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Tanner, Cutter and David Parks (from left) all competed in the American Poolplayers Association Junior Championships in St. Louis in July.



Mason Callejas

LEADING OFF

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37 SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION



ON THE COVER: Quarterback Jordan Huddleston practices with the Maricopa High School Rams ahead of a football season that begins Aug. 17.

Photo by Victor Moreno



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Sports, politics heating up

It is August. That means election season is upon us and so is high school sports fall season.

In this issue of InMaricopa, half the publication is dedicated to election information important to the Aug. 28 primary and beyond. Flip the magazine to start from the beginning. See who's running, learn some background on the candidates, and find out what the elected officials do after they take the oath of office.

There is also a reminder of how and when to vote.

For a topic less brutal than politics, InMaricopa caught up with new Maricopa High School football coach Brandon Harris and new Athletic Director Jake Neill to learn what kind of program they mean to build.

Also in this issue, meet the Parks family and their teen triplets who are leaving a mark on junior billiards.

Meet 30-year resident Rick Brower, who has simply led a life that has been anything but simple. He knows a lot about agriculture, as does the Ibarra Family, whose plans for a hydroponic facility are explained in these pages.



After the City of Maricopa opted to close its business incubator, InMaricopa looked at the leftover, federally funded loans that remain outstanding from the programs of Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship and on the City's books.

In our Senior Living section, learn about the new Medicare card, take steps to stay mentally fit and see what coverage is available for home healthcare.

Master Gardener Julie Olson offers tips for planning your fall garden in Maricopa, and Realtor Dayv Morgan looks at the impact of solar panels on resale value.

That and much more is packed into this month's issue.

Happy reading,

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1954 8th Grade Graduation at Maricopa Elementary School

Decades before Maricopa incorporated, the center of the community was the school. Some of these fresh faces may still be familiar to long-time residents.

Front row:

1. Frances Brown
2. Trini Sanchez
3. Linda Miller
4. Roberta Tow
5. Alice Fay Suiter
6. Edna Farrell
7. Rosemary Peters
8. Kathy Conner

5. Dean Green

6. Jimmy Matheny
7. Ray Hernandez
8. Vern Rhoton

Back row:

1. Harry Goodman
2. Dorothy Reed
3. Gerlene Sadler
4. Carrol Hamon
5. Billy Tow
6. Marvin Enos
7. Craig Cooper
8. Henry Bandin
9. Johnny White

Middle row:

1. Goldie Mullins
2. Jean Thornhill
3. Norma Ruth Blackwood
4. Mollie Norris



Courtesy Maricopa Historical Society

Contributors



MASON CALLEJAS

The InMaricopa staff multimedia specialist had fun lining up pool shots with the guys, using the centralized lighting of a pool room against dark shadows to capture the Parks brothers. *Page 8*



MURRAY SIEGEL

With a Ph.D. in math education, the school volunteer has usually written about serious education issues but now finishes his series on local school principals. *Page 15*



AL BRANDENBURG

An advocate for a local senior center, Brandenburg writes about a worry of many aging residents like himself — what Medicare may pay for if they need home caregiving. *Page 27*



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Staff at Volkswagen in Maricopa helped pack meals for the charity Generosity Feeds July 11. *Submitted*



Maricopa Fire/Medical Department firefighters put out a fire July 2 in an Alterra home that was a complete loss. *Michelle Chance*



Sandra Muñoz was among shoppers during the grand opening of Ross Dress for Less on July 21. *Michelle Chance*



Local magician Kaden Kruz, a contestant on America's Got Talent, performed at Maricopa Public Library July 12. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Mike Blankenship of Greenlight Traffic Engineering talks to Maricopans about SR 347 congestion during a Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning event July 12. *Raquel Hendrickson*

Rancher, soldier, minister: Rick Brower's life of changes

By Fran Lyons

Rick Brower has stories steeped in Arizona history, especially Maricopa history. He'll tell you his philosophy for life is, "Keep it simple. Be close to nature. Be close to what matters most to you." While not necessarily living "a simple life," his easy-going style and relaxed attitude give credence to his words. Brower and his family have lived in the Maricopa area for 30 years. His life has been one of ranching, military service, ministry and now biological compounds.

"I remember when 347 was a two-lane highway and the only place to shop was the mercantile store," he said. "Napa Auto was here, and there were three tire stores. Of course, we had the Headquarters Restaurant, to boot. This was a time when Maricopa had a population of about 1,500 people. Things have changed since then."

Brower is the archetype of the Western Man. Maybe he'd even admit to being a cowboy.

Born back east, he moved with his family to the West when he was a small boy. They settled a 40-acre ranch between Black Canyon City and New River, where they raised cattle and horses. Brower grew up working on the ranch and living on a beautiful expanse of land. This is where he became an Arizonan, he said. The western life suited him well.

He entered the Army in 1980 ready to serve his country and spent the first two

years of service in the infantry. His military career provided the opportunity to travel and explore the world. He became part of the Quartermasters Corps as a staff sergeant and army engineer working in logistics.

"I had to overcome my shyness when I became a military instructor," he said. "The military trained me to become a professional educator."

