

# in Maricopa

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May 2019

## BUSINESS

SR 238 becoming  
adventure  
corridor

## PEOPLE

Jiselle  
Diaz  
lifts her  
voice



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## Is everybody happy?



**B**e warned. These pages contain a lot of smiles. Of course, most of those are on the faces of soon-to-be high school graduates. Our May issue follows tradition by celebrating local seniors and spotlights some of those who are already outstanding in one way or another. Great job, Class of 2019!

We also look at the burgeoning “adventure corridor” that is State Route 238. As car-lovers joined golfers, gliders and skydivers this year, the highway is getting more focused attention in marketing and development.

Also along SR 238 is Mobile Elementary School District, a very small district that draws most of its enrollment from outside its boundaries. It touts academic success but also faces changes after audit scrutiny in its bid to stay independent during the state’s push to consolidate districts.

In this issue, you’ll also meet Jiselle Diaz as she prepares to compete for Miss Arizona Outstanding Teen. Learn how Maria Alvarado has turned her 14-year experience as a student in Maricopa Unified School District into a teaching career. Discover how a Grammy-nominated duo came to call Maricopa home.

Check out the real estate market, find things to do and see what’s new in local business, all in these pages. Happy reading,

*Raquel Hendrickson*

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520-568-0040 ext. 3

## History

### O.S. Stapley store takes Maricopa

O.S. Stapley opened the eighth of his hardware and lumber stores in Maricopa in 1955. He had secured the International Harvester franchise for Pinal and Maricopa counties in 1916, selling brand names like the Farmalls shown here on displayed by Stapley at a county fair. The Maricopa store was on the east side of Maricopa Road south of the railroad tracks. It carried hardware, tractors, farming equipment, paint and appliances. The store was managed by Marvin Scott, originally from Mesa. His wife Ruth was a Maricopa High School teacher. The O.S. Stapley company had stores in Mesa, Phoenix, Glendale, Chandler, Buckeye, Casa Grande and Coolidge.



University of Arizona Archives

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LEADING OFF

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Miss City of Maricopa  
Outstanding Teen Jiselle  
Diaz wants to use her music  
to create a kinder world.

Raquel Hendrickson

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Contributors



**JIM HEADLEY**  
A staff reporter and  
long-time photographer  
from Nebraska, Jim  
really took a ride in  
his coverage of local  
adventures this month.



**FRAN LYONS**  
A freelancer, Fran  
is originally from  
Michigan and  
was in corporate  
advertising for 25  
years before calling  
Maricopa home.



**VICTOR MORENO**  
As a pro photo-  
grapher, Victor is  
usually busy with  
portraits and event  
shooting, but May's  
graduates have  
kept him hopping.

**ON THE COVER:** High school seniors Nina Sarappo (from left), Nancy Saldana, Britney Garcia-Coyolt and Nathan Wallin will graduate from Maricopa schools in May. *Photo by Victor Moreno*





# WIPES CLOG PIPES

## It's a toilet! Not a trash can!

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- Feminine hygiene products
- Facial tissues

Even if a product says it is flushable...unless it is toilet paper it should not be flushed



# City invests in beautification of Heritage District

By Jim Headley

The City of Maricopa has launched a new department with a new mission — making Maricopa look good. Flor Brandow joined the city staff in January as its Neighborhood Program specialist. Her main job is to clean up Maricopa, and it's already working.

"The City of Maricopa is working in the Heritage District. Our primary focus is to see what we can do for revitalization. There is a lot of this area that's been here for 40, 50, 60 years. That's the oldest part of Maricopa," she said.

With the construction of the State Route 347 overpass, Brandow said, city leaders want to first concentrate on cleaning up the neighborhood next door, identified as Phase One of three in the Heritage District.

Brandow said in the first neighborhood cleanup in March, volunteers filled three, 40-foot long, roll-off, trash containers with refuse. In all, 11 tons of trash were removed in just six days.

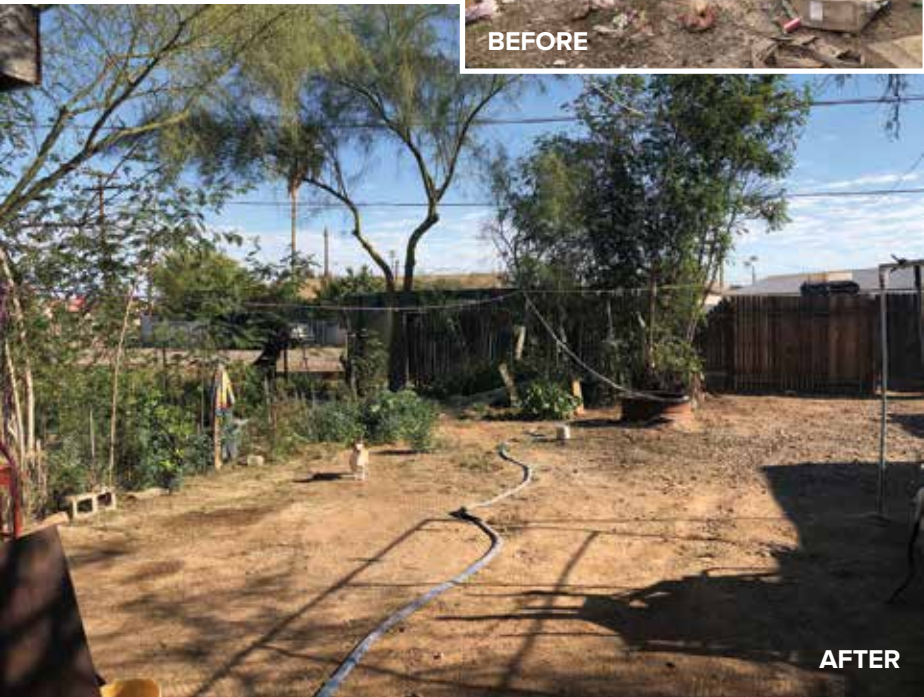
"We were trying to do it over a two-week period, but they got so filled up," she said. "My job is to also go out there and canvas the neighborhood and establish a relationship with this community. It's going great right now. There are some strong leaders in this neighborhood and they want to be heard."

In the second city clean-up rally in the same area, an additional 16 tons of refuse was removed from just two properties.

While the clean-up is good for residents, it's also good for the city.

"The clean-up event is actually most important to the residents. Some of the homeowners do not have the financial means or physical abilities to clean up or maintain their property," said Wes Moss, Maricopa's Code Compliance officer.

"The ultimate goal of Code Enforcement is to help maintain a clean and safe community while working with the citizens, business owners and property owners. One of the best ways to do this is with voluntary compliance of violations and guidance rather than citations or other remedies through the court system. As a clean-up event is not necessarily easier, it can help build good relationships with the



Submitted



BEFORE

citizens, while addressing City Code violations prior to citations."

Brandow said one of the leaders in the Phase One area is putting together a neighborhood meeting to get the clean-up going in the Heritage District.

"They have a contact person now," Brandow said. "I'm kind of their voice to be heard. I relay that back to the city. This is a brand-new position and a brand-new department that the city manager and council created for these residents."

She worked in a similar role for the City of Chandler for 15 years.

She said the city needs volunteers and groups to help pull off the clean-up projects.

The properties being cleaned are not abandoned but rather homes of older citizens who need help removing unwanted items.

Also, seven older buildings have been identified in the Phase One area to be removed. Brandow said the city is working on a Community Development Block Grant to help fund the program, as the neighborhood is a low- to moderate-income area.

"These owners take pride in their home," Brandow said. "Sometimes they just need a little help. Not just the Heritage District will benefit from this; the whole city of Maricopa [will] because we all come together and help one another and that's what it's all about. These residents are what started Maricopa." 📍



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# Tiny Mobile Elementary overcoming obstacles alone, but new bill could force consolidation

Story and photos by Raquel Hendrickson

“In the middle of nowhere” is the phrase often used to describe Mobile Elementary School District. Arizona Department of Education defines Mobile Elementary as “very small, rural.”

The school has an enrollment of 29 students. Only six of those students live in district. It has three full-time teachers and two part-time teachers. The students-to-teacher ratio is 4.8: 1.

A K-8 school with no eighth graders currently enrolled, Mobile Elementary sits just north of State Route 238. Roughly 15 miles west of Maricopa and 28 miles east of Gila Bend, the school is not close to anything but its residents.

The school bears a Maricopa mailing address and the Maricopa telephone prefix of 568. Though annexed by the City of Goodyear 12 years ago in anticipation of a master-planned community that never happened, it is more than an hour’s drive from the municipality.

The biggest benefit of annexation has been having a Goodyear fire station directly across the street from the school, that street being 99th Avenue.

If House Bill 2139 becomes law, the elementary district might be consolidated with schools in Goodyear, a move it has been fighting for years. The reason? They like the tiny school exactly as it is, its small size considered an advantage for its students.



Mobile Elementary School District Superintendent Kit Wood (center) with board members Delores Brown and Patricia Blair, who volunteer at the school, which has an enrollment of 29 students.

“Some of the benefits, of course, are the small class size, the personal relationship they can have with their teacher, the staff and all the students,” said Kit Wood, who has been superintendent 14 years.

Classes are divided in K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. “They stay with the same teacher for a number of years,” Wood said. “The teacher doesn’t have to spend 6-8 weeks getting to know that student’s academic level. They come in knowing their history and their family background.”

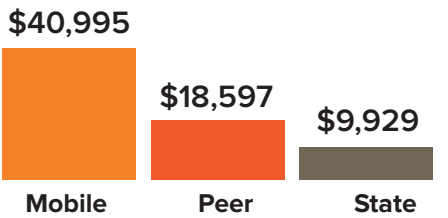
Apache Junction’s Rep. John Fillmore (R-District 16) is sponsoring HB 2139, which would force elementary districts and high school districts to consolidate by 2024. He points to the administrative costs of having separate districts near or overlapping each other’s boundaries.

“When people have said to me that schools need more money, I’ve always had the quick comeback they have enough money, and that what we need to do is have them spend it a little bit more wisely,” Fillmore told the Senate Appropriations Committee in April.

In financially auditing the district for fiscal

year 2016, the Auditor General’s Office found Mobile School spending much more per pupil on administration compared to other small schools. Released in April 2018, the critical report included six recommendations, only one of which had been completely fulfilled by the time of a follow-up in December.

### Total per Pupil Spending 2018



Auditors found that in 2016, Mobile Elementary, with its annual double-digit enrollment, had administration expenses of \$17,178 per student compared to its peer group average of \$2,987. The report found that was “partly because it served fewer students than peer districts, on average, and therefore, costs were spread across fewer students. However, the high costs were also the result of the District employing a full-time superintendent

with a relatively high salary.” Wood’s response was to outline a plan to phase out the superintendent position after the hiring and training of a head teacher/special education teacher.

The follow-up by Vicki Hanson, director of School Audits, indicated the crossover phase during fiscal year 2019 would “likely result in higher administrative costs” while both superintendent and head teacher are on staff.

Mobile Elementary does not share boundaries with other schools. When its students reach high school age, or even middle school age, they can choose from various schools. Being the city closest to Mobile despite being in another county, Maricopa schools receive some of the Mobile students. Others have gone to Mountain Pointe. Some have even attended Ira Hayes. Years ago, they were bused to Casa Grande.

“The teacher doesn’t have to spend 6-8 weeks getting to know that student’s academic level. They come in knowing their history and their family background.”

—Kit Wood, superintendent

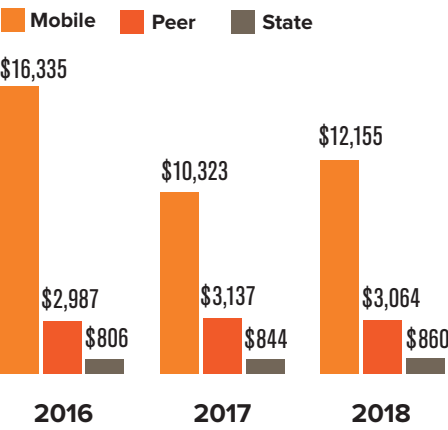
The audit suggested the district pay tuition to a nearby district to educate its students. The school was called out for overpaying an hourly employee, misreporting the number of students transported and having poor oversight of its lease agreement, among other items. Implementation of changes are noted as being “in process.”

With a transient population, enrollment is now too low for the district to receive state funds (Wood estimated it would need an enrollment of 35-40 to qualify), so it relies primarily on property taxes. Enrollment is also too low for the school to be assigned a letter grade, because publicized test results could be almost matched to specific students.

However, for the second year, the school qualified for results-based funding. In FY2018, that amounted to an extra \$8,100 (or \$400 per student). Butterfield Elementary was the only MUSD school to do likewise.

“You don’t get that unless your students are performing well on the test,” Wood said. “So, although they can’t publish our results, we are doing well as far as the assessments.”

