills on time and are twice as likely than millennial men to take out a high-interest loan to cover a \$2,000 emergency.
- A record 7 million Americans are three months behind in their car payments.



Murray Siegel

Yee's solution to this problem was getting Senate Bill 1184 passed in both houses of the state Legislature and then signed by Gov. Doug Ducey. This law dictates that all Arizona students are taught financial literacy during an economics course in high school. According to the treasurer, students "will be taught the basic skills of balancing their checkbook and understanding the consequences of not paying off credit card debt month-to-month."

This appears to be a valid start, yet there is much that must be added, and there are some problems that should be identified and solved. Balancing a checkbook and understanding interest on loans and credit card balances requires the individual to be able to function with decimals and percentages. These topics are a significant part of the middle school math program, so there should be a financial mathematics unit required during middle school.

A real problem will be that most teachers do not have the proper financial knowledge to teach financial math or financial literacy. Are we going to spend a great deal of money on professional development? It must be noted that it may be years from the time a student is taught about finance until he or she needs to use that information. What will be done to maintain the financial learning curve?

There is a better means to provide useful financial information to students and to maintain their ability to use that learning. A group of financial experts and teachers should design a video series that covers balancing a checkbook and computing interest as well as a series of lessons needed to be financially literate.

Topics should include:

- The difference between a checking and savings account
- The difference between a credit card and debit card
- What a certificate of deposit is
- Understanding an automobile loan
- The basics of insurance
- How to save/invest for the future

This will guarantee properly taught curriculum and a student's lifelong access to the information.

Murray Siegel, Ph.D., has 44 years of experience teaching mathematics. He is in his fifth year as a volunteer at Butterfield Elementary School.

Local Realtor pays for homeowner upgrades

Dayv Morgan takes risk to ensure clients sell homes quickly, for maximum value

When it's time to sell or invest in a home, Maricopans have a unique opportunity to benefit from using a local agent who is so committed to selling a home that he's willing to pay out of his own pocket for improvements. Dayv Morgan of HomeSmart Success offers to cover the costs of renovating and updating a home before putting it on the market, in order to increase its value and marketability.

All homes experience wear-and-tear over the years, and Dayv counters that by installing new carpet, fresh paint and even full kitchen remodels when necessary. The selling price can then be increased to cover, and usually exceed, the cost of the improvements.

"Move-in ready homes sell much faster and for a significantly higher amount," he commented. "When a buyer walks into a home that looks and feels like it was just built, because it has new paint, flooring, and appliances, they will pay a premium."

Dayv, who sells over 100 homes annually, advised that such improvements not only help the seller make more money but also benefit the buyer as well. "Most buyers in Maricopa don't have the money, after they buy a house, to fix it up. They would much rather pay a slightly higher price and finance the upgrades through the mortgage. If they paid \$10,000 for improvements and put it on a credit card they would end up paying 14 to 18 percent interest.



Dayv Morgan

If that \$10,000 is instead done by the seller and included in the price of mortgage, now they're only paying 4 or 5 percent."

The program Dayv developed allows a seller to access his pool of preferred contractors, with whom he has negotiated reduced fees, or sellers can use their own referrals to make the repairs. Regardless of who completes the work, he pays up front for the improvements and is reimbursed from the proceeds of the sale, without charging any interest to the seller.

The idea came to him after seeing companies like Open Door and HomeVestors "low-ball" sellers to buy their home as-is, and then after making a few cosmetic improvements they would list the home on the MLS and resell it for a profit. He was surprised to see how much equity owners were giving away by selling their home direct to an investor. As a listing agent he created a process that allows sellers to "flip their own house" and keep the profit themselves. "It doesn't cost the owners anything out of pocket,



and it increases their return," Dayv noted. "It's a win-win for everyone involved — the buyer, the seller, myself as the Realtor, and even the city of Maricopa as it helps the neighborhood values to increase."

A 13-year resident of Maricopa, Dayv Morgan lives in the Palo Brea subdivision with his wife and four sons.



