



Maricopa

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February 2019

PEOPLE

Rocket man
reaches new
heights

BUSINESS

Midlife crisis
sparks change

THINGS TO DO

Copa Shorts
Film Fest cuts
to the chase

After the Romance

Local 'experts'
share tips
on long-lasting
relationships

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LEADING OFF

Editor's Letter **Page 4**
Contributors **Page 4**

PEOPLE

A photo gallery captures events around town. **Page 6**
History of electric power in a photo. **Page 7**
Rocket man Curt von Delius is a record-setter. **Page 8**
Love experts have tips for new generation. **Page 10**
Rachele Reese has long history in Maricopa education. **Page 12**

FAMILY

A gallery of photos of very busy local youth. **Page 14**
Check the spring sports schedules for MHS. **Page 16**
Bernadette Russoniello writes about what's facing Arizona high school graduates. **Page 18**
MUSD is expanding its preschool. **Page 19**
Priscilla Behnke has a problem with vapes for teens. **Page 20**
Murray Siegel celebrates female math nerds. **Page 21**

GOVERNMENT

Learn about plans for Copper Sky development. **Page 22**
Is COMET worth the cost of ridership? **Page 24**
Maricopa High School is over capacity – what that means. **Page 27**

BUSINESS

Bob Ledbetter's midlife crisis led him in a new direction. **Page 28**
See the numbers of the importance of Pinal County's agriculture. **Page 30**
Scores sign up for the business registry. **Page 31**
Briefs include new builds and business moves. **Page 34**
Directory **Page 36**



Province resident
Curt von Delius set a
height record with his
amateur-built rocket.

8

Victor Moreno

HOME

Rita Bricker can help you save frosty plants. **Page 40**
Dayv Morgan explains the impact of HOA fees. **Page 41**
Most expensive home sold has a lakeside view. **Page 42**
New home permit totals for 2018. **Page 43**

SENIOR LIVING

Al Brandenburg warns about opioid abuse among seniors. **Page 44**
Joan Koczor says watch your heart health. **Page 45**

HEALTH

Pinal County and food truck health inspections. **Page 49**

THINGS TO DO

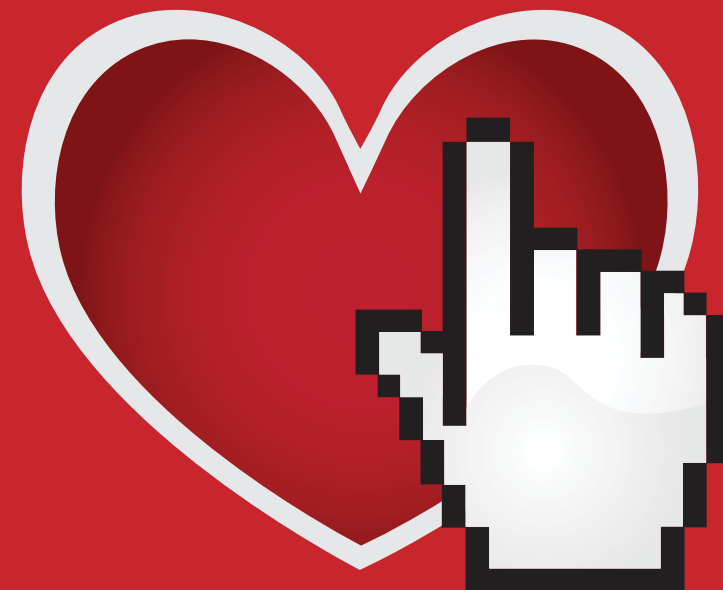
Check the calendar of Maricopa events. **Page 50**
Tommy Ronca shows upcoming entertainment. **Page 50**
Copa Shorts Film Fest screens highly rated movies. **Page 54**

ON THE COVER: CynDee and Rich Kane of Province have been married more than 50 years and have relationship tips for other Valentines..

Photo by Jim Headley

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Above and beyond



In this issue of InMaricopa, we meet an interesting group of people who go above and beyond in their work, their hobbies and their relationships. Anyone who has marked 50 years of marriage has certainly gone above and beyond the norm, and that applies to our cover subjects Rich and CynDee Kane. They helped us analyze the mystery and science of love for a heart-focused month.

You'll also learn about amateur rocket-builder Curt von Delius, whose skill and persistence resulted in a record launch that went above and beyond the Nevada desert. Educator Rachele Reese is known for going the extra mile in her 19 years in Maricopa schools.

New endeavors, such as Bob Ledbetter's a step into the unknown to turn a pastime into a new business, are also highlighted this month. Take a look inside plans to develop empty Copper Sky property, expand preschool in Maricopa Unified School District and possibly start a campaign for a capital improvement bond election.

Check out the numbers of COMET ridership, see what businesses are building, moving or expanding, and learn how to repair your plants damaged by this winter's frost.

Lots of information is ahead. Happy reading.

RAQUEL HENDRICKSON | Editor

Raquel@InMaricopa.com

520-568-0040 ext. 3

Contributors



RITA BRICKER

Rita is co-coordinator of the Master Gardeners in Maricopa. But she's more than a green thumb. She was recently spotlighted in Ballet Arizona's donor impact report for her history of giving.



JOAN KOCZOR

Joan regularly supplies important information to seniors through her newsletter. Her work was honored by a Dream Award at the Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations.



MURRAY SIEGEL

A habitual tutor, Murray has a Ph.D. in math education and 42 years of teaching experience and made noted DVD lectures of basic math during his time in academia.

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Publisher
SCOTT BARTLE

Editor
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

Writers
PRISCILLA BEHNKE
AL BRANDENBURG
RITA BRICKER
JIM HEADLEY
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON
JOAN KOCZOR
FRAN LYONS
DAYV MORGAN
BERNADETTE RUSSONIELLO
MURRAY SIEGEL

Photographers
DAVID DURST
JIM HEADLEY
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON
VICTOR MORENO
KYLE NORBY

Designer
CARL BEZUIDENHOUT

Advertising
SCOTT BARTLE
VINCENT MANFREDI
TRISHA PAIGE
MICHELLE SORENSEN

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InMaricopa
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 101
Maricopa, AZ 85138

520-568-0040 Tel
520-568-0050 Fax

News@InMaricopa.com
Advertising@InMaricopa.com
Photos@InMaricopa.com

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After the first girders for the overpass bridge were laid Jan. 12 across Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and the Union Pacific tracks, Ames Construction remained on schedule for the massive grade-separation project.

Raquel Hendrickson



More than 110 young golfers competed in the Saguaro Amateur at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes the first week of January, with Blake Hathcoat winning on the second playoff hole.

Raquel Hendrickson



Maricopa Unified School Board for 2019 was completed in January as Ben Owens (far left) was sworn in along with re-elected member Patti Coutre (second from right) to join AnnaMarie Knorr, Torri Anderson and Joshua Judd.

Raquel Hendrickson



Marijke Cuffe, Christina Surber, Jeremiha Ballard and Bryce Wildermuth entertained in the Maricopa Community Theatre production of Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor" in January.

Raquel Hendrickson



Southwest Industrial Rigging transplanted the antique California Zephyr railcar from its location by the Amtrak station to its new home next to the former Rotary pool. See the video at InMaricopa.com

Jim Headley

Maricopa gets electrified



Maricopa Historical Society

In 1930, Electrical District No. 3 brought electrical power to homes in western Pinal County, including Maricopa. Power lines were installed to serve Maricopa and west Casa Grande. Sixty workers constructed extension lines and a power substation. The substation was 18 miles south of Maricopa. The contractors were Arizona Edison Company and Salt River Valley Water Users Association, answering to the Department of the Interior. Workers constructed extension lines north of Maricopa and north of Gila River as well an extension line that ran several miles from the substation to west of Hidden Valley. The estimated cost was \$500,000. The lines supplied power to Districts 3 and 4, the latter comprised of Picacho, Eloy and Toltec.

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Victor Moreno



Submitted

Curt von Delius' rocket traveled 3.5 times the speed of sound and coasted to 46 miles above sea level.

The max speed of Mach 3.53 is compared to a high-velocity rifle bullet. This type of launch classification also required military approval and permits.

After a first attempt at rocket launching failed, Curt was ready to take a break. A friend, “another rocket guy,” pushed him forward to continue his quest and supported the project with funding. It took five years of research, testing and construction to build the PHX4. The entire project, including design and components, was completed at his Maricopa home, in the garage.

Monica Daniels, Curt’s mission manager and life partner of 30 years, said, “He is passionate and puts his heart and soul into his work. His desire to take on a challenge is amazing.”

The rocket traveled 3.5 times the speed of sound and coasted to 46 miles above sea level. A camera onboard the spinning vehicle captured the curvature of Earth’s horizon. It touched down more than 6 miles away.

Von Delius felt the pressure of a real mission and the scientific payload that accompanies it. More than 22,000 people, including some of his rocket buddies, have viewed the launch on YouTube, and Mike Fisher commented, “Curt is a very smart dude and a heck of a nice guy. This does not surprise me that he built a rocket capable of this.”

“The PHX4 Project was successful – I dreamed it, designed it, built it and moved beyond the challenges and obstacles of the launch. I met and exceeded my expectations.” —Curt von Delius

Curt von Delius was born in Hollywood, California, and grew up in Montana and Washington state. He also lived in Hawaii. Daniels was born in Southern California. She traveled to Washington state to learn to become a pilot.

She met Curt, also a pilot, in 1989, when they flew single-engine aircraft and gliders together. They soon became a team and complemented each other’s dreams and goals.

They lived in Seattle and Port Townsend where he learned traditional boat building, being inspired by an 1893 Kingston Lobster boat.

“I fell in love with traditional boats. What draws me is the beauty of craft and working with my hands,” von Delius said. “It’s a talent that comes naturally.”

They decided to move to Lake Tahoe, where Curt began building high-end houses and Monica worked in property management. In 2005 they left their businesses and semi-retired. They moved to Maricopa and settled in Province to escape the long winters in Tahoe.

Always the adventurer, von Delius was triggered to return to water skiing, another great love. He was active in tournament slalom at Firebird Lake by the racetrack in Chandler. There, he made a friend who introduced him to the world of rockets — the most challenging objects to build and a quantum leap into design and engineering.

Von Delius became hooked and began studying NASA publications, technical theses and using his native inventive wisdom. The rest is history.

“The PHX4 Project was successful — I dreamed it, designed it, built it and moved beyond the challenges and obstacles of the launch. I met and exceeded my expectations,” von Delius said.

After 30 years of flying, building boats and houses and seeking new frontiers, Curt and Monica are taking an extended trip to relax and enjoy off-shore sailing in the South Pacific. Von Delius called it “back to roots — sailing as a reward for the soul.”



Darryl Paris



Curt von Delius preps his rocket launcher for the big day in Nevada. His work resulted in an altitude gain of 244,000 feet.

Province rocketeer is record-setting adventurer

By Fran Lyons

Historic. Supersonic. Near space flight. Curt von Delius’ high-power rocketry project, PHX4 200000, is that and more. The mission launched June 16, 2018, from an austere, “in the middle of nowhere” site in the Black Rock Desert located in northwestern Nevada. Von Delius’ two-stage PHX4 rocket attained an altitude of 244,000 feet, easily overshadowing the previous record of 120,000 feet for an amateur, two-stage rocket.

LOVE WORKS

Hard work, scientific fact or just a mystery

Story and photos by Jim Headley

Love means different things to different people.