### Administration Costs per Student



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Education

What’s not in the financial paperwork is the unincorporated area’s tendency to lean on the school as a center of the community. Board members feel the school and community are misunderstood.

“We’re not gun-toting hillbillies who live here,” board member Delores Brown said, adding several in the community have master’s degrees. She tutors students, touting those who have seen more success since transferring to the school, and is one of the school’s strongest volunteers.

Wood called board members the “most dedicated, committed board I’ve ever worked with.” Board President Patricia Blair has tutored younger students in the past and put her efforts into building up the district library.

“She has been, for all the years I’ve been here, a strong supporter of our library,” Wood said. “We have a really great library, especially for the size of school we are. She has organized that library, she has catalogued things. She is the heart and soul of that library.”

Blair said the wide variety of books ranges from pre-K to 12th grade.

“We’re very small. We’re close-knit,” Wood said. “We have high expectations,



**Mobile Elementary keeps current on textbooks and technology, relying on its funding from property taxes and grants.**

high standards that are well known so we can address when things happen that are inappropriate or unacceptable, or they’re not meeting the expectations of general student behavior, take care of it quickly and then just go on.”

The superintendent said all its teachers are highly qualified with endorsements and certification in their areas. The teachers average 10-plus years of experience. Besides the three full-time classroom teachers, there

are part-time teachers for art and physical education.

“We have a very lean staff. We all do multiple tasks and have multiple responsibilities,” Wood said. “We do not receive state funding. All of our funding comes from property taxes. And that’s always a challenge.”

Staffing is also difficult at the remote school. The challenge is to find someone of quality to come to Mobile and fit in, though teachers have been willing to drive long distances for

the job. It is still looking for a music teacher.

Mobile’s biggest expense is staffing. It has a starting salary of \$40,100. Its average teacher salary is \$50,038. By comparison, the peer average is \$50,510, and the state average is \$48,951.

Besides the random financial audit, Mobile Elementary also undergoes the annual performance audit to which all district schools submit. The most recent report showed the administration costs were down to \$12,155 per student. That is still well above the peer average of \$3,064, which increased.

Mobile had only nine students per administrative position compared to 33 in peer schools and the state average of 66. The report showed no financial stresses. It was particularly low-stress in capital reserve (more than three years’ worth), operating reserve (17.2 percent and increasing), steadiness of school enrollment and meeting its budget.

A Rural Education Achievement grant gave the school the ability to purchase technology in the form of classroom and library computers. The grant is \$15,000-\$18,000 per year for the tech program.

There have been past efforts by Valley

districts to consolidate Mobile Elementary, but the small school effectively gave them the raspberry. Until now, as Blair noted, a district did not have to be consolidated unless it wanted to.

HB2139, on the other hand, would force the issue, making independent districts a thing of the past.

“Over the past decades a variety of unification and consolidation efforts, committees and proposed legislation have been brought forward in the state of Arizona,” Wood said. “If this bill is successfully passed and signed into law, Mobile ESD would comply with the requirement for a feasibility study and then work with the Maricopa County Education Services Agency and others regarding study results and findings.

“We will await the results of this legislative session.”

But they aren’t happy about it.

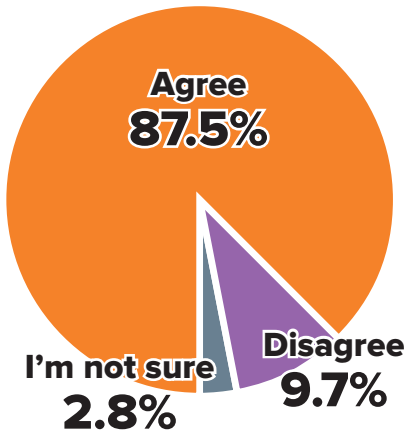
“It just makes the other schools larger and classrooms bigger,” Blair said. “To me that’s not a good idea for the kids.”

“They don’t have the support because the teachers don’t have the time to give them the support,” Brown added.

“Our kids don’t get lost in a classroom.”

POLL RESULTS

**Do you agree with the Legislature’s proposal to consolidate Arizona’s school districts?**



Source: InMaricopa.com April 15, 2019  
Votes: 216

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# A driven business

Local and family owned, Maricopa Auto Outlet opened its doors in January 2015 to fill a void in the buy, sell and trade automobile market in Maricopa. Starting out in sales only, owners Roman and Haley Bylkov began their business with the goal of finding customers the least expensive car that best suited their needs. The business took off and multiple opportunities for growth and expansion became possible. Four years later, after a large expansion, we pick up the story. Maricopa Auto Outlet opened its remodeled facility in the fall of 2018. A large, open sales office and lounge area is available for customer convenience and comfort. More on-site parking has been provided as well. “We also have space for a large inventory of vehicles since acquiring the old Circle K property,” says Roman Bylkov. The Maricopa Auto Outlet takes great pride in the selection of each vehicle they offer.



“With 14 years of experience in the business, Roman is very confident in his work,” says Haley Bylkov. The business fills a wide range of needs: Cars, including commuter vehicles with great low mileage. Trucks. Vans and SUV’s with large families in mind. Discovering there was a growing demand for car repair, staff was expanded to include on-site mechanics. “We offer free diagnostic safety checks for customers. A/C, radiator and hoses are also checked in preparation for the summer weather. It’s 30 minutes of time well invested.” We are very grateful for the opportunities we have enjoyed and continue to support and serve our community and customers. We are all growing together,” says Roman Bylkov.

Financial options have also expanded and become easier. “We operate on the same platform as larger franchise dealers offering the most current and aggressive interest rates available and work with multiple lenders. We will also work with ‘credit-challenged’ customers aiming to qualify for a loan. Additionally, there is a special offer for new buyers — The First Time Car Buyer Program,” Roman Bylkov says. “Financing is an option for car repair services as well.” Check out the Maricopa Auto Outlet where you can browse the inventory and even apply for a loan on line in the comfort of your own home or come into our location where we can welcome you in person.

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## Restaurant gets tips on cooling down fries

Only one of 22 eateries inspected by Pinal County health personnel did not receive a perfect score. WingStop received a ding over batches of fries that did not cool fast enough after being cooked. According to code, cooked food should be cooled from 135 degrees F to 70 degrees within two hours. Fries inspected were no cooler than 78 degrees after two hours. Affected batches of fries were discarded and the inspector reviewed the cooling process with staff.

### EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Aliberto's
- Arby's
- Central Arizona College – Café
- Central Arizona College – Culinary
- Children's Learning Adventure
- Dunkin Donuts
- Helen's at Copper Sky
- Helen's at Pacana Park
- Helen's Kitchen
- IHOP Restaurant
- Jack in the Box
- Legacy Traditional School
- Maricopa Head Start
- Maricopa High School
- Maricopa High School – Culinary
- Papa Murphy's Pizza
- Province Community Association – Clubhouse
- Sequoia Pathway Academy – K-6
- Sequoia Pathway Academy – Secondary
- Taco Bell
- Tacos 'n' More

### SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- WingStop

### 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

# What's happening at Maricopa businesses

New jobs available in Maricopa include bank teller, landscaper, teachers, school psychologist, speech pathologist, medical assistant, mechanic, agriculture research assistant, water safety instructor, police officer and many more. See InMaricopa.com/Business/Jobs.

American Family Insurance celebrated its relocation at 19756 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 112, with a ribbon-cutting April 12. Agent Chris Cahall revamped the office space, going it alone without subletting space for the first time in the agency's seven years.

Courtney Tyler's State Farm Insurance celebrated its new home in a new building with a ribbon-cutting April 13. The new building is owned by Pinal County at 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road, Building 14. In the same building, Maricopa Wellness Center had a ribbon-cutting April 13 and its grand opening April 25 as part of a Chamber of Commerce mixer.



Victor Moreno

Chris Cahall and family cut the ribbon at American Family Insurance's new office space.

Arizona Grain Inc. is spending about \$50,000 to repair damage to its grain elevator at 38501 W. Cowtown Road after an explosion this winter.

Signal Healthcare's two connected new buildings at 44555 W. Edison Road, now described as a medical office and a proposed restaurant, received a development review permit April 11. The building pad is 8,600 square feet with a patio that is 800 square feet.

Heritage Academy advanced work on a school building and a gymnasium for a campus that plans to open in July. The contractor received a commercial foundation permit for both structures at 41001 W. Lucerian Lane. The administration/academic building is 29,359 square feet while the gymnasium is 13,525.

Student Choice High School, another charter, is preparing to open in its new home at Shops at Maricopa Fiesta, 20800 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 107. It received a permit to modify the existing sprinkler system in the office space.

The new Circle K at 41433 W. Honeycutt Road received the go-ahead for fire sprinkler in the 5,301-square-foot convenience store.

Farther east on the same road, the Jehovah's Witnesses congregation received a development review permit for a possible Kingdom Hall at 40675 W. Honeycutt Road.

The Dutch Bros. being built at 20168 N. John Wayne Parkway got the OK for signage, including the drive-thru menu board. Joe's A Barber Shop also received a sign permit at 44480 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 101.

Apex Motor Club immediately installed a covered parking structure near its track facility at 22408 N. Ralston Road after receiving a permit March 21. It is valued at \$106,000.

Anderson-Palmisano Farms was allowed a rezoning at 17384 N. Freeland Land for an 80-lot subdivision on 20 acres just south of the corner of Bowlin Road and Hartman Road.



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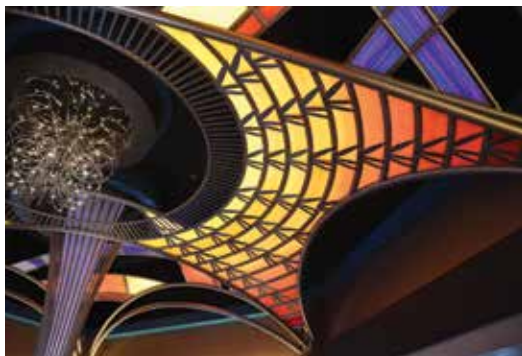


# Harrah's Ak-Chin unveils 2-year expansion

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino celebrated its 25th anniversary and grand opening of its multimillion-dollar expansion project with a party April 4 at Oak and Fork inside the casino. The two-year expansion includes a new lobby; 12-story, 229-guestroom tower; spa; gym; expanded gaming space; new restaurants; multi-purpose event center; parking garage; new Bingo hall; and a newly renamed Laurel Lounge for Caesars Rewards members. In addition, there have been enhancements made to pool-side rooms that overlook a newly renovated pool area with swim-up bar.

Native American firm Thalden Boyd Emery is the architect of the expansion. Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino is owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community and managed by Caesar's Entertainment. Since opening the new tower, Harrah's Ak-Chin has been busy. "So far, we've been pleasantly surprised," Michael Kintner, director of marketing and operations, said. "Our numbers are a little on the higher end of what we expected."

PHOTOS BY RAQUEL HENDRICKSON AND JIM HEADLEY





# Adventure-seeking corridor blossoms along 238

By Jim Headley

Whether you realize it or not – coming to Maricopa is cool. Some of the hottest fun in the Valley of the Sun happens in western Pinal County. Nestled along State Route 238 west of Maricopa is a developing entertainment corridor.



Jim Headley



Jim Headley

## Arizona Soaring

It all started 50 years ago, when the Horvath family opened Arizona Soaring, a unique professional glider training and flight site.

The Stephens family purchased the Estrella Sailport, where Arizona Soaring operates, in 1987.

“My brothers and I own the place together now,” Jason Stephens said, calling the sailport a family affair.

“I could be doing a lot of other things, but this is what I want to do. I started glider-flying when I was 13; that’s when we moved down here from Alaska and that’s when my family bought the operation. I worked out here all through high school and college. I did a few other flying jobs for a while before I came back and took over the place.”

Arizona Soaring and Stephens are famous in the glider world. The Estrella Sailport is considered one of the earliest, most historic and best places in the world to go up in a glider. The weather is usually very good for gliding with high temperatures, light winds and clear skies on most days.

That is why the Horvath family built it just west of Maricopa half a century ago. Maricopa was 400 people at the time and only a dirt road connected the town to Phoenix.

Stephens was the World 2008 Unlimited Glider Champion. One of the top awards in the glider world is called the Hovarth Trophy. People from around the world travel to the Estrella Sailport to take classes or just go for a ride in a sailplanes. Trained pilots can rent sailplanes.

The aerobatic ride is an amazing, peaceful

experience filled with calmness and beautiful views of the Estrella mountains and the Valley of the Sun. Suddenly, the daredevil of gliding kicks in and you are upside down doing your fifth loop-to-loop and smiling from ear to ear.

“We get customers here from all over the world. A lot of international customers come here for training or for recreational flying,” Stephens said.