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Kyle Norby

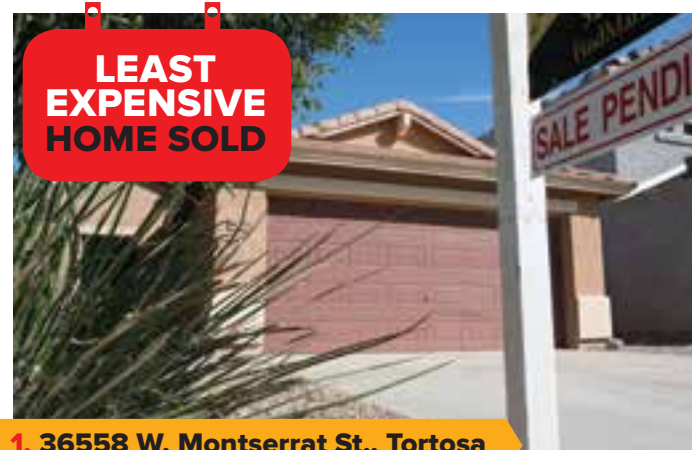
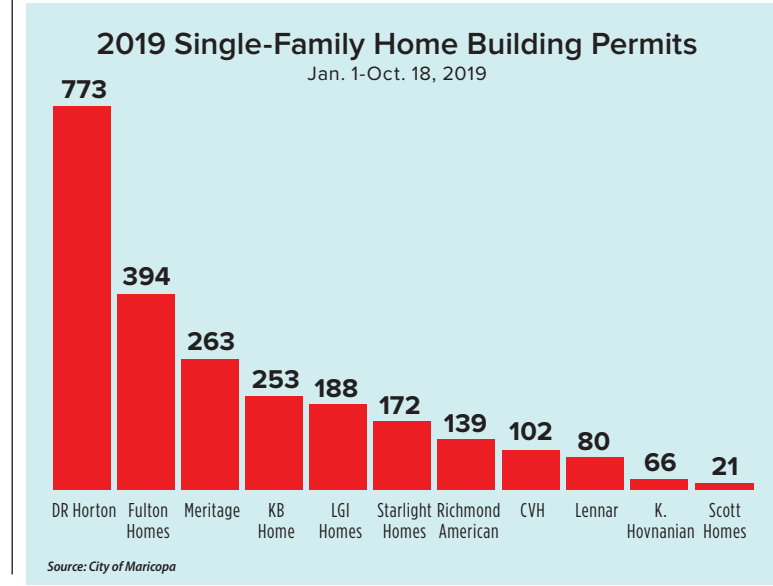
1. 17798 N. Kari Lane, Maricopa Meadows

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa Sept. 16-Oct. 15 is a five-bedroom house next to a greenway in Maricopa Meadows. It includes an extensively landscaped backyard with a pool and spa, which helped add market value that saw a 95% increase since it last sold in 2010. The property is a comeback kid, having once sold for \$84,000 in the recession.

Sold: Oct. 7
Purchase price: \$340,000
Square footage: 3,318
Price per square foot: \$102.47
Days on market: 80
Builder: Elite Homes
Year built: 2006

Bedrooms: 5
Bathrooms: 3.5
Community: Maricopa Meadows
Features: 3-car garage, balcony, private pool, water softener, loft, upstairs laundry

- 2. 42488 W. Venture Road, Rancho El Dorado \$325,000**
- 3. 21923 N. Van Loo Drive, Rancho El Dorado \$317,500**
- 4. 40684 W. Parkhill Drive, The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado..... \$300,000**
- 5. 43223 W. Lindgren Drive, The Villages at Rancho El Dorado ... \$297,000**



Kyle Norby

1. 36558 W. Montserrat St., Tortosa

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa Sept. 16-Oct. 15 was a former rental that was on the market just three days in Tortosa. The 12-year-old home is in an area undergoing lots of residential construction.

