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June 2018

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PEOPLE
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makes tradition
her own

Continuing Education

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LEADING OFF

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Weaver **Tiffany Yazzie** brings her own touch to Navajo tradition.

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Mason Callejas

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ON THE COVER Diego Villarreal was among 356 Maricopa High School graduates participating in commencement exercises in May. *Photo by Victor Moreno*

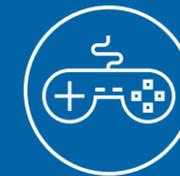
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Never stop learning

Life gets a little giddy when school's out and summer vacation begins, but education never stops.

It will be a shorter-than-usual summer for many school-aged children as Maricopa Unified School District begins a new schedule. So, our readers have just enough time to get to know incoming Superintendent Tracey Lopeman during break. She sat down with InMaricopa for a Q&A session, part of which appears in these pages.

This edition shares graduation photos from the Class of 2018's big nights, as well as some parting words from the MHS valedictorian.

Heidi Vratil, an assistant principal at Maricopa High School, sees herself as educating students by challenging their teachers to achieve more, professionally and personally. She explains how her programs in board certification and mentorship can build up teachers, help the school and help kids.

Clothing designer Angelina Martin was an instructor of a different kind, teaching at The Art Institute for eight years. Now she is busy growing her apparel business in Maricopa. Tacking Arizona's fashion world has been an education in itself, and she shares what she's been learning along the way.

Tiffany Yazzie, brings generations of skill and looms of tactile color to her art of weaving with a signature style. Steeped in the hands-on lessons of her mother and grandmothers, she puts her own touch to the Navajo-rug customs to emerge unique among talented textile artists of Maricopa.

Get a perspective on the 12 years of changing leadership of the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce, meet the winner of the Best Mom contest and catch up with the progress of the Regional Transportation Authority plan.

As schools begin to look at budgets in June in the aftermath of #RedForEd walkouts, this issue looks at how MUSD's teacher salaries have been measuring up.

These stories and much more information about what's happening in Maricopa are in these pages.

Happy reading,



Raquel Hendrickson

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What's in a name?

Did you know Maricopa Elementary School briefly carried a different name? In 1953, just before the beginning of the school year, the red brick schoolhouse (built by community members in 1914) was destroyed by fire. According to local historian Patricia Brock, Elton K. Porter died of a heart attack while fighting the fire. Porter farmed cotton in Maricopa and was a member of the school board. When the elementary school was rebuilt on the corner of Honeycutt Avenue and Maricopa Road (now John Wayne Parkway), it was named Elton K. Porter Grade School. Though the name reverted to Maricopa Elementary School in the 1960s, Porter was remembered with the naming of an important north-south thoroughfare.



Courtesy MUSD

Contributors



SHERI LYN CURRY
Curry owns Comfort Keepers but is also a minister. In this issue, she writes about the difficult choice to go into long-term care, calling the decision-making process "empowering."



VICTOR MORENO
Moreno, who also paints houses when not a professional shutterbug, photographed two high school graduations for this issue, including the cover, striving to capture the emotions of the big night.



PORTER JONES
A brand new high school graduate, Jones is a big-time, long-term planner and put together a fine valedictory address, which he shares in this issue.



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Sheriff Mark Lamb speaks during a State of the County presentation at Elements Events Center May 17. *Michelle Chance*



Rachele Maas pins her husband David Maas for his promotion to an engineer for Maricopa Fire/Medical Department. *Raquel Hendrickson*



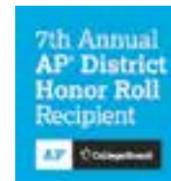
Crystal Dennis (left) helps Vice Mayor Peg Chapados look at her quilts during a textile show May 4 at Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Brittany Randolph (second from right) rehearses with the cast of "Rent," to be performed at Leading Edge Academy June 6-9. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Julie Murphree of Arizona Farm Bureau talks about her family's Maricopa farm during a history presentation at Maricopa Public Library. *Raquel Hendrickson*



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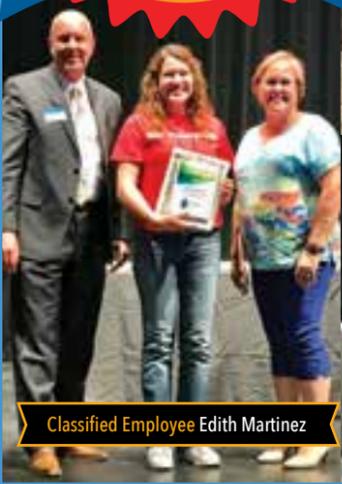


Teachers Paul Krigbamm, Laura Done & Jason Goodwin



Coach Andrew Pollack

Substitute Sue-Ann Hill



Classified Employee Edith Martinez



Administrator/Retiree Michele Shaffer



Retiree B.J. Legaspi



Retiree Elsie Pickett



Retiree Diane Vigil

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New superintendent wants MUSD to flourish with strategic thinking

By Michelle Chance



Michelle Chance

Tracey Lopeman officially becomes the superintendent of Maricopa Unified School District July 1. Lopeman is currently under contract as a consultant and de facto interim superintendent after the early departure of Steve Chestnut. She spoke with InMaricopa's Michelle Chance about the future of the district.

What are some tangible goals you have for MUSD?

Some tangible goals have to do with student achievement: Improving the numbers of students who are proficient and highly proficient on the Az Merit. Teacher retention and, of course, that's directly related to student achievement. We can track teacher retention. I also have a goal for safety and service. Things that we can associate with safety and service would be transportation services and behavior management on the campuses and making sure the environment is orderly and calm and we can track those as well.

What are some challenges at MUSD you hope to overcome?

One of the challenges is the teacher turnover. We want to make sure that we are not having

to start over every year with high numbers of staff. So, if we can impact teacher retention, we are going to do that.

What are your specific strategies to keep teachers?

We want to get as much of that money (from new state budget) into the classroom as possible. We think we have a really good approach to that, a really good plan. It's not approved by our board yet, but I think that it will be well received by our staff. We want to have a competitive package, and we believe the increase that we've received from the Legislature is going to help with that.

How do you define a teacher?

Obviously, there [are] three separate definitions the Legislature has included. For

“I'm really quite lucky because there's so many great things going on in every one of the schools.”

—Tracey Lopeman

our purposes, we want to use the most broad definition as possible so that we can make sure as many teachers as possible have their raise.

Will that definition be shared in a future board meeting?

Absolutely it will. This is all a part of the package that we are continuing to craft and I'd love to give you the scoop, but I've got four

board members that don't know the details yet because we are really still crafting them.

With the new budget, there's an increase to the base formula that calculates teacher pay. Can you share how that would apply to MUSD's "unique student characteristics" you mentioned at a previous board meeting?

Those are the different weights that are applied to students when it comes to our enrollment. Whether it's a typical student or a special needs student, there's a formula that is influenced by those characteristics.

And every district is going to have to figure out what those are individually?

Yes, and we will share those at a future meeting.

What do you bring to the table that's different from what MUSD has had, this being your first post as superintendent?

I think I bring a knowledge base and an experience base that will capitalize on what (former Superintendent Steve) Chestnut brought with the vision and strategic plan that he established here. There's a great foundation

for strategic thinking and accountability already. So, I think I bring that mindset to the organization and, also, I bring an external focus that will assist with the marketing of our district. I have my experience through my roles at district office in that, so I can bring those connections and relationships to this district.

I have experience that picks up the torch without much delay and builds on the foundation that (Chestnut) established here. I'm really quite lucky because there's so many great things going on in every one of the schools and there [are] already some pretty powerful relationships with different communities in and out of town, so I'm ready to, without missing a beat, continue what we have established.

Read the full interview at InMaricopa.com and get Lopeman's take on the #RedForEd movement, certified staff raises and new schools.

TRACEY LOPEMAN

Hometown: Henderson, Nevada

Residence: Phoenix

Plans to move to Maricopa:

Not right now

Commute: I enjoy it. It's a nice drive, and it allows me some time to think about work and get ready for the day.

Family: I have a fiancée, Tony Johnson. The rest of my family still lives in Henderson. I have a brother and sister and my nephews.

Pets: Two rescue dogs, Chico and Howard.

Education: I went to Northern Arizona University for my bachelor's degree and I got my master's and my doctorate at Arizona State University.

Hobbies: We go to ASU football games. I enjoy sports, cooking, home design, yard work, time with family and friends and entertaining.

Little known fact: I'm an excellent tap dancer. I've been doing it since I was 5.

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Past, future unite in Maricopan's Navajo weavings

By Raquel Hendrickson Photos by Mason Callejas

As the next generation in a legacy woven into the long shadows of Monument Valley, Tiffany Yazzie carefully blends tradition and innovation on her loom.

A weaver of the Navajo tradition, Yazzie makes her own style of rugs that demonstrate why textiles are not just cloth but an art. One of her most popular patterns is the “eye dazzler,” giving the appearance of techno pulsating.

“I really wanted to start with the turquoise and the black and the grays, so I really originally thought I would start with this,” she said, pointing at a piece she displayed for a “Textile Extravaganza” in May, “but I couldn’t help myself with the sun color.”

She calls the piece “Supernova.” She said it took eight months to weave. She was gratified to hear an exhibit visitor tell her it was the most spectacular piece in the room.

Before the extravaganza with other textile artists, Yazzie had her own show at MCE.

“Her work and her backstory of weaving through family heritage are so interesting,” MCE office manager Tracy Schmalenbach said.

Yazzie and her husband moved to Maricopa eight years ago for the same reasons as many other residents.

“It was the small-town feel and the jobs were here,” she said. “I didn’t necessarily want

to live in the city. When my husband drove out here, I thought, ‘No, don’t take me far away from home.’ But when we got here, the houses were beautiful, and we both fell in love with it. And I thought, ‘OK, if we’re going to stay here and work, this is the place.’”

Now a stay-at-home mom with three daughters, she grew up in the Navajo Nation in a family closely associated with the land along the Arizona/Utah border.

As a child, she watched her mother and both grandmothers weave. She wanted to try, too, but it was not yet her time. Yazzie first had to learn carding and spinning and taking care of the sheep.

“I just wanted to do what my grandmother and my mother did, just getting to the weaving



part once everything was done,” she said. “Now I can do that.”

Her paternal grandmother was Susie Yazzie, who demonstrated Navajo weaving techniques for decades in Monument Valley and became an icon of the art. Photographed repeatedly by Arizona Highways and other publications, she died in 2013 in her 90s — as befitting a legend, her birth year was always in dispute.

Tiffany Yazzie still uses her grandmother’s weaving comb. She has family members in Navajo Nation bring her the wool and goat hair yarn she uses in her weaving. She can point out the shine the goat hair brings to the finished piece. As a member of the Maricopa Arts Council, she has had her work exhibited several times in Maricopa.

She said her works are often function as much as art.

“If you look at this size, this is 30-by-59, you can fold this and it’s about the size of a saddle blanket,” Yazzie said. “With this size, a lot of cowgirls back home like to just cover themselves when they’re out on the range. But a lot of people like to just use it as a wall tapestry because it absorbs ambient noise, so you don’t get a lot of sound bouncing.

“But some people like to throw it over their couch. It’s just more added texture. And I love how tactile it is. I just want to go up and touch it.”

tiffanyyazziestudio@gmail.com

Tiffany Yazzie learned the art of weaving from her mother and grandmothers. She still uses her grandmother Susie’s weaving comb and has the wool and goat hair brought to Maricopa from her childhood home in Navajo Nation.



Mason Callejas

MHS administrator builds up teachers to impact students

By Michelle Chance

Heidi Vratil began her career 22 years ago teaching in the special education department of Maricopa Unified School District's middle and high schools. "It wasn't like now where we have a resource room for students with learning disabilities and a self-contained room for students with emotional disabilities," Vratil said. "Everybody was all one."

Vratil adapted to the district, so small at the time, and spent her career working to advance the experience of its teachers and students.

She quickly ascended to SPED director, the district's first Human Resources director and then returned to a middle school classroom for a time before eventually taking a position in the district office as a professional development coach.

This school year, Vratil has been a

Maricopa High School assistant principal. After time spent on leave, she returned with new responsibilities focusing on the school's activities and facilities.