Stephens is also a teaching pilot and takes many customers for rides. He teaches everything from basics to advance aerobatics. He can also be seen riding the tractor and grading the runways.

“Our No. 1 mission is to create the best pilots around,” Stephens said. “The pilots we create can go out into the world and become good, safe pilots who exercise good judgement and impress people when they travel. Most of our work here is teaching.”

He said they might have two or three riding customers a day, but they will put up 30 to 40 flights daily with classes.

“It’s been good for us, and we’ve been good for Maricopa. We have been bringing in customers from outside into this area and spending dollars for 50 years. We want to keep that going,” Stephens said.



AzSoaring.com



Jim Headley



Jim Headley

## Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes hosts about 40,000 rounds of golf annually and is one of a handful of championship golf courses in the region.

Designed by Schmidt-Curley Design and Fred Couples, Southern Dunes was built in 2001 as a private men’s club. It has changed ownership a few times since, and in 2010 was purchased by the Ak-Chin Indian Community and made it into a daily-fee, public golf course.

“We don’t have memberships. We have a couple loyalty programs. We also have local pricing and different things like that,” General Manager Brady Wilson said. “It is meant to be very utopian and very democratic. We sell the times and it is first-come, first-served in the bookings.”

The Troon-managed facility consists of an 18-hole championship course and a six-hole short course dubbed #miniDunes. The site is a driving range in the morning and converts into the short course in the afternoon. All #miniDunes holes are under 100 yards.

There are no homes on the golf course.

“The golf course plays host to quite a few championship events,” Wilson said. “Next to TCP Scottsdale, we probably are the premier championship venue in the state. The golf course is really big, and it has been ranked as high as fifth in the state. It is a high-quality venue, and it is challenging.”

While the course may be one of the premier championship courses in Arizona, it also caters to all skill levels of golfers, with six-sets of tees.

“We cater to female golfers, elderly golfers to novice golfers. It is meant to be for everybody,” Wilson said.

On top of golf, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes also has the Arroyo Grill.

“Arguably, probably the best restaurants in Maricopa,” Wilson said. “It is open to the public. It is here to service our golfers, but we are open for breakfast and lunch seven days a week. We serve a dinner menu Wednesday through Saturday night. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday we are still open until the last golfer and we serve the lunch menu until the end of the day.”

The chef at Arroyo Grill is “very accomplished and becoming very well known,” according to Wilson.



AkChinSouthernDunes.com





Submitted

### Skydive Phoenix

South of Arizona Soaring is Skydive Phoenix Inc., which used to be located at the glider airport but moved to have safer airspace for jumps.

For many, skydiving is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Others discover a passion that will open a whole new world.

Adventure sports don't get much more extreme than leaping from an airplane in flight, and Skydive Phoenix is ultimate observation deck with views of the Phoenix skyline, Camelback Mountain and Four Peaks.

Tandem skydive jumps are the easiest, safest and most comfortable way to make your first jump. You experience all the exhilaration of skydiving, secure in knowing a trained instructor is harnessed snugly on your back.

The Accelerated Skydive Program is the most popular as it combines the tandem and Accelerated Freefall Programs. Skydive Phoenix also offers services for experienced jumpers.

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



Kyle Norby

### Apex Motor Club

The new kid on the entertainment block is Apex Motor Club, which just built a new club track between Ak-Chin Southern Dunes and Arizona Soaring.

Apex finished the paving Phase I of their track in March. The 2.3-mile track has 12 turns on 140 acres. There is an additional 140 acres for Phase II of the project just north of the first track. Upon completion, the Apex Motor Club track will be up to 4.2 miles long.

The course is a road track, but it is a fast road track with speeds of 160 mph possible in the right car on the straightaways.

Car condos will be under construction soon as well as a clubhouse, restaurant and pool.

Apex is a private club. All styles of cars are welcome into the club including open wheel, vintage and modern cars.

"We're not developers that are going to move on to the next city and sell this. We want to have our kids and their kids work here and have something that a lot of people can enjoy for a long period of time," Apex President Jason Plotke said. "We want to be a vibrant part of the community."

Apex Motor Club is owned by Scottsdale-based Private Motorsports Group.

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

## Maintenance checkpoints on your plumbing this summer

By Terry Leamon, My Maricopa Plumber

Summer is a great time to encourage homeowners to perform a maintenance check on their plumbing.

Water usage soars during the summer months from heat and summertime activities. As they play and swim, many families will find themselves with a few extra loads of laundry per week and maybe a few extra showers.

Homeowners can start the season off right with a quick check throughout the home and property to conserve water and avoid a hefty repair bill.

### In the Home

Check washing machine hoses for bulges, leaks and cracks. Washing machine hoses should be replaced every three years.

Be sure your washing machine is at least four inches from the wall, so hoses won't kink and damage.

Do a thorough cleaning on your dryer lint trap regularly to avoid buildup.

Don't send grease, fats or food down the drain. When washing foods like corn, be sure the strings don't go down the drain and clog your pipes.

Heat and humidity will cause ducts to create condensation, which can easily back up drains if they are not clear. Check for leaks and condensation on your pipes regularly.

Clean up your garbage disposal by placing a cup of ice inside. Then, while running cold

water, turn on the unit. Repeat a few times to ensure it's clean. Then place a capful of vegetable oil down the disposal, which will act as a natural lubricant.


### Outdoors

Inspect hoses and outdoor faucets for leaks and cracks.

Don't just turn off the hose nozzle; turn it off at the connection. A leaky hose could burst under pressure if water is still pumping, causing water loss and ruining your equipment.

Set up a rainwater barrel to collect water for your plants. This not only helps conserve water for the environment, but also will help you save money on your water bill.

### Extended Trips

Going away for a while? Turn off the water and turn down the temperature. This will save energy while you're away and in the event of a leak or break, prevent a bigger mess from occurring. 



Toma Fitzgerald and Terry Leamon



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18

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19

BUSINESS





1



2



4



3

1. Golfers from around the world participated in the World Long Drive/ Ak-Chin Smash in the Sun in April. Tim Burke of Florida won the open division with a drive of 474 yards. Phillis Meti of New Zealand repeated as champ of the women's division, driving the ball 418 yards. *Jim Headley*

2. The Heartbeat Tap Ensemble opened the "Spice of Life" Senior Variety Show at Maricopa Performing Arts Center April 6. *Raquel Hendrickson*

3. The 28th annual Him-Dak Celebration at the Ak-Chin museum April 6 had performers from inside and outside the community. *Jim Headley*

4. The staff of Pima Butte Elementary School celebrated receiving the prestigious A+ School of Excellence Award from the Arizona Educational Foundation. *Raquel Hendrickson*

5. Construction crews on the State Route 347 overpass are on schedule and could have the bridge ready for traffic by the end of June. *Jim Headley*

6. Mary Mullarky accepted applause for a cello solo in "The Swan," part of Maricopa Music Circle's spring concert April 6. *Raquel Hendrickson*

7. American Legion Post 133 members salute during a flag-raising by the Honor Guard at a 100-year anniversary of the founding of the Legion. *Raquel Hendrickson*

8. Maricopa Lions Club drew 128 golfers to its annual fundraiser at The Duke at Rancho El Dorado March 28 to pay for its programs. *Raquel Hendrickson*

9. Maricopa Police Chief Steve Stahl with Jessica Nicely (left) and Mary Witkofski opened the Family Advocacy Center April 16. *Jim Headley*

10. Rob Boyd (center), with Vice Mayor Henry Wade and Sal Silver, had a release party for his hip-hop album "Back to the Money Bag" March 30 at Water and Ice. *Raquel Hendrickson*



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6



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10



Talent

# Star power

Teen singer, crown-wearer Jiselle Diaz

By Fran Lyons

Jiselle Diaz is her name. She is 17 years old and has already made herself known locally through her musical talent, community service and vision for the world to become a kinder place to live. She has her sights set on making this vision a reality. It all began in Maricopa, said Diaz, a Rancho El Dorado resident.



Kyle Norby

“I have to credit my hometown; it’s where my music career began,” she said. “The many community performances I have done in my town have shaped me and given me the experience I have today.”

Her first performance, at age 9, was singing the National Anthem for a Veterans Day event at Legacy School. Since then, Jiselle has captured audiences with her voice at many local and regional events.

As a naturally gifted singer and musician, her performances are filled with energy and love for her music. Her affinity for Selena is palpable, but she’s just as comfortable singing American standards. Family folklore has it that Linda Ronstadt is a distant cousin. Jiselle attributes her musical success to her supportive coaches and family.

“We just knew there was something about Jiselle,” Jeff Diaz said about his daughter. “She was a star from the day she was born. When she was 4 years old she started singing, and we recognized she really had some pipes.”

In 2016, she won her first pageant at the age of 14. She was crowned Miss Pinal County Outstanding Teen. In 2018, she won her second pageant, Miss City of Maricopa



Raquel Hendrickson



Kyle Norby

**Jiselle Diaz, 17, has been singing for public events since age 9 and will represent the City of Maricopa in the Miss Arizona Outstanding Teen pageant.**

**“Being in pageants has taught me how to be well-rounded, perseverant and determined.”** —Jiselle Diaz

Outstanding Teen. This June, she will compete at the Miss Arizona event and, if she wins, represent Arizona in the Miss America Outstanding Teen scholarship program.

“Being in pageants has taught me how to be well-rounded, perseverant and determined,” she said. “I learned how to work hard and be resilient. I have grown and continue to grow immensely, motivated by passion, drive and a strong work ethic.”

Behind the scenes, however, there is much more than pageant life for this multi-faceted young woman. While beauty, talent, poise and intelligence shine through her personality and spirit, she is preparing to do the work she feels called to do. That is the work of service.

Establishing a career in music, Diaz aspires to become a recording artist in the Christian, country or Spanish genres. In tandem, she is also developing her platform evolving from “Be the Lighthouse.” It is called “The Three Pillars – Leadership, Service, Kindness.”

“I also love applying the idea of ‘act locally, think globally,’” she said.

Her platform through high school has been mentoring other teens to feel empowered when dealing with peer pressure. She has worked with Girl Scouts and Be Awesome Youth Coalition.

“Our home is filled with love and acceptance for each other and creativity. We, as parents, aim to instill the core values of commitment and integrity in our children,” mom Alexandra Diaz said. “We have poured our love and dedication into Jiselle and her brother, Jacob.”

Family life and faith are foundational elements for Jiselle and anchor her positive attitude and empowered action in the community.

“Obviously, my parents are my primary role models,” Diaz said, “and Maricopa will always be my hometown.”

She plans to compete in the Be Awesome Talent Show scheduled for June 1. She is also planning a video about Maricopa’s history and how the community is growing by leaps and bounds.

After graduation Jiselle plans to attend Grand Canyon University majoring in Worship Arts. She wants to become a worship leader at her church. Of course, her music will accompany her faithfully wherever she goes.

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# Grammy-nominated musicians celebrate 9th year on the road

Story and photos by Jim Headley

Sometimes harmonizing with someone else is just magical.

Nine years ago, Jay “JC” Scott and Laney Greynolds met and were on stage playing music together a half hour later. Little did they know that moment would propel them together into a love affair and a fulltime musical career.

It just clicked. “It the luck of the draw when you have your harmonies smack into each other,” Laney said.

JC said when his voice collided with Laney’s voice, a third magical voice of harmony was instantaneously created.

Today they are performing as the Americana singer/songwriter duo JC & Laney and they travel the nation singing to JC’s acoustic guitar playing. To say that they’re good is clearly an understatement.

In 2016, one of their songs, “When it Comes to Love,” was nominated for a Grammy Award.

“We just did our ninth Glendale Folk Festival and that was when our first album came out in March of 2010,” Laney said. “We knew each other five months when our first album came out.”

At the time, they lived in different states, with JC in California and Laney in Arizona. Their first album was mostly a collection of acoustic recordings. JC was already recording the album when he met Laney, and they “started singing together, and my heart went (pitter patter),” JC said.

When they met, Laney was in a rock band and went to hear JC perform at Whiskey Row in Gilbert. That’s when they ended up on stage together. Their first song was “Bell Bottom Blues,” and they have never sung it together since that night.

“We really spent the first five or six years only doing original music,” she said. “About the sixth album in, we got a job in Williams playing all summer, and we started learning covers.”

JC said when they started playing in the Arizona town near Flagstaff, they only had 15 cover songs worked up together. Almost every day they learned at least one new cover to entertain the tourists coming off the Grand



JC & Laney perform at A Latte Vino in Casa Grande.

Canyon train in Williams.

“We knew plenty of songs, but we didn’t know them with our harmonies together,” JC said.

The seasonal gig was canceled the past two years, but they’ll be back in Williams this year May 29-Sept. 2.

In nine years, they have come a long way from their humble beginnings.