The root of the word “love” as a noun is defined as “an intense feeling of deep affection” or “a great interest and pleasure in something.” Synonyms include deep affection, fondness, tenderness, warmth, intimacy, attachment, endearment, liking, weakness, partiality, bent, leaning, proclivity, inclination and disposition. If used as a verb its definition becomes “feeling a deep romantic or sexual attachment to someone or something.”



Rich and CynDee Kane of Province say a long-lasting relationship requires friendship and work.

Some people really know how to make love work.

CynDee and Rich Kane of Province celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 6.

“We met in high school in 1966,” CynDee said. “We were in high school four years, and I don’t know why it took us until our senior year to connect, but we did, in geography. We have been high school sweethearts and just kept it going. We ended up getting married.”

They admit the strength of their relationship is being best friends.

“He’s the gears of the clock, and I’m the hands,” she said. “We are kind of inseparable.

If he’s doing some work, he will call me to help him out, even if it is in the garage.”

CynDee said she is an artsy person while Rich is mechanical.

“We work well together,” Rich said. “She thinks of it and I get the project of ... cutting it, building it and putting her ideas together.”

When asked what love is, CynDee replied, “friendship and working well together.” She said as a couple, they are always looking out for each other in sickness and in health.

“We can trust each other,” Rich said while CynDee Kane responded, “Yeah, but I won’t say that we don’t have little tiffs once in a while.”

“If you can be with somebody in a motorhome for three or four months and not kill each other, there has to be love there somehow.” – Rich Kane

As a couple, they take long trips together in their motorhome, often for months at a time. They have travelled all 50 states and taken 34 cruises together.

“If you can be with somebody in a motorhome for three or four months and not kill each other, there has to be love there somehow,” Rich said. CynDee replies, “Yeah, that has to be love in a 38-foot motorhome.”

Rich said young couples who are falling in love “need to make sure before they get married that’s the person they really want to spend the rest of their life with. You have to realize that you’re making a commitment to that person to be with that person. It is fine to have friends but there is one person that your life is committed to and that is the person you want to marry. If you’re more interested in being out every Friday night with the guys while your wife and children are sitting home, it isn’t going to work.”

Rick and Julie Westby are counselors at Maricopa Behavioral Health Services in Maricopa. They’ve been married 14 years and offer a more scientific look at love.

Julie Westby said as counselors they like to say humans are “just love in molecules. We are molecules that are hovering, and the glue that holds us together is love.”

She said love works for some people and not for others “because they just choose not to” make it work.

“When people choose not to love, usually it is wrapped up in something in their psyche that is saying that they are not loveable, or they

have been brought up in a belief system that says other people aren’t loveable,” Julie said.

Being best friends is also a key component to the Westbys’ relationship.

“A long time ago, I had a pastor say that love should be spelled T-I-M-E,” Rick Westby said. “I like to think of it as unconditional, positive regard. The ability to look past small stuff and to engage regardless.”

Julie added she is very likeminded with her husband. She warns not to rush a moment when you are “resonating” with another person.

Julie Westby said sometimes Internet dating can lay the groundwork for a relationship, and a couple can often know each other well before meeting in person.

Rick Westby said if people try online dating sites, they should be honest about what they like and don’t like to do.

“If you go on one of those websites right now there are probably 3,000 available people within 50 miles. It’s almost choice overload,” he said. “If there is one thing that seems off, next, next, next. That can really be a beautiful thing because after the romance, how are we friends? What do we have in common and what do we want to do?”



Counselors Julie and Rick Westby have been married 14 years and are also best friends.

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Rachele Reese has been involved in education in Maricopa since 2000, the last three at Leading Edge Academy, and now has been picked as administrator of an upstart charter high school.

Raquel Hendrickson

Reese wants all students confident in their skills

By Raquel Hendrickson

After high school, Rachele Piñero Reese was a bit adrift. In college, she studied for a basic general education degree in Puerto Rico “because I had no idea what I wanted to do in my life.” She was also struggling with what she later found out was attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

“Severe ADHD,” she said, “so I had to learn how I could learn. They didn’t even know what ADHD was, so it’s not like I was diagnosed. I just couldn’t understand why I couldn’t focus. So, it took a group of people, including my parents, to keep me confident in my skills to learn.”

So, she empathizes with students with learning issues but doesn’t accept excuses. And she wants high schools to do a better job of leading students to discover where their skills can take them in the job market.

“One of the things that I have always

noticed is the fact that when you finish high school, the advisor can give you a test and then say, “These are your skills,” Reese said. “But there is really no real-life idea of what that job is going to look like.”

Now with a master’s degree and working as an assistant principal at Leading Edge Academy, she has been chosen to be the principal for the upcoming A+ Charter Schools for junior high and high school students. The school is being organized to emphasize project-based education, job marketability, higher education and life skills.

Reese has been involved in Maricopa education since 2000. She started as a substitute at Maricopa Unified School District for middle school and high school language arts, English Language Learners and Spanish during a tumultuous time at MUSD. While teaching, she was training as ELL coordinator for the district.

“High school is a big challenge, and I want to take that challenge,” she said.

Rebekah Krueger, the business manager of Arizona Charter Solutions, Leading Edge Academy’s management company, has known Reese 11 years and thought she was just the person to start up a charter high school.

“She’s just so enthusiastic,” Krueger said. “She’s passionate about education. She’s lived there in Maricopa many years, and her experience speaks for itself. And she’s fun to be around.”



Submitted

During Reese’s third year at MUSD, the district experienced hypergrowth. She went from testing 200 students to testing 800. She had to train a group of people to help so the district could make adequate yearly progress. At the time, she worked out of the old elementary building at the Honeycutt Avenue campus.

When Santa Cruz Elementary opened in Tortosa, she went there as assistant principal, working one year with 1,000 students. When the academic coach was promoted to principal at the new Saddleback Elementary, she took Reese with her as assistant.

A year later, Maricopa Wells Middle School was having administrative issues, and Reese split her time between duties at Saddleback and doing teacher evaluations at MWMS.

“She is probably the top individual I’ve ever dealt with as far as evaluating teachers and instructing teachers,” said Mat Reese, who was an MUSD principal at the time and later married Rachele Piñero.

Maricopa Elementary was in corrective action academically and having discipline problems. When the principal was moved out, Rachele Reese went to MES as an assistant principal. Two weeks later she was the interim principal and in charge of a turnaround.

“We had a year to turn it around,” she said. “I met with staff and I made the analogy of a huge ship that needs at least 30 miles to turn around completely. We don’t have 30 miles; we have about a mile to turn it around. Typically,

there are going to be casualties.”

That meant a “reduction in force” of 18 employees. That was the beginning of the end of her time at MUSD.

“I know there are people who don’t like my approach because of the turnaround aspect of it,” Reese said. “You can’t go in and pat people on the back and say, ‘You’re doing a great job,’ if they’re not.”

She said she had heard the excuse for low scores at MES centered on the high population of Native American and Hispanic students.

“I had to go in and build those kids up because those kids thought they were dumb,” she said. “I’m Hispanic myself, and I’ve always thought anybody can learn. If you just believe in yourself, you can do anything.”

Putting her hyperactivity to work, she also insisted on a better physical environment at the school, even getting out the paint roller to paint the cafeteria to be more inviting.

“What she did at Maricopa Elementary was phenomenal,” Mat Reese said. “She got that school from three points from an A. In six years they didn’t even approach a C.”

After Superintendent Jeff Kleck resigned, she said she “saw the writing on the wall” and turned in her resignation as well. She became a turnaround principal at Gila Bend. There were some improvements during her two years there but also decades of political baggage.

After taking a break, she took a part-time position helping Mat Reese create the local Leading Edge Academy charter school and began helping Laura Newcomb gain accreditation for her Autism Academy in Tempe. When Leading Edge opened, she became full-time staff. She has been with Leading Edge three years.

In 2018, Reese was named Maricopa Latin Heritage Person of the Year during the City’s Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations.

When Newcomb and Krueger floated the idea of another charter high school, Reese told them Maricopa would be the place to do it.

Krueger said they felt the kind of project-based high school they were envisioning was needed, and Reese’s knowledge of the city was vital.

“She can hit the ground running.”

HEATING TIPS

1 Set your programmable thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and lower the setpoint when you’re sleeping or away from home.

2 Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as recommended.

3 Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing; when replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

4 During winter, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

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Gallery



Sixth-grade students from the Maricopa Wells Middle School Blended Learning program presented their Future Maricopa models to the city council Jan. 15. The students who presented were Amanda Childers, Ulissa Garcia, Mattie Gooden, Alexa Gutierrez, Teyzin McElroy, Brady McMullen, Chloe Mickalowski, Makayla Owen, Jacob Riley, Madeline Seaman, Ava Sorenson and Milagros Urquilla. The team of Marley Polosky, Allison Rice and Camille Troyer won the regional championship and will compete in Washington, D.C., in February.

Raquel Hendrickson



Zach Kondravy goes upside-down in winning two matches in a home meet Maricopa High School won Jan. 16 over Camelback and McClintock.

Kyle Norby



Sophomore Josiah Jackson (13) goes up for a shot for the rebuilding Maricopa High School Rams.

Raquel Hendrickson



The Maricopa High School girls' basketball team, which started its season 16-5, honored two of its seniors, Jayla Johnson (left) and Jene Brown, for reaching their respective 1,000-point career milestones. The Rams are ranked in the top 10 in 5A.

Raquel Hendrickson



Maricopa High School band members added a musical lift to the excitement of home basketball games this year.

Raquel Hendrickson



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Spring athletes to watch at Maricopa High School are (from left) front row - tennis players Elijah Baxter and Blesha Romo; and back row - track & field athlete Tylen Coleman, baseball player Devin Fiala, softball player Chantel Holguin and track & field athlete Shannon Coutre.

Victor Moreno

MHS Spring Sports Schedules



Baseball

2/26	3:45 p.m.	@ Paradise Valley
2/28	4 p.m.	vs. Metro Tech
3/1	3:45 p.m.	@ Sunrise Mountain
3/5	4 p.m.	vs. Notre Dame Prep
3/7	3:45 p.m.	@ Willow Canyon
3/11	4 p.m.	vs. Independence
3/22	4 p.m.	vs. Campo Verde
3/26	7 p.m.	@ Campo Verde
3/27	3:45 p.m.	@ Agua Fria
3/29	4 p.m.	vs. Williams Field
4/2	3:45 p.m.	@ Williams Field
4/4	4 p.m.	vs. Higley
4/5	3:45 p.m.	@ Higley
4/9	3:45 p.m.	@ Casteel
4/10	4 p.m.	vs. Sierra Linda
4/12	4 p.m.	vs. Casteel
4/16	4 p.m.	@ Gilbert
4/18	6 p.m.	vs. Gilbert



Softball

2/28	3:45 p.m.	@ Metro Tech
3/1	3:45 p.m.	vs. Sunrise Mountain
3/7	3:45 p.m.	vs. Willow Canyon
3/8	4 p.m.	@ Independence
3/11	3:45 p.m.	vs. Paradise Valley
3/22	6:30 p.m.	@ Campo Verde



Boys' Tennis

2/21	3:30 p.m.	@ Kofa
2/26	3 p.m.	vs. La Joya
2/27	3:30 p.m.	@ Westview
2/28	3 p.m.	vs. Valley Vista
3/6	3:30 p.m.	@ Cibola
3/7	3:30 p.m.	@ Apollo
3/19	3 p.m.	vs. Skyline
3/20	3 p.m.	vs. Gilbert
3/26	3 p.m.	vs. Westwood
3/27	3:30 p.m.	@ Tolleson
3/28	3:30 p.m.	@ San Luis
4/3	3:30 p.m.	@ Independence
4/10	3 p.m.	vs. Dobson
4/12	3 p.m.	vs. Chandler

Girls' Tennis

2/21	3 p.m.	vs. Kofa
2/26	3:30 p.m.	@ La Joya
2/28	3:30 p.m.	@ Valley Vista
3/1	3 p.m.	vs. Westwood
3/7	3 p.m.	vs. Apollo
3/11	3 p.m.	vs. Cibola



3/19	3:30 p.m.	@ Skyline
3/20	3:30 p.m.	@ Gilbert
3/26	3:30 p.m.	@ Westwood
3/27	3 p.m.	vs. Tolleson
3/29	3 p.m.	vs. San Luis
4/3	3 p.m.	vs. Independence
4/10	3:30 p.m.	@ Dobson
4/11	3:30 p.m.	@ Chandler



Track & Field

3/2	8 a.m.	@ Corona del Sol
3/8	2 p.m.	@ Desert Vista
3/13	TBD	MHS
3/16	9:30 a.m.	@ North Canyon
3/22-3/23	noon	@ Chandler
4/3	1 p.m.	@ Bradshaw Mountain
4/6	9 a.m.	@ Greenway
4/10	TBD	MHS
4/12	9 a.m.	@ Westwood
4/16	3 p.m.	MHS
4/19	9 a.m.	@ Queen Creek
4/1-4/4	TBD	State Championships

Photos by Victor Moreno

Hard facts about Arizona high school graduates completing college

By Bernadette Russoniello

Government, media and families voice much concern over public school performance and accountability. We grade schools with letter grades based on standardized test scores, student growth in test scores, attendance, graduation rate, college and career readiness and English learner proficiency. Schools receive grades for their measured performance.