MHS experienced a difficult year in its administrative team, with two resignations causing reshuffling and frustration among staff, students and parents.

Next year, the district's athletic director Brian Winter will take over as principal, and



Raquel Hendrickson

Work is a whirl for Heidi Vratil at Maricopa High School. She presents an award to Haley Petersheim during Senior Honors Night.

Vratil said the high school administration aims to stay the same by the end of the school year in 2019.

"The team that we have in place has the skills, the dispositions, the beliefs to grow this place to be a 'B' school and then to be an 'A' school," Vratil said.

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Vrtil's tenure at MUSD, in general, is a practice in curiosity and drive.

"Her career exemplifies her willingness to learn and to take risks at new things," said longtime colleague Bernadette Russoniello.

Vrtil is a National Board-certified teacher and spearheaded an effort to encourage MUSD teachers to tackle the ambitious certification.

"Watching teachers grow in their own fields, in their own practice — that's the best because then their impact on kids is greater and that ultimately is what we're here for," Vrtil said.

Fifty-five district teachers are pursuing board certification under Vrtil's guidance -- granting MUSD the highest percentage in that category in the state. Five teachers are now certified at the highest level an educator can achieve, according to Vrtil.

Vrtil compares the process to the rigor of earning a master's degree.

“The biggest thing that I see different is the common language, the way they know their kids and how to teach them and being reflective about their practice.”

—Heidi Vrtil

"These teachers have gone through a structured, rigorous process to prove their practice against others in our country," Vrtil said, adding, "The biggest thing that I see different is the common language, the way they know their kids and how to teach them and being reflective about their practice."

Vrtil also brought the teacher-mentoring program to MHS and the district's two middle schools. Through this initiative, every rookie teacher is assigned a mentor for guidance.

Jennifer Miller is one of those mentors. She credits Vrtil with having a profound impact on her profession by habitually pushing teachers out of their comfort zones.

"...Vrtil is one of the most passionate educators I know. She is all about helping teachers be the best versions of themselves," Miller said.

After a tumultuous year at the high school, Vrtil said she considered looking outside the district for another opportunity. She decided to stay to nurture the educators growing in their professions.

"I don't have a definition of what it looks like to be done," Vrtil said. "I just know that I'm not."



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2017 Business of the Year

Trending on InMaricopa.com

1 Wild horses, truck collide on Casa Blanca



2 Wrong-way driver kills Maricopa woman on SR 347



3 City temporarily closes Dollar Tree on grand opening

4 Report of shot fired shuts down neighborhood

5 Woman 'temporarily disfigured' after husband's alleged abuse



6 Senior Spotlights: Some of Maricopa's Top Graduates



7 Camper trailer fire shuts down MCG Highway

8 MPD unveils memorial monument

9 Televised 'World Long Drive' comes to Ak-Chin



10 Figueroa pleads guilty in wife's sword murder

Elections

Campaign Finance Reports
Candidates ranked by receipts

FEDERAL OFFICES
January 2017-March 2018 receipts

U.S. SENATE



Kyrsten Sinema (D)
Cash balance: \$6,688,670
Receipts: \$6,552,764
Disbursements: \$2,127,728.43
Debts owed: \$0

Martha McSally (R)
Cash balance: \$2,578,746
Receipts: \$3,377,931
Disbursements: \$799,184
Debts owed: \$0

Kelli Ward (R)
Cash balance: \$432,553
Receipts: \$1,980,775
Disbursements: \$1,600,150
Debts owed: \$127,652

Joe Arpaio (R)
Cash balance: \$254,938
Receipts: \$503,191
Disbursements: \$248,252
Debts owed: \$0

Deedra Abboud (D)
Cash balance at: \$16,423
Receipts: \$63,952
Disbursements: \$47,530
Debts owed: \$98,095

U.S. CONGRESS AZ DISTRICT 1



Tom O'Halleran (D)
Cash balance: \$885,083
Receipts: \$1,237,921
Disbursements: \$460,129
Debts owed: \$0

Tiffany Shedd (R)
Cash balance: \$250,583
Receipts: \$339,600
Disbursements: \$89,016
Debts owed: \$150,000

Steve Smith (R)
Cash balance: \$244,541
Receipts: \$307,777
Disbursements: \$63,236
Debts owed: \$0

Wendy Rogers (R)
Cash balance: \$201,317
Receipts: \$238,542
Disbursements: \$42,215
Debts owed: \$0

STATE OFFICES
January-March 2018 receipts

GOVERNOR



Doug Ducey (R)
Cash balance: \$3,007,595
Cash receipts: \$549,965
Cash disbursements: \$220,817
Loans received: \$0

Steve Farley (D)
Cash balance: \$309,010
Cash receipts: \$265,192
Cash disbursements: \$188,542
Loans received: \$0

David Garcia (D)
Cash balance: \$184,925.97
Cash receipts: \$238,552
Cash disbursements: \$135,539
Loans received: \$0

Kelly Fryer (D)
Cash balance: \$48,419.19
Cash receipts for: \$88,395
Cash disbursements: \$39,976
Loans received: \$0

Noah Parker Dyer (I)
Cash balance: \$19,380
Cash receipts: \$35,868.25
Cash disbursements: \$18,877
Loans received: \$46,430

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Steve Gaynor (R)
Cash balance: \$557,179
Cash receipts: \$623,000
Cash disbursements: \$65,821
Loans received: \$620,000

Katie Hobbs (D)
Cash balance: \$169,228
Cash receipts: \$115,206
Cash disbursements: \$62,437
Loans received: \$0

Michele Reagan (R)
Cash balance: \$451,706
Cash receipts: \$75,230
Cash disbursements: \$91,055
Loans received: \$0

Mark Robert Gordon (D)
Cash balance: \$40,608
Cash receipts: \$54,118
Cash disbursements: \$40,203
Loans received: \$0

Lori Klein Corbin (R)
Cash balance: \$15,601.90
Cash receipts: \$19,290
Cash disbursements: \$3,688
Loans received: \$1,000

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January Contreras (D)
Cash balance: \$162,549.72
Cash receipts: \$124,442.86
Cash disbursements: \$68,443
Loans received: \$0

Mark Brnovich (R)
Cash balance: \$453,067
Cash receipts: \$112,750
Cash disbursements: \$43,207
Loans received: \$0

TREASURER



Kimberly Yee (R)
Cash balance: \$539,685
Cash receipts: \$17,490
Cash disbursements: \$17,805
Loans received: \$400,000

Mark Manoil (D)*
Cash balance: \$5,365.30
Cash receipts: \$9,330
Cash disbursements: \$6,142
Loans received: \$0

Mark Cardenas (D)
Cash balance: \$6,515
Cash receipts: \$6,515
Cash disbursements: \$0
Loans received: \$0

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



David Schapira (D)*
Cash balance: \$59,619
Cash receipts: \$100,034
Cash disbursements: \$58,290
Loans received: \$0

Jonathan Gelbart (R)
Cash balance: \$70,778
Cash receipts: \$9,375
Cash disbursements: \$6,468
Loans received: \$25,000

Frank Riggs (R)
Cash balance: \$27,385.97
Cash receipts: \$28,790.01
Cash disbursements: \$2,224
Loans received: \$46,800

Kathy Hoffman (D)
Cash balance: \$11,572.61
Cash receipts: \$11,857
Cash disbursements: \$6,220
Loans received: \$0

Diane Douglass (R)
Cash balance: \$6,004
Cash receipts: \$2,405
Cash disbursements: \$685
Loans received: \$1,300

MINE INSPECTOR



Joe Hart (R)
Cash balance: \$544
Cash receipts: \$4,090
Cash disbursements: \$4,500
Loans received: \$1,000

Bill Pierce (D)*
Cash balance: \$2,365
Cash receipts: \$825.56
Cash disbursements: \$202
Loans received: \$0

CORPORATION COMMISSIONS



Kiana Sears (D)*
Cash balance: \$101,965
Cash receipts: \$104,167
Cash disbursements: \$9,232
Loans received: \$0

Rodney Glassman (R)
Cash balance: \$366,661
Cash receipts: \$66,001
Cash disbursements: \$36,547
Loans received: \$100,000

James O'Connor (R)*
Cash balance: \$4,696
Cash receipts: \$12,435
Cash disbursements: \$13,123
Loans received: \$0

Bill Mundell (D)*
Cash balance: \$13,158
Cash receipts: \$7,530
Cash disbursements: \$1,764
Loans received: \$0

Sandra Kennedy (D)*
Cash balance: \$5,562
Cash receipts: \$5,060
Cash disbursements: \$118
Loans received: \$0

Eric Sloan (R)
Cash balance: \$3,094
Cash receipts: \$2,465
Cash disbursements: \$75
Loans received: \$0

ARIZONA SENATE DISTRICT 11



Ralph Atchue (D)*
Cash balance: \$17,283
Cash receipts: \$15,720
Cash disbursements: \$1,215
Loans received: \$0

Vince Leach (R)
Cash balance: \$114,272
Cash receipts: \$12,775
Cash disbursements: \$2,547
Loans received: \$0



ARIZONA HOUSE DISTRICT 11



Hollace (Holly) Lyon (D)
Cash balance: \$70,547
Cash receipts: \$24,823
Cash disbursements: \$4,605
Loans received: \$0

Mark Finchem (R)
Cash balance: \$23,952
Cash receipts: \$5,363
Cash disbursements: \$3,253
Loans received: \$0

Bridger Kimball (R)
Cash balance: \$1,720
Cash receipts: \$2,100
Cash disbursements: \$2,583
Loans received: \$0

Bret Roberts (R)*
Cash balance: \$4,488
Cash receipts: \$1,965
Cash disbursements: \$305
Loans received: \$350

Barry McCain (D)*
Cash balance: \$0
Cash receipts: \$0
Cash disbursements: \$0
Loans received: \$0

Howell W. Jones (R)
Filed no first-quarter reports

*Clean Elections candidate

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RTA working with MAG, Gila River on SR 347 expansion

By Raquel Hendrickson

The Goldwater Institute's lawsuit against the Pinal Regional Transportation Authority Plan (RTA) is in the hands of a judge as of May 21, and a ruling is expected at the end of June or the beginning of July.

Whatever the outcome, RTA officials are moving forward with preparations to put the voter-approved project in motion. The project includes additional lanes on State Route 347. The half-cent sales tax to pay for the RTA went into effect April 1.

Andy Smith, RTA general manager, said the organization has been working with Maricopa and Casa Grande to seek grant opportunities for the east-west corridor. That four-lane, 21-mile project connecting Maricopa with Interstate 10 in Casa Grande was estimated in the election pamphlet to cost \$67.2 million. That has now been refigured to \$74 million.

The east-west corridor had been marked for Phase I but is now in Phase III (years 2029-33).

The widening of State Route 347 from Maricopa to the Maricopa County line has seen its estimated cost reduced from \$28.8 million to \$23 million. That work is slated for 2021-22, Phase I of the RTA.

Smith told the Pinal County Board of Supervisors the RTA is working with Maricopa Association of Governments and Gila Riva Indian Community.

"The RTA has pledged \$100,000 to \$150,000 to help facilitate funding" to help create a design concept report for SR 347 for the entire stretch from Maricopa to Interstate 10 in Maricopa County, he said, adding the City of Maricopa is part of the discussions as well.

He said the Department of Revenue is two months in arrears on its tax collections. The collections that started in April are held in escrow.

District 4 Supervisor Anthony Smith of Maricopa encouraged RTA officials to

start moving as they await the ruling on the Goldwater case.

"Get as many things as shovel-ready as possible, especially the priority-one projects," he said. "Because hopefully there will be a federal transportation bill that will come at some point or there will be grant opportunities.

"If we are prepared and we've got the engineering done and we've got maybe some of the right-of-way acquisition – and the more steps we have so that we're truly shovel-ready – the more we're going to get mileage out of the money that we put into this."

Andy Smith said the RTA wants a representative of Arizona Department of Transportation on its board to help with more collaboration. Mayor Christian Price is on the board, Maricopa Public Works Director Bill Fay is on the technical Transportation Advisory Committee. Maricopa's Tena Dugan and Terri Crain are members of the Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee, answering to the Board of Directors. Dugan chairs the committee.