“We have bigger and better shows,” Laney said. “We travel a lot. We were in the first round of the 58th Grammys for our album *Hard Road Easy Street*. He was in for songwriter for the song ‘Hard Road Easy Street’ and we were in for best Americana performance for ‘When it Comes to Love’ – that’s the one that got a lot of legs.”

She said there was a contest called the Grammy Amplifier sponsored by the Recording Academy, and JC & Laney received 194,000 hits to capture first place for “When it Comes to Love.” The win propelled them to Hollywood and the 2016 Grammys at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. On Spotify the song has over 100,000 streaming clicks.

“All our friends say they never want to

hear that song again,” JC said, adding he wrote the lyrics to “When it Comes to Love” on an airplane and matched the words to music later.

JC usually writes most of their songs, but Laney has joined in to write three songs with JC.

“They’re not on albums yet, but they will be,” she said. “One is a wedding song that I wrote for my son.”



Laney Greynolds joined up with JC in 2009.

They have chosen Maricopa as their home and have purchased a house in Homestead. Before the resident gig in Williams begins, they’re entertaining crowds in Flagstaff, Casa Grande, Prescott, Tempe, Eloy and in California with gigs in Pasadena and Santa Rosa.

During the summer they will be playing at A Latte Vino in Casa Grande every three weeks. Diann Prechel, owner of A Latte Vino has been booking JC & Laney on a regular basis over the past year.

“They have a following here,” Prechel said. “They have people that come just for them. They play here on average twice a month but sometimes three times a month. There are some repeat customers because of them.”

Many people ask them why they’ve pick Maricopa as their home.

**“We travel a lot. We were in the first round of the 58th Grammys for our album *Hard Road Easy Street*.”**

—Laney Greynolds

“We bought a million-dollar house for a quarter million dollars, because it is a desert surrounded by an Indian reservation and cows. It is a huge bang for your buck,” JC said.

Laney said they came to Maricopa in October 2017, looked around and “really liked the town.”

JC said then it was 40,000 people, no gangs and everybody talked to each other.

“It smells like cow stuff sometimes,” JC said. “It’s 16 miles from the I-10 and people go, ‘Why do you live in Maricopa?’ We say because it’s 16 miles from the I-10 and people don’t like to come there. We travel a lot anyway.”

They are building a recording studio in their home, where they can do blogs and musical recordings.

He said the average song on the Internet has a seven-second shelf life.

“We have to constantly put out new songs and videos,” he said. “That’s what the new room (studio) is going to be. It’s hard to keep up with, so we’re going to do it ourselves.”

He said JC & Laney isn’t a household name, but they’re working on it. [JCAndLaney.com](#)

[JCAndLaney.com](#)

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# ‘Homegrown’ at MUSD, Alvarado making a difference for 2nd graders

By Raquel Hendrickson

Maria Alvarado may be a new teacher, but she knows Maricopa Unified School District inside and out. She started preschool at MUSD and graduated from Maricopa High School in 2013.

“I think it’s a unique perspective going from a student in this school district to being a teacher,” she said. “It’s very different.”



Jim Headley

**Maria Alvarado has gone full circle at Maricopa Unified School District, attending MUSD schools since preschool and now coming back to teach second grade at Santa Rosa Elementary.**

She said as a student she didn’t understand what was happening behind the scenes at school, how much concern the teachers had for the students and “how everything works.”

Coming back, she said, it has been interesting being on the flipside of the coin, “to be the one responsible for my kiddoes.”

In her second-grade classroom at Santa Rosa Elementary, the motto has been “We learn from our mistakes.” That has even expanded to “We learn from each other’s mistakes” as they work together to learn the material.

Alvarado returned to MUSD after college for a semester of student teaching at Maricopa Elementary School at the end the 2017. When a full-time, real-deal teaching position opened

in the middle of the school year, she landed the job. She replaced a second-grade teacher at Santa Rosa in January 2018.

“That was a toughie,” she recalled. “They had their own system going when I got there.”

Her dream was to teach fourth or fifth grade, so she was uncertain about taking on second grade, where some of the students did not yet know how to read or were limited in their ability. A year into her teaching career, she has determined her students should be able to read on their own by second semester if they were going to have any chance of success as third graders.

“My second graders are on their own right now. First quarter, I’m done reading to them.

That was a struggle when I took over half-year. So many of my kids were not there. Now that I’ve had them myself for a whole year, I feel more comfortable with where they are.

“One of my kiddoes came in with eight words. He still fluctuates, but he’s between 60 and 80 words a minute. That’s just a huge jump.”

“Ms. Alvarado’s sheer excitement about students reading is enough to make anyone believe in public education,” Superintendent Tracey Lopeman said. “She inspires students and peers alike to adopt a life-long love of learning.”

Alvarado was 3 when her parents, Salvador and Adriana, moved to the rural area south of Maricopa. In third grade, she was a student at Santa Rosa herself. Her long-range goal now is to become a principal.

“Her value is not just in her influence on her students,” Lopeman said. “Ms. Alvarado’s history with the district is unique; she’s homegrown MUSD. She has watched and been part of the evolution of this district since she was a child and is the bridge to maintaining the spirit of MUSD and moving us into the future.”

A graduate of Northern Arizona University, Alvarado had been planning to be a pediatrician since she was in middle school. Schoolteacher? Not on the list. There was no history of teachers in her immediate family, but she tutored in high school and understood at that time she liked teaching.

The mother of the student she was tutoring called her to thank her for the work she had been doing. “She was telling me, ‘Thank you so much. My son went from a D student to B’s.’ She was ecstatic. She was crying and really emotional. It was like a really good feeling.”

At NAU, Alvarado was taking classes toward becoming a pediatrician and was earning a 4.0 grade point average. She started tutoring a roommate majoring in chemistry and realized she was not only good at teaching but really enjoyed it.

Sharing her mixed feelings with her counselor, she was encouraged to enroll in a “Teaching Math and Science” course. That required creating lesson plans and learning how children learn. She was soon convinced she needed to change her major.

“I called my mom, and she was upset. She started talking about, ‘This is your dream. Think about how much more money you’re going to be making.’ She made me cry because she was being realistic.”

Then she called her father. “I was more scared of my dad. And my dad stayed quiet. And then he goes, ‘Yeah, I knew since you were little you were going to be a teacher.’”

Student teachers are not paid, so it was practicality that moved her to take the post with MUSD so she could live at home. To then be hired was a matter of getting “lucky twice,” she said.

Though her early study had been related to middle and high school students, she soon switched her interest to K-5.

“A lot of the concepts I was asked to understand as a middle schooler I was lacking on foundational skills that should have been taught in lower grades,” Alvarado said. “I felt like if I

**“The hardest part is teaching them the things that technically we don’t go to school to learn, like confidence, how to be proud of your own self and your own work. That boosts you to keep trying.”**

—Maria Alvarado

started at middle school with these kids, I wasn’t making the biggest difference and making sure they understood those foundational things.”

While still learning the best teaching practices herself, Alvarado said what happens in the classroom goes beyond books and computers.

“The hardest part is teaching them the things that technically we don’t go to school to learn, like confidence, how to be proud of your own self and your own work. That boosts you to keep trying.”

She tells of giving her students a question on a practice test that had most of her students choosing Part A and only four choosing Part B, the correct answer.

“And one of them wanted to move over. I said, ‘You need to be careful. Are you going to follow everybody or are you going to pick your answer because you know that’s what you think is right?’”

Alvarado said that is a dilemma for students even in upper grades, the need to “go with the flow” even when they know the facts.

Her students have fluctuated in number between 19 and 24. They have taught her it’s possible to be lively and energetic about anything, and there is plenty of movement going on in Ms. Alvarado’s classroom.

Her second graders also like to be empowered to create their own goals and ideas of how the class will reach those goals. As they prepared for the School City test, the students came up with methods to review.

“I’ve never been so proud of a person as I am proud of my kids,” she said. “Sometimes I feel I’m being too mean or holding them to too high of expectations, but, when I see it pay off over time, I know I’m not.”

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1



2



3



4



5



6

1. Maricopa High School senior Jose Leyva slides successfully into home during a tough baseball season. *Raquel Hendrickson*
2. Presented by Maricopa Fire/Medical Department, Maricopa Police and American Family Insurance, "Don't Crash the Prom" enacted a possible scenario of drunk driving on prom night. *Jim Headley*
3. MHS students were dressed to the nines for prom at Garden Tuscana in Mesa April 13. *Victor Moreno*
4. MHS senior Logan Taylor, prepping for the state track meet in May, has posted Division II's second best times this season in the 110-meter and 300-meter hurdles, the latter being a school record 39.09. Teammate Jacob Cowing has the fastest time in the 200-meter dash. *Raquel Hendrickson*
5. MHS junior Kiana Miller-Gomez kept up the laughs on a softball team that came close to state play, ending the season 10-12. *Raquel Hendrickson*
6. Teresa Diaz enjoyed the fun at Tortosa Easter Eggstravaganza April 13. *Jim Headley*

Getting to KNOW

## MONICA STAGGS

ARIZONA CPR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION



**Maricopan since:** 2010  
**Hometown:** Hoffman Estates, Illinois  
**Occupation:** CPR, First Aid and Safety Trainer  
**Family:** Husband, Henry; Daughter, Emily  
**Like most about Maricopa:** Small-town feeling

### FAVORITE

**Charity:** ASPCA and SARRC  
**Food:** South Indian  
**Meal:** Gobi Manchurian  
**Restaurant:** Ruchi or Udupi  
**Joke:** What's the difference between ignorance and apathy? I don't know and I don't care.

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

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# Who is the Best Mom in Maricopa?

Let's celebrate Mother's Day! InMaricopa.com and local businesses are joining forces to find out who is the Best Mom in Maricopa. And it's all up to your votes. Don't wait!

Nominate as Best Mom your:

- Mother
- Wife
- Friend
- Daughter

Visit InMaricopa.com/Mom2019 to make your nomination with a photo or video. Readers will vote for their favorites through May 8.

Prizes include Gucci sunglasses from Maricopa Eye Care, family photoshoot from Victor Moreno Photography and a special Mother's Day bouquet courtesy of Fry's Marketplace.

Written nominations should be no longer than 100 words, and video nominations should be no longer than one minute. Moms must be Maricopa residents.

- Voting deadline **May 8**
- Winner notified **May 9**
- Winners announced on **May 12**

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# College-admissions scandal showed parental stupidity

By Murray Siegel

What was your reaction when you learned about the scandal involving wealthy parents spending obscene money to secure their child's admission into an elite university? Were you outraged that this was so unfair, especially if you have a child nearing college age? Perhaps you saw this as another example of the arrogance of the affluent.



Murray Siegel

My response was despite their wealth these folks are stupid, since these elite universities really do not offer a better undergraduate education, so why spend the money? Yes, Harvard, Yale and Stanford are fine colleges to obtain graduate or professional degrees, but my experience indicates for undergraduates there are much better schools.

What gives me the right to make this statement? For many years during my teaching career, I taught and coached at various high schools and became involved in hundreds of college searches. I generally followed up with my students to get feedback about their college experiences. Of greater importance, from 1985 through 1998, I conducted summer teacher workshops on college campuses from Boston to Honolulu. At each college, I would search out students and faculty to gain an assessment of that school as a possible college for my high school students.

During the summer of 1987, I conducted a workshop at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. My contacts with students and faculty demonstrated that TU offers a fabulous undergraduate environment. Upon my recommendation, five of my former students received degrees from TU. One is a Slavic linguist for the Defense Language Institute, one leads a city's drama program, one is a urologist, one holds two doctorate degrees and is a professor at The Sorbonne in Paris, and the fifth is a bilingual economist working for a nonprofit. All reported great academic and social experiences at this college.

Based on my research, I can recommend several private universities in lieu of elite schools. Emory and Agnes Scott (Decatur, Georgia), Furman (Greenville, South Carolina) Davidson (Davidson, North Carolina), Rice (Houston, Texas) and Harvey Mudd (Claremont, California). Some state universities I recommend are Georgia Tech (Atlanta), Clemson (Clemson, South Carolina), University of Virginia (Charlottesville, Virginia), Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, Virginia), Auburn (Auburn, Alabama) and Texas A&M (College Station, Texas) These are not the only quality colleges out there; they are ones which I have the most familiarity.

I did not mention in-state schools since I always prefer students go out-of-state if at all possible. Staying in Arizona, U of A, ASU and NAU each offers exceptional academic programs.

If you are experiencing or approaching the college search, please disregard the elites and focus on a school that meets your child's needs.

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

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# Dollars for Scholars: How to build a digital scholarship portfolio

By Bernadette Russoniello

Applying for scholarships could be a full-time job for high school students. Yet most students are unaware and unprepared for the work required.

Daily, I hear comments from students such as, “Miss, I spent like four hours working on applying, and I found nothing,” “It’s only a thousand dollars, it’s not worth the work” and “I wish I would’ve started sooner!”