Sold: Sept. 16
Purchase price: \$172,000
Square footage: 1,220
Price per square foot: \$140.98
Days on market: 3
Builder: Elite Homes

Year built: 2007
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2
Community: Tortosa
Features: Split floor plan, washer/dryer

- 2. 21463, N. Keystone Dr., Rancho El Dorado \$174,000**
- 3. 45777 W. Dirk St., Maricopa Meadows \$174,000**
- 4. 35951 W. Costa Blanca Drive, Tortosa \$174,999**
- 5. 42244 W. Calle St., Santa Rosa Springs \$178,000**

For a full list of last month's Maricopa home sales, see InMaricopa.com/Real-Estate.

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Salvaging a garden with unique containers

By Trudy Fuller

Master Gardener Reba Cook has been creatively refining the approach of using containers for vegetables and flowers to combat compacted soil since 1975.

About three years ago, Cook suffered a fractured kneecap making it impossible to get close to the ground. The idea to stand over a raised bed without bending the knees drew her to repurpose two inoperable refrigerators. By taking out the motor in each and drilling holes on the back, she then had sure-fire insulated raised beds for her year-round desert garden. These insulated beds are host to tomatoes and watermelons.

She also created beds from wooden pallets and corrugated metal that have a late summer crop of green beans. Large, salvaged tires have housed crops of potatoes, carrots, spinach, broccoli, garlic and cauliflower. A large wooden spool originally used for electrical wire, hold various containers at waist height. In fact, Cook refers to her yard as the "salvaged garden."

Maricopa desert gardeners often gravitate to the use of containers for vegetables and flowers due to our compacted soil. Preparing the native soil can be labor-intensive, back-breaking work. Therefore, the idea of the outdoor container garden becomes more desirable.

Containers of various sizes and shapes are found on her acreage east of Maricopa. These include a re-purposed household fixture overflowing with flowering vinca to the large, corrugated steel livestock water troughs that serve as raised beds for tomatoes, peppers, okra and onions.

As nourishment washes away much faster in garden containers than it does in the inground garden, soil amendments for the containers and raised beds are a must. Just remember that every planter or container needs good drainage, so the lowest part of the soil is not too damp.

Cook shared a list of her usual choices to add to container garden soil. Organic amendments include compost, bone meal, earthworm castings, blood meal and various fertilizers such as purchased, aged, chicken manure and spent coffee grounds. As one might suspect, whether to add some or all of these amendments to a container comes from Cook's accumulated knowledge of what a particular plant will need for optimal growth.

She cautions against just using the container soil alone, as the results are often disappointing. However, for those organic gardeners considering using animal fertilizers, the product needs to be properly aged. For most of us impatient gardeners, it would be wise to rely only on a purchased, trusted brand name.



Trudy Fuller



Submitted

Maricopa Master Gardeners in Pinal County
520-374-6263
macmastergardener@gmail.com

VA loans popular option in Maricopa

By Dayv Morgan

At about 50,000 people, the city of Maricopa is significantly smaller than Maricopa County, which boasts a population of 4.3 million.

Despite our small-town nature, Maricopa almost doubles the ratio of VA home loans over the Maricopa County housing market.

Between January and September, VA loans made up 13.4% of the loans for closed home sales in the city. Maricopa County's VA loan figure was 6.9% over the same period. In Pinal County, it was 11.1%.

Because VA home loans require veterans to occupy the homes they purchase, it could



safely be assumed we have a very patriotic city with almost twice as many veterans

and active-duty servicemembers purchasing homes per capita as the Phoenix area.

There are many benefits for those who qualify for a VA loan. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, generally there is often no down payment unless required by the lender, no private mortgage insurance, no credit score requirement and VA loans can also be used to refinance an existing home.



Dayv Morgan

The new maximum loan amount for VA loans is \$484,350, raised from \$453,100 last year and significantly higher than the FHA loan limit of \$314,827.

Veterans and active duty servicemembers who meet certain length-of-service requirements are usually eligible for a VA loan, along with other certain groups of individuals. To learn if you are eligible, call the VA at 1-877-827-3702.