But what about our institutions of higher education? What grade do they earn as we prepare students for education beyond high school?

A report released last fall from the Arizona Board of Regents, representing Arizona's public universities, paints a stark picture of student educational completion beyond high school. Nearly half – 47 percent – of Arizona

high schoolers graduate without enrolling in a two-year or four-year college. The average college completion rate for Arizona high school graduates is only 27 percent — and that statistic is six years after graduation.

The statistics are even gloomier for students to complete their certificate or degree program within the standard two- or four-year timeframe. If trends stay on their current path, only 17 percent of today's ninth graders (class of 2022) will graduate from a four-year college by 2028.

What do we need to do to improve this outlook?

Education. First, we need to stop making students feel like they only have value, purpose or worth if they pursue a four-year college degree. According to 2016 data from

the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, only 21 percent of jobs in the U.S. economy required a bachelor's degree to gain an entry position. Surprisingly, 36 percent of entry-level jobs only require a high school diploma or equivalent. An additional 28 percent of jobs require no formal educational credential at all.

What we need to do is continue to shift the conversation in homes and schools away from "you're only successful if you go to college" and help students recognize careers and career pathways that match the student's work values, lifestyle goals and financial requirements.

We need to recognize that only 26 percent of careers in today's workforce require a bachelor's degree or beyond. We need every student to realize their career potential, to know they can accomplish any goal with commitment and hard work. But we must do a better job of painting a fair picture for young scholars and their families, helping students identify careers and career pathways of potential interest, and learning about the range of options they have.

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



Bernadette Russoniello

MUSD gears up for full-day preschool

By Raquel Hendrickson



Raquel Hendrickson

“Maricopa is going to offer a full-day program for preschoolers ages 3 and 4 with highly certified teachers.”

– Teaching & Learning Director
Krista Roden

Arizona Department of Health Services lists four operating preschools that are state-licensed to teach ages 3-4. Maricopa Unified School District wants to expand that.

MUSD started its strategic planning in August, and administration wants to have its state licensure for a full-day preschool by Feb. 1.

The district currently has a preschool at Saddleback Elementary School. That has been preparation for the larger program. It is expanding to Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa campuses.

“I’m so, so excited that all the sudden something is happening,” said Pat Wilson, preschool teacher at Saddleback, who advocated for the full-time program.

“My hope is that this will be able to morph into a young-5’s program for those kindergarteners who are just on the cusp, that aren’t ready for kindergarten,” said MUSD Governing Board member Patti Coutré. “So, then we’d have a young-5’s program so parents don’t have to pay the tuition.”

The governing board received an update on the development of the preschool at its Wednesday meeting.

“We want every student to dream, learn and become. In a practical sense, when they graduate high school, they need to be able to create, innovate, lead and succeed,” Superintendent Tracey Lopeman said. “Realizing that outcome begins in preschool.”

Krista Roden, director of Teaching & Learning, said the Preschool Planning Committee researched the community, made comparisons in other districts and surveyed Maricopa parent on whether a full-time preschool was needed.

The survey came back “overwhelmingly yes,” Roden said.

The committee worked through class space, food service and curriculum as it executed a state checklist.

The plan is have a state walk-through in June in order to have three classrooms open for the new school starting in July.

The full-day program, which combines with child-care wrap-around from 6 a.m. to

6 p.m., is for preschoolers ages 3 and 4 to be taught by highly certified teachers with both elementary certifications and early-education endorsements.

“It’s very, very important for us,” Roden said. “That kind of sets us ahead of the state with everyone else.”

The program expects to tout STEM activities, social development and emotional development.

“Competitive pricing is one of our sales points, as well,” Roden said, saying there are subsidies to help parents with financing.

Wilson cited early findings of an ongoing Harvard University early-learning study showing preschool leads to “greater cognitive abilities, better impulse control, more sociability.”

She also said it was early intervention for special education and drop-out rates.

“One of the charter schools has already jumped on board with this, she said, “and we need to get in the game immediately, so we don’t lose any more students to any other school, including charter schools.”



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Our kids are being Juuled; they are worth more than this

By Priscilla Behnke

There's been a growing trend among teens. E-cigarettes help long-time smokers by reducing the intake of harmful chemicals they inhale while burning traditional tobacco cigarettes, or helping others quit all together. Here are some things to consider when thinking about teen use of vape pens.

1 The "reduction in harm" discussion means just that, it's less harmful, not harmless. Someone who has been smoking for years looking for a less harmful method is vastly different than a young member of the pink lung club beginning to use nicotine in this "safer" method.

2 Not all liquid vapor is nicotine free, and they know it. When vaping first

started becoming popular I had discussions with middle schoolers who tried vaping. They just wanted to try the fun flavor and were convinced it didn't even have nicotine. In recent discussions, high schoolers admitted freely that they are vaping nicotine products, and in fact they seek it out. The higher the percentage the better.



Priscilla Behnke

3 They are getting it from older friends and siblings. I called around and suggested that I wanted a starters kit but wanted to get around the pesky 18 and older law. The retailers informed me they were only going to sell to 18 and older. The teens I talked with informed me it wasn't hard to find friends of age to get it for them; some even had siblings who would buy it for them.

4 Why they use it might surprise you. One admitted not liking it saying it tasted like an expletive but wanted to appear cool. Another claimed most don't like it but find it to be a huge stress reliever from what is going on at home or school. Home should be a refuge, but some of our teens are so stressed they are choosing to cope by vaping a poisonous substance in the school restroom, not developing skills that will help them become the confident, connected and successful people this world need.

5 If you listen, they will talk; and if you talk, they will listen. Parents have more credibility with young people than any institution. If parents stand back and simply wish their kids aren't involved in these drug trends than an influence vacuum is left to be filled by older friends and siblings in a school restroom with a toxic vapor.

BeAwesomeYouth.life

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

Future is bright for female math nerd

By Murray Siegel

This column is written for parents and grandparents of young girls who have shown an ability and an interest in mathematics. For many years, females were discouraged from pursuing an interest in mathematics, but thankfully, that has changed. Yet the question might still be asked, what can a young lady do following her interest in math? To answer that question several women who were (and still are) math nerds will be highlighted.

Jelena Kovacevic grew up in Yugoslavia and states, "I've been a math nerd for as long as I can remember, and I'm proud of it." She received her undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from the University of Belgrade, moved to the United States when her father was the Yugoslav ambassador and obtained her Ph.D. at Columbia. She worked at Bell Laboratories and became chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Carnegie Mellon. Last year, she was appointed dean of NYU's Tandon School of Engineering, the first woman to do so in the school's 164-year history.



Murray Siegel

Eleanor Baum realized early that her love of math was directing her to be an engineer, but in the 1950s females were not supposed to be engineers. One college would not admit her because they had no women's bathroom. City College of New York admitted her, and she was the only woman in her engineering class. She earned a Ph.D. at Polytechnic Institute of New York and worked in aerospace before becoming dean of Engineering at Pratt Institute, the very first woman to be an engineering dean at an American university. She was appointed dean of Engineering at the prestigious Cooper Union and is now dean emeritus there.

Audrey Malagon grew up in rural Nebraska and was always interested in math. Fortunately, there was a summer honors program where her interest was enriched. She received a Ph.D. in mathematics from Emory University and is a professor at Virginia Wesleyan, where she shares her passion for mathematics. Her ultimate professional goal is to be a university president.

Not all females with mathematical ability become academics. Mary Barra obtained an electrical engineering degree from General Motors Institute, and, after receiving an MBA from Stanford, worked at General Motors and is currently the CEO of that corporation.

Danica McKellar had an early interest in math and received her mathematics degree from UCLA. She has written books aimed at exciting young girls about math. You know her best as Winnie Cooper on "The Wonder Years" television series.

Female math nerds have also become physicians, lawyers and politicians. Mathematical ability can be the key allowing a young woman to open the door to success.

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



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City unveils \$146 million Copper Sky Commercial District

By Jim Headley

Millions of dollars are about to be invested into the Copper Sky Commercial District.

Maricopa's Director of Economic Development Denyse Airheart announced plans for an 18-acre development around Copper Sky that will include a La Quinta hotel, 620 apartments, a 172-unit Morning Star Assisted Living Center and 53,000 square feet of retail space.

Airheart unveiled the \$146 million plan at a Jan. 9 special meeting between the Maricopa Economic Development Alliance (MEDA) and Maricopa City Council.

"The southern parcel will include a hotel with about 85 rooms," Airheart said. "That is going to be the very first project on this site. Phase one will continue to include about 320 units of multifamily housing and then retail with about 16,000 square feet."

She said the northeastern corner of the development will also include assisted living housing.

"This is a segment of our population that we are not able to cater to today," Airheart said. "The developer that we are working with is interested in being in and out with construction within three years. The developer is investing money and he also has to work to attract investment dollars to this project. We hope this will go on to expand the critical relationships that we are working on."

Airheart said the La Quinta is a \$10 million private investment and will be four stories tall with 89 rooms. It will have a \$1 million annual operating budget and create 20 jobs.

She said it will provide an annual payroll of \$390,000 to the local economy, as well as property, bed and sales taxes.

Hopes are the hotel will be operational by the end of 2020.

Those attending the MEDA meeting were extremely excited by Airheart's release about the development.

"Ummm, so this is confirmed?" one man asked.

Airheart replied it was about to become reality and the developer is ready to start on the project soon. Businesses going into the



Submitted



Jim Headley

A La Quinta hotel was announced for development in the Copper Sky Commercial District during a public presentation by Economic Development Director Denyse Airheart at a joint session with Maricopa Economic Development Alliance.

open retail spaces at the new development will be "market-driven."

City Manager Rick Horst told the crowd the developer of the hotel is Shea Connelly Development, a national developer with a long and prestigious track record.

The hotel is separate from the multifamily housing and retail complex going into the Copper Sky development. Airheart said the same developer has built a similar project in Fountain Hills.