Simply by earning all A’s and B’s, students manage to earn at least \$27 for every hour they are in high school through university academic scholarships. Students need to invest time up front in building a scholarship application portfolio and a researched action plan to maximize their chances at earning monies.



Bernadette Russoniello

What’s a scholarship portfolio? I encourage students to start a digital portfolio of all elements typically required for applications. At MHS, we use Google Apps for Education, so starting a folder in their Google Drive is the first step. Gather and develop basic elements required for most scholarships: three letters of

recommendation, an updated resume, a list of awards and honors, personal statements including reflections on your career and college goals, a personal narrative describing yourself and an updated high school transcript.

Tips on letters of recommendation. Ask well before you need one. I have students asking regularly for letters the day before they are

due. Ask in advance, and make sure to give a five- to 10-day window. After the first week, gentle reminders are appreciated to ensure you receive your letter on time. Additionally, providing your recommender your resume

and personal narrative helps them include points about you they may not know. And most importantly, pick people who are strong writers and know you well – specific examples and personal anecdotes are what readers look for, not a regurgitation of the resume.

Standing out. Admissions and scholarship readers read literally hundreds, if not thousands, of applications. The applicant must stand out in the process, either through their voice, their story or their accomplishments. All students applying are in clubs, get great grades and serve as campus leaders. What do you do that makes you different?

Where to start? I’m a fan of Scholarships.com — but not the “Free Search” (unless you love spam and third-party emails). I show students how to use the “Directory” feature to search by category and due date. Students need to develop an action plan that allows them to list scholarships, links, application needs and due dates.

# Be Awesome takes on teen empowerment, involvement

By Jiselle Diaz

Teenagers find it difficult to feel empowered.

According to one study, 57 percent of teens have experienced persistent feelings of sadness, rage and hopelessness. This adds to a misconception I notice among teens of this generation; some think being angry about an issue means they are empowered.

This mindset is saying anger is power, and that is not true. It can seem quite difficult to grow as a teen in such a time like this. However, it’s not impossible.

Let’s get personal. My name is Jiselle Diaz and I am Miss City of Maricopa’s Outstanding Teen 2019. I recently became a member of Be Awesome Youth Coalition. My platform is “Be the Lighthouse: Teen Empowerment,” which is about empowering teens through leadership, service and kindness.



Jiselle Diaz

During my first two years of high school my family was going through extensive changes, causing me to behave in a reclusive, depressive way due to similar feelings of rage and sadness. I did not want to make new friends or try new things, and I experienced constant anxiety attacks.

I was invited to join Link Crew, where I learned mentorship skills and I helped prepare and guide 16 freshmen for high school. This program gave me the inspiration to develop my platform. I partnered with Be Awesome because everything they stand for fits with my cause perfectly.

Leadership is a skill all teens should learn. Serving others and being kind is always the right thing to do. It is so important to be involved in your community because of how empowering it is. Fortunately, it’s easy to do that in Maricopa.

## 5 Ways to Get Involved

1. Get an internship. They provide great experience and look awesome on college resumes.
2. Join a church youth group. Get to know other people just like you and make lifelong friends.
3. Volunteer at your local food bank, host a clothing drive, etc. Help those in need and make a difference.
4. Get involved in an organization in your community/school. (Hint, hint: Be Awesome!)
5. Start your own organization or club. This is an amazing way to spread a message and gather others around something you believe in.

My favorite ways of getting involved in the community have been musically performing and being a titleholder in the Miss City of Maricopa Scholarship Organization where I’m given the opportunity to serve my community. I highly encourage you to get involved.

Shine your light, be empowered, and be awesome, teens.

# Central Arizona College Maricopa Campus – Your Community College

By Angela Askey, Executive Director Public Relations and Marketing

The Central Arizona College (CAC) Maricopa Campus (17945 N. Regent Dr., Maricopa, AZ 85138) is a full-service campus featuring a student center, library, state-of-the-art classrooms and labs, and administrative offices.

CAC empowers its students and staff to succeed by providing a TRUE Learning community. The college offers a full array of academic degrees and certificates such as culinary arts, early childhood education, and business among others. Community members are provided multiple learning opportunities through career training, personal enrichment classes, online and university transfer courses, continuing education, and lifelong learning classes.

Lifelong Learning offers a variety of non-credit workshops, seminars and courses in areas such as fine arts, fitness, computers, languages, music, dance, photography, and



life enrichment. There are no entrance requirements for community education courses beyond an interest in the subject. Classes begin throughout the semester and vary in length and cost. A schedule of classes offered can be viewed online at [www.centralaz.edu/commed](http://www.centralaz.edu/commed).

The Maricopa Campus hosts various community events each year. For a complete

listing of all CAC Community Events offered throughout the year at the Maricopa Campus, please visit [www.EventsAtCAC.com](http://www.EventsAtCAC.com). At this portal, you may RSVP to free events and purchase tickets for ticketed events. Offerings for the 2019-2020 academic year are being developed and will be available after August 1.

Enrollment is currently taking place for Fall 2019. Classes begin on August 19. Advisors are available to help students develop their educational path. To schedule an appointment with an advisor, please call (520) 494-6400 or explore all of the options that CAC has to offer at [www.centralaz.edu](http://www.centralaz.edu).



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

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# Exceptional Seniors

High school graduates will hit the ground running



The class of 2019 at Maricopa High School and Sequoia Pathway Academy is filled with many goal-oriented, career-minded individuals. Learn about just a few of them as they prepare for graduation.

The MHS graduation ceremony is scheduled for May 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Ram Stadium. Valedictorian is Chandler Change, and salutatorian is Alexis Jackson. The SPA ceremony is May 22 at 7 p.m. in its gymnasium. Valedictorian is Britney Garcia-Coyolt, and salutatorian is Nina Sarappo.

Among this year's graduating seniors are (from left): Nina Sarappo of Sequoia Pathway Academy, Nancy Saldana of Maricopa High School, Britney Garcia-Coyolt of SPA and Nathan Wallin of MHS.

## JONATHAN AGUILAR

An MHS senior, Aguilar has been a student-athlete and taken college-level classes to prepare for his next step. "My high school career has gone by so fast, and I have accomplished a lot."

**Years in Maricopa:** 8

**Originally from:** Downey, California

**Career goal:** Civil engineering

**Self-made advantage:** I have taken dual-enrollment classes the past couple of years.

**Work/internship/volunteerism:** I work at The Duke golf course and I volunteer with Link Crew at Maricopa High School.

**High school achievement:** My greatest achievement would be having good grades throughout high school and playing varsity sports (golf and baseball).

**After graduation:** I plan on attending Arizona State's Ira A. Fulton's Engineering School and study civil engineering and minor in finance.



Jonathan Aguilar

## CHANDLER CHANG

The MHS valedictorian has been out front leading the band and taking tough classes to set himself up for a full-ride scholarship. "It's an ongoing sense of fulfillment, every moment of every day. I have a whole community supporting me and encouraging me to succeed and excel. It's like the entire student body and staff is with me in my highest moments, and even my lowest moments. I have made a name for myself and have built a legacy that will endure. I couldn't ask for anything more."

**Years in Maricopa:** 14

**Originally from:** Elk Grove Village, Illinois

**Career goal:** Mathematics/chemical engineering

**Work/internships/volunteerism:** Drum major of MHS marching band, Junior States of America, National Honor Society, part-time employee at McDonald's



Chandler Chang

**Self-made advantage:** I have received the Flinn Scholarship, which provides me with a four-year, full-ride scholarship to ASU as well as professional connections and mentorship. At MHS, I have taken the most rigorous mathematics and science courses available, earning college credit through AP courses.

**High school achievement:** Becoming a student role model for MHS

**After graduation:** I plan to attend ASU to major in mathematics and chemical engineering and explore various research opportunities and internships. While I will always be on the academic grind, I also want to take time to have fun, socialize and enjoy my youth while I still have it.

## BRIAN FORKUM JR.

A member of National Honor Society at MHS, Forkum has already been involved academically with Northern Arizona University while staying in touch with his roots.

**Years in Maricopa:** 12

**Originally from:** Born in Mesa, but I grew up here. I call this place home.

**Career goal:** Become tenured professor in history and philosophy

**Self-made advantage:** I attended college at NAU for three summers through the Nizhoni (Navajo for "Beautiful") Academy. I also



Brian Forkum Jr.

interact with teachers and try to understand how they chose their careers and why.

**Work/internship/volunteerism:** I was an intern for Dr. Cindy Browder at NAU. I volunteer a lot in Maricopa, especially as an NHS member.

**High school achievement:** Personal growth, from a quiet freshman to a comfortable and self-assured senior.

**After graduation:** Continue studying, explore the world, meet new people and help others when I can.



Britney Garcia-Coyolt

## BRITNEY GARCIA-COYOLT

Valedictorian of the Sequoia Pathway Class of 2019, Britney has had a very busy high school experience including earning certification in Medical Office Management. "I remember completing my exam and anxiously waiting for my results to come in and as soon as I saw my results I was completely ecstatic and so proud because all the hard work that had paid off."

**Years in Maricopa:** 17

**Originally from:** Maricopa

**Career goal:** Interventional radiologist

**Work/internships/volunteerism:** Two Internships at Sun Life Family Health Center

**Self-made advantage:** I currently attend Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology and I am in the Medical Assistant Program. CAVIT was a stepping stone to be able to get into the medical field and to be able to expand my knowledge. Thanks to that I have been able to complete two internships at the Sun Life Family Health Center here in Maricopa and I completely loved it. I am also currently dual-enrolled with CAC so that I can get ahead on some of my basic classes.

**High school achievement:** Personally, receiving my Medical Office Management Certification was the greatest accomplishment that I received during high school that I worked really hard for.

**After graduation:** I hope to be able to continue my education at ASU.



Graduates



Alexis Jackson

ALEXIS JACKSON

The salutatorian of the MHS graduates, Alexis has taken advantage of opportunities for medical training while staying involved in campus politics. “I am extremely blessed and thankful for the support from my friends and family who helped me obtain these achievements, I am eager to see what my career path and future hold.”

**Years in Maricopa:** 16

**Originally from:** Mesa, Arizona

**Career goal:** Nurse practitioner

**Self-made advantage:** While taking steps towards reaching my end goal of becoming a nurse practitioner, Maricopa High School has provided me with a Sports Medicine program and Athletic Training internship where I have gained insight into the medical field.

**Work/internships/volunteerism:** National Honor Society member, Student Body president, Student Council experience for nine years, athletic training internship, microbiologist (water quality) intern, ALA Girls’ State attendee, civil engineering job shadow

**High school achievement:** Earning the Wildcat Excellence scholarship that has paid all my tuition costs at the University of Arizona, as well as getting involved in my community through Student Council.

**After graduation:** I intend to major in nursing at the University of Arizona.

BRIANNA N. MCVEY

A relative newbie at MHS, Bree has interned with Maricopa Police Department to prepare for her chosen field and was also sent to Girls State. “I was proud to know that I was given such an amazing opportunity.”

**Years in Maricopa:** 2.5

**Originally from:** Born in California but lived in Peoria, Arizona.

**Career goal:** Work for the FBI or be a detective

**Self-made advantage:** Interning at Maricopa Police Department

**Work/internships/volunteerism:** I have worked with CopaCloset at MHS and local food banks, I am a captain in the JROTC program, a link leader and an MPD high school intern.

**High school achievement:** One of my biggest accomplishments is going to Girls State last summer.

**After graduation:** I am attending University of Arizona to study criminology.



Brianna N. McVey

CONNOR PAINE

With a goal of being a doctor, Connor is also an MHS student-athlete who switched to wrestling his senior year and made it to state. “I was ecstatic because I had worked so hard for months to make it there and I had finally met that goal.”



Connor Paine

**Years in Maricopa:** 7

**Originally from:** Champaign, Illinois

**Career goal:** Pediatrician

**Self-made advantage:** I have begun studying anatomy and physiology to gain a basic understanding of the human body before attending the University of Arizona, majoring in pre-physiology.

**Work/internships/volunteerism:** Two years at Barro’s Pizza as a cook and two years of volunteering through NHS for various community events

**High school achievement:** My greatest accomplishment in high school is qualifying for the AIA Division 2 State Wrestling Tournament my senior year.

**After graduation:** Attending the University of Arizona and majoring in pre-physiology. After college, I plan to attend medical school and become a pediatrician.



Nancy Denise Saldana

NANCY DENISE SALDANA

Chairing the Youth Council, she pushed herself to be involved in school activities and the community at large. “It became my greatest accomplishment because ever since then every opportunity to be involved, to serve, to show school spirit I took, and through that I gained close relationships with the community, staff and gained amazing friendships. It really gave me a reason to smile at school every day.”