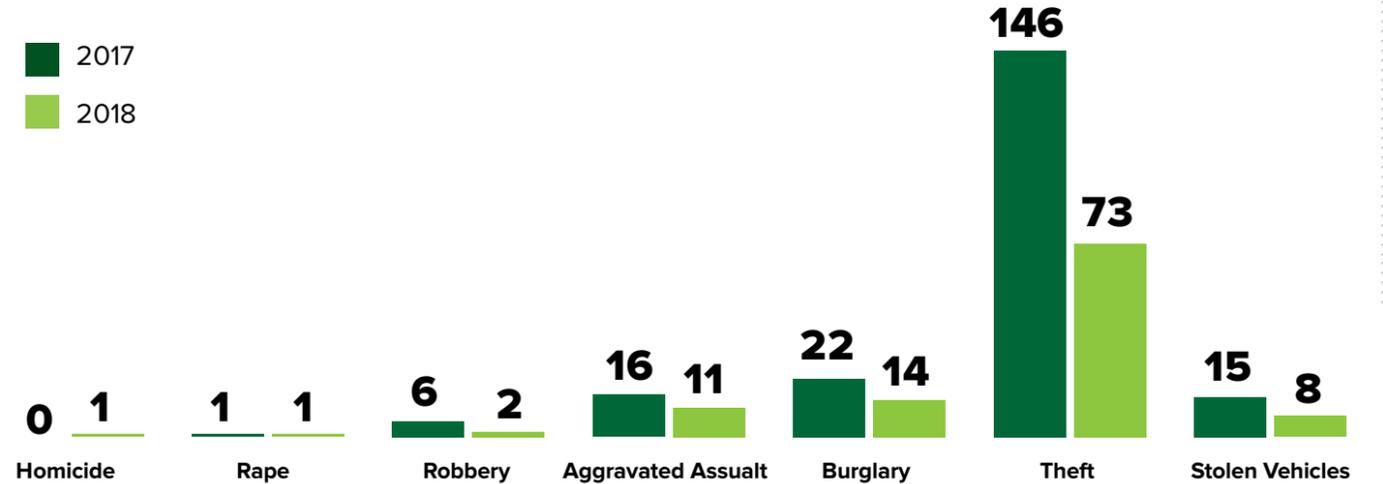
The RTA includes 15 transportation improvement projects around the county.

PinalRTA.org

Maricopa Police Department

2017-2018 CRIME REPORT

Maricopa Police Department has seen a dramatic drop in property crimes compared to the first quarter of 2017. Learn more at InMaricopa.com.



Source: Maricopa Police Department

2018 Primary Election Town Hall

Presented by inMaricopa.com

Saturday, Aug. 4
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Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center



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Does Awesomeness Run In Your Family?

Did you know only 43% of Maricopa Youth report talking to their parents about substance abuse? This Father's Day take some quality time with your kids to talk to them about their value and the risks involved with abusing drugs and alcohol. For more information visit our website at www.mcaasa.org



Help the Be Awesome Youth Coalition develop confident, connected and successful youth!

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at MES.

mcaasa.org [f](#) [i](#) Be-Awesome-Youth-Coalition



Salaries

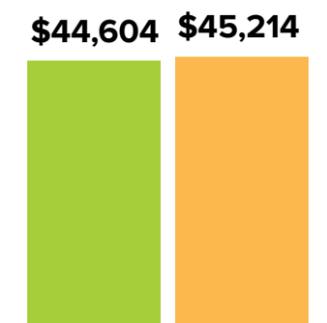
What teachers make

Maricopa Unified School District expects to introduce its budget in June for the 2018-19 fiscal year as officials integrate the Legislature's new K-12 spending bill galvanized by the #RedForEd movement. This graph shows what district teachers earned during the current fiscal year (by comparison, the state's average pay was \$48,372). The MUSD budget process will determine how these numbers will change for the next school year.

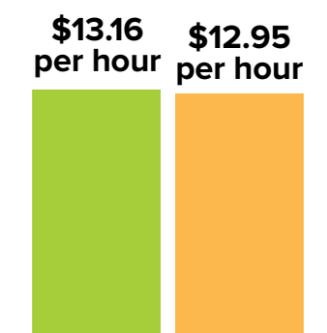
2017-18 MUSD Teacher Salaries

■ AVERAGE ■ MEDIAN

KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

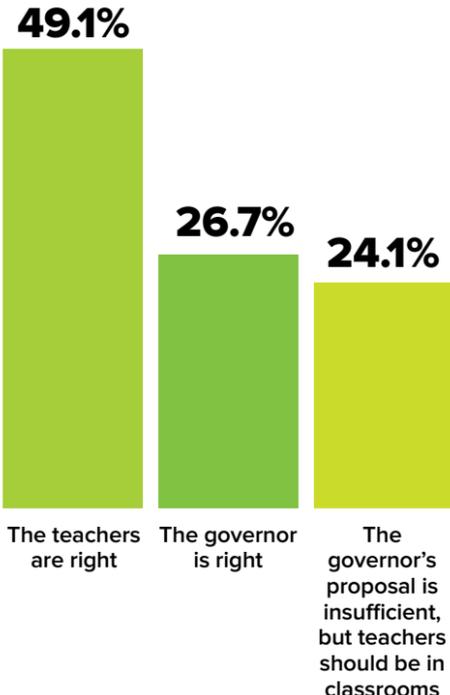


FULL-TIME PARAPROFESSIONALS



POLL

Do you support the teacher walkout, or does Gov. Ducey have the best proposal to fund education?



Total votes: 348
Source: InMaricopa.com April 30-May 7, 2018

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Maricopa High School



Sequoia Pathway Prep



Maricopa High School's Class of 2018 graduated May 24, with more than 350 seniors walking across the stage at Ram Stadium. Porter Jones (see page 24) gave the valedictory address after Alessandro Hernandez de la Pena (opposite page, center) spoke as the salutatorian. This year, students were free to decorate their caps with messages and memorabilia. Photos by Victor Moreno



Sequoia Pathway Academy celebrated the graduating class in commencement exercises May 18. More than 70 seniors graduated from the charter school as Mayor Christian Price was the guest speaker, and Christiana Holguin spoke as valedictorian. Photos by Victor Moreno

Nothing to fear from hearing others' ideas

By Porter Jones

Hello, Class of 2018 and guests! I am honored not only to be addressing the faculty, family and underclassmen around us, but also to get the chance to speak to you, my friends and peers, before we go our separate ways.

Now, I also know that I'm the last thing standing between you and a senior diploma, so I'll try to keep my comments brief and to the point. As we all shift from side to side in our seats, wondering how much longer this can go, I'm sure that we're all also thinking the same thing: Our actions this year have spoken louder than any speech or remark could adequately describe.

While there's not much left to be said as far as academic achievement, extracurricular honors and sheer tenacity and grit at having finally "made it to the bell" go, we — the students, teachers and family members here tonight — have seen a tremendous amount of effort put forth in order for us to be better prepared for a world that can be both exciting and scary. With that in mind, I would like to offer some quick words of advice and comfort for those next years we have along the road.

I have noticed lately that no matter where you go, people seem to think that everything in life is out to get them. If we live with this sentiment, however, our entire lives are going to be the equivalent of a nail in search of a hammer — and that's not much of a life, is it? No joy can come from pinning unhappiness on others. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Most people are about as happy as they make

up their minds to be." If the sky seems to be dropping anvils on you, find a way to build a ramada, or put those anvils to good use. "The robbed that smiles steals something from the thief," after all!

But some might be wondering, how can we ever expect to find satisfaction in a world with people who have different opinions than us? It is my belief that we can always treat anyone, no matter how annoying or backwards they might seem at one moment, with unfeigned charity and understanding, and still maintain our own ideals. Many wise people have noted that discussing beliefs builds faith in a cause and breeds understanding between individuals. There is nothing to fear from hearing another's ideas. Still, remain passionate about things; never find yourself in a slump of self-doubt, because there are so many good things to live for.

We live in the greatest country of all: The United States of America. Two hundred and thirty-one years ago, a group of men drafted what has become the bedrock of our freedom and liberty. Always remember the sacrifices of others that are meant for us. This will not only help us decide the choices that remain in our lives, but also help us realize that our country's well-being rests in our hands. I invite us to listen to George Orwell's advice, which proclaims that "in a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act." Use your abilities to search for truth, and take great pride in living in a land where "a better tomorrow" isn't just a buzzword. Take pride



Porter Jones

Victor Moreno

in living in the "land of the free and the home of the brave!"

Lastly, I cannot leave tonight without expressing my enduring gratitude for the many role models we have had to look up to in these four years and even further before. The material for any outstanding graduation speech has really already been given to us by the leaders, confidants and supports who have provided us with morality, affection and the best sermons: good examples.

I want to personally thank my close friends, teachers, family and God above for the many blessings that have been poured out on us these four years, and relish the thought that we are living here, now! We have infinite opportunity before us, and as we travel through life I hope we will always maintain optimism and enthusiasm for it.

And here we are, five minutes older, and still waiting for a conclusion; and here I am, still drawing out every second, since the moment I end this we will bid this campus good-bye for the last time. Don't fret about what the future has in store for us — that's how one dies an early death. If we remember time management, work ethic, respect, honesty, patriotism, compassion and living within our means, we will go far. I have faith in every one of you, as I hope you all have in yourselves.

Tonight, I would like to end by leaving the charge of making the best of all the time, relationships, means and talents you will find in life to you, as well as the capability to fulfill your purpose in life. Good night, Class of 2018, and God bless us all. 📌

Porter Jones was the valedictorian of the Maricopa High School Class of 2018. This is the text of a speech he delivered at graduation May 24.

Congratulations, graduates!



Alexis Alvarez



Allissia Bandin



Angelica Fernandez



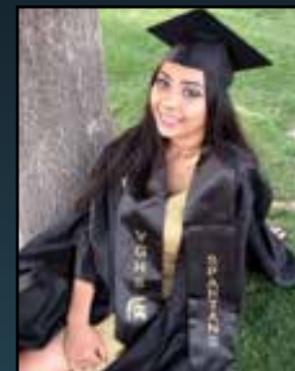
Steven Gonzales



Anyssa Justin



Jordyn Miguel



DeAna Quinonez



Steven Ruelas



Harrison Smith



Traci Thomas



Bren Valisto



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Drinking and driving impacts even the most powerful families

By Priscilla Behnke

A small team of Be Awesome Youth Coalition members attended a showing of the movie *Chappaquiddick*, the story of Ted Kennedy's 1969 scandal that ended with a submerged car in a lake and a drowned passenger, Mary Jo Kopechne.

Most of the film is the story of how the affluent, connected and powerful family create a coverup to avoid life-changing consequences for the politician. For the most part they are successful. After some heat and uncomfortable confrontations, he is re-elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served until his death nine years ago. The movie does a good job of showing how power can be corrupt.

I would argue there is the subtle point that many have missed with their hot takes on

Twitter, the simple act of drinking too much and driving had the profound effect of ending a young, vibrant woman's life.

A member in our group shared how her grandmother had been killed by a drunk driver before she even born. This loss has had a deep impact on her mother's life. It was an unfair and preventable tragedy, all because someone engaged in the simple act of drinking alcohol. Kopechne had hopes, dreams and aspirations, and because alcohol and automobiles were mixed, she didn't get to attempt them. Despite all the Kennedys' affluence, it was alcohol's influence that prevailed.

Each of us have something to offer this world. There are so many possibilities — caring parents raising great children, engineers designing the next fuel-efficient



Priscilla Behnke

vehicle, a scientist developing a cure for cancer, a teacher inspiring a generation to read. Maricopa is a nice, little, isolated suburb nestled between stretches of highway. That doesn't grant us any more immunity than a powerful political family's privilege.

According to the Arizona State Crash Facts in 2016 (the most recent available data), there were 11 alcohol-related crashes in Maricopa in which an individual died as a result. A legacy ended here.

Protecting our legacy is crucial. While our children can suffer from something as unassuming as drinking, we can protect them with meaningful conversation. Ask them what they know about alcohol, what they think about drinking. What is going on at their school and with their peers. Tell them what you think about it, and how valuable they are and why you want them to wait until they are 21.