The Copper Sky Commercial District will include a \$100 million private investment into a complex with 53,000 square feet of retail space and provide about 150 new jobs.

The Copper Sky development is almost twice the size of the Fountain Hills

development.

The proposed Morning Star assisted living facility is a \$30 to \$35 million private investment providing 172 units with 82 as independent care, 56 as assisted living and 34 dedicated for memory care. Morning Star is expected to provide 225 jobs to the Maricopa community, according to Airheart.

She provided images of the company's development at Fountain Hills showing a large and luxurious 91-unit care center that is nearly half the size of what will be built in Maricopa. Fountain Hills was a \$21 million investment.

Horst said, in all, the new development could house up to 3,000 more people and will leverage larger events to come to Maricopa, increasing tourism and jobs.

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Raquel Hendrickson

COMET use increasing but still chasing riders

By Raquel Hendrickson

When the City of Maricopa formally unveiled its bus-stop shelters in October, there was a jump in ridership within a couple of days.

“Attribute that to recognition that, yes, there is a transit system,” Transportation Planner David Maestas said.

In fact, City of Maricopa Express Transit (COMET) has been around in one form or another since 2008. That it continues to lie below the awareness level of many Maricopans is a source of frustration and repeated questions about the operation of at least one aspect of the service.

By the transportation department’s numbers, COMET had a ridership (individual boardings) of 7,344 during fiscal year 2017-18. That was an increase of 14.5 percent from the previous year. The projection for 2018-19 is 8,665, a continuation of a four-year increase.

Those are budget numbers. The last time the city delivered a head count of “unique passengers” rather than boardings was FY 2015-16, when that number was 1,713.

On the ground, the regional demand-response service (dial-a-ride) often carries a single person to medical offices in Chandler or Casa Grande, which City Councilmember Nancy Smith has called “kind of hard to swallow.”

The 2018-19 budget for COMET is \$484,000. The local share of that was \$175,000 while federal grants pick up the bill for the rest. The projected number of trips to be taken during the same fiscal year is 8,665, making the per-trip cost to the City more than \$20. Overall, the cost per-ride is \$56.

For riders, the cost of local demand-response is \$1 per one-way

trip. For regional demand-response, it is \$3 per round trip. For the local fixed route, which is the service that uses the new bus-stop shelters, the fare is 50 cents per boarding.

By comparison, in the tri-city area of Prescott a nonprofit operates the Yavapai Regional Transit that started as a municipal service in 2008. It is primarily comprised of three fixed routes. A one-way fare is \$2 for adults and \$1 for seniors, disabled and kids. The curb-to-curb, demand-response service is for seniors and individuals with mobility disabilities at a fare of \$1; anyone else pays \$5.

In Maricopa, the demand-response is “the least effective mode of transportation that we’ve got,” Maestas said. “It’s probably the worst of our services when it comes to availability.”

However, he said, an important reason the City continues to operate demand-response “is to make sure that we have viable transportation for seniors. It is [a Federal Transportation Administration] requirement that we have to continue operating a dial-a-ride to serve the complementary transit.”

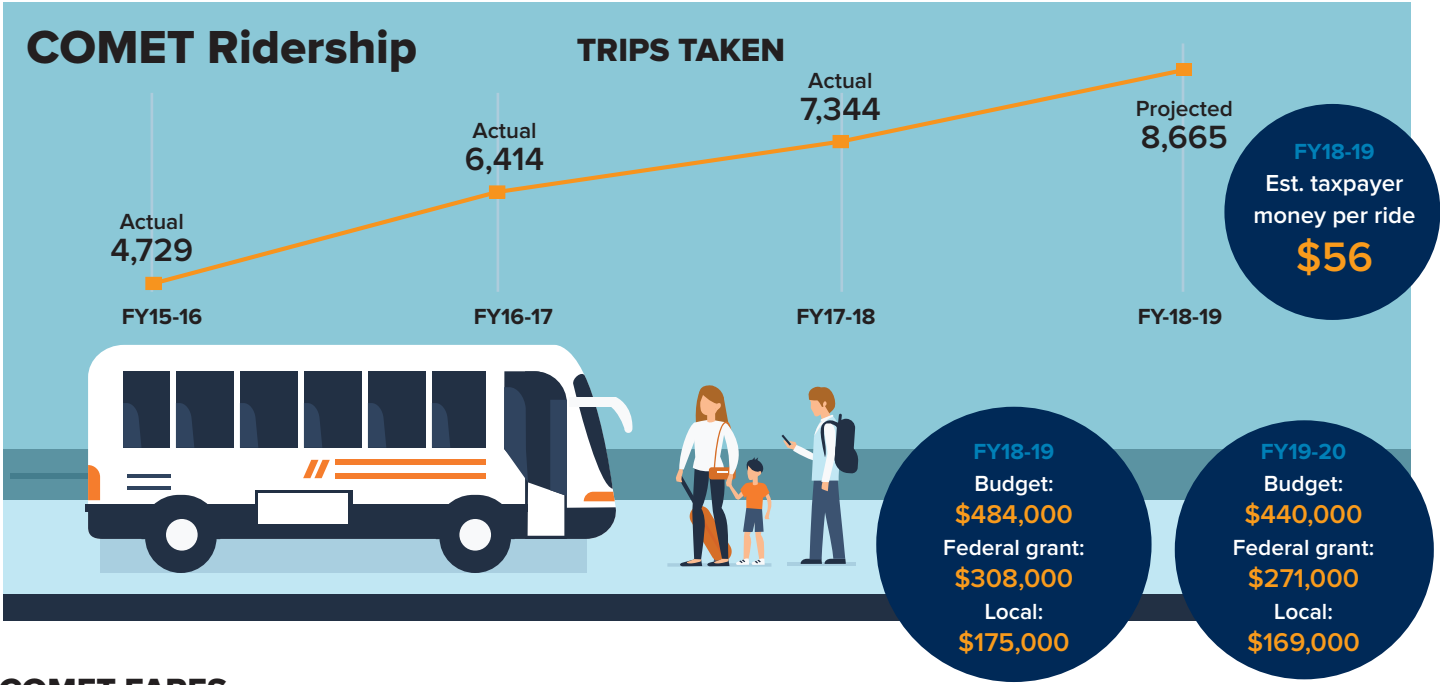
Two statements Maestas has repeated frequently are “we are growing COMET slowly and carefully” and “COMET was never meant to be self-sustaining.”

For 2019-20, the budget is planned at \$440,000, with the local amount due to be \$169,000.

The route-deviation service (fixed route) runs empty loops through the city some days. Getting more Maricopans aware of the service is one challenge; making them aware they need the service is another.

“It takes people to change their habits,” said Chris Hager, director of TotalRide’s transit operations.





COMET FARES

Local fixed route (route deviation): **50¢/one way**
Local demand-response (dial-a-ride): **\$1/one way**
Regional demand-response: **\$3/round trip**

The City contracts with TotalRide to run the COMET system. Hager said it is “probably the smallest” system his company operates, but it is just as important as systems in Phoenix, Avondale and Tucson.

“We are very much in the process of increasing ridership primarily on the route-deviation service,” Maestas said. “That’s a careful process that’s best done slowly.

“What happens is when you start a brand-new service and choose to fund it very generously, you’ve got a huge amount of expense chasing new riders that in many cases don’t even know there’s a transit system in place,” he said. “When you’re just getting started up, you have no bus shelters, you have no bus-stop signs, you may not even have bus stops identified. It’s a process of the ridership recognizing that the transit system is in place and choosing to try it.”

Unlike the demand-response service, which picks up riders at a reserved time and place, the route-deviation service has 11 specific stops, some now with bus-stop shelters. The vehicles run from Fry’s to Bashas’, Pinal County Public Health Clinic and the Maricopa Public Library, Legacy Traditional School, Central Arizona College, Walmart, Harrah’s Ak-Chin and UltraStar, Copper Sky, Sun Life Health Center, Maricopa Meadows Park and Sun Life Women’s Center.

“It is our vision to provide route-deviation service full-time, seven days a week, with council approval, including shuttles to connect communities to the central routes,” Maestas said. As far as ridership-vs.-cost, “we’re still in the process of growing ridership to make sure we can sustain it.”

While TotalRide wants to connect more of the demand-response riders to the route-deviation system, dial-a-ride is still necessary, even if fares need to be adjusted in the future.

Hager said the purpose is to provide “a safe transit system people can depend on. You can’t put a cost on a transit system that gets people to medical appointments. If it’s my mother or grandmother, I don’t care if they charge \$50 or \$100, as long as she’s safe because she can’t drive.”

Have a COMET experience or opinion you’d like to share? Visit Facebook.com/InMaricopa.



Jim Headley

MUSD exploring bond election for over-capacity high school

By Raquel Hendrickson

With a high school already more than 200 students over capacity, Maricopa Unified School District is making moves for short-term solutions while weighing options for the long term.

The governing board approved placing eight almost-new portable buildings on the east side of campus to accommodate 16 classrooms. The plan is to place four or more portables on a strip of land between the baseball and softball fields and the others in the north section of the parking lot next to the band room. As planned, the portables would take up about 24 parking spaces that are rarely used.

The governing board followed the recommendation of Principal Brian Winter and rejected an option that would have placed all the portables in the stadium parking lot, a plan that would have discarded 82 parking spaces heavily used during events.

The main purpose of the special capital-improvements meeting, however, was looking at the needs in space and upkeep for the entire district as it grows. According to Winter, the high school already has enrollment of more than 2,330.

Mark Rafferty, a partner at Facility Management Group, said the demographic projections for the high school are “astonishing.”

“We see a high school population growing by 1,600 students in the next six years,” he said.

Rafferty presented the needs and estimated costs of changes needed around the district as MUSD creates its capital improvement master plan. He said a second high school is a necessity.

“If you put a shovel in the ground tomorrow, you’ll only be a year behind,” he said.

Main capital costs

\$83 million - Construction/property purchase for a second high school

\$24 million - “life cycle” maintenance projects over six years, such as replacing HVAC, roofing, weather proofing, carpeting, asphalt to correct normal wear and tear at existing facilities

\$14.5 million - Energy-conservation projects such as LED lighting district-wide, solar shading devices and energy management system for HVAC

\$11 million - a rough estimate for technology projects district-wide

\$9.6 million for additional activity rooms at six elementary schools, a need universally expressed by principals.

\$3.2 million - Transportation upgrades of six new buses and two white fleet vans every two years for six years

The estimated total for capital projects is \$148 million.

However, board member Patti Coutre said the technology portion did not take into account the current inventory is new, paid for

Maricopa High School is over capacity and getting newly enrolled students every week, forcing MUSD to consider its options for building a second high school.

by override funds. “The override moneys are not figured in that estimate,” she said.

Rafferty said cutting some planned facilities from the new high school costs could get the total to \$98 million, and having all new technology paid for by the override could move it closer to \$75.

Don Brubaker, principal architect at One Architecture, said a new high school campus would require 65-80 acres. He said a “starter” high school had to have at least space to accommodate teaching, but support space like a cafeteria, gyms and arts programs could be compromised.

Board member Torri Anderson said she did not think two schools sharing some facilities would be viable.

“Our current facilities aren’t going to support another group of students,” she said. “I just don’t see both high schools being able to utilize the current high school facilities as far as for sports, band, that sort of thing. I think it’s unrealistic for us to just go with a starter high school.”

Rafferty said Arizona School Facilities Board was already looking at the numbers for Maricopa High School because of the profound rate of growth projections. SFB has asked the Legislature for at least partial funding for school space (\$22.5 million) and school land (\$3 million).