**Years in Maricopa:** I've lived in Maricopa for 7 years and love it

**Originally from:** Baja California, Mexico

**Career Goal:** My goal is to be happy in what I do every day. I love being involved and talking to people, so that’s why I’ve chosen to further my education in mass communications

**Work/internships/volunteerism:** I’ve been a member of the Maricopa Youth Council and currently work as a respite and habilitation provider.

**High school achievement:** This last year I just made the decision to make it the best year it can be.

**Self-made advantage:** I've taken every opportunity around school or the city to use skills I would need in my future career such as promoting events and reaching out to others and have found local internships.

**After graduation:** Straight out of high school I plan to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, then attend a university to further my career in mass communications and media.



Nina Sarappo

NINA SARAPPO

Sequoia Pathway’s salutatorian, Nina ingratiated herself with people working in political fields and took dual-enrollment classes starting as a freshman. “My reaction to finding out that I am salutatorian was rewarding myself by eating a whole box of Strawberry Pop-tarts.”

**Years in Maricopa:** 9

**Originally from:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Career goal:** Politics

**Work/internships/volunteerism:** I was treasurer for National Honor Society in 11th grade and our small group organized several volunteer and community-oriented activities. As a senior, I participated in the City of Maricopa internship program which granted me experience in local government.

**Self-made advantage:** Reading about political philosophy and history helped me shape my own beliefs about what needs to be changed in American government. Although certain ideas are subject to

change or evolve, they certainly fuel my own passion to take a political career seriously. Throughout high school, I developed excellent connections with individuals involved in political predictions and reporting.

**High school achievement:** My greatest accomplishment in high school is graduating second in my class. I have been a dual-enrollment student with Central Arizona College since ninth grade, taking college classes along with high school curriculum and during the summers. Responsibilities and problems outside of the classroom did not hinder my dedication to education and schoolwork. Also, I was low-carb for three months: That was impressive.

**After graduation:** I will be attending Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University as a philosophy (morality, politics and law) major. I am eager to learn about the subjects that interest me at a higher level and refine my critical thinking and argumentative skills to prepare me for my career aspirations as a politician. Outside of school, I want to travel to Europe, specifically Albania, to reconnect with my heritage.

KIMBERLY VEGA-SANCHEZ

A member of the National Honor Society at MHS, Kimberly has turned her hard work in the classroom into scholarships. “It makes me proud to think that I've managed to work a busy schedule, get schoolwork done and volunteer in my free time while keeping my grades up.”

**Years in Maricopa:** 12 years

**From:** California

**Career goal:** Corporate lawyer

**Work/internships/volunteerism:** I've worked at Panda Express this past year and volunteer with the school’s National Honor Society.

**High school achievement:** Apart from the scholarships and awards, I would have to say my greatest accomplishment in



Kimberly Vega-Sanchez

high school has been having the ability to balance it all throughout these four years and seeing how my hard work has paid off.

**After graduation:** I'll be attending ASU this fall to study at the W.P. Carey School of business. This will provide me the opportunity to receive internships, expand my connections, and learn the versatile fundamentals of business and legal expertise to help gain the knowledge needed to become a corporate lawyer.



Nathan Wallin

NATHAN WALLIN

As president of Junior State of America at MHS, Nathan became organizer and leader for community events, including political forums, for which he was awarded by the vice mayor. “I was so surprised to see myself up there with such amazing young leaders from our community but felt very gratified to be seen as a good member to our community and was able to tell people how thankful I was to be here and to listen to their stories and passions.”

**Years in Maricopa:** 8

**Originally from:** Spokane, Washington

**Career goal:** Traveling nurse

**Work/internships/volunteering:** I work at Copper Sky as a lifeguard and swim instructor.

**Self-made advantage:** I've done very good in high school in order to receive the top 10-percent scholarship for CAC, giving two free years of college, which is just enough to get me into nursing school.

**High school achievement:** Being one of the recipients of the first MLK Youth Dreamer Award presented to me by Henry Wade.

**After graduation:** I plan on expanding my knowledge of the world by meeting and talking to as many people as I can while attending CAC in the fall to purse a degree in nursing.





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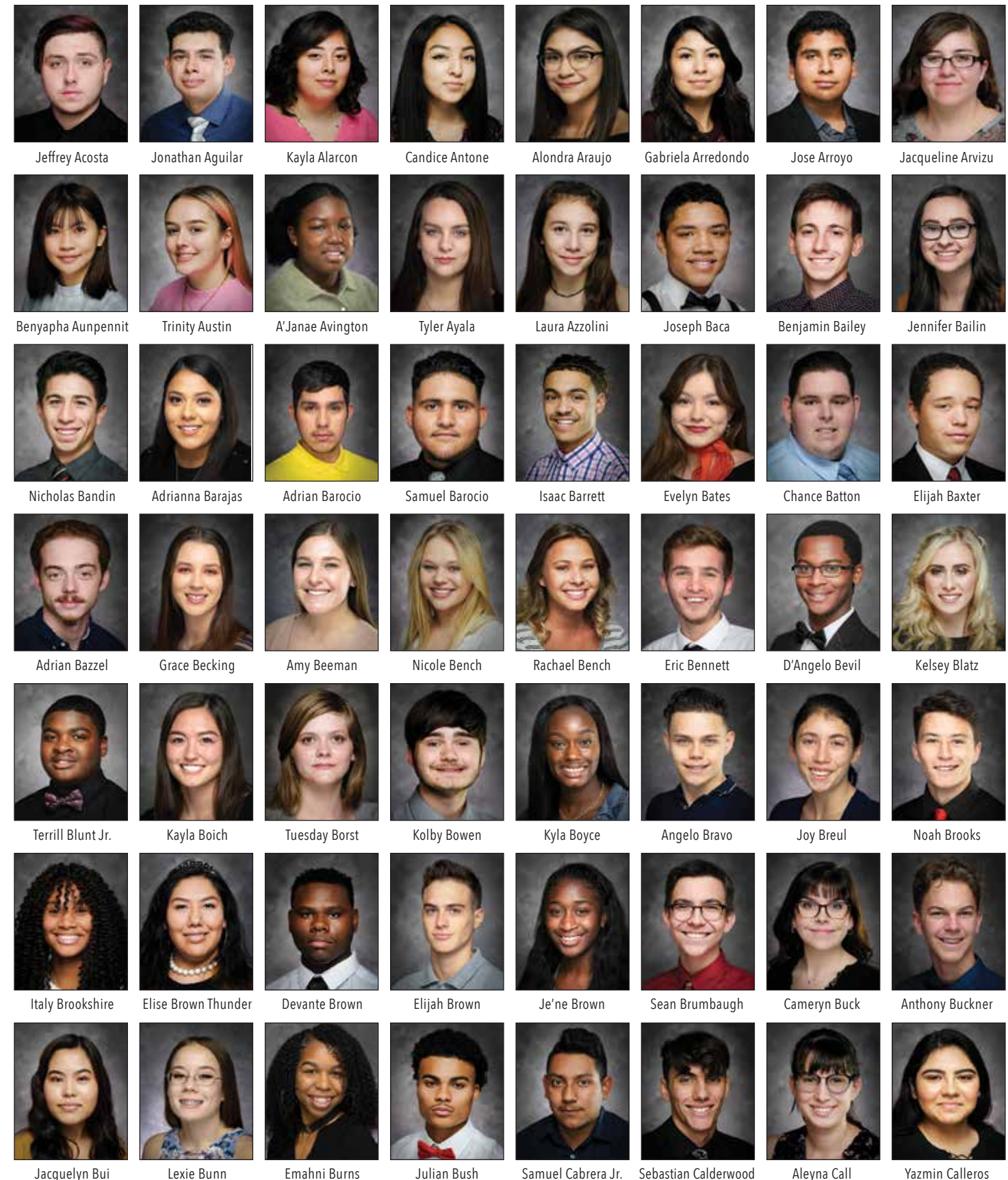
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- 1 Missing man found deceased
- 2 Schrader found miles from his car
- 3 Man reports theft of \$17 million, arrested on warrant
- 4 Judge mulls 'garage murder' suspect's claims against MPD
- 5 ADOT to conduct I-11 impact study in Maricopa Planning Area
- 6 Global, Apex, City to extend water main down SR 238
- 7 Overpass could open to traffic in late June
- 8 Self-storage complex owners try to stop proposed competition
- 9 Intruder who was shot by homeowner booked into jail
- 10 O'Halleran concerned about Mueller report

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Fox Cottrell Shannon Coutr  Jacob Cowing Jeremy Coyle Greg Crabajales Isaiah Crawford Sydney Crawford Hunter Crawford-Finn



Madison Creamer Lizette Cruz Jordan Cummings Aidyn Curtis Jimmy Cutajar Alana Daniels Bailey Davis Gregory Davis



Priscilla Davis Tiffany Davis Katelyn Dayley Lucas Dial Khandi Dillard Jasmin Dimas Brody DiPasquale Skylar Dugan



Rocco Duke McKenzie Durovka Eddy Dusa Devyn Dutra Katrina Eldridge Mary Ellsworth Haley Enos Kourtney Erick



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Peyton Glen Dillian Godley Jesus Gomez Emily Goncalves Antonio Gonzales Elden Gonzalez Tyla Gooden Duane Gordan



Quenten Gordon Evan Grace Walter Greer Alexia Griego Tyler Griego Gabriela Gutierrez Daisy Guzman Jaime Hall



Kassidy Hamlett Joshua Hammans Tamara Hanania Isaiah Hawkins Lance Heckadon Hannah Heinrich David Henderson David Borboa Hernandez



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MHS seniors not pictured:

Allen, JennaRae  
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Anderson, Emily  
Anguiano, Samantha  
Antonio, Meladine  
Arellano, Emily  
Armenta Valenzuela, Joel  
Beaumont, Shane  
Benally, Dewayne  
Cacpal, Alden  
Carlyle, Mariah  
Carrigan, Reilly  
Castro Ramirez, Jose  
Ceja, Gerardo  
Chavis, Destinee  
Diaz, Jorge  
Downes, Keishaun  
Dusenberry, Cheyenne  
Edens, Julia  
Enos, Elaina  
Flores, Kayla  
Forsyth-Ortiz, Shaylee  
Fountaine, Arionna  
Garcia, D'Andre  
Garcia, Davin  
Garcia, Doria  
Garcia, Jalen  
Garcia, Sean  
Garcia, Serina  
Gastelum, Jesus  
Glover, Henry  
Guerrero, Matthew  
Guidry, Jada  
Guillory, Camille  
Guzman Bedoya, Luis  
Hennigar, Paige  
Hill, LeeAnthony

Huddleston, Jordan  
Hughes, Nathaniel  
Inscore, Tyler  
Isaacs, Charles  
Johnson, Jayla  
Johnson, Joseph  
Jones, Jada  
Jurado, Anthony  
Justin, Earl  
Kelly, Mackenzie  
Keyack, Chloe  
Khliu, Danny  
Koenig, Christian  
Lopez, Bethany  
Luna Garcia, Karina  
Maldonado, Elijah  
Maldonado, Madison  
Mariscal Torres, Edgar  
Martinez, Albert  
Mason, Sarah  
Maxwell, Brendan  
McAfee, Essence  
McWilliams, Kassandra  
Melendez, Cesario  
Mendes-Castillejo, Anthony  
Minisee, Kevin  
Mullenix, Hunter  
Muniz, Gabriel  
Narcia, Aiyana  
Narcia, Isaiah  
Nieto, Alex  
Ortega, Mario  
Ortiz, Alberto  
Partridge, Isaiah  
Pearson, Stefon  
Pepper, Averi  
Perry, Bryce  
Platero, Adela