Be Awesome will be hosting forums and workshops on how to talk with our kids about the most popular substances. [m](#)

mcaasa.org
[Facebook.com/BeAwesome-YouthCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/BeAwesomeYouthCoalition)

Out of state does not equal out of reach for potential college students

By Bernadette Russoniello

“You will have to stay in state; we can't afford for you to leave.” This sentiment echoed in my household growing up and rung through the hall of my high school. Twenty years later, I still hear students, parents and teachers repeating the same conventional wisdom — “It's cheaper to stay in state.”

While this statement may have been true through the early 2000s, the State of Arizona has nearly eliminated all funding and support to state universities, and tuition costs have risen by 500 percent the past 20 years. The average cost of resident tuition at Arizona universities averages over \$10,000 per year.

Thanks to cooperative programs with neighboring states and the Western Undergraduate Exchange program sponsored by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, students can look out of state, and even save money.

New Mexico State University in Las Cruces offers Arizona residents in-state tuition to their school. With tuition at \$7,000, NMSU provides an affordable option only a five-hour drive away. Additionally, NMSU has more generous admissions requirements at a 2.75 GPA or better and no foreign language requirement.

The Western Undergraduate Exchange program, known as WUE, also provides significant discounts on out-of-state tuition. Students can attend California State Universities for \$8,208. Looking for a change of climate? Students can attend Montana State University – Northern for \$5,257 or University of Wyoming for \$5,580. Universities in Utah range from \$6,155 to \$8,712. You could even go to University of Alaska, Anchorage or University of Hawaii, Hilo for \$8,640 and \$10,800, respectively. Universities in Oregon and Washington weigh in at only slightly higher costs than our



Bernadette Russoniello

Arizona options, \$9,855 to \$13,946.

Even private and competitive universities offer support many parents and students may not be aware of. Grand Canyon University, a private, nonprofit, Christian university in

Phoenix, charges \$16,000 per year for tuition, but the housing and meal costs are nearly half our state universities, making their total cost competitive. GCU also offers significant scholarships, based on GPA or test scores, whichever is best. All Maricopa High School graduates are eligible to earn the Grand Canyon Award, a \$1,000 instant scholarship.

Competitive colleges and universities, from Ivy League to small, liberal arts school, often have endowments and scholarship programs that provide 100 percent financial assistance to applicants. This promise guarantees students will only have to pay their families' Expected Family Contribution or EFC as identified on their FAFSA; the university will cover the rest.

The bottom line? While costs are certainly an important factor in determining the best college fit, don't limit your options until you've explored the opportunities. [m](#)

whiche.edu/wue

Bernadette Russoniello is the Career and College coordinator at Maricopa High School. She can be reached at BRussoniello@MUSD20.



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Source: Energy.gov



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Student musicians packed the stage for the annual Music-a-thon May 12 at the Performing Arts Center. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Stirling Luckey, Doug Moulton and Collin Martin performed in "The Baker's Wife" at Maricopa High School. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Kanye Young scored 11 as Maricopa Wells Middle School won the league championship May 14. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Desert Wind Middle School girls' soccer team earned a spot in the Desert Middle School Athletic League championship game May 14. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Stephany Villanueva Carrasco of Desert Wind Middle School won the Egg Loft in the annual Rocket Challenge. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Deja Hester, an eighth grader at Leading Edge Academy, shows off "Night of the Plants," which placed in the school's Visual Arts Show May 17. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Marquell David was congratulated for perfect attendance throughout high school (and middle school) by Michele Shaffer at Senior Honors Night. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Maricopa Unified School District's Native American Education Program and its parent advisory committee hosted their year-end Family Night May 9. *Mason Callejas*



Jacob Booth, Sofia Carlson, Zechariah Suiter and Isabella Moreno in "The Wizard of Oz" at Leading Edge. *Raquel Hendrickson*

Best Mom

Single mother named Best Mom in Maricopa

By Raquel Hendrickson



Mason Callejas

Single mother of three Amy Berry has a lot of love out there. Nominated by six people, she is the 2018 Best Mom in Maricopa.

In Maricopa's Facebook readers "liked" the nominated mother they thought most deserving of the award, and Berry came out ahead among nearly 30 nominees.

"I'm excited, but I couldn't do what I do without the village to help me," Berry said.

When she's not working full-time for Wells Fargo from home, she's leading Girl Scouts or running her children to their activities. Her two sons are both involved in football, one also plays baseball, and her daughter takes dance classes.

"Amy has an amazing, big, loving heart," Peggy Hill's Facebook nomination stated. "Health hasn't been on her side; she still brings up the strength to do all. Amy is for me the best mom ever."

Originally from Seattle, Berry moved to Maricopa in 2007. She and her children, Cameron, 12, Caden, 10, and Chloe, 5, live in The Villages.

Carol Fagerlie said Berry "amazingly juggles children, their activities,



Mason Callejas



Raquel hendrickson

Amy Berry, with her children Cameron, Caden and Chloe, is 2018's Best Mom in Maricopa. Kylie Williams, far left, placed second in the Best Mom voting. Jessica Reynolds, left, placed third.

her work, family and friends. She's a hard worker and has a good heart."

Alicia Hills said Berry is a "huge advocate" for the city, the schools and the businesses.

"I think Maricopa is a perfect place to raise kids," Berry said. "I know their teachers and their principal. Someone will call me to tell me my kid jumped in the lake at Pacana Park. Well, that's nice to know."

Also nominating Berry, Allen Jorgensen called her an "incredibly brave, tough, tireless and loving mom."

Berry received \$200 in gift cards from local merchants, sunglasses from Maricopa Eye Care, a family sitting with Victor Moreno Photography and a bouquet from Fry's.

In second place, Kylie Williams received \$100 in gift cards and a Fry's bouquet. Her husband Jonathan Williams said, "Kylie does an amazing job of taking care of our four young children (10, 8, 6, 4). Not

only does she love [these] kids with everything inside of her but she takes them to soccer, birthday events, teaches ballet and tap, and keeps up the home. She loves the family and so committed to us. She also was a gestational carrier for a family who couldn't have kids so they could be a family. She's absolutely amazing."

Finishing third, Jessica Reynolds aka Jessie Lowman earned \$50 in gift cards. In nominating her, daughter Hannah said, "She has been a rock for me and my family for as long as I can remember. She has taught me everything in life. She has shown me through her actions how to be kind, hardworking, loyal, honest, and resilient. No matter the circumstances I could always depend on her to get me through. She is by far the most unselfish person I know."

Sampling of other nominees

Sasha Smith nominated her mother **Elizabeth Chavez**, saying, "She has the soul of an angel, always giving to others, raised her kids, grandkids and adores all her grandbabies and great-grandbabies. This woman has been through a lot in her time, she is a widow & has lost 2 of her own children and has died six times in her life time and still kicking and moving with a strong spirit and refuses to give up."



Neena Maree nominated **Brandy Velez** with "She's always quick to help others before herself. She's taken me in as her own child and has been more of a mother than my actual mom! This woman is amazing and I couldn't ask for a better mom!"

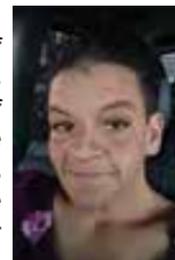
Karla Torres nominated her mother **Adriana Square**. "My mom has always been my best friend. She has the biggest heart and always makes sure everyone around her is happy."



David Johnson was one of two people to nominate his wife **Sharon Johnson**. "She's not just beautiful and talented, she takes amazing care of our beautiful daughter Jazmeen, who was born with Down Syndrome," he said. "Our daughter relies on my wife for her daily needs and while juggling her everyday matters she doesn't miss a beat when it comes to Jazmeen. She's an amazing beautiful, caring and talented woman."

Gail Broom, a nominee herself, was one of two people to nominate **Patti L Elliott Cravens**. "She is the most hardworking, single mom of three awesome kids that I have ever met. She not only sacrifices so her kids cannot go without, but she unselfishly gives to her clients and the community by helping when they are in need or just by giving through random acts of kindness."

Kathy Kuvavas nominated **Lee Lee**. "She suffers daily with MS and other problems, but is always there for her kids. Some days she can barely get out of bed but she does it because she has to. She cooks nice homemade meals, wakes her son up for school, cooks him breakfast every day, drives him to and from school, takes him to karate classes and sits and cheers him on."



Congratulations Class of 2018!

MPD wishes you success in achieving your future goals.

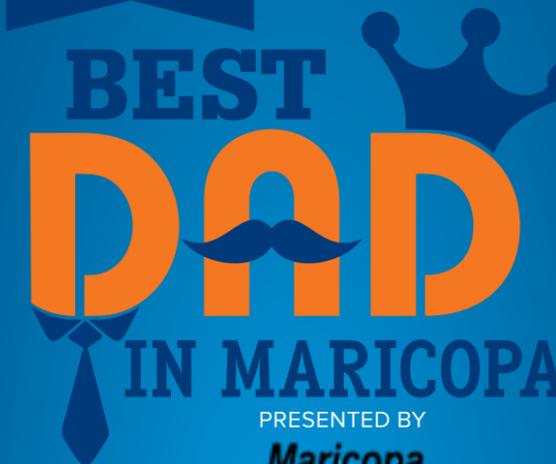


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- Nominations must be no longer than 100 words or 60 seconds of video. Dads must be residents of Maricopa.
- Winners will be notified on June 15 and will be announced on InMaricopa.com on Father's Day, June 18.

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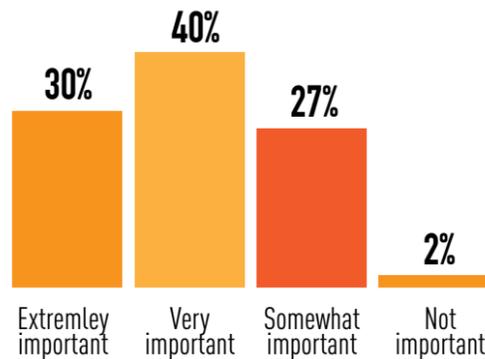


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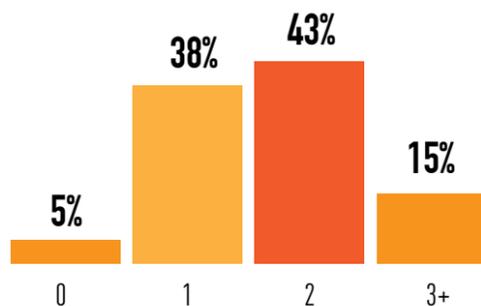
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Sports

Breaking Records

The Arizona Interscholastic Association hosted the State Track and Field Championships on May 2-5 at Mesa Community College. The Maricopa High School boys finished seventh in the team standings, and the girls placed 36th. May 10, some participated in the Arizona Meet of Champions. The following athletes set a school, meet and/or state records in their events:



FRANK JONES
4 x 100 Relay
41.51

Boys at State

Longman Pyne, Jacob Cowing, Phillip "P.J." Austin, Francois (Frank) Jones, **4x100 Relay**: 41.51 (best of meet, school record and 1st place)

Phillip "P.J." Austin, **senior, long jump**: 24-1.25 (school record and 2nd place)

Logan Taylor, **junior, 110-meter high hurdles**: 14.64 (school record and 4th place)

Logan Taylor, **junior, 300-meter low hurdles**: 39.66 (school record and 5th place)

Girls at State

Shannon Coutré, **junior, 400-meter dash**: 58.82 (school record and qualified for final)

Italy Brookshire, **junior, high jump**: 5-2 (school record and seventh place)

Sydni Callis, Destinee Chavis, Jakayla Shaw, Shannon Coutré, **4x100 Relay**: 50.30 (school record)

Boys at Meet of Champions

Phillip "P.J." Austin, **senior, long jump**: 24-1.25 (1st place)

Longman Pyne, Jacob Cowing, Phillip "P.J." Austin, Francois (Frank) Jones, **4x100 Relay**: 41.86 (1st place)

Logan Taylor, **junior, 110-meter high hurdles**: 14.74 (3rd place)

Girls at Meet of Champions

Italy Brookshire, **junior, high jump**: 5-2 (second place)

Boys 2018 Season

Jacob Cowing, **junior, 100-meter dash**: 10.87 (school record)

Francois (Frank) Jones, **senior, 200-meter dash**: 21.75 (school record)

Tylen Riley-Coleman, **junior, shot put**: 49-2.5 (school record and qualified for state)

Tylen Riley-Coleman, **junior, discus**: 144-4 (school record and qualified for state)

Devin Parady, **senior, javelin**: 152-0 (school record and qualified for state)

Samual Coles, **senior, pole vault**: 12-10 (school record and qualified for state)

Girls 2018 Season

Zanaa Ramirez, **sophomore, 1-mile run**: 6:28.15 (school record)

Taylor Riley-Coleman, **sophomore, 100-meter intermediate hurdles**: 17.52 (school record)

Ashlynn Jones, Zanaa Ramirez, Jakayla Shaw, Shannon Coutré, **4x400 Relay**: 4:15.82 (school record and qualified for state)

Isabella Moe, **sophomore, javelin**: 85-4 (school record)

Photos by Raquel Hendrickson



LOGAN TAYLOR
110-meter hurdles
14.64



Mason Callejas

Clothing designer and textile artist Angelina Martin creates colorful, one-of-a-kind pieces of wearable art as Anymystik Art & Apparel.

images like a guitar or a cat's face. She uses recycled material, cast-offs given to eco-fashion designers by fabric manufacturers. An instructor for eight years at The Art Institute, Mart employs techniques in quilting and layering for constructing garments and may combine that with painted textiles.