The district also has to consider the shrinking capacity at its two middle schools, especially Desert Wind. Since sixth grade was moved out of the elementary schools to the middle schools, Desert Wind and Maricopa Wells have been full while most of the elementary campuses are below capacity.

The study of the capital improvement situation has been ongoing the past five months as MUSD officials consider asking taxpayers for a bond on the November ballot. Rafferty said even if a bond election were successful it would take up to three years to reach a date of occupancy in a new high school. But the necessity of another high school was not a point of debate.

“At the very least,” said board member Joshua Judd, “we see from the demographic information, that is something we clearly cannot do without.”

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Bob Ledbetter left an IT career to go back to school and put his knowledge and talents to a different use – opening a recording studio.

Midlife crisis turns into recording studio

Story and photos by Jim Headley

A midlife crisis usually means buying a new sportscar, but Bob Ledbetter is singing a different tune in his mid-40s.

Ledbetter decided to take on a new career as a sound engineer.

After working for years as an IT guy, he just wanted more out of life. With his daughter moving out and going to college, the single-parent was left with an open mind, musical talent and deep knowledge of technology. It all combined into a soon-to-open recording studio named MuthaSuckaSound.

Ledbetter has the beginnings of his studio up and running in his Maricopa home.

“It is functional,” he said. “I decided to paint and redesign as I am learning more about how sound travels through a room.”

His main studio is a nicely converted bedroom in his house, complete with a rack of guitars, a drum set, keyboard and computerized, multi-track sound mixing station.

A collection of electronic guitar pedals decorates the floor and colored LEDs backlight his MAC-based computer mixing station using Pro Tools software. He also

uses other parts of his home as “sound rooms” including his living room and even a walk-in closet that is converted into a sound booth for “something more intimate.”

Ledbetter said he was motivated to open his recording studio by his love of music.

“I have always dabbled a little bit with

recording — as a musician and as an IT nerd. I have always been fascinated by the process,” Ledbetter said.

About four years ago he decided to go back to school to get a degree for business management at Central Arizona College.

“I had been an IT contractor for 12-plus years and working in IT in some form for over 20,” he said.

Retirement just wasn’t a goal in his life.

“When I hit 40, retirement is not really an option, not as a contractor. I change companies every couple years, which means the 401Ks change every couple years. Some companies match, and some don’t. It’s a joke. By the time the government allows me to retire, Social Security will be gone,” he said.



Calling his new business MuthaSuckaSound, Ledbetter, uses a MAC-based computer mixing station with Pro Tools software.

Music

Instead of looking at retirement, Ledbetter set his mind on doing something he loves to do that can sustain his lifestyle. While going to business management classes, one of the elective courses he took was the history of rock ‘n’ roll.

Ledbetter did very well in the class.

“The instructor said I would be very good in the EIT (Entertainment Industry Technology) program at CAC,” Ledbetter said. “I was just taking classes here at the campus. When I looked deeper at the EIT program — they had a recording engineering program. I thought, ‘There it is.’ What better way to take my 20 years of IT experience and my passion for music and put them together?”

Education in sound engineering is something Ledbetter takes very seriously.

“Bob Ledbetter is a shining example of a student who takes full advantage of what the EIT program has to offer,” said Dan Bush, professor of Recording Engineering at Central Arizona College and E.I.T. coordinator.

After talking to his daughter, Ledbetter jumped into being a recording engineer a little more than two years ago and changed his major at CAC. She has been part of his music since she was a toddler. While living in Washington, D.C., he would take her with him to perform at “open-mic nights” at local venues when she was 3 or 4 years old.

“A lot of them were family restaurants that just happened to have an open mic randomly on a Tuesday night. She’s sitting on a stool with an unplugged microphone singing along while I do a 20-minute set.”

As a musician, Ledbetter plays guitar and sings as a solo act. He’s his own recording client as well.

Recording is only one of the skills needed to be successful with a studio, according to Bush. “Bob has also learned the ‘business side’ of the music industry, particularly entertainment law, copyrights and how to actually make money by leveraging performance rights organizations to generate income from music royalties,” Bush said.

“My midlife crisis is a new career,” Ledbetter said. “I would rather get a sound board. My friends are out there buying all these really cool cars. Nah, I could get like an 8-track mixer and put it right here. Let me drop two grand on that. That’s my midlife crisis.”

 **MuthaSuckaSound.com**



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Pinal Agriculture

Pinal County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution Jan. 9 to urge the state Legislature “to provide sufficient funds to Pinal Agricultural Enterprises to access the ground water necessary to allow the Pinal County agricultural economy to continue when Colorado River water is limited.”

To make its case, the resolution cites statistics on the agricultural importance of Pinal County from a 2018 study by University of Arizona’s Department of Agriculture and Resources Economics.

Top 1%
in U.S. counties in cotton, cottonseed sales, milk sales, inventories of cattle and calves

Top 2%
in U.S. counties in total value of agriculture sales

Top 4%
in U.S. counties in acreage for barley, corn, forage crops

Top 7%
in U.S. counties in vegetables, fruit and nuts production
3,804
direct jobs

1,343
indirect jobs

45%
of Arizona’s cattle and calf sales

41%
of Arizona’s cotton production

39%
of Arizona’s milk production

33%
of county’s manufacturing wages paid

25%
of all manufacturing jobs

\$1.1 billion
in sales (2016)

The study estimated damage of
\$94 million to \$104 million
if irrigation decrease were a hypothetical water loss of 300,000 acre feet.

Source: University of Arizona’s Department of Agriculture and Resources Economics



Jim Headley

Business Registry

A core group of Maricopa businesses has signed up for the city’s new Business Registry, eliminating the old business licensing process. These businesses signed up from Dec. 16 to Jan. 15 at maricopa-az.gov/web/Business-Registry.

- Accounting:** Accounting Advocate, The Affordable Accounting Firm, Trafelet Accounting
- Arts & Crafts:** ArtiSands, Diane F. Hebert, Red Nebula Studios, Stormwind’s Creations
- Automotive:** Big O Tires, KB Glass Repair, Knight Towing, Maricopa Auto Glass, Mel’s Auto/NAPA Auto, Moehr Tinting, T&R Roadside Services, A&E Auto Glass
- Childcare/Preschool:** Cara’s Kids Preschool, Child Care by Tammy Houser, Little Charmers Preschool/Childcare, Nana’s House of Childcare, Tiny Feet Preschool
- Chiropractic:** A-1 Health and Wellness, New Conversations – Joanne Siebert
- Churches:** Community of Hope, World Outreach & Bible Training Center

- Cleaning:** 1st Glass Window Cleaners, JD & Son Carpet Cleaning
- Cosmetics:** Ana’s Creations, Independent Beauty Consultant with Mary Kay, Marisa McDonald Independent Beauty Guide Limelife
- Computers:** Gemini Mapping, North Suburban Office Services, Ungatech LLC
- Dental:** Oasis Oral and Facial Surgery, Treasured Smiles Children’s Dentistry
- Entertainment:** Eagle Entertainment, Gabriel Magno Entertainment, Twisted Vision Racing
- Food Service:** Aliberto’s, Arby’s, Burger King, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Dinner at Your Door, Kona Ice, Li’s Garden, N2Frybread, Pizza Hut, Plaza Bonita Family Mexican Restaurant, Sonora Hotdogs, Tastee Pak, WingStop
- General Contractor:** AAM Plumbing Services, Carpenter Guitar and Ampworks, Negev Design-Build, Rockridge Construction, Solcius LLC, Zomark Construction
- Handyman:** Bradley Goering Maintenance, Maricopa Pool & Spa Services, Rent-A-Vet Services
- Health:** Fit N-Motion, Healthy Habits with Brittany Holistic Mental Health, Many Healing Hands, Maricopa Eye Care, Maricopa Foot and Ankle Center, Massage Me, Sun Life Family Health Center, Sun Life Pharmacy, Maricopa

- Veteran Care Center, Vitamins4Vitality
- Home Interior/Exterior Design:** Café Design & Architecture, Dawn2Dusk Sun Screens, Southwest Landscaping
- Home/Office Repair:** 911 Air Repair, Felix Appliance Repair, Mr Appliance of Maricopa
- Insurance:** American Family Insurance – Chris Cahall, State Farm Insurance – Courtney Tyler, WFG Maricopa – Bill Boone
- Jewelry Sales:** DC Enterprises, Rikki Sparkles with Origami Owl
- Law Firms:** Law Office of Jack Pritt
- Manufacturing:** Pazii Cigars
- Marketing:** Actually Social, Impact Video Cards, Social Baboon, Thomas Promo Products
- Martial Arts:** Desert Tiger Martial Arts, Sunrise Taekwondo/ATA Martial Arts and Karate
- Nonprofits:** American Legion Post, Association of Loudspeaker Manufacturing and Acoustics, F.O.R. Maricopa Food Bank, Zion Foundation
- Painting:** ACP Painting, Arvin’s Painting, Chris’ Quality House Painting
- Party Rentals:** Boodle Bouncers
- Pest Control:** Maricopa Bug Busters

Continued on page 32

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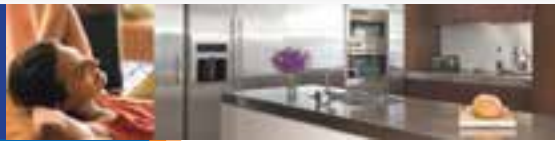
Business briefs

Pet Services: Buddy's Pet Care, Michelle's Professional Pet Grooming, Romp and Roam Pet & Home Sitting
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Printing: Howard Industries, VinylWorks
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Watch, Tena Dugan – Berkshire Hathaway Homeservice
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Business briefs

2 elected to Maricopa Chamber of Commerce Board

Maricopa Chamber of Commerce filled two seats on its board of directors in January. Glenda Kelley of Uniquely Sewn was re-elected to a second term. HomeSmart Success Realtor Jim Mickelson, a former chamber director in Imperial Beach, California, was also selected for the MCC board.

“As a newly elected director of the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce, my goal is to assist the Chamber in creating transparency and communications with our members,” Mickelson said, “and to super-charge the promotion of our members in Maricopa through community involvement and promotions, networking opportunities, training and development of solid relationships with elected local officials and their staffs.”

Kelley said the chamber has helped her business succeed, and she wants to help other businesses the same way.

“I am looking forward to a great new year,” she said, “to see the chamber moving forward, to see the chamber become bigger and better, to become even more involved with the city and our community, to show our support to the current businesses and any future businesses. We want them all to succeed.”



Jim Mickelson



Glenda Kelley

CAC to host Job Expo at Maricopa Campus

Central Arizona College invites organizations and businesses to participate in the fourth annual Job Expo hosted by the institution’s Maricopa Campus, 17945 N. Regent Drive, on Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

This annual event provides a unique opportunity for employers to have direct access to educated, adult students.

“As an institution of higher education, we understand that employers want to hire employees that possess the skills and knowledge to succeed in the position and will help the company move forward,” said Ann Mitchell, coordinator of Student Employment at CAC. “Our event is different from other ‘job fairs.’ The caliber of candidates that you will meet at the fair is comprised of currently enrolled adult students, CAC alumni and community members.”

A nominal fee of \$30 will be assessed to each for-profit exhibitor and the fee for government and non-profit organizations is \$20. Each exhibitor will be provided with a table, a chair and a light lunch for one representative. A fee of \$10 is required for each additional representative.

The last date to register for the expo is Feb. 4. Space is limited will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.