Pulver, Jonathon  
Ramirez, David  
Riley-Coleman, Tylen  
Rios, Chelsea  
Roberts, Fransico  
Robinaugh, Warner  
Rodriguez, Antonio  
Ruiz, Angela  
Salazar, Gabriel  
Salter, Isaiah  
Samayoa, Evan  
Sanchez, Michael  
Santana, Emily  
Sauceda, Clarissa  
Sauro, Seth  
Schlueter, Broc  
Serrano, Meyah  
Sessler, Daylyn  
Shaw, Ramia  
Smith, Destry  
Stanley, Chy'Anne  
Swapshire, Angelica  
Tapia, Brian  
Thibault, Damon  
Thomas, Dallas  
Thomas Jr., Theodore  
Tuggle, Maurtel  
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Vargas-Zavala, Lazaro  
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Vasquez Jimenez, Linda  
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Yarrito, Kye  
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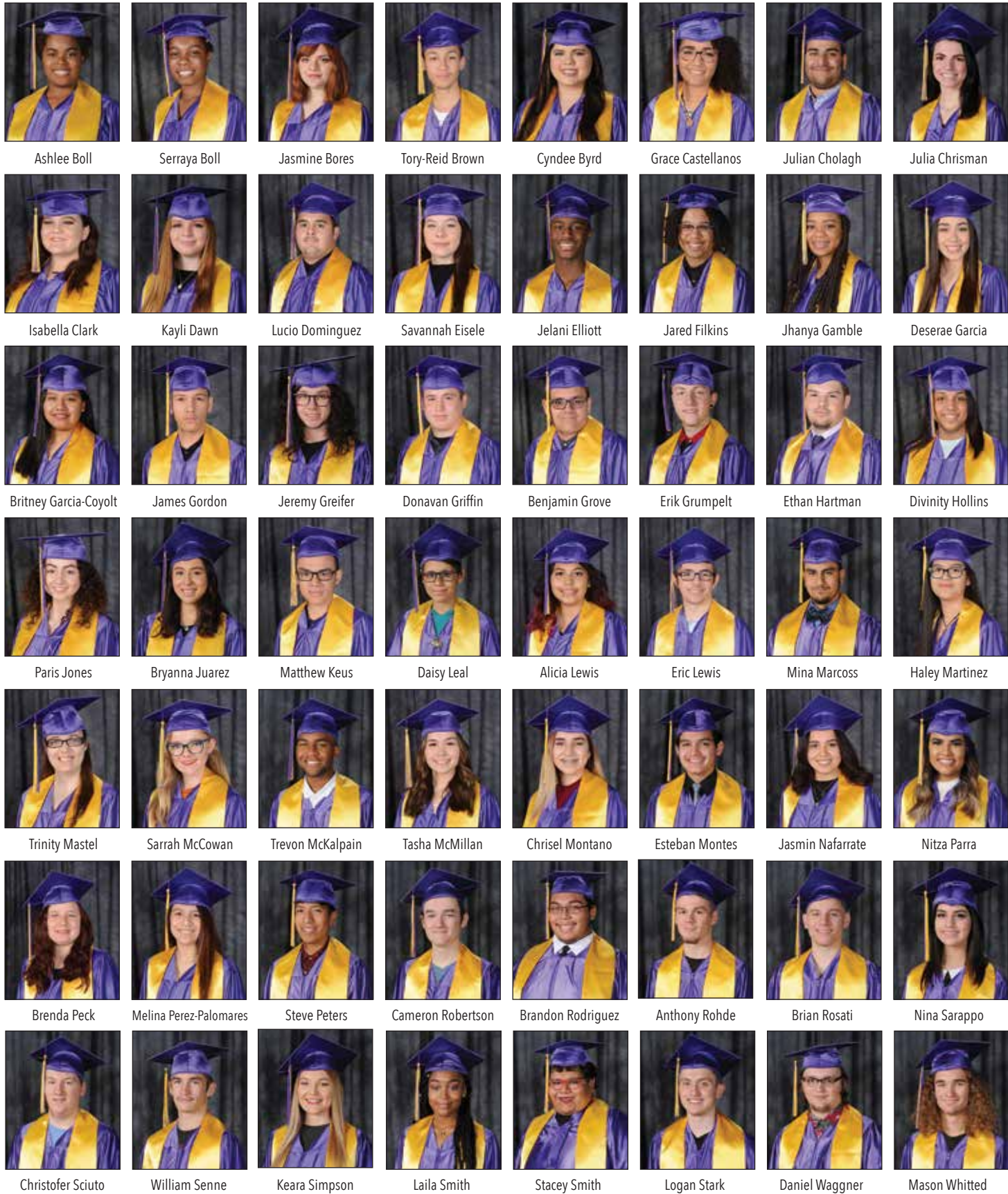


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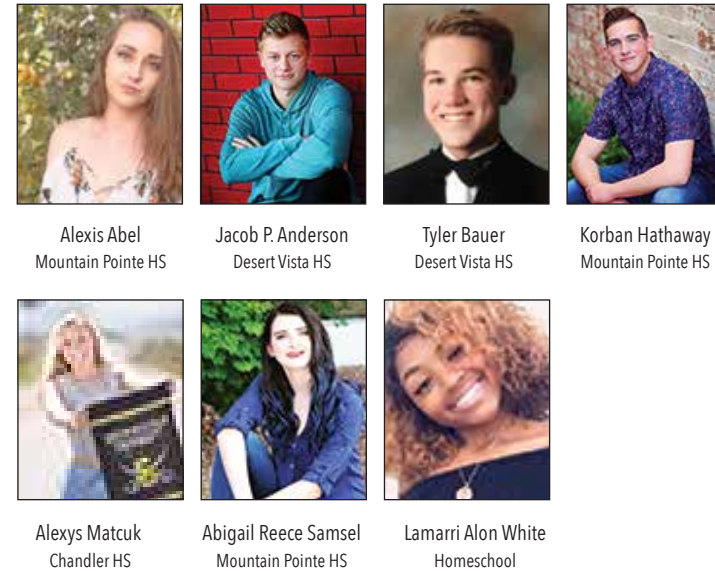




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- Susan M., Heritage Parent



Gardening

# Put an end to those weeds

By Beth Groshart

Before you can remove the weeds from your flower beds and your vegetable garden you need to identify the weeds, so they can be managed properly.

Once identified, you can effectively learn their growing habits and develop an efficient strategy for controlling them. There are many varieties of weeds, but there are only three kinds: Annual, perennial and biennial.

**Annual Weeds:** About 80 percent of the weeds you find in your yard are annual plants. They live and die in a single season and reproduce only by seed. As you may discover, their survival is protected in two ways. First, they produce an amazing number of seeds. Additionally, annual weed seeds have the ability to remain in dormancy for years before sprouting. This natural

tendency protects seeds from germinating in poor soil or unfavorable climate conditions.

**Perennial Weeds:** These are defined as plants that live at least three years, but they can actually survive much longer. Just like the annuals, they produce seeds but also produce “runners” or underground roots. Perennials are the most annoying weeds we may encounter during our growing season because there are not only simple perennials, but also creeping perennials and bulbous perennials, as well.

**Biennial Weeds:** This group includes some winter annual weeds and grass weeds. Biennials live for two seasons and grow only roots, stems and leaves close to the ground the first year. The second year they produce upright stems that bear flowers and seeds. Like winter annuals, they usually germinate between midsummer and early fall with leaves close to the ground, and then the following spring flowers shoot up and produce the seeds.



From this information you might say “a weed is a weed is a weed” – until you try to remove it from the garden. Your best strategy in dealing with weeds is prevention. Treat your planting area just as you would if addressing an insect infestation or plant disease problem.

Try to keep your growing area healthy and watered as necessary. If you do not want to use chemicals (especially around pets or children) you can try mulching around your plants. This smothers the weeds but still allows your plants to grow.

Then patrol your planting area on a regular basis to remove weed sprouts and mature weeds. The best removal technique is to pull the weed out by the root, completely removing it before it can go to seed.

Growing plants in Arizona is a year-long project. It can be so enjoyable if you can just keep those darn weeds out. ☎

Beth Groshart is a Rancho El Dorado resident and a member of the Maricopa Master Gardeners.



Beth Groshart

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WHO'S THE BEST DAD IN MARICOPA?

Watch InMaricopa.com for our annual Best Dad in Maricopa contest in June. You will be able to nominate your dad by telling us why he's the best. Readers will then vote for their favorites. The dad with the most "likes" will win.

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## Home Sales

**MOST  
EXPENSIVE  
HOME SOLD**

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

**1.40946 W. Desert Fairways Drive, The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado**
**LEAST  
EXPENSIVE  
HOME SOLD**
**1. 43535 W. Colby Drive, Rancho El Dorado**

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa from March 16 through April 15 was a cozy, two-bedroom, 17-year-old house in Rancho El Dorado. It went for \$100 over its original asking price. It included a landscaped yard, new air conditioner and fresh paint.

**Sold:** March 29  
**Purchase** price: \$160,000  
**Square** footage: 981  
**Price** per square foot: \$163.09  
**Days** on market: 32  
**Builder:** Shea Homes  
**Year** built: 2002  
**Bedrooms:** 2  
**Bathrooms:** 2

**Community:** Rancho El Dorado  
**Features:** New carpet, upgraded kitchen cabinets, covered patio, landscaping with flagstone  
**Listing** Agent: Eileen Shapiro, Long Realty Partners  
**Selling** Agent: Karen Braaten, Judson Real Estate

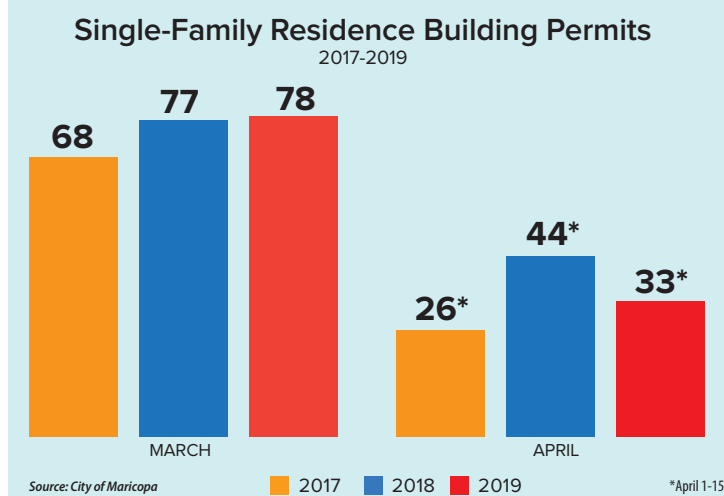
2. 45526 W. Windmill Drive, Maricopa Meadows.....\$167,900
3. 46025 W. Windmill Drive, Maricopa Meadows.....\$169,000
4. 42326 W. Farrell Road.....\$169,900
5. 36134 W. Olivo St., Tortosa.....\$169,900

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa from March 16 through April 15 was a lakeside, two-story home that is just 6 years old. It sold for \$42,000 more than its previous sale price in 2014. With five bedrooms and a three-car garage, its original asking price was \$349,900. It was on the market more than three months.

**Sold:** March 27  
**Purchase** price: \$342,000  
**Square** footage: 3,656  
**Price** per square foot: \$93.54  
**Days** on market: 95  
**Builder:** Unknown  
**Year** built: 2013  
**Bedrooms:** 5  
**Bathrooms:** 4  
**Community:** The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado

**Features:** Easy access to fishing lake, oversized kitchen, full master suite, upstairs loft, granite countertops  
**Listing** Agent: Kelly Cook, Keller Williams Arizona Realty  
**Selling** Agent: Ninos Lazar, Investar Real Estate Specialist  
**Real Estate Group**  
**Selling Agent:** Kristen Petronio, Platinum Living Realty

2. 43995 W. Adobe Circle, Cobblestone Farms.....\$325,000
3. 20450 N. Lauren Road, Homestead North.....\$305,000
4. 40840 W. Wade Drive, The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado.....\$305,000
5. 19343 N. Ventana Lane, Glennville.....\$303,000



Jim Headley

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## How your lived-in home can compete with new builds

By Dayv Morgan

When you are trying to sell your home in Maricopa, it may be frustrating to realize you are competing not only against other resale homes on the market but also many brand-new houses with all-new amenities. Here are some points to keep in mind while making your lived-in home shine among recent builds.

Price is always a top issue. Maricopans like a bargain. If your house, whatever its age, is priced correctly, it can compete against any home. Check out the price tags on new builds that are similar to your resale. The price per square foot of a new build is often higher than a resale.

You know your property. Beyond the disclosure statement required of resales, you know the quirks and the history. Since you bought your home, you learned whether the

backyard needs more shade and whether your west-facing windows need treatment against direct sun. These are things buyers of new homes still have to learn — and pay for.



Dayv Morgan

Don't be emotionally attached to your house, because builders aren't. Learn what builders are offering both in amenities and financing and get into a home-selling frame of mind.

Remember, most new homes don't come with backyard landscaping, window coverings, washer/dryer or ceiling fans. If those are investments you've already made in your resale, your home will look more move-in-ready. That's a big plus for a homebuyer without the resources to buy them.

Competing against brand-new homes with warranties, brand-new roofs and brand-new air conditioning should be the perfect incentive

to make your resale look and perform its absolute best. Take your Realtor's advice about decluttering, painting and upgrading very seriously. If anything is broken, fix it. If your home is critically dated, consider a remodel.

Resale homes are usually in established neighborhoods in established subdivisions with established streets and utilities. That is a large knowledge base for new owners to draw from. Realtors, HOAs, neighbors and you should know the history of local problems and how they have been resolved. You may have a template for correcting similar issues in the future. New homes on new streets come with a lot of unknowns.

Competition is always a stiff proposition in Maricopa real estate, but there is no need to be disheartened by the large number of shiny, newly finished houses coming on the market. A quality product at a fair price will gain any homebuyers respect. 📞

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

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### AFib

## What is atrial fibrillation – AFib?

By a Joan Koczor

Atrial fibrillation is the most common type of irregular or rapid heartbeat (arrhythmia) that can increase your risk for a stroke.