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

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Dig into Thanksgiving recipes

By Raquel Hendrickson

Thanksgiving dinner means a lot of autumn flavors, roasted vegetables with earthy spices, jazzed up potatoes, cranberries in everything and the challenge of finding one side dish brand new to the family table.

Desert Passage resident Robert King, a former butler and estate manager, whips up goodies and dishes for colleagues and friends from time to time. He learned to cook from the age of 13 at his mother's side and puts his own stamp on learned recipes.

Butternut squash and sweet potato soup has chicken or vegetable stock as its base, with main ingredients plus carrots, onion, thyme, olive oil and cumin, and is topped with raw pumpkin seeds and a dollop of sour cream or Greek yogurt and croutons.

Sweet rolls include pumpkin puree, flour, milk, yeast, sugar, eggs, butter and salt. The rolls are sliced on the sides before baking to create a pumpkin design in the finished product. After baking, it is topped with a cashew as a "stem" and served with cinnamon butter.

Here, he shares a Thanksgiving recipe for stuffed acorn squash. He said he likes the recipe because the grain can be changed and paired with other flavors.

"You can use rice or quinoa or couscous and match them with different nuts or seeds," he said.



Sausage cranberry apple pecan stuffed acorn squash

- Ingredients**
- 4 acorn squash (softball size single serve portion)
 - 1 tablespoon olive oil
 - Pinch of salt
 - Pepper to taste
 - 1 box wild rice (optional couscous, quinoa, farro or panko breadcrumbs)
 - 1 pound ground sausage
 - 1 small onion, finely chopped
 - 2 large celery stalks, finely chopped
 - 1 cup cauliflower chopped (optional)
 - 2 large honey crisp apples, diced
 - 1 cup dried cranberries
 - 1 cup toasted pecans chopped (optional walnuts or cashews)
 - ¼ cup pumpkin seeds (optional sunflower)
 - ½ teaspoon sage (optional thyme)
 - 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese (divided)

- Directions**
- Squash**
1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
 2. Using a sharp knife, cut off bottom end of acorn to give it a stable bottom to stand on. For a single-acorn, single-serving portion, you can cut the top off and use as a decorative element.
 3. Spoon out seeds.
 4. Brush olive oil inside and on top of acorn squash.
 5. Sprinkle salt and pepper over acorn squash to taste.



6. Bake for 40 minutes to an hour depending on size of your squash until tender and you can pierce with a fork, but still hold its shape.
- Filling**
1. In a separate pot cook rice/quinoa according to directions.
 2. While the squash is baking, sauté the sausage for about 5 minutes, drain but don't discard grease in the pan.
 3. Using the grease from the sausage add your onions and celery to the pan and sauté for another 2-3 minutes until it starts to brown (add olive oil if necessary).
 4. Add apples and cauliflower and sauté for another 2 minutes or until softened.
 5. Stir in sage, nuts, seeds and cranberries.

6. Add ¾ cup parmesan cheese and stir until cheese begins to melt. Set aside.
- Assembly**
1. Once squash has finished baking and reached desired tenderness, spoon in meat mixture with a large scoop until the squash is filled, leaving an overflowing mound on the top. Top with some grated Parmesan cheese.
 2. Return to oven and bake an additional 15-20 minutes, depending on size of squash.
 3. Remove from oven and top with remaining parmesan cheese.

Robert King displays a stuffed acorn squash from his autumn menu.



Find full recipes for pumpkin sweet rolls and butternut/sweet potato soup at InMaricopa.com.

New driver’s license requirements in effect next year

By Joan Koczor

Effective Oct. 1, 2020, driver’s licenses in Arizona will not be compliant with the REAL ID Act, according to Arizona Department of Transportation. The REAL ID Act, which Congress passed in 2005, tightens requirements for identification presented by travelers at airports.

Arizona residents won’t be able to get through TSA airport security checkpoints with a standard driver’s license as identification. The non-travel license says “NOT FOR FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION” across the front.

The biggest visible difference between a standard driver’s license and the “voluntary travel ID” is a gold star on the top right corner of the new cards.