"The painting, the quilting, the layers, the various textures kind of sum up my whole wearable art in fashion," Martin said.

Feedback from fashion shows indicates she should include more painting, and listening to potential customers can impact her direction.

She was one of seven designers participating in the first Arizona Eco Fashion Week in April at the Fashion and Business Resource Innovation Center (FABRIC) in Tempe. That is the home of the Arizona Apparel Foundation and is built to foster and network local designers.

Its goal is "to be Arizona's first and most comprehensive resource for independent fashion companies that connects them to each other, to the community and to all of the fashion-related services that they need to operate and grow their business."

Martin raves about FABRIC.



Mason Callejas

Business of fashion a learning experience for art instructor

By Raquel Hendrickson

Angelina Martin calls her clothing designs "exotic and eclectic and also eco-friendly."

Martin has owned Anymystik Art & Apparel, a home-based design studio in Maricopa, since 2016, but she has spent a lifetime creating.

"Some of it is ready-to-wear apparel where you can wear it all day and then take it home and wash it," she said. "And then some of it is paint."

Her garments are always colorful and often incorporate large bold



Raquel hendrickson

Anymystik is inspired by cast-off fabric and even sculptures Angelina Martin created.

"They manufacture small lots for people," she said. "People go in there with their ideas and then they literally help you from the beginning doing the technical... from choosing patterns, to cutting it and making it for you."

Earning her spot in fashion shows has also been a boon.

"I did Phoenix Fashion Week, and then after that opportunities kept coming," she said. "People kept asking me to do their shows."

The reasons go beyond the creative.

"I'm always on time and always organized. I have the tag with the model's name, the order they're walking in. And then I see the chaos of everyone else. You see the fashion sub-culture. You mix the hair, the models, the designers, the makeup, all those people, all those artists, and you see some craziness. I just stand there and don't say a word and mind my own business. I think that's why."

She has exhibited her work at LabelHorde Fashion Show, Sacramento Fashion Week, Arizona State Fair (three blue ribbons), Costume Society of America and more.

Martin has two master's degrees. She was working on her Master of Fine Art at University California-Davis when she had her son Collin.

"Everyone thought I was the Mexican nanny," she said. "I would walk around campus with him, and they'd ask 'Oh, who are you babysitting for?' I'd say, 'That's my kid. Just because he has blond hair and green eyes, it doesn't mean I can't claim him.'"

In his own way, her son has become part of the business. Collin and his friends have modeled Angelina's clothes for her collections. He graduated from Maricopa High School in May.

And Martin's heritage has informed her decisions as a designer and artist, notably creating a "coral creature" sculpture that was photographed and turned into a print.

"I'm Mexican American, and so I base a lot of Latin American designs and geometric silhouettes in wearable art," Martin said. "And that's where I got the coral creature. I was learning about Mayan rubber process and Mayan leather making. It's reed and wire with fabric wrapped around it and rubberized with a Mayan latex rubberizing process."

Two years after earning her first master's degree, Martin became an instructor and director at The Art Institute. She first taught in Austin, Texas, then in Sacramento, California.

She earned a Master of Humanities in art and visual media at Tiffin University in 2015. "And that's when I focused on digital prints. So, it's been within the last two years that I've really pushed the boundaries and discovered who I wanted to be." 🗨️

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The rocky road of leadership at Maricopa Chamber of Commerce

By Michelle Chance

The Maricopa Chamber of Commerce put out a call for applicants in May.

Its executive director position was left vacant in April after the resignation of Terri Crain, who returned last year.

In 2006, Crain (then Terri Kingery), was the Chamber's first director. She held the position until the end of 2010 when she resigned amid a swirl of resignations on the board of directors.

In the midst of upheaval for a variety of reasons, the board identified a conflict of interest when they discovered Crain's assistant, whom she hired, was her boyfriend. The situation was a violation of Chamber bylaws.

Crain later announced she'd accepted a position directing a chamber in California and would resign. The local chamber went without a leader to fill that spot for more than a year.

Since then, the Chamber staff position has brought with it high turnover and a personnel scandals.

After Crain's first departure more than a decade ago, the Chamber hired Jim McMichael and titled the position chief executive officer and president.

The board asked McMichael to resign six months later, citing "philosophical differences."

John Kennedy was brought in as his replacement on an interim basis. That lasted only months, however, after police arrested him on stalking and second-degree burglary charges. Kennedy was later indicted for harassment and criminal trespass.

A vacancy in the Chamber's top position followed. Five months after the Kennedy criminal investigation, the Chamber hired Charlie Deaton, a veteran chamber director in Mesa to assist as an interim CEO while it searched for a new leader.

The Chamber hired Dave Moss as its CEO and Marla Lewis as its chief operating officer in May 2013. Moss groomed Lewis to take his position and left a few months after his one-year contract was up in 2014.

Lewis spent nearly two years as CEO following her year under Moss. She abruptly resigned in 2016, expressing "a desire to pursue other opportunities."

A two-month search resulted in the hiring of 20-year-old Sara Troyer, at the time the youngest in the nation to direct a chamber.

The Chamber of Commerce was subject to a civil suit by one member whose husband applied for the position, but was passed over for Troyer. The case argued access to the Chamber's hiring documents and process. The Chamber eventually won in court.

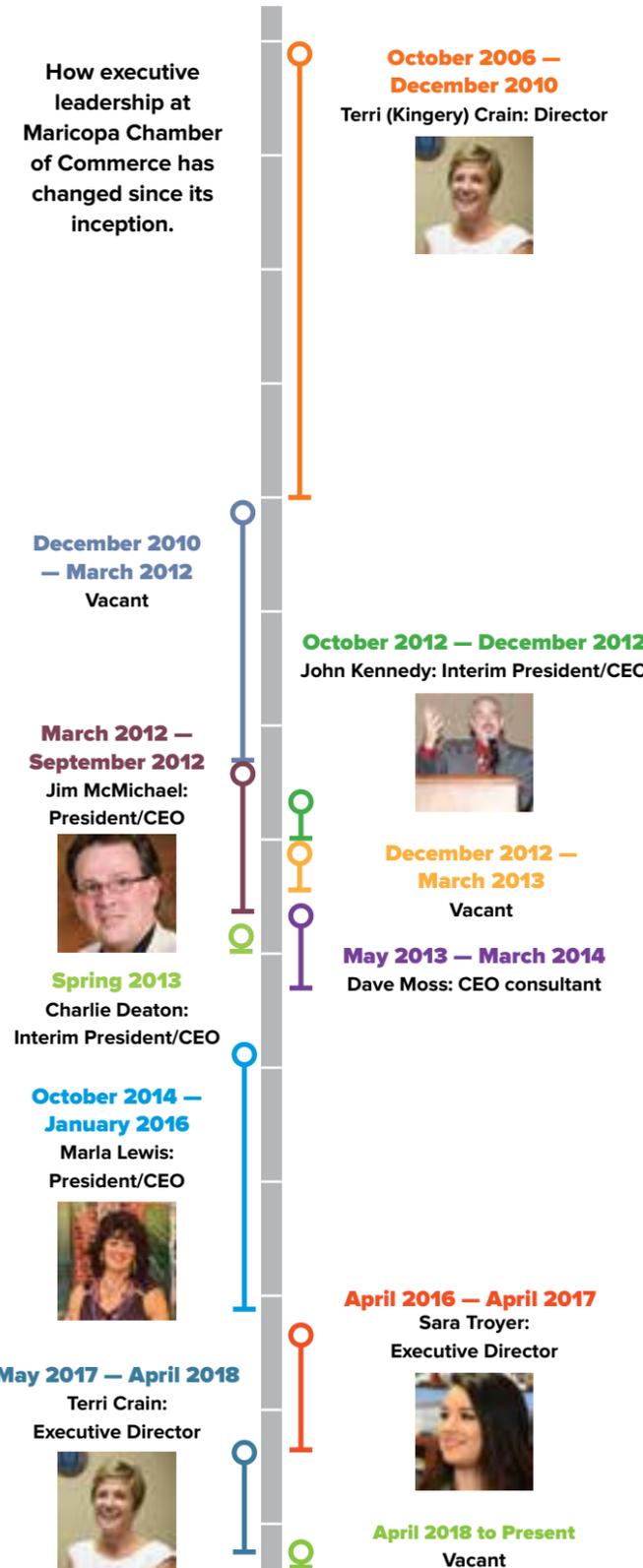
Troyer left one year into her tenure to accept a position in Illinois.

The Chamber came full circle in April 2017 when it announced the re-hiring of Terri Crain. She's volunteering part-time at the Chamber while the Board reviews applications for her replacement.

In a recent meeting, the Chamber pondered its relevance and even considered closing the organization.

Members said closing is not an option.

"We are open to ideas; it's just how do we get these ideas done with the budget that we have and without a captain running the ship?" board President Chris Cahall asked members during a meeting May 10.



City offers special business sign permits during construction

By Raquel Hendrickson

Maricopa City Council approved a temporary sign permit on May 10 for businesses impacted by the construction of the overpass in midtown Maricopa.

The permit applies to businesses and nonprofits within 300 feet of the affected roads — John Wayne Parkway between Hathaway Avenue and Desert Cedars, Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway between John Wayne Parkway and the Maricopa Unified School District office, and Honeycutt Road between John Wayne Parkway and the MUSD Transportation office.

The temporary signs include a 32-square-foot banner and a 32-square-foot ground sign. They cannot be placed within 40 feet of another sign and cannot interfere with pedestrian or vehicle traffic.

Applications are available at City Hall. The application packet includes examples of specifications. The application process takes up to five days.

Interim City Manager Trisha Sorensen said the program is similar to the temporary holiday sign program the city offers.



Businesses within the area affected by grade-separation construction apply for temporary sign permits.

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Signs of development around town

Dollar Tree opened its doors for approximately an hour on May 10 before briefly closing them again. The store was temporarily closed for final inspections during its grand opening due to a lack of an occupancy permit. The building inspector and fire marshal subsequently performed last-minute inspections on the premises. The commercial tenant improvement permit was received May 10 for the project valued at \$145,000. The store got its automatic fire sprinkling system permit April 30, and a fire alarm permit on May 9. The store also received an aluminum sign permit valued at \$6,000 May 15. Dollar Tree is located at 20797 N. John Wayne Parkway.



Community of Hope Church is undergoing improvements inside and out. It received an automatic fire sprinkling system permit May 15 and a permit to begin moving electric wires underground April 19. The redirection of wires will benefit future community streetlights in the area. The church is also in the process of repairing damaged sidewalk on Honeycutt Avenue. Reconstruction for the sidewalk began May 14.

Other businesses receiving fire sprinkler permits include **Dunkin Donuts** April 17 and **Burger King** on May 14. **Smiley Dental** received a sign permit April 18, valued at \$2,000, and **Verizon** received a permit for a new sign April 19, valued at \$4,500.

Pioneer Title, 21596 N. John Wayne Parkway, received a commercial tenant improvement permit valued at \$80,000.