In AFib, the top portions of the heart (atria) beat out of sync with the lower portions. When the atria muscles tighten in an uncoordinated way (fibrillating), blood can pool in the heart and form clots. If a clot travels to the brain, it can cause a stroke. The upper and lower chambers of the heart should work as a team. That doesn't happen during AFib.



The earlier AFib is diagnosed, the easier and more effective treatment will be.

If you experience symptoms of AFib get medical help right away. Do not wait to see if the symptoms go away.

Lack of sleep, physical illness, stress and recent surgery are common triggers for AFib. Over-the-counter medications, dietary supplements, decongestants, an increase in physical activity and strong emotions (e.g. sadness, anxiety, fear) can cause your

heart to race or skip a beat.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Does your AFib come and go or is it persistent?
- How long have you been having symptoms?
- Do you have heart disease?
- What is your stroke risk?

Review your answers and any other concerns you may have with your doctor so he can determine what treatments options are right for you to control your AFib and avoid a stroke.

Treatment options that can restore heart rate can include rate-control medication, blood-thinners to prevent blood clots and surgery.

Medical treatment is only one part. Make daily decisions with your heart health in mind, which may mean eating a high-fiber, low-fat, low-sodium diet; taking daily walks; and losing a few pounds. And, perhaps most important, find ways to limit stress in your life.

Information is out there — just ask.



Joan Koczor

### AFib Symptoms

- Your heart races rather than beats and the feeling lasts for a few minutes or more.
- Shortness of breath
- Pain and pressure in your chest
- Trouble walking
- Difficulty speaking
- Difficulty seeing, sudden blurred vision
- Severe headache
- Confused
- Dizzy
- Feeling faint
- Sweaty
- Tired
- Weak

Source: Healthmonitor Dignity Health, Health Line

Joan Koczor is a senior advocate in Maricopa.

## Well-woman exams vital for early detection

By Jonathan Willms, DO  
Chair of OB/GYN, Sun Life Family Health Center

Prior to the development of the pap test, woman commonly developed cervical cancer and died from it. In the 1940s, the pap test was developed as a way to screen not only for cervical cancer but also the precancerous changes that could lead to cervical cancer. Now, significantly fewer women develop cervical cancer as a result of our ability to identify changes and target them so they cannot become cancerous.

The idea we can identify risk factors for illnesses and changes that could lead to serious health problems is what makes a well-woman exam so important. A well-woman visit is a focused visit where we screen for potentially dangerous conditions and discuss important topics like nutrition and exercise. Although these are very important to work through together, they can often be overlooked when women come in for problem-focused visits. The well-woman visit allows time to discuss these topics.



Jonathan Willms

The tests offered vary based on age and individual circumstances. Typically, testing for sexually transmitted infections is offered to woman of all ages. The pap test begins at age 21 and occurs every three to five years when normal. Screening mammograms start between age 40 and 50 but sometimes earlier, depending on family history of breast cancer. Screening for colon cancer should begin by age 50. Women in their 60s are often offered a test to screen for bone density to identify those at risk for fractures.

All these tests are designed to detect changes that, if left alone, could turn into cancer. It is always better to catch precancerous changes or early stage cancer than diagnose cancer later in its course. These screening tests have all been shown to be effective in reducing the risk of developing cancer.

Unfortunately, we do not have good screening tests to detect many cancers in their

earliest stages. I'm often asked about how we can screen for ovarian cancer. To date, there is no good screening test for ovarian cancer. We can, however, request a consultation with a genetic counselor when a woman's family history suggests an underlying genetic condition like the BRCA 1 or 2 mutations.

In addition, to screening for cancers, we discuss vaccines. One of the newer vaccines is the HPV vaccine, which covers women (and now men) against the most common strains of the human papilloma virus that causes genital warts and cancer. Not only is HPV associated with cervical cancer, but it also is linked to throat cancer, anal cancer and penile cancer in men. As more men and woman are vaccinated, these cancers will become a thing of the past.

I know, with a busy schedule, it is difficult to make time for things like a well-woman exam. It's easy to think if you feel fine you don't need to do it. However, if we're able to detect a potentially serious medical condition early or before it becomes a problem, you'll save yourself a lot of time in the end.



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Raquel Hendrickson

MAY 4

## Community art festival coming to Copper Sky

By Raquel Hendrickson



The inaugural Art for the Heart Festival is set for May 4 on the Great Lawn at Copper Sky.

Hoping to fill the void left by the dissolution of Art on the Veranda and Maricopa Arts Festival, a Maricopa High School program is coordinating the community art show. Graphic Design teacher Maria Pour said they want to have as many Maricopa artists as possible participating.

The coordination is in the hands of SkillsUSA students. That program mandates they be involved in creating and running a project that benefits a nonprofit, and the usual approach is to host a clothing drive or a food drive.

"But we wanted something that relates to us, to graphics and art," Pour said.

So, the young organizers are putting their skills to use in ways that have "real-world application," she said. Art for the Heart invites artists from all media to display and sell their works at the festival. Pour said 75 percent of proceeds will go to the American Heart Association, the rest to cover overhead.

A 10-by-10-foot booth space is \$60, and artists can bring their own tables. Painting, photography, drawing, sculpture, textiles and more are welcome from artists of all ages.

MHS had participated in Art on the Veranda, and Pour understood the challenges involved hosting a community art event. She has 15 students helping to staff Art for the Heart, from creating the plan to designing the logo or handing out water.

The additional challenge is participation, both by artists and art-lovers. Previous organizers have provided her with names of area artists, and she also seeks to reach out to Ak-Chin and Gila River artists.

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Art for the Heart Festival  
**When:** May 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**Where:** Copper Sky Regional Park, 44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
**How much:** Free to attend; \$60 to exhibit  
**Info:** 520-568-8100, ext. 4136

## Calendar

### MAY

1

**LEA Art Show**  
5:30 p.m., Leading Edge Academy  
18700 N. Porter Road

1-2

**"Fabulous Fable Factory"**  
6:30 p.m., Leading Edge Academy  
18700 N. Porter Road

4

**MUSD Music-a-Thon**  
All day, Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

### Royal Tea Party

1-3 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

6

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

7

**MHS Senior Awards Night**  
7 p.m., Maricopa Performing Arts Center  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

### City Council Meeting

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

8

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

### Copa City Dems Meeting

6:30 p.m., Copper Sky Police Substation  
17985 N. Greythorne Drive

9

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

**Native American Family Night**  
6 p.m., Maricopa Performing Arts Center  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

10-11

**MHS Spring Dance Recital**  
7 p.m., Maricopa Performing Arts Center  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

11

**Movies Under the Stars**  
7 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.

### Miscast Cabaret Gala

6:30 p.m., Global Water  
22590 W. Powers Parkway

### Dwight Yoakam

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

14

**Sequoia Pathway Senior Recognition Night**  
6 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy  
19287 N. Porter Road

15

**Blue Star Mothers Meeting**  
6:30 p.m., Maricopa Veterans Center  
44240 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway

16

**Zonta Club of Maricopa**  
5:30 p.m., Honeycutt Coffee  
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 109

17

**Senior Lunch & Learn**  
11:30 a.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

18

**Karate Charlie Demonstration**  
3 p.m., Maricopa Performing Arts Center  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

20

**Butterfield 5th Grade Promotion**  
9:15 a.m., Butterfield Elementary School  
43800 W. Honeycutt Road



MAY 11

Submitted

## Dwight Yoakam on stage at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

The inaugural Art for the Heart Festival is set for May 4 on the Great Lawn at Copper Sky.

Hoping to fill the void left by the dissolution of Art on the Veranda and Maricopa Arts Festival, a Maricopa High School program is coordinating the community art show. Graphic Design teacher Maria Pour said they want to have as many Maricopa artists as possible participating.

The coordination is in the hands of SkillsUSA students. That program mandates they be involved in creating and running a project that benefits a nonprofit, and the usual approach is to host a clothing drive or a food drive.

"But we wanted something that relates to us, to graphics and art," Pour said.

So, the young organizers are putting their skills to use in ways that have "real-world application," she said. Art for the Heart invites artists from all media to display and sell their works at the festival. Pour said 75 percent of proceeds will go to the American Heart Association, the rest to cover overhead.

A 10-by-10-foot booth space is \$60, and artists can bring their own tables. Painting, photography, drawing, sculpture, textiles and more are welcome from artists of all ages.

MHS had participated in Art on the Veranda, and Pour understood the challenges involved hosting a community art event. She has 15 students helping to staff Art for the Heart, from creating the plan to designing the logo or handing out water.

The additional challenge is participation, both by artists and art-lovers. Previous organizers have provided her with names of area artists, and she also seeks to reach out to Ak-Chin and Gila River artists.

### IF YOU GO

**Who:** Dwight Yoakam  
**When:** May 11, 8 p.m.  
**Where:** Harrah's Ak-Chin Events Center, 15406 N. Maricopa Road  
**Ages:** All  
**How much:** \$44.50-\$84.50  
**Info:** Ticket-master.com



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## Calendar

**21**

**Pima Butte 5th Grade Promotion**

6 p.m., Pima Butte  
Elementary School  
42202 W. Rancho El  
Dorado Parkway

**City Council Meeting**

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

**22**

**Sequoia Pathway Graduation**

7 p.m., Sequoia  
Pathway Academy  
19287 N. Porter Road

**23**

**Maricopa Elementary  
5th Grade Promotion**

9 a.m., Maricopa  
Elementary School  
18150 N. Alterra Parkway

**LEA 8th Grade Promotion**

10:30 a.m., Leading  
Edge Academy  
18700 N. Porter Road

**Maricopa High School  
Graduation**

7:30 p.m., Ram Stadium  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**25**

**Movies Under the Stars**

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

**SUNDAYS**

**Narcotics Anonymous**

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

**MONDAYS-FRIDAYS**

**Senior Drop-In**

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

**MONDAYS**

**Senior Bowling**

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

**Narcotics Anonymous**

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

**Parents of Addicted  
Loved Ones (PAL)**

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

**TUESDAYS**

**Celebrate Recovery**

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

**WEDNESDAYS**

**Babytime**

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

**Harrah's Club 777 Toastmasters**

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

**S.M.A.R.T. Kids**

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

**Maricopa Police Explorer  
Post Meeting**

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

**THURSDAYS**

**Family Story Time**

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

**Narcotics Anonymous**

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

**FRIDAYS**

**Al-Anon Meeting**

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



**MAY  
10-11**

File

## MHS dancers to perform 2-night show

Think you can dance? These kids can.

Maricopa High School dance students present their spring dance recital May 10-11.

"Choose Your Own Adventure" contains 31 pieces, with 23 of the numbers choreographed by students. Like the children's book series, dance director Alexandra Biggs has allowed them complete artistic freedom in their choice of songs, costumes and genres.

"It's been amazing as a director to watch them work and explore their artistic voices," she said. "They've been working so hard, and I am beyond proud of them."

The student choreographers are mainly members of the school's Dance Performance Company, with five from Biggs' Intermediate Dance 2 class.

"We have everything from jazz, contemporary, modern, hip-hop, musical theater and ballet included in this year's show," Biggs said. "New to this show are several solo pieces, which are being performed and choreographed by the students. We also have brand new costumes for all of our large class pieces."

The box office opens at 6 p.m., and showtime is 7 p.m. The shows are often sellouts.

**IF YOU GO**

**What:** MHS

**Dance Show**

**When:** May 10-11,  
7 p.m.

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

**How much:** \$7/  
adults, \$5/  
students, children  
and seniors 65+  
**Info:** 520-568-8100



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For details on these and other local events — and to list  
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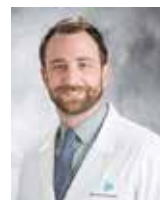
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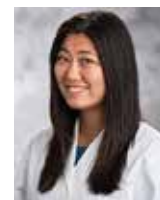
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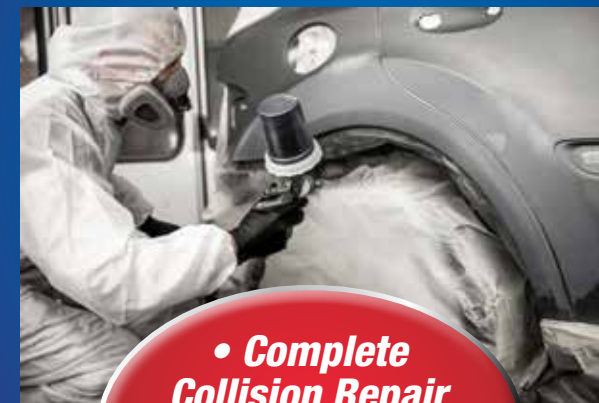
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