A travel ID costs \$25 and is valid for eight years. Applications are available online at

AzDOT.gov/travelID. Travelers must bring completed application to a Motor Vehicle Division office or an authorized third-party driver’s license provider to apply.

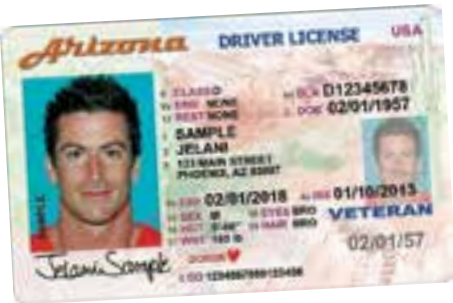


Joan Koczor

Three categories of identification documents are required. All documents must be originals or copies in English certified by the issuing agency.

Bring one: Proof of identity (birth certificate, U.S. passport, passport card). If you need a certified copy of an Arizona birth certificate, you can request one from Arizona Department of Health Services.

Bring one: Proof of Social Security Number (Social Security card, W-2 form). To order a replacement Social Security card visit the Social Security Administration website SSA.gov/myaccount and establish an account.



Bring two: Proof of Arizona residency via two printed documents with your current Arizona residential address (utility bills, credit card/bank statements, insurance policy). Note: If your current legal name is different from the one shown on a document, you must show legal proof of name change, such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree or court order.

Those who don’t have the required residency documents must complete an Arizona Residency Affidavit and supply additional proof of residency.

Joan Koczor is a senior advocate and Maricopa resident.

Why Maricopa needs a cemetery

By Al Brandenburg

Now that a true senior center is in the offing for next year, Maricopa Senior Coalition (MSC) is refocusing its efforts toward other amenities our seniors sorely need, like ageing in place, senior transportation, and in-home health and wellbeing services.

Having said that, a longer term need also requires attention. At the moment, aside from a local branch office, the only interment and funeral services available are in Casa Grande, including a cemetery. We need a cemetery somewhere within the boundaries of Maricopa with a funeral home where memorial services can be held.

Planning for a new cemetery requires determining in the first place whether a cemetery is needed at all. If it’s needed, what size should it be? Where can it best be located where it will not be an obstacle to municipal growth and where it will not be a public health hazard? Do cemeteries depress

property values and, if so, how can real estate depreciation be minimized? How can the cemetery and the community be protected against future neglect?

The permanence of a cemetery as a land use makes decisions regarding it unusually important. The city planner knows any building can be expected to outlive its usefulness in two or three generations. The planner also knows if there is civic necessity for the removal of a building, the procedure is comparatively simple, although the cost may be high. This is not true of a cemetery. Not only will the cost be excessive, but legal obstacles can very well make removal impossible.

Cemetery land is, for the most part, situated in or near our cities, where land is not in oversupply.

A city planner tackling a problem involving a cemetery faces pressures, ideas and laws not paralleled in any other city



Al Brandenburg

planning question. The disposal of the dead is enmeshed in religious doctrine, custom, fear, superstition and complicated statutory law. Probably the most important single technique in handling the promotion of cemeteries is the delicate public relations job.

Having said all of this, MSC will make this one of our longer-term project priorities by working with regional funeral service providers and city government toward enabling a privately owned cemetery to be built in the next five years along with a full-service funeral home. With the upcoming 2020 census, there is a strong potential that Maricopa’s population will grow along with a strong increase of seniors needing services.

With the many city improvement projects ongoing and planned for the next three-plus years, more people with families and related seniors will be coming to the area to live and take advantage of available services; thus local internment capabilities will increase in importance.

Al Brandenburg is the director and secretary of Maricopa Senior Coalition.

Sources: Legacy.com, the American Society of Planning Officials



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Why plan ahead for funeral wishes

Submitted by Kristin Gramando


You plan for everything in life — birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, vacations, homes, retirement and much more. Why shouldn't you also plan for final wishes? While no one likes to think about their own death, the fact remains that, one day, your family will need to make dozens of hard decisions to arrange your final life tribute.