 **520-494-5428**
Ann.Mitchell@CentralAZ.edu

Business briefs

Dutch Bros. received a commercial permit for its 1,280-square-foot property at 20232 N. John Wayne Parkway, which includes a drive-thru and patio. Construction is expected to be under way in February.

Maricopa Shell at 19680 N. John Wayne Parkway received a permit to re-install four new fuel dispensers at a value of \$12,000.

Sports & Cuts Barber Shop was permitted for a fire alarm system in newly constructed space at 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road, Building 14, Suite 2.

In the same building, **State Farm** was given a city permit to use existing signs and move the signs from its old location.

Red River Cattle LTD received permits for grading and drainage at the new site of Sacate Pellet Mill, 38743 W. Cowtown Road.

Brakes Plus, being constructed at 20555 N. John Wayne Parkway next to IHOP, received an onsite-improvement permit.

Heritage Charter had a hydrant flow test for its construction at Adams Way and Conner Drive in Desert Passage.

EXCELLENT INSPECTION MARKS FOR MARICOPA RESTAURANTS

All 13 restaurants and eateries inspected by Pinal County Environmental Health from Dec. 16 to Jan. 15 received a clean bill of health.

EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Barro’s Pizza
- Culver’s of Maricopa
- Dickey’s Barbecue Pit
- The Duke at Rancho El Dorado
- Francisco’s Mexican Food
- Gyro Grill
- IHOP
- Maricopa Head Start
- The New HQ
- Panda Express
- Pizza Hut
- Rosati’s Pizza
- Tacos ‘n’ More

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]
None

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

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

Maricopa Ace achieves outstanding designation

Maricopa Ace Hardware achieved designation as a “Pinnacle Performing Retailing” store for outstanding performance in the Ace corporation.


“What this means for our customers is that we are more committed than ever to providing our loyal shoppers with the best possible retail experience,” said owner Mike Richey, “from customer service to product offerings and more, we’re taking ‘Ace helpful’ to a new level.”

Pinnacle Performance Retailing was developed as part of Ace’s long-term retail growth strategy, 20/20 Vision.

Maricopa Business Center gets new owners

Darwin East, of Chandler, purchased the Maricopa Business Center on Dec. 21. East, the leader of the East Family Trust, purchased the center with his three daughters, Carrie Lynn East, Cammy Lynn Brown and Catharine Lynn Bolton.

He owned eight businesses in California, diversifying into landscaping and grove management for others, including the Walt Disney family.

“I had about 3,500 acres that I managed,” East said. “I couldn’t get people to do the spray work, so I went into the spray business. I couldn’t get people to do the tractor work, so I did weed abatement for about five different towns. People wanted paving done, and I couldn’t get a good contractor, so I started an asphalt business. The Disneys wanted to buy fertilizer, so we said, ‘Let’s start our own farm supply.’” 

 See more at InMaricopa.com.



Jim Headley

Darwin East and his daughter Cammy Brown purchased the Maricopa Business Center on Dec. 21 for the East Family Trust.

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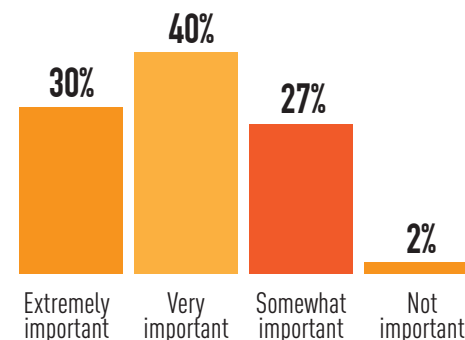
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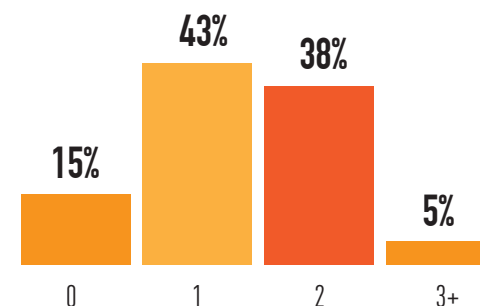
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Growth to cause temporary access change for Fast & Friendly

As a local, family-owned and operated business, Fast & Friendly Express Car Wash is excited about the ongoing development and growth in Maricopa. This growth will continue to bring additional jobs and opportunities to the residents of our city. Beginning this month, Fast & Friendly will see the results of continued growth with a Dutch Bros being built directly to the north of the car wash on John Wayne Parkway.

“We are excited to have new neighbors and look forward to the additional convenience and satisfaction this new addition to the city will provide to many of our customers,” said Kevin Barker of Fast & Friendly.

In light of this construction, the John Wayne Parkway entrance to the car wash will be closed until the new Dutch Bros is complete. Customers are asked to be aware



that they will need to enter the car wash via the Hathaway Avenue entrance just west of the John Wayne/Hathaway intersection.

Fast & Friendly appreciates the opportunity to provide Maricopa residents with a state-of-the-art Express Car Wash that includes the ability to purchase incremental full-service detailing at the Maricopa location. Full-service detailing helps to ensure Fast

& Friendly is meeting the needs of all residents who are looking for a variety of choices when it comes to washing and taking care of what, for many, is one of their largest investments — their automobiles.

“We look forward to seeing you at the Wash and always appreciate any suggestions and feedback on how we can better serve you, from our family to yours,” Barker said.

FastAndFriendlyCarWash.com



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Getting to KNOW
DAREN WRIGHT
WRIGHT INSPECTIONS
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Hometown: Staten Island, NY
Resides in: Rancho El Dorado
Occupation: Home Inspector
Family: Wife Debra
Pets: 3 cats and 1 really big dog
Cars: 4WD Toyotas
Hobbies: Offroading, desert hiking
Pet peeve: People who move here and complain about the heat, the cow smell, the commute. What did you expect?
Like most about Maricopa: We like the small-town feeling. It was small when I came here.
Learn more about Daren at InMaricopa.com/Getting-To-Know

Maricopa plants bitten by light frost or that had frozen are still salvageable.

Rules for ‘de-frosting’ your plants

By Rita Bricker



Rita Bricker

Warmer weather is coming, so what can we do about those ugly, shriveled and dried plants that suffered from the cold over the winter? We can repair them, that’s what.

What happens when it freezes?

Light frost (32 degrees or slightly above) occurs when water vapor freezes on the surface of plants. It generally causes only



Rita Bricker

cosmetic damage to leaves on all but tropical plants. A hard frost, on the other hand, freezes water in the plant cells, dehydrating the plant. When the warming sun comes up, those tissues defrost quickly and burst, killing leaves and stems, and even creating cracks in the bark of some trees. Plants appear limp, dried out or even blackened.

So how can we revive those damaged plants?

Rule 1: WAIT. The average last-frost date for our zip codes in climate zone 9 occurs during the month of February. In fact, there is a 50-percent probability our temperature could drop below 32 degrees as late as March 6. Be patient and watch the weather projections for frost events before attempting to revive damaged plants.

Rule 2: Continue gently watering your plants as normal because frost has sucked the moisture from the tissues. But do not over-water, as that could stimulate growth in a plant that is in a weakened state.

Rule 3: Resist the temptation to fertilize your plants at this time. As with over-watering, this could stimulate early growth in an already-stressed plant.

How can you tell what’s dead and what is still viable? Scrape a stem or an area on the trunk. If the underlying tissue is green, it’s alive; if it is brown, it’s dead. You can also try bending a branch. It will break if it is dead, but flex if it is still alive.

For more tips, read this story online at InMaricopa.com.

And if you need to replace freeze-damaged plants, keep in mind that our Master Gardener plant sale is coming up on March 2 at Maricopa Agricultural Center. We will have a great variety of hardy, locally grown vegetables, flowers and cactus/succulents for purchase.

Rita Bricker is a member of Maricopa Master Gardeners. They can be reached at macmastergardener@gmail.com.

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HOA fees & purchasing power

By Dayv Morgan

When it’s time to put a home on the market, many sellers don’t think about the impact high fees will have on resale. It is important to keep in mind what buyers in the area will consider when shopping for a home in Maricopa, including homeowners association fees.

It’s also important for buyers to research costs associated with nearby HOAs and how that may affect their purchasing power.

Let’s take a look at an example: At a 4.5 percent interest rate over 30 years, \$50 a month in HOA fees equates to about \$10,000 in purchasing power. We’ll say a buyer is qualified for up to a maximum of \$160,000 and the lender estimated the HOA at \$50 per month. The buyer could make a purchase in Homestead North, where the HOA is \$48.50 a month at \$160,000. But, if he purchases in Desert Passage where the HOA fee is almost double that of Homestead, he will only be able to afford a home up to \$150,000, assuming taxes and interest are the same.

Another cost often overlooked is HOA fees that must be paid at closing. Palo Brea, for example, has over \$1,500 in disclosure and capital improvement fees, compared to Rancho El Dorado’s \$400 disclosure and transfer fees. While these are often paid by the sellers, the fees could be negotiated to be paid by the buyer. However, the buyer will likely want a lower price in return.



Dayv Morgan

HOA FEES	Monthly Dues	Transfer	Capital
Acacia Crossings	\$73.07	\$350	N/A
Alterra	\$62.92	\$125	N/A
Cobblestone Farms	\$93.13	N/A	\$221.15
Desert Cedars	\$75	N/A	\$225
Desert Passage	\$99	\$150	\$327
Glennwilde	\$92.25	\$150	\$290
Homestead North	\$48.50	\$97.50	N/A
Maricopa Meadows	\$73.10	N/A	\$146.20
Palo Brea	\$70	N/A	\$1,000
Province (detached homes)	\$218.31	N/A	N/A
Province (villas)	\$314.09	N/A	\$654.93
Rancho El Dorado	\$42.63	\$155	N/A
The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado	\$67	\$80.40	\$201
Rancho Mirage	\$91.67	\$145.08	N/A
Santa Rosa Springs	\$73	N/A	N/A
Senita	\$68	N/A	N/A
Sorrento	\$75.50	N/A	\$377.50
Tortosa	\$91	N/A	\$142
Villages at Rancho El Dorado	\$86	N/A	N/A

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

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Home Sales



**MOST
EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD**

1. 42483 W. Blue Suede Shoes Lane, Province

Jim Headley

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa from Dec. 16 to Jan. 15 was a large, lakeside home in Province that had been on the market 10 months. It sold for \$9,900 under its list price and was quickly placed on the market for rent. It includes solar for minimal electric bills and a gorgeous back patio with a hot tub.

Sold: Jan. 1
Purchase price: \$440,000
Square footage: 3,102
Price per square foot: \$141.84
Days on market: 293
Builder: Meritage
Year built: 2006
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 4

Community: Province
Features: Luxury gourmet kitchen with steel appliances, bamboo floors, 12-foot ceilings, three-car garage, guest casita
Listing Agent: Jill K. Dames, Realty ONE Group
Selling Agent: Annette Sharp, HomeSmart

- 2. 20193 N. Winter Escape Court, Province \$300,000
- 3. 21838 N. Scott Court, Rancho El Dorado \$292,000
- 4. 20038 N. Cordoba St., Tortosa \$287,500
- 5. 42478 W. Constellation Drive, Province \$275,000



**LEAST
EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD**

1. 17881 N. Ischia Road, Sorrento

Kyle Norby

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa from Dec. 16 to Jan. 15 was a three-bedroom in Sorrento that last sold at the end of 2016. It has been off-and-on the market and used as a rental. It sold for its list price. Originally listed in August, it was almost sold in December but financing fell through before closing.