Maricopa Development Company received a permit for a sales/construction office valued at \$3,000 on May 7 at 37346 W. Leonessa Ave. **KB Home** received the same permit May 10 at 18166 N. Christopher Drive valued at \$4,000.

Police and fire stations received capital improvement project permits. Copper Sky Police Substation plans to progress to phase 2, including expanding the parking area. The project is valued at \$500,000. Fire stations on Bowlin Road and Alterra Parkway will both be receiving new shade structures, valued at \$11,920 and \$18,375, respectively. Fire Station 575 on Edison Road will be getting a new fuel tank valued at \$32,709 from a permit received May 7.

BUSINESS LICENSE APPLICATIONS BEGIN SUMMER SLOWDOWN

The following businesses received business licenses from the City of Maricopa between April 16 and May 15:

COMMERCIAL: Dunkin Donuts, Nussy's Kustoms, Ross Dress for Less, True Hearts II

HOME-BASED: Child Care, Equilass, Fashion and Beauty Guide, Ford's Home Services, Forever Fiberworks, Four Directions, HealthyNow LLC, Hula Handyman, Hummingbird Lane, J. Walker Signs & Lighting, La Vie Group Home, Maricopa We Care, The Social Baboon, Society's Air LLC, Specialized Pest Control

OUT OF TOWN: Bark and Purr Pet Grooming, Bay Alarm Company, Carlos Landscaping, Core Valuation Group, Dame 1 Entertainment, Dutchmaster Electric, Elontec LLC, Garth Vacuum Truck Service, Holbrook Asphalt, Junior's Landscaping, Newbridge Electrical, Pacific Aquascape International, Pedro Perez, Pop A Korn, Structural Steel, Venture West Construction, Zpotes Food Truck

NONPROFIT: Hearts and Hooves of Arizona, Troop 943 Boy Scouts of America

PEDDLER/SOLICITOR: Arm Security

2 eateries find it hard to keep cold

Two of 16 restaurants inspected by the Pinal County Health Department between April 16 and May 15 were cited for cold-holding infractions.

The inspector observed at **Aliberto's Mexican Food** a walk-in refrigerator holding food between 43 and 46 degrees F. Safety requires food in refrigerators to be held at 41 degrees F or lower. Repairs were made to the refrigerator during inspection.

Cilantro's Mexican Cocina also had a faulty refrigerator. The inspector recorded an ambient temperature of 54 degrees F. Some items were moved temporarily to an ice bath while the restaurant awaited a replacement refrigerator.

EXCELLENT [No violations found]

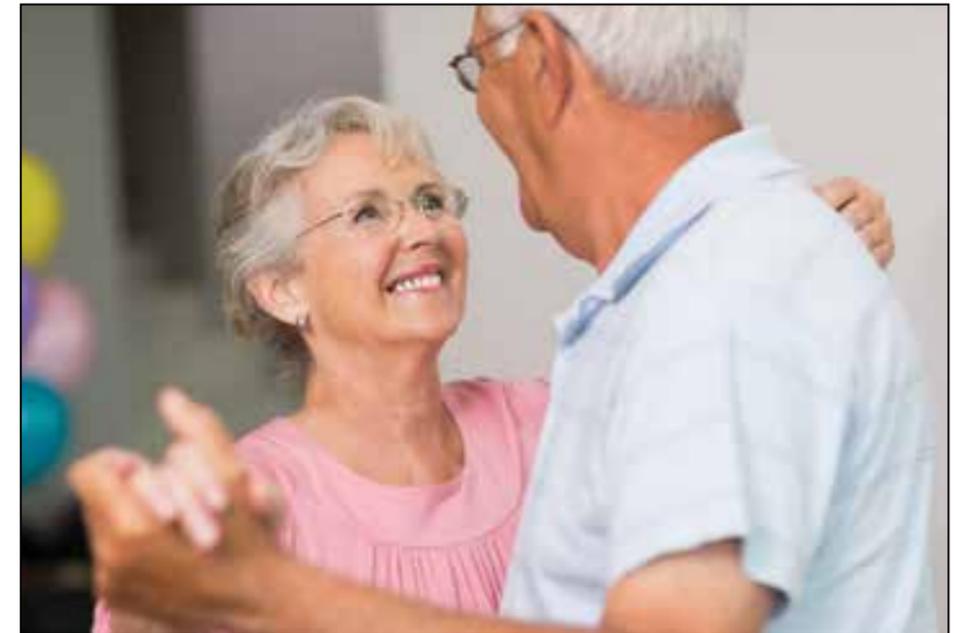
- Barro's Pizza
- Brooklyn Boy's Italian Restaurant & Pizza
- CVS Pharmacy
- Denny's
- The Duke at Rancho El Dorado
- Fry's Marketplace
- Fry's Marketplace — Deli
- Fry's Marketplace — Sushi
- Li's Garden
- Panda Express
- Raceway Bar & Grill
- Rob's Convenience
- True Grit Tavern
- Walmart — Deli

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- Aliberto's
- Cilantro's Mexican Cocina

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



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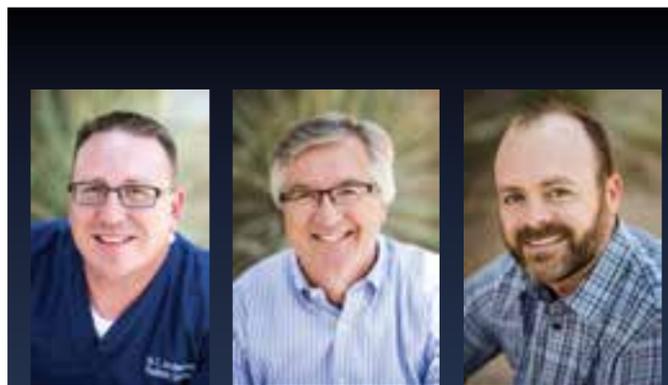
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Maricopan since: 2013
Occupation: Solar film installer
Family: Wife Susan, 2 sons, 2 daughters and 1 grandson
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Like least about Maricopa: Traffic to get out of Maricopa

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Quote: Say what you mean, mean what you say
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Learn more about Chris at InMaricopa.com/Getting-To-Know

Dealing with scorpions in the garden

By Scott Oliver

“Grandpa, there’s a baby lobster in your garden!”

I have lived in Maricopa for nearly six years now, and I had never encountered a scorpion in my home until last Sunday. I was up that morning before daylight. My son and his family were coming that afternoon for barbecue, and I needed to get a pork shoulder in the smoker.

Still not quite awake, my adjusting to my surroundings, the laundry room and, there 2-inch bark scorpion on the level, above the dryer. I am report there was no “scorpion don’t have major phobias when to bugs and spiders, but a



Scott Oliver

eyes still I went into she was, a wall, eye happy to dance.” I it comes scorpion?

The three most commonly observed scorpions in Arizona are:

- Desert or giant hairy scorpion (*hadrusus arizonensis*)
- Striped or devil scorpion (*vaejovis spinigerus*)
- Bark scorpion (*centruroides sculpturatus*)

Scorpions are one of the oldest animals on Earth. Their evolutionary history goes back to the Silurian era 430 million years ago. They evolved from giant scorpion-like creatures that emerged from the sea. Although they resemble crustaceans like lobsters and crayfish, scorpions actually are more closely related to ticks, mites and spiders.

Keeping scorpions out of your house begins in your yard. If you spot more than one, definitely call an exterminator. I would personally recommend calling only companies that specialize in scorpion control. Scorpions are extremely resilient and don’t respond to pesticides the way other bugs do.

After an initial treatment you can go the DIY route. There are plenty of successful, easily researched strategies available. Do remove dead branches, wood and mulch piles, debris under plants and bushes.

I calmly considered my options, kill or capture. There was a flyswatter within arm’s reach but that’s like taking a spoon to a knife fight. I slowly backed away, went into the garage and picked my 5-pound sledge hammer and returned armed and ready. Positioning myself to the side of the dryer I took a wide stance and dug in. Imagine a baseball player at home plate going through his routine. I just wanted to make solid contact. Slowly, I drew my hammer back, eyes on the target; I’m going to do this.

Scorpions are usually not aggressive unless threatened, and then look out. This trait makes killing or capturing them challenging. They move quickly when they feel threatened, or may do just the opposite and play dead. Apparently, size does matter. Surprisingly, the small, young bark scorpions are the most dangerous.

If you are stung by one, it will hurt like hell, but as with bees, it’s not life-threatening unless you suspect you are allergic or if you are infirm, in which case you should capture or kill the one that stung you and take it with you to a medical facility so the correct anti-venom can be used.

I did not smash my laundry room scorpion, saving myself a drywall repair project. Instead, I captured it in a mason jar for a show-and-tell with the grandkids that afternoon. It turned into a great teaching opportunity. Later that evening I took it to a vacant field a few blocks away and set her free. The next one might not be so lucky.



Local Realtor pays for homeowner upgrades

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

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

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

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

Dayv, who sells over 100 homes annually, advised that such improvements not only help the seller make more money but also benefit the buyer as well. “Most buyers in Maricopa don’t have the money, after they buy a house, to fix it up. They would much rather pay a slightly higher price and finance the upgrades through the mortgage. If they paid \$10,000 for improvements and put it on a credit card they would end up paying 14 to 18 percent interest. If that \$10,000 is instead done by the seller and included in the price of mortgage, now they’re only paying 4 or 5 percent.”

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



Dayv Morgan



The idea came to him after seeing companies like Open Door and HomeVestors “low-ball” sellers to buy their home as-is, and then after

making a few cosmetic improvements they would list the home on the MLS and resell it for a profit. He was surprised to see how much equity owners were giving away by selling their home direct to an investor. As a listing agent he created a process that allows sellers to “flip their own house” and keep the profit themselves. “It

doesn’t cost the owners anything out of pocket, and it increases their return,” Dayv noted. “It’s a win-win for everyone involved — the buyer, the seller, myself as the Realtor, and even the city of Maricopa as it helps the neighborhood values to increase.”

A 10-year resident of Maricopa, Dayv Morgan lives in the Palo Brea subdivision with his wife and four sons.



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MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD

1. 42419 W. Blue Suede Shoes Lane

Raquel Hendrickson

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa April 16 through May 15 was a lakeside house in Province that went for \$375,000. That is a 2.8 percent increase in value since the last time the house was on the market in 2016 and just under \$9,000 below the asking price. With a spacious floor plan and two master suites, the house included a back patio overlooking the water.

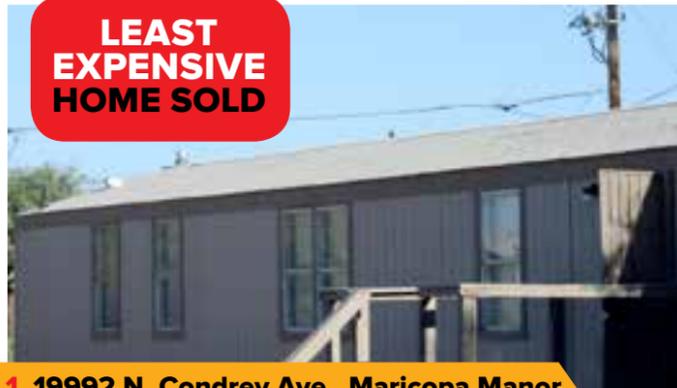
Sold: May 15
Purchase price: \$375,000
Square footage: 2,352
Price per square foot: \$159.43
Days on market: 102
Builder: Engle
Year built: 2005
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5
Community: Province

Features: Large kitchen, slate tile, great views, beautiful entrance courtyard and back patio, water softener, surround sound
Listing agent: Kim Gillespie, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Selling agent: Danielle M. Nichols, The Maricopa Real Estate Company

- 2. 42403 W. Jailhouse Rock Court, Province.....\$362,500**
- 3. 20204 N. Snowflake Drive, Province.....\$362,000**
- 4. 44558 W. Venture Lane, Cobblestone Farms \$359,000**
- 5. 22076 N. Balboa Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$358,500**

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

LEAST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD



1. 19992 N. Condrey Ave., Maricopa Manor

Raquel Hendrickson

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa April 16 through May 15 was a 20-year-old mobile home on a large lot in the Heritage District. It sold for \$79,500. The property was last on the market in 2005, when it was priced at \$120,000. This time, it sold in a little more than a month for its asking price.