In the winter of 1990, Brower was deployed to Operation Desert Storm, where he functioned as an engineer/operations manager paving roads, opening supply routes and advocating humanitarian efforts in support of the mission. He returned from ODS in June of 1991.

He retired in 2002. Among the awards Brower earned for his service are a Bronze Star, four Army Commendation medals and 1986 Army Soldier of the Year Commendation. In the 35 missions he was involved in, no lives were lost.

Nestled within this framework of time, Brower met his future wife, Mary Wickes, an Army demolitions expert/engineer. They decided on living in Maricopa and married in the old Court House before settling in Hidden Valley in 1988.

"I love the weather," he said, "like living local and being in the central desert."

Between them, Rick and Mary have five children and 20 grandchildren. All their kids went to Maricopa High School. The love of family and friends is natural for the Browsers, as is the love for animals and mother nature herself.

Rick is ordained and known to the locals as the "Marrying Minister." There is a two-story gazebo with a dance floor on their property. It is a family hub where weddings, holidays and graduations are celebrated in a grand, western, traditional style.

Since 2008, he has worked as facility general manager in organic biologics to improve crops, the latest in a life of changes.

Brower loves to read books by the western author Louis L'Amour, who summed up the cycles of life Brower himself embodies: "There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. Yet that will be the beginning."



Mason Callejas

Longtime resident Rick Brower is a mix of Arizona's past and future.

Triplets compete in national pool championship

By Michelle Chance
Photos by Mason Callejas

Tanner, Cutter and David Parks have always had each other to entertain. Not dazzled by digital pastimes and videogames, the Parks trio has become a force in junior pool leagues.

The 15-year-old triplets grew up around billiards inside their family's pool hall, The New HQ, where they developed their competitive skill.

"We were playing since we could see over the edge of the tables," David said.

The boys' father, Darwin, gave them three sticks and let them play for fun. The family never expected to see the boys go so far.

"We were just happy to start playing pool," Tanner recalled.

As his sons neared adolescence, Dad and his buddies in the local adult pool league — Amado Martinez, David James, Mario Bandin and Bill Huddart — taught the triplets the game.

"They've all picked it up extremely well. All three of them are very good shots," Darwin said.

The Parks brothers took their skills to junior pool leagues in the Valley, spending many Sundays the past few years traveling State Route 347 to compete.

In July, all three competed in the American Poolplayers Association Junior Championships in St. Louis, Missouri.

"It was very nerve-racking, very nervous, emotional. It was all of the above out there with them," Darwin said.

Tanner, playing in the 3 division with 93 other competitors, played five matches and finished in the round of 16. David and Cutter played in the 4-5 division.

"I prayed that these two would be at opposite ends of the bracket so that the only way they would meet it each other is if it was all the way for first and second," Darwin said.

To Dad's disappointment, David and Cutter were both scheduled at the bottom half of the bracket, setting up an eventual showdown between brothers.

"I was nervous because they had to play each other because I wanted both of them to make it far," Tanner said.

David came out the victor in the tense, sibling game in the quarterfinals.

Having competed in the Billiard Education Foundation's Junior National Championships in Las Vegas the year prior, David said he

Triplets Cutter, Tanner and David Parks are supported in the pool-playing endeavors by parents Darwin and Jocelyn. Opposite page, Cutter Parks sets up a shot at The New HQ.


felt he had the advantage when it came to tournament play.

"I'm happy that at least one of us got to make it to the championships," Cutter said.

David brought home the runner-up trophy in his division after a 31-33 score in the title game.

The triplets want to take their competitiveness to more tournaments in the future and perhaps introduce a junior league in Maricopa if they could drum up enough interest.

Their mother Jocelyn views pool as the final group sport the triplets will participate in before adulthood.

"I do believe they'll grow up and go their own way," Jocelyn said, "but, it's fun, too. Especially because they can do it together." 





This year's MHS Rams include (from left) Trey Keel, Jake Meyer, Jordan Huddleston, Tylen Coleman and Michael Flood. Victor Moreno

New coach tests Rams' vitals, runs team as 'one heartbeat'

By Michelle Chance



Brandon Harris is in his first year as head coach of the varsity Rams. Mason Callejas

There was very little leisure for Maricopa High School football players this summer. New head coach Brandon Harris ran practices every morning, five days a week. Many nights were filled by 7-on-7 tournaments.

Two weeks before the first day of school, the team left to its annual football camp in Winslow.

The coaches spend more time with athletes than ever before, Harris said, a practice in measuring the team's pulse on — and off — the field.

"We call it 'one heartbeat,' it's kind of the analogy we use," Harris said of the team's culture. "We all have to work in concert for it to work."

When they weren't running drills, teammates worked in unison fundraising for the program. They were coached by Harris on representing the school and the city well, he said.

The kids reportedly received compliments on their polite behavior during car washes and other engagements where athletes and coaches introduced themselves to the community.



Jordan Huddleston Victor Moreno

"We don't coach from any negativity or fear because fear is very close to hatred, and you can't play well with either one of those feelings."

—Head Coach Brandon Harris

"We are working smart; we're working hard," Harris said.

This summer, athletes hit the weight room after their meals — an intake of protein and carbohydrates developed by coaching staff. And while participating in any activity together, Harris only allows uplifting communication between the group.

"We don't coach from any