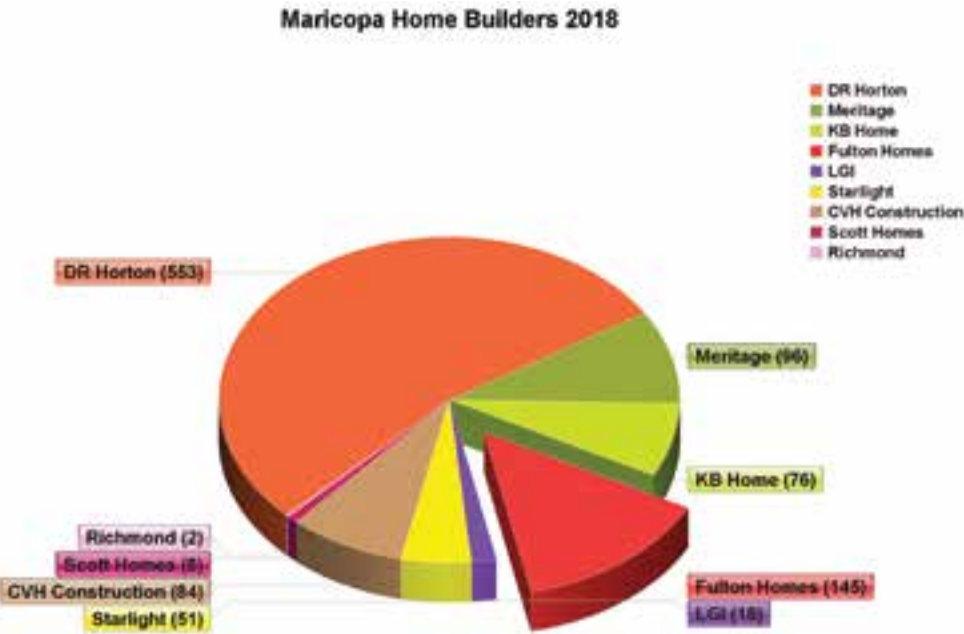
Sold: Jan. 10
Purchase price: \$166,900
Square footage: 1,371
Price per square foot: \$121.73
Days on market: 154
Builder: D.R. Horton
Year built: 2008
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2

Community: Sorrento
Features: 8,000-square-foot lot, RV gate, vaulted ceiling in family room, custom blinds, reverse osmosis drinking system
Listing Agent: Ted A. Anderson HomeSmart Success
Selling Agent: Brooke Jordan, My Home Group Real Estate

- 2. 44063 W. Neely Drive, The Villages at Rancho El Dorado \$168,000
- 3. 41334 W. Bravo Drive, The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado \$169,500
- 4. 42188 W. Noreen Road, Santa Rosa Springs \$169,999
- 5. 21424 N. Reinbold Drive, Rancho El Dorado \$171,500

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

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Senior corner

Opioid dangers increasing for senior citizens

By Al Brandenburg

In March, the Maricopa Multi Cultural Consortium (MMCC) will be presenting a program on the long-term effects of opioid painkillers on the senior population.


Opioids are substances that act on opioid receptors to produce morphine-like effects. Medically they are primarily used for pain relief, including anesthesia. Opioids work by slowing pain receptors and increasing dopamine, a chemical that controls the brain's reward and pleasure center, which is an effective way of inhibiting the body's ability to feel pain and makes you feel great.

However, opioids not only go to the brain but also move throughout the entire body affecting (and most often slowing) all body systems. The most obviously inhibited one, after pain, is the digestive system. Hence the problem of "opioid-induced constipation."

Aging bodies add another dimension. Medicines accumulate more easily in a body (especially in the kidneys) where all systems are naturally slowing down from age. Elderly adults taking opioid painkillers have four times as many bone fractures, are 68 percent more likely to be hospitalized and are 87 percent more likely to die as those taking over-the-counter pain medication.

The opioid epidemic is a highly publicized national crisis. However, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the misuse of these drugs actually declined among younger Americans between 2002 and 2014. For seniors, the opposite trend occurred. Opioid misuse nearly doubled in that time among Americans age 50-plus.

However, not many people consider seniors when thinking of who is addicted to opioids. People might be less inclined to believe their grandparent has a substance-abuse disorder, even when signs are present. A recent survey revealed most respondents struggled to recognize the symptoms of addiction in the elderly. According to the survey participants, symptoms are often disregarded because the signs of addiction often mirror what occurs when people grow old, which can include a natural decline in physical or mental health.

Seniors are, according to the Wall Street Journal, especially vulnerable to falls, fractures and respiratory arrest when using prescription narcotics and often they are taking other medications that magnify the risks. If you are a senior taking an opioid medication, consider discussing alternative treatment options with your primary doctor. Opioids can be extremely addictive, even when used exactly as a doctor recommended. Additionally, if you are a caretaker of a senior who relies on an opioid, know how to identify an addiction based on personality and lifestyle changes. 

Sources: MedShadow.org, OmniCare.com, APlaceForMom.com

 **OmniCare.com/resources/webinar-avoiding-opioid-dangers-in-seniors**

Al Brandenburg is a director of Maricopa Multi Cultural Consortium and a senior advocate.



Al Brandenburg

Heart health

Heart Month a great time to check heart health

By Joan Koczor

The first American Heart Month occurred in February 1964 via Proclamation by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Dec. 30, 1963. At that time, more than half the deaths in the United States were caused by cardiovascular disease.


Cardiovascular disease includes heart disease and stroke with 17.9 million deaths each year and remains the leading global cause of death.

The heart does more physical work than any other muscle in the body pumping 2,000 gallons of blood per day. By age 70, an average human heart has beat more than 2.5 billion times.

AHA cautions, learn the signs for heart attack. Remember, even if you're not sure it's a heart attack, have it checked out. Minutes matter. Calling 911 is almost always the fastest way to get lifesaving treatment. A few lifestyle changes that will make you healthy and fit and may prevent a heart attack or stroke are:

- Eat more whole grains to help lower your cholesterol.
- Eat more fruits and vegetables.
- Use less salt.
- Exercise regularly.
- Quit smoking.
- Eat less red meat and more poultry or fish.

- Other signs may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

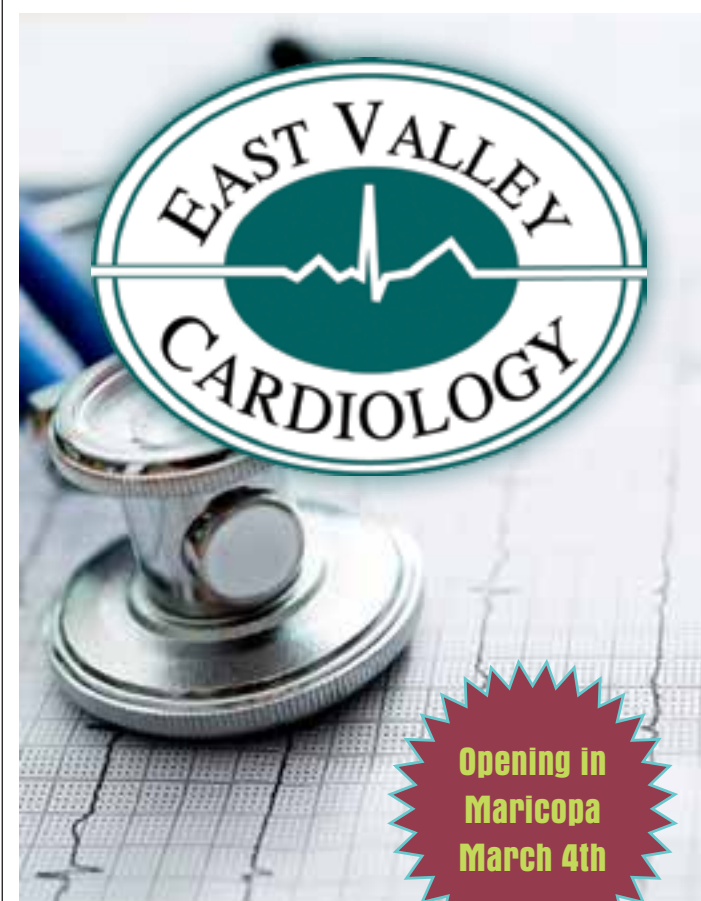
National Wear Red Day is Feb. 1. AHA ask that you join them in wearing red to raise awareness about heart health. 

 **American Heart Association National Center 1-800-AHA-USA1**
Phoenix location 1-602-414-5353

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



Joan Koczor



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Medicare, Medicaid changes in Pinal County

By Hillary Haldiman

I am a third-generation Phoenician and an independent insurance agent.

I have been in the insurance business all my life. I grew up in a family where my father owned Haldiman Insurance Agency. I've worked at several different insurance companies specializing in health insurance and now specifically Medicare. During Medicare Open Enrollment, you may have seen me doing meetings at Native Grill or Copper Sky over the past five years.

I have lived in the same home in the Villages for 12 years. I started work in Medicare after moving to Maricopa and would love to keep you informed about all the updates.

Medicare had a big change this year. They

have actually added another Open Enrollment, which started Jan. 1 and ends March 31. If you are already a Medicare Advantage plan member, you may disenroll from your current plan and switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan, of which there are many.



Hillary Haldiman

Medicaid also had a big change this year. Pinal County has added United Healthcare. I can help clients find out if they are eligible and what programs are available. A savings account or pension are disqualifying, for instance, but a house and car are not.

I love helping people. I host free Medicaid and Medicare seminars.

I work very closely with military veterans in Medicare and Medicaid to make sure they are receiving the services they deserve.



I am here to help and encourage my Medicare clients through education. Medicare is complicated, and finding a plan that is right for each individual is so much harder.

Hillary Haldiman is a Medicare specialist at Haldiman Insurance LLC.

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Tax credits...doing good for others (while also helping yourself)



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Now that I know more about the tax credit, how am I doing good for others?

At non-profit organizations, like Sun Life Family Health Center, every dollar counts. Health centers face the same financial pressures private health care practices experience. Health centers often offer preventative programs for their patients that are not fully reimbursed by insurance, such as diabetes education, integrated oral health, integrated behavioral health and integrated clinical pharmacy services. When you make a donation to Sun Life, you're helping take care of your neighbors and improve the health of your community. Healthy communities are prosperous communities. By making a donation to a charitable organization, like Sun Life, you are choosing where your tax dollars go and helping to impact your community.

So this year, please do good, feel good, and help yourself.

To learn more about the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, and qualifying charitable organizations — <https://azdor.gov/tax-credits/contributions-qcos-and-qfcos>

To learn more about Sun Life Family Health Center, or to make an online donation, visit www.sunlifefamilyhealth.org.



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Did you know that Arizona tax law provides a credit for taxpayers that make contributions to qualifying charitable organizations? Did you know that you could be making contributions to organizations like Sun Life Family Health Center, while also reducing your state tax liability? According to the Arizona Department of Revenue (AZDOR), taxpayers filing as "single" and "head of household" status may claim a maximum credit of \$400. Taxpayers filing as "married filing separate" may claim a maximum credit of \$400. Taxpayers that file as "married filing joint" may claim a maximum credit of \$800.

Tax Deduction? Tax Credit? What's the difference?