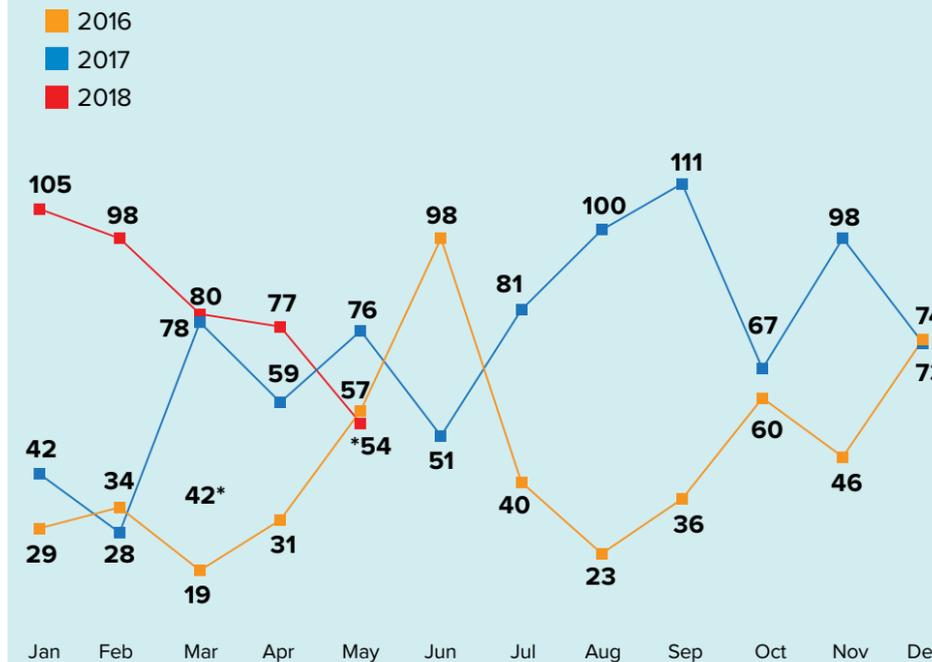
Sold: April 21
Purchase price: \$79,500
Square footage: 1,216
Price per square foot: \$65.37
Days on market: 36
Builder: Unknown
Year built: 1998
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2

Community: Maricopa Manor
Features: Remodeled with new cabinets and counter tops, new fixtures, new paint, four parking spaces
Listing agent: Daniel Tate, Presidential Realty
Selling agent: Mark A. Roberts, HomeSmart Success

- 2. 44980 W. Fred Cole Lane, Estrella Park.....\$132,000**
- 3. 36900 W. Mondragone Lane, Sorrento.....\$145,000**
- 4. 18600 N. Lariat Road, Glennwilde.....\$148,000**
- 5. 19285 N. Ibiza Lane, Tortosa.....\$151,000**

Single-Family Residence Building Permits

2016-2018



Source: City of Maricopa

*May 1-21

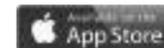


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Maricopa's summer rental market heats up

By Dayv Morgan

The heat is rising for renters who are navigating fewer options among ever-increasing prices in the city this year.

Investors are selling their rental properties to cash out on their equity. Canadian landlords are also benefitting from the local market by getting about an extra 25 percent return, thanks to the currency exchange rate.

These factors have helped create the decreased supply Maricopa has seen in recent years.

Through mid-May, only 23 listings were available to renters. All but one had been on the market less than 30 days.

Last year at this time, some homes were renting for \$900. Today, no listings go for less than \$1,100; and only three homes were

available for less than \$1,200 per month.

In a competitive market, landlords often get more than one application and can be more restrictive on their terms, like not allowing pets.



Dayv Morgan

Tenants with less-than-perfect credit can increase their chances of getting approved by including with their application a referral from current and previous landlords. They could also offer to pay a higher security deposit — which, by state law, cannot exceed 1.5 times the monthly rent amount.

Buyers should be wary of advertised rentals on Craigslist or other classified websites that seem too good to be true.

In most cases, there is no cost for using a Realtor, and they can help make sure

the home is not in foreclosure and that a legitimate lease is signed.

As rent prices go up, renters may want to consider buying, because payments will be about the same. A \$160,000 home can be owned for less than \$1,200 per month.

Here is an estimated monthly payment breakdown at 4.75 percent interest for a Federal Housing Association Loan:

\$819	Principal Interest
\$108	Mortgage insurance
\$125	Property taxes
\$75	HOA
\$60	Home insurance
\$1,187	

There are several mortgage companies in Maricopa that a potential buyer can sit down with for a free no-obligation credit evaluation. 

Dayv Morgan is a Maricopa Realtor and owner of HomeSmart Success. He can be reached at DayvMorgan@gmail.com.

Sponsored Content

Comfort care: 'It's my choice'

By Rev. Sherielyn Curry, CSA

There is a renewed interest over the use of comfort care as a planned, managed care option for persons afflicted with chronic illness, are terminally ill or are frail.

Here, the term terminal refers to a progressive disease that is incurable and irreversible; that is, it no longer responds to treatment and death is usually the expected result within a short period of time.

Choosing to receive "comfort care" does not mean you are giving up, you have decided to die or you will receive no medical care. Comfort care might not be as aggressive as other life-prolonging measures, but it is medical care.

With the advances in modern technology, there are very aggressive measures available that can be used to treat many illnesses. However, when faced with a

terminal illness, people are choosing quality of life over quantity of days.

Comfort care really is about choices. When one is faced with a decision about long-term care for a chronic illness, the focus often turns to comfort measures for symptom control — managing pain, eliminating nausea or anxiety, etc. It can also include choices as to where and how often one wants to receive care. Many are opting for the comforts of home. Other choose the loving environment of a hospice facility.



Rev. Sherielyn Curry

Barbara Bush recently brought to light the discussion over comfort care when she publicly announced that as her treatment of choice before her passing in April. When

people get to choose how they want to manage their care, they are more empowered in the process. Research suggests that on some level,

they ultimately feel better about making the decision. They become partners in their own life's journey.

There are opinions that associate choosing comfort care with giving up, and it is not, not at all. Comfort care still looks forward, it just no longer seeks a cure or a reversal of the condition. Done well, comfort care is a planned care option in which the patient, family members and care team discuss and agree on the course of action. It can be spiritually honoring for the care recipient, and provide peace of mind for the family. And there is no right or wrong way to feel about considering comfort care as your choice.

I pray this column brings peace to your soul. If you need us, call us at 480-659-9201. We are Comfort Keepers. 

Sherielyn Curry, CSA, is the owner of Comfort Keepers of Maricopa.



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The skinny on post-workout nutrition

By Aaron Gilbert

When we work out intensely, we damage tissues at the microlevel, and we use fuel.

This is what ultimately makes us stronger, leaner, fitter and more muscular, but in the short term it requires repair.

Repair and rebuilding occurs through the breakdown of old, damaged proteins (aka protein breakdown) and the construction of new ones (aka protein synthesis) — a process known collectively as protein turnover.

Muscle protein synthesis is increased slightly (or unchanged) after resistance workouts, while protein breakdown increases dramatically. We're doing a lot more breaking-down than building-up.

The relationship between these two parameters (rate of muscle protein synthesis and muscle protein breakdown) represents the metabolic basis for muscle growth.

What to eat

Post-workout nutrition requires two things:

1. Protein to aid in protein synthesis
2. Carbohydrates to help replace muscle glycogen (and to enhance the role of insulin in transporting nutrients into cells)

You could certainly eat a whole food meal that meets these requirements after exercise. However, whole food meals aren't always practical.



Aaron Gilbert

Some people aren't hungry immediately after exercise. Whole food digests slowly, and we want nutrients to be available quickly. A whole-food meal that requires refrigeration might be less practical.

On the other hand, consuming a liquid form of nutrition that contains rapidly digesting carbohydrates (e.g. maltodextrin, dextrose, glucose) and proteins (e.g. protein hydrolysates or isolates)

- might accelerate recovery by utilizing insulin for nutrient transport into cells;

- can result in rapid digestion and absorption; and
- is often better tolerated during and after workouts.

Data indicate that it may only take about 20 grams of protein after a workout to maximally stimulate muscle protein synthesis.

Once your workout is complete, have a whole food meal within an hour or two.

If priority No. 1 is to lose body fat, use only BCAAs as a workout drink, and five to 15 grams per hour of training. (If you weigh 200-plus pounds consume closer to 15 grams; less than 200 pounds, closer to five grams). If you're leaner but still want to lose fat, choose a smaller dose (like 1/2 dose) of the protein plus carb combination, or opt for BCAAs.

Aaron Gilbert, CSCS, owns Longevity Athletics.

520-261-4661
 Aaron@LongevityAthletics.com
 Sponsored Content

Give Your Child a Winning Edge in Sports



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

When kids step on the court or field of play, they have little else on their mind besides having fun. In my opinion, that is as it should be. However, it is up to us as the parents, the coaches, and healthcare providers to help kids avoid sports-related injuries.

Sports and physical activity at a young age help to form attitudes, habits and life skills that will influence all aspects of life. Since sports are such a significant part of many families' lives, parents and coaches should instill healthy choices and attitudes towards athletics at an early age. The benefits of participating in competitive athletics include improved physical fitness, development of motor skills, self-discipline, and development of social skills. Sports give children valuable opportunities to "learn to interact not only with other children their age, but also with older individuals like their coaches and sports officials. Kids learn leadership skills, team-building skills and communication skills that will help them in school, their future career and personal relationships" (Amanda Davis. 2013).

The top priority and goal of getting kids into sports should always be about them having

fun and enjoying playing and participating. To achieve this, parents and coaches can work together and pay close attention to the physical and emotional wellbeing of the youngsters involved. A well-balanced lifestyle and a positive support group is imperative for a young athlete's development and having a healthy approach to athletics.

With the increased competitiveness of today's sports, some parents and coaches are big proponents of focusing a child's time, and training on one particular sport. They argue that if their child is to get ahead on the field, he/she needs to dedicate themselves to only one sport.

That approach may work well for high-level athletics, but concentrating on just one sport and training year-round at an early age, may not be a good idea. Each individual child's physical development should be considered. Because they are still developing, young athletes are at a greater risk for long-term injury to their body. "Most injuries in young athletes are due to overuse. The most frequent types of sports injuries are sprains (injuries to ligaments) strains (injuries to muscles), and stress fractures (injuries to bones). Injury occurs when excessive stress is placed on tendons, joints, bones and muscle. In a growing child, point tenderness over a bone should be evaluated further by a medical provider even if there is minimal swelling or limitation in motion" (AAP. 2017). These injuries occur gradually over time when an activity is repeated over, and over, and strained parts of the body do not have enough time to recover and heal between games and practice. Parents should be aware of these factors when helping a child select a sport, but also when choosing the type of training, and the intensity of training, as well as, the overall amount of time dedicated to a sport.

As mentioned by Dr. R. Jay Lee, of Johns Hopkins Medicine, "Single sport play

throughout the year can create excessive stress on specific body parts not ready for this type of intensity". A well-balanced approach and participation in a variety of sports helps prevent your child from overdoing a sport or becoming burned out. In addition to physical ailments, participating in, and concentrating relentlessly on a single sport (or even a variety of sports) all year round can result in burnout. This can drain all the fun and joy right out of sports. However, in most cases burnout, can simply be prevented by limiting your child's involvement to a more appropriate level and intensity.

Playing a variety of sports at a young age allows a child to develop coordination and strength, learn diverse movements and physical skills and provide them the opportunity to discover their own interests, gifts, and talents. It may be appropriate for your child at some stage to focus on one sport. In this case, and if your child has the abilities and desire to do so, encourage them to devote their time and energy to that sport and go for that college scholarship or chance to be an Olympic or professional athlete. However, for young children, consider a fun, healthy, well-rounded approach to sports may be best for your child and family.

Is anyone in your family due for their next physical exam? We offer sports physicals year round for every child under the age of 18 for only \$25 and college sports physicals for \$50. Alternatively, consider scheduling your recommended annual well-child exam, which is 100% covered by most insurance plans. Your health care provider could complete the sports physical exam at the same time. At Sun Life Family Health Center, we want you and your family to be as healthy as possible and regularly scheduled wellness exams help to ensure positive growth and development. As a team, we can help you in providing a bright, healthy future for you and your family.