They will want to celebrate you in death just as they celebrated you in life. They will want to gather together, offer support to one another, remember you and honor your legacy. Even if you don't want a big fuss, the fact still remains: Someone will be responsible for making funeral plans for you. But why couldn't that person be you?

You may not know that it's possible to plan your funeral, memorial or cremation in advance. Planning ahead for a funeral not




only ensures that your final wishes are recorded, but it also alleviates the burden that falls on loved ones at the time of loss.

Think about it. In those moments after hearing you have died, your family will be distraught, grief-stricken and possibly numb with shock. It will be hard enough to make even a simple decision much less plan a service they feel good about and does justice to the life that you've lived.

A well-thought-out celebration of life helps to remove a lot of the stress, anxiety and doubt that often plagues newly bereaved families. If you have ever lost a loved one, you know planning ahead is actually an incredibly thoughtful gift of love. 

(As found on the Funeral Basics website.)



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Calendar

NOVEMBER

2
Relay for Life of Maricopa
5 p.m., Copper Sky Recreational Complex
44345 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

4
Maricopa Historical Society Speaker Series
5:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

5
City Council Meeting
7 p.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

7
CAC Veterans Day Salute
4:30 p.m., Central Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

9
Veterans Day 5K Run
6:30 a.m., Pacana Park
19000 N. Porter Road

Maricopa Veterans Day Parade
9 a.m., Bowlin & Porter roads

VEX IQ Robotics Tournament
9 a.m., Legacy Traditional School
17760 N. Regent Drive

Copa City Dems Meeting
4 p.m., Copper Sky Police Substation
17985 N. Greythorn Drive

13
MUSD Governing Board Meeting
6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

14
Republicans of Maricopa Meeting
6:30 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Family Camping in the Park
4 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Senior Lunch and Learn
11 a.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

15
Food Truck Friday
5 p.m., Community of Hope Church
45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

16
What Is Your Story? Genealogy Event
9 a.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
37280 W. Bowlin Road

Our Lady of Grace Gala Dinner & Dance
6 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

19
City Council Meeting
7 p.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

23
Fall Fling Craft & Vendor Event
8 a.m., Maricopa Community Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

Community Blood Drive
8 a.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
37280 W. Bowlin Road

MAC Family Farm Day
10 a.m., University of Arizona Maricopa Agricultural Center
37860 W. Smith-Enke Road

28
Turkey Trot
10 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

For details on these and other local events — and to list your own — visit InMaricopa.com/Calendar.



Kyle Norby

Maricopa marches to salute veterans

The third annual Maricopa Veterans Day Parade is the morning of Nov. 9.

The event celebrates local military veterans, who comprise more than 10 percent of the population of Maricopa. All branches of service will participate. All residents are encouraged to attend to cheer on the veterans.

Prior to the parade, Maricopa Memorial Events hosts a Veterans Day 5K Run and one-mile walk at 7 a.m. at Pacana Park. Visit MMEinc.org.

Parade entries include floats, walking groups, riding groups, marching groups and motor groups. Some entries are comprised of veterans; some are comprised of groups just saying a big “Thank you” to those who were in the service. Entries range from the Maricopa High School Marching Rams to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

American Legion Post 133 Auxiliary, which organizes the event, anticipates multiple grand marshals again, saluting an array of veterans. Parades past have seen veterans from every conflict from World War II to Afghanistan.

Commercial entries are not allowed. Candy is also prohibited. Participants are also not allowed to distribute flyers along the parade.

The parade will follow the familiar route from the campus of Central Arizona College, 17945 N. Regent Drive, west along Bowlin Road to Porter Road and then north to Leading Edge Academy, 18700 N. Porter Road. The roadways will be blocked off along the route about 8:30 a.m.

At 11 a.m., all veterans and their families along with first responders will be treated to lunch at Leading Edge.