According to the IRS, tax credits and tax deductions can help reduce your overall income tax liability. While you might want to take advantage of as many of these as possible, it's important to know that tax deductions and tax credits are not the same thing. Tax deductions lower your taxable income and they are equal to the percentage of your marginal tax bracket. For instance, if you are in the 25% tax bracket, an \$800 deduction saves you \$200 in tax ($0.25 \times \$800 = \200). On the other hand, tax credits can help reduce your tax liability dollar-for-dollar. However they cannot reduce your income tax liability to less than zero. In other words, your gross income

tax liability is the amount you are responsible for paying before any credits are applied. This means that an \$800 tax credit saves you \$800 in taxes. A tax credit is always worth more than a dollar-equivalent tax deduction, because deductions are calculated using percentages. To get a better idea of how tax credits work and whether or not you qualify, you need to know what is available to taxpayers in your situation — such as your filing status, age, employment, and education. It is important to remember that just because you qualify for one type of tax credit does not mean that you qualify for the rest (IRS.gov). Talk to your tax preparer to see if you qualify and might want to take advantage of the tax credit for charitable organizations.

A Qualifying Charitable Organization is a charity that that meets ALL of the following provisions:

- Is exempt from federal income taxes under Section a 501(c)(3) or is a designated community action agency that receives community services block grant program monies pursuant to 42 United States Code Section 9901.
- Provide services that meet immediate basic needs.
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Health inspectors try to keep up with growing number of food trucks

Story and photo by Jim Headley

The number of food trucks in Pinal County is on the rise, and it is becoming a little more challenging for health inspectors.

Pinal County spokesman Joe Pyritz said environmental health inspectors will generally inspect food trucks when they locate them, but they don't always have to.

"Some of them will come in to be inspected, and that is part of them getting a permit," Pyritz said.

The permit system helps inspectors identify when food trucks enter or operate in Pinal County.

"Our environmental health inspectors that do food inspections will sometimes see them out and they will perform an inspection right there," Pyritz said. "Sometimes, they see them out on a weekend at a food fair or just parked right beside the road. Inspecting a food truck is not much different than inspecting a restaurant. We don't notify them beforehand."

Lidia Alcazar said her food trailer Sonora Hot Dogs is inspected by the Pinal County health inspectors once a year as part of the county's permit process.

She said inspectors usually call and find out where her trailer is parked at a specific time to perform an inspection.

The Arizona Food Code requires anyone wishing to operate a food establishment in the state of Arizona first obtain a permit to do so. In Pinal County, routine inspections of each food establishment permitted by the Division of Environmental Health are conducted throughout the year to evaluate a facility's operations and compliance with the Food Code.

Pyritz said inspectors would also "probably" perform an inspection on a food truck if asked by the public.

There are some new state laws on the books regulating food trucks.

"Food trucks can migrate to different counties. They don't have to go through the inspection part before the permit," Pyritz said. "If a food truck from Maricopa County gets a permit up there, gets inspected and everything is OK, they can come down to Pinal County



TJ Sherwood of Different Smokes BBQ is based in Maricopa County and has to get permits in every county where he sets up his food truck. He is one of a growing number of food truck owners doing business in Pinal County as health inspectors try to keep up.

Food trucks can migrate to different counties. They don't have to go through the inspection part before the permit."

— Pinal County spokesman Joe Pyritz

and operate down here as long as they apply for a permit."

TJ Sherwood, owner of Different Smokes BBQ food truck from Maricopa County, has owned food trucks/trailers for about three years. He said he is inspected quarterly by county health inspectors and said he has to have permits in each county he takes trucks to.

"You get inspected every quarter and once a year you have to go down and be inspected at the location where you pay for your permit. Every quarter they come out and inspect your truck on site," Sherwood said.

He said inspectors keep tabs on the food trucks via social media and plan their surprise inspections using the online schedules. "They just show up and do a surprise inspection," he said.

With inspections already performed in another county, there is not always a reason to re-inspect them if they enter the county, Pyritz said. Like restaurants, food trucks are only required one inspection per year, not every time they set up for an event.

"Just as long as they get a regular inspection, they will be good. There is no timetable for that. We try to do it at least once a year with the limited amount of staff that we do have," he said.

Restaurants are easier to inspect because they don't move, but inspectors remain dedicated to inspecting food trucks. Pyritz estimated 100-200 mobile food units received Pinal County permits in 2018.

"With this new law, we have seen quite an influx of food trucks coming our way," Pyritz said. "They've had 50 extra applicants that they have permitted."



THE BEAT

Maricopa's entertainment scene picking up

By Tommy Ronca

Well, 2019 is finally here and 2018 was a blockbuster year for Maricopa. We had the openings of Denny's, Burger King, Goodwill Store, Ross, IHOP, Dollar Tree, Planet Fitness, WingStop, Dunkin Donuts, and the new overpass well on its way. This is an exciting time to live in our fast-growing Maricopa City. Wow, what a year. We are growing and on the move.



Tommy Ronca

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember


Copper Sky Recreation Complex

March 2 – SunLife Chocolate Fun Run (SunLifeRun.com)
March 23 – Salsa Festival
July 4 – Great American 4th
October – Stage Coach Days

The Ak-Chin Pavilion Complex

March 15 – Zac Brown Band
May 2 – Slayer
June 12 – Goo Goo Dolls and Train
June 19 – Hootie and the Blowfish
June 25 – Ozzy Osbourne

Caesar's Entertainment will be sending more fabulous acts to Harrah's Ak-Chin in Maricopa.

In next month's blog, I will be interviewing our new Community Services Manager Nathan Ulyot with future updates at Copper Sky for the coming year and producer Rob Boyd, who is looking to bring big and exciting new concerts to the Copper Sky venue. 

An original member of the doo-wop group The Chaperones, Tommy Ronca produced several shows in Las Vegas. He is a member of the Maricopa Parks, Recreation & Libraries Commission and can be reached at [TheBeat.InMaricopa@gmail.com](mailto:InMaricopa@gmail.com).

Things to Do

FEBRUARY

1

Change Wars

8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saddleback Elementary School
18600 N. Porter Road

Leading Edge Diversity Fair

8:30-11:30 a.m., Leading Edge Academy
18700 N. Porter Road

"Curious Savage"

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

2

VFW Cleanup

8 a.m., Maricopa Veterans Center
44240 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

All-Arizona Poetry Slam

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

"Curious Savage"

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

4

Route 66 at Maricopa

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

5

City Council Work Session

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

City Council Regular Session

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

9

Coffee with the Chief

10 a.m., Copper Sky Police Substation
17985 N. Greythorne Drive

Inside the Creative Mind

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

12

CAC Job Expo

10 a.m.-1 p.m., Central Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

13

MUSD Governing Board Meeting

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

15

Child Find Screening

8 a.m.-noon, Maricopa Unified School District
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

Food Truck Friday

5-8 p.m., Community of Hope Church
45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

17

Health & Wellness Fair

12:30 p.m., Shiloh Fellowship
44927 W. Hathaway Ave.

19

City Council Work Session

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

City Council Regular Session

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

20

#RosieWasRight

Workshop for Women
9 a.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

22

"Mary Poppins Jr."

6 p.m., Legacy Traditional School
17760 N. Regent Drive

Multigenerational Game Night

6:30 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center
45345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.



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



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Things to do

23

Copa Shorts Film Festival
10:30 a.m., Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

"Mary Poppins Jr."

6 p.m., Legacy Traditional School
17760 N. Regent Drive

24

Copa Shorts Film Festival
11 a.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

27

Legacy Speech Contest
8:30 a.m., Legacy Traditional School
17760 N. Regent Drive

MUSD Governing Board Meeting

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

28

Native American Family Night
6 p.m., Saddleback Elementary School
18600 N. Porter Road

MARCH 2

Spring Fling Craft and Vendor Event
8 a.m., Maricopa Community Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

Seeds of Change Gala

6-11 p.m., Province Town Hall
20942 Province Parkway

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAYS-FRIDAYS

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

MONDAYS

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL)

7 p.m., Maricopa Behavioral Health Services
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 103

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

Harrah's Club 777 Toastmasters

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

S.M.A.R.T. Kids

3:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting

5 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

THURSDAYS

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

FRIDAYS

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



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

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FEB
23-24

Moviemakers from around the world to tell their stories at Copa Shorts Film Fest

By Raquel Hendrickson

The third annual Copa Shorts Film Festival is Feb. 23-24 at two locations. The weekend includes free workshops, a table reading and food trucks.

Films were submitted locally, from across the country and from around the world. As short films they are limited to 20 minutes in length.

"We have so many well-rated films," organizer Shelley Gillespie said. "We have more films ranked 9 or higher (out of 10) than the past two years."

Food trucks will be available both days of the festival, and those not attending the festival are welcome to drop by for a bite, too.

Saturday, the films will be by high school and middle school students, including seven films made by Maricopans. They will be shown in the Performing Arts Center auditorium at Maricopa High School.

The Black Box Theatre at the PAC will be the site of Saturday's workshop, as well:

10 a.m. - "Money for Low-Budget Films" with Ben Juhl and Jason Ryan

11:30 a.m. - "Makeup SFX on a Budget" with Aeni Domme

1 p.m. - "Enhancing Your Movie with Music" with Brent Michael Davids

Register for the free workshops at CopaShortsFilmFest.org.

MHS students from DECA and National Honor Society will help run the festival. DECA also created shirts for the event.


"DECA are going to do amazing things for us," Gillespie said. "We know they're really solid. They're hard-working. They're thinking about business, and that's helpful."

The film blocks start at 2:30 p.m. with high school films that are ostensibly rated PG-13, followed by middle school films and general-audience high school films.

Sunday, the action moves to Maricopa City Hall. There will be a silent auction on display starting at 11 a.m. The film blocks start a noon featuring movies by professional filmmakers. The second block includes a table read by local actors of a screenplay, followed by the screening of the filmed version.

Tickets are sold by block, day pass or VIP.

The Wrap Party is at 7 p.m. with entertainment by musician Beth Lederman and presentation of awards. Because the night coincides with the Academy Awards, there will be a red-carpet Oscar Night celebration, and attendees are encouraged to glam it up.

Admission to the party is \$25. 

 CopaShortsFilmFest.org



From top: Short films to be shown at this year's Copa Shorts Film Festival include "Franciszka," "Mount Liptak," "Your Move" and "Sundown."



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ADVERTISER INDEX

A+ Charter Schools.....	15
Ace Hardware.....	29
Ace Home Services.....	IBC
Against Abuse.....	53
Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club.....	56
Arizona Renaissance Festival.....	53
Banner Health Center - Maricopa.....	5
Brutinel Plumbing & Electrical.....	43
Central Arizona College.....	18
Clean Sweep House Cleaning.....	52
Comfort Keepers.....	44
Copa Shorts Film Fest.....	51
Copple & Copple, P.C.....	39
Dave Roling Carpet, Tile, Wood & Stone Care.....	43
East Valley Cardiology.....	45
Electrical District No. 3.....	13
Express Flooring.....	33
Fast & Friendly Carwash.....	39
Global Water Resources.....	25
Haldiman Insurance.....	46
Harrah's Ak-Chin.....	1
The Hearing Centers of Arizona.....	26
Heritage Academy.....	20
HomeSmart Success / Brian French.....	32
HomeSmart Success / Dayv Morgan.....	11
InMaricopa.com.....	55
InMaricopa.....	37
J Warren Funeral Services.....	13
James A Chaston CPA.....	35
Leading Edge Academy.....	11
Lizard Heights Glass.....	40
Maricopa Eye Care.....	7
Maricopa Foot and Ankle.....	21
Maricopa Unified School District.....	23
McLaughlin Air.....	IFC
Mr. Appliance of Maricopa.....	32
Mr. Electric.....	41
Orbitel Communications.....	3
Prestige Landscaping.....	41
Smiley Dental.....	46
Sun Life Family Health Center.....	48
UltraStar Multi-tainment Center.....	BC
The UPS Store.....	52
Vekol Market.....	31
Victor Moreno Photography.....	53

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