TIP OF THE MONTH

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Worship may make a difference in health

By **Al Brandenburg**, Maricopa Multi Cultural Consortium

The Maricopa Multi Cultural Consortium (MMCC), which is trying to establish a senior center, met with a local church group with similar interests toward senior issues. The group was interested in seeing how both organizations could work toward a common goal.

Speaking of church, here's something I bet most of you didn't know. A recent study shows worship is actually good for your health.

People who attend services at a church, synagogue or mosque are less stressed and live longer, according to new research from Vanderbilt University.

"Sometimes in health science we tend to look at those things that are always negative and say, 'Don't do this. Don't do that,'" said Marino Bruce, a social and behavioral

scientist and associate director of the Center for Research on Men's Health at Vanderbilt, and an ordained Baptist minister. "The new research findings, however, are encouraging individuals to participate in something."



Al Brandenburg

According to the study, middle-aged adults (ages 40 to 65) who attend worship services reduce their risk for mortality by 55 percent.

The study, "Church Attendance, Allostatic Load and Mortality in Middle-Aged Adults," was published in PLOS ONE, a multidisciplinary open access journal, using data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics. The researchers

analyzed subjects' attendance at worship services, mortality and allostatic load. Allostatic load is a physiological measurement of factors including cardiovascular (blood pressure, cholesterol-high density lipoprotein ration), nutritional/inflammatory issues and metabolic measures.

Of the 5,449 people of all races and both sexes who were surveyed, 64 percent were regular worshippers, Bruce said. Non-worshippers had significantly higher overall allostatic load scores and higher prevalence of high-risk values for three of the 10 markers of allostatic load than did church-goers and other worshippers.

The effects of attendance at worship services remained after education, poverty, health insurance and social support status were taken into consideration, Bruce said. "We found that people go to church for factors beyond social support. That's where we begin to think about this idea of compassionate thinking, that we're trying to improve the lives of others as well as being connected to a body larger than ourselves."

Source: Today's Seniors Network

Get the facts about mesothelioma

By **Joan Koczor**

Mesothelioma (me-zoe-thee-lee-O-muh) is a rare type of cancer of the mesothelium caused by exposure to asbestos. The mesothelium is a thin membrane that protects and lubricates different body cavities, such as the chest and abdominal cavities.

Men 60 years and older are often diagnosed several years after exposure. Women have contracted this disease from washing their husbands' clothes, although the husband — exposed to asbestos — does not contract this disease.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that resembles a rock in its natural form. The rock will split into fibers, which are resistant to heat, fire and chemicals. Considered a natural product, it was widely used in the United States until the late 1970s. Over 3,000 products containing asbestos were in general use until the late 1980s.

Asbestos materials have been used in every branch of the military until the late 1970s. As a result, 30 percent of veterans have been diagnosed with mesothelioma.

It takes 20 to 50 years to develop and occurs in the lining of the lungs, chest, abdomen and heart.

There are three types of mesothelioma:

1. Pleural: Cancer of the lungs which is the most common because most asbestos fibers are inhaled. Symptoms may include shortness of breath and chest pain.
2. Peritoneal: Cancer of the abdomen. It is caused by ingesting asbestos fibers. Symptoms may include weight loss and nausea.
3. Pericardial: Cancer surrounding the heart. This is the rarest form and is rarely diagnosed while the patient is still alive.

Mesothelioma is often mistaken for less serious conditions. If you have been exposed to asbestos and are experiencing symptoms attributed to this disease, consult your family doctor. They will perform the basic tests and X-rays. Based on the results, your doctor will refer you to a radiologist who will do extensive testing — X-ray, CAT scan, PET scan and CT scan. These tests are used in the diagnosis of this disease.



A surgical biopsy is done and sent to a pathologist for review. A pathologist will review fluid or tissue biopsy samples to determine cell type. If the results of these tests determine further treatment is required, a qualified specialist will be suggested. One who has a wide range of extensive experience with mesothelioma cases.



Joan Koczor

A pulmonologist specializes in

lung disease and evaluates lung function. A gastroenterologist specializes in disease of the digestive system and tissues which occur in the abdominal region. A cardiologist specializes in heart defects and other heart disorders.

Only 20 U.S. doctors specialize in the treatment of this disease.

The Mesothelioma Organization offers a doctor-match program, saving time and expense to those seeking treatment. Patient advocates are also available to answer questions and provide information.

888-385-2024
MesotheliomaGuide.com

Joan Koczor is a senior advocate and a member of the Age-Friendly Maricopa Advisory Committee. The Mesothelioma Guide provided information for this article.

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MMCC will host a free talk from Comfort Keepers June 13 at 2 p.m. at the Maricopa Police Substation Community Room (next to Copper Sky). Comfort Keepers offers a broad range of services for seniors, from personal care to in-home companionship. For many seniors, living at home for long as possible is a priority, but the natural aging process can make that difficult over time. Refreshments will be available.

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Choreographers Showcase brings day of dance

For the second year, the ONYX Young Choreographers Showcase will take flight in the Maricopa Performing Arts Center.

Started last year as part of the Maricopa Arts Council's arts expo, the event is a performance and a contest. Choreographers in their teens and early 20s have created dances developed by the ONYX Dance Company, resident troupe of Desert Sun Performing Arts.

The showcase will feature approximately 15 dances and will start at 3 p.m. June 30.

Following the slate of performances, audience members are asked to pick their favorites. People's Choice prizes will be awarded to the top three. First place receives \$300, second place \$150 and third \$50.

Award funds are underwritten by Maricopa Arts Council and Desert Sun Performing Arts.

The showcase is a long-term dream of DSPA's founder and director, Ceylan Gentilella. Herself a talented choreographer, Gentilella knows first-hand the excitement of bringing a dance creator's personal artistic vision to life in real-time presentation before the public — definitely an acid test for the work.

"ONYX dancers and choreographers have been working hard all season to bring an amazing show to the city of Maricopa," said Katherine Sherrod, president and co-founder of ONYX Dance Company. "We cannot wait to see you there."

IF YOU GO

What: ONYX Young Choreographers Showcase
When: June 30, 3 p.m.
Where: Performing Arts Center, 45012 W. Honeycutt Road
How much: \$7
Info: Dance@DesertSunPerformingArts.com, katherinesherrod@yahoo.com, 520-483-8915

Things to do

JUNE CALENDAR

1

8-Bits

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

2

Movies in the Pool

7 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

4

Sticks 'n Tones

10 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Maricopa Historical Society

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

5

City Council Work Session

June 5, 6 p.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

City Council Regular Session

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

6

Tie-dye T-shirts for Teens

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

"Rent"

7 p.m., Leading Edge Academy
18700 N. Porter Road

7

Bang Bang Balloon Company

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

"Rent"

7 p.m., Leading Edge Academy
18700 N. Porter Road

8

Ariel Lara Memorial Basketball Clinic

8 a.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road

"Rent"

7 p.m., Leading Edge Academy
18700 N. Porter Road

9

"Rent"

2 p.m. & 7 p.m., Leading Edge Academy
18700 N. Porter Road

11

Didgeridoo Down Under

10 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

13

Movie Chat for Teens

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

MUSD Board Meeting

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

13-14

ACCUPLACER Math Boot Camp

9 a.m., Central Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

14

Dr. T-Rex Science

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

15

8-Bits

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

16

Movies in the Pool

7 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

18

James Reid, Juggler Extraordinaire

10 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

19

City Council Work Session

June 19, 6 p.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza



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

Things to do

City Council Regular Session

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

20

Teens Paint

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

20-23

Vacation Bible School

9:30 a.m., Maricopa Community Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

21

World's Largest Swim Lesson

10 a.m. Copper Sky Aquatic Center
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Dinosaur Encounter

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

Zonta Club of Maricopa

5:30 p.m., Honeycutt Coffee
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 109

25

Mother Goose

10 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

27

Magician Eric Giliam

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

MUSD Board Meeting

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

28

The Princess, the Unicorn and the Smelly Foot Troll

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

29

Game Night

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

July 4

Great American 4th Celebration

6-10 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

July 23

First Day of School

Maricopa Unified School District

SUNDAYS

Narcotics Anonymous

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

MONDAYS-FRIDAYS

Senior Drop-In

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

MONDAYS

Senior Bowling

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL)

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

TUESDAYS

Healthy Living with Chronic Pain Workshop

9:30 a.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Celebrate Recovery Coffee & Karaoke

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

Al-Anon Meeting

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

WEDNESDAYS

Babytime

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

Harrah's Club 777 Toastmasters

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

S.M.A.R.T. Kids

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

Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting

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

AWANA

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

THURSDAYS

Family Story Time

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

FRIDAYS

Al-Anon Meeting

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

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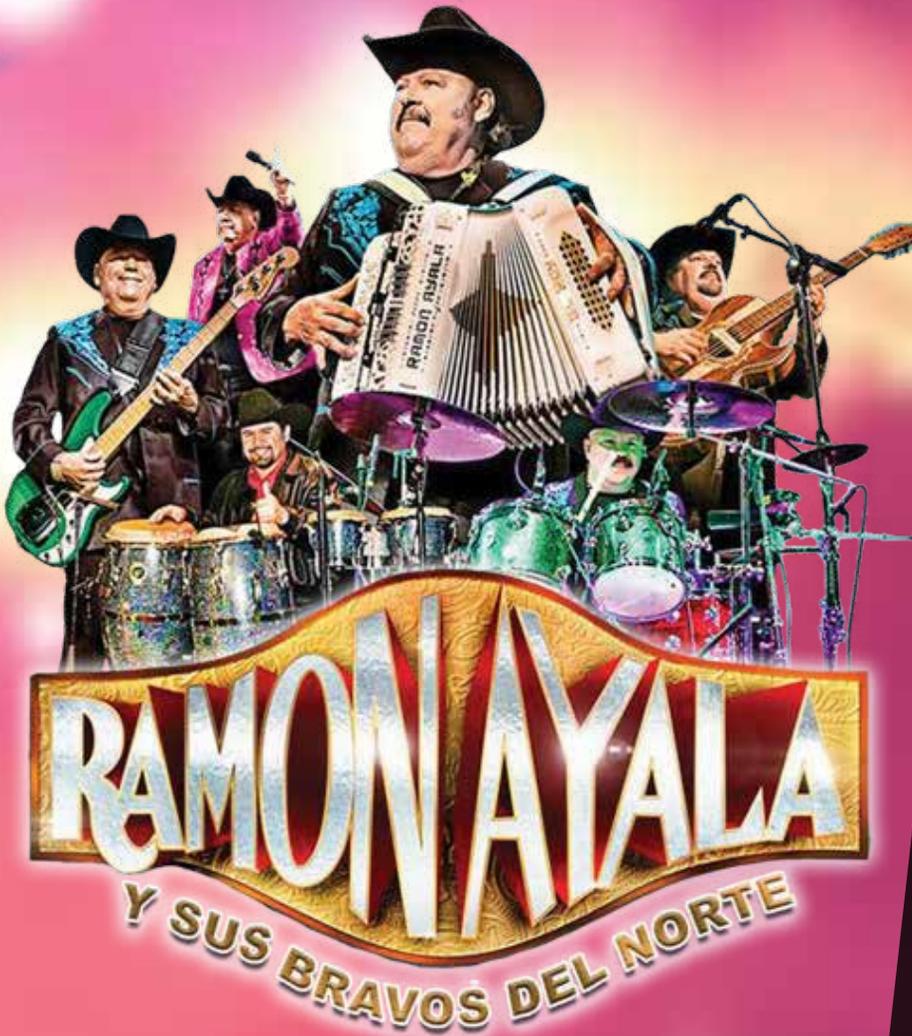
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Permit No. 13



**SATURDAY,
SEPT 22**

DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM
SHOW STARTS AT 7 PM

SPECIAL GUEST
**FITO OLIVARES
Y LA PURA SABROSUDA**

\$50 GENERAL
ADMISSION

LIVE AT THE
ULTRASTAR AMPHITHEATER

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE
UltraStarAZ.com