IF YOU GO

What: Maricopa Veterans Day Parade
When: Nov. 9, 9 a.m.
Where: Bowlin and Porter roads
How much: Free
Info: ALPost133az.org/Veteransparade

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File

Nov
9

Bernard "The Klute" Schober is again slammaster for the Maricopa Slam.

All-Maricopa Poetry Slam Championship adds cash prizes

Maricopa Arts Council is adding to its spoken-word performance events by offering cash prizes to the three winners of its 2019 All-Maricopa Poetry Slam Championship.

City championship takes place Nov. 9 at Honeycutt Coffee. The evening will be a three-round elimination contest for poets of high-school age and up.

Poetry Slams are competitions of original poetry where poets perform their own work before an audience without costumes, music or scenery. All poets get three minutes per round.

All types of poetry are welcome, from street-wise rap and narrative performance poems to political rants and introspective confessionals. Because these are adult slams, they are free-speech events, meaning language and topics can get salty.

Slams are judged over three elimination rounds. Five judges are selected from among the audience, with each judge awarding a score to each poet. Highest and lowest scores are discarded, and the average of the remaining marks becomes the official score. The judges' joint decision will be final.

The slam master, who runs the show, is nationally recognized poet Bernard Schober, who writes and performs as The Klute. He is a veteran of the National Slam and author of 12 books.

Doors open at 5:15 p.m., when participants and audience members can purchase refreshments and mingle. Only the first 14 poets who show up before 5:30 p.m. to register will have a chance to perform and should have three pieces prepared. The competition begins at 6:30 p.m.

Top prize is \$150. Second place wins \$75 and third \$50. The top two qualify to perform at MAC's All-Arizona Poetry Slam Championship on Jan. 25. The third-place poet will also perform at the all-state event as a "calibration poet" between the official rounds.

The All-Maricopa Slam Championship includes "Art On-the-Spot," artworks created from 5 to 6 p.m. by a specially selected Maricopa artist.

IF YOU GO

What: All-Maricopa Poetry Slam
When: Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:15 p.m.); poets register by 5:30 p.m.
Where: Honeycutt Coffee, 44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 109
How much: \$5 admission

Calendar

30

Gertie & the TO Boys
Nov. 30, Luxe Lounge
16000 N. Maricopa Road

DECEMBER

2

Maricopa Historical Society Speaker Series
5:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

6

Merry Copa
6 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.

7

2019 Masik Tas Light Parade
7 p.m., West Farrell Road
Ak-Chin Indian Community

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAYS

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

Senior Donuts & Coffee
1-4 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center, Room A
45345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

Harrah's Club 777 Toastmasters
3 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

Senior Game Time
9 a.m.- noon, Copper Sky Multigenerational Center, Room A
45345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Learn to Bowl like a Pro – with a Pro
6 p.m., UltraStar Multi-entertainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road

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



Nov
16

Research your ancestry at free community event

By Raquel Hendrickson

Do you know where you really come from?

Maricopa Family Search is inviting the community to a free genealogy event that will help you uncover the story of your ancestors and how you came to be you.

What Is Your Story Copa is Nov. 16 with a series of workshops on family research, preserving family documents and photos, DNA and more every half hour from 9 a.m. to noon.

"This event was created with the vision of making it possible for friends, neighbors and family to get to know their ancestors and those who have gone before them and the wonderful influence they have had in our lives," said organizer Jen Layton. "We hope that as we enter this upcoming holiday season that you might be able to use these resources and education you gain at this event to connect with your family on the earth today, and to be able to share with others the stories of those that have gone before."

Free registration is at WhatIsYourStoryCopa.com. Registration information will be used solely to communicate details about the event. After the event all collected information will be deleted, and never used for any marketing or remarketing activities by any organization or individual.

Maricopa Family Search will show you how to involve your children in your genealogy search, which can reach back centuries into your past.

"We know that everyone has a story," Layton said, "and we can't wait to work with you to help you find yours."

IF YOU GO

What: What Is Your Story Copa
When: Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-noon
Where: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 37280 W. Bowlin Road
How much: Free
Info: WhatIsYourStory.com, Facebook/
Instagram: @WhatIs-YourStoryCopa

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For details on these and other local events — and to list your own — visit InMaricopa.com/Calendar.

MAC invites families to a day on the farm

University of Arizona and Maricopa Agricultural Center invite all to the Family Farm Day Nov. 23, the weekend before Thanksgiving.

The day will be filled with activities like the corn maze, cotton-gin demonstration, water lab station, cricket-spitting and more. Check out farming equipment, farm animals and the Ag Village.

See how farming used to be done and catch up with modern technology. There will also be exhibitors and food vendors.

MAC is one of U of A's agricultural experiment stations. Its main focuses are cotton, small grains, alfalfa and new, specialty crops that could be used to provide fibers, oils, pharmaceuticals, etc. Research projects are related to irrigation, soils, crop fertility, insects, cotton production, weed control, plant diseases and cultural management practices.

Master gardeners are also based at MAC and will offer tips to visitors during the event.

MAC Family Farm Day is free for all ages. Donations of canned food will support F.O.R. Maricopa food bank.



File

**Nov
23**

IF YOU GO

What: MAC Family Farm Day

When: Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Where: University of Arizona MAC, 37860 W. Smith-Enke Road

How much: Free (please donate a can of food)

Info: CALS-MAC.Arizona.edu, 520-374-6204

Turkey Trot benefits food banks for Thanksgiving

By Raquel Hendrickson

If it's Thanksgiving, it must be time for the Maricopa Turkey Trot.

The annual event, which was taken over by the City's Community Services Department last year, is a 5K run and a 1-mile walk at Copper Sky on Thanksgiving morning.

The event benefits local food banks. Leave your money at home. Entry fee is five cans of nonperishable food items.

Register on-site starting at 9 a.m. The race begins at 10 a.m. Meet at the large ramada next to the lake.

"The first 200 people will get some cool swag and a bunch of free give-a-ways," said Matthew Reiter, marketing and development coordinator.

Now in its 12th year, the Turkey Trot has become a Thanksgiving tradition. All ages are welcome to come run to their hearts' content before their big Thanksgiving meal.



Raguel hendricks

**Nov
28**

IF YOU GO

What: 12th annual Maricopa Turkey Trot

When: Nov. 28, 10 a.m.

Where: Copper Sky Regional Park,
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

How much: 5 cans of food

in Maricopa NEW RESIDENT 2020 GUIDE



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Pathway students picket to protest teacher termination

Sequoia Pathway students carrying signs and chanting stood in front of the secondary school. Some wore masks of Kevin Struble's face.

Attempted Gator getaway in flip-flops lands man in jail

Police arrested a man on after allegedly attempting to escape from authorities near the golf course.



Multi-agencies tackle SR 347, 'create vision' for corridor

Local and state government agencies have partnered to address safety concerns on State Route 347 brought up by Maricopa and other neighboring communities.



For these and more stories every day, visit InMaricopa.com.



Man killed in SR 347 crash

A 76-year-old male driver died in a crash on State Route 347 Oct. 15 at the Riggs Road intersection, according to the Department of Public Safety.



Maricopa makes move toward citywide trash service

Should all of Maricopa be on the same trash service? The City is investigating the notion in order to achieve one of the objectives in its Strategic Plan, which is strict oversight of solid-waste management.

MHS football hopes for playoff slot after home loss

While the top teams in the conference are among the best in the state overall, a large portion of the bottom-half 5A teams are terrible. That has placed the Rams above average despite blowout losses



Teen Hall opens dialogue on life readiness

Be Awesome Youth Coalition's inaugural Maricopa Teen Hall, presented by InMaricopa, drew teenagers and the parents for discussions about life choices and life skills.



Want to run for Maricopa City Council?

The 2020 election, besides having national, state and county races and issues at stake, also includes three seats on Maricopa City Council as well as the mayor's office.



MUSD hears from skeptics at bond-election town hall

Resident JoAnne Miller said it was still all about the money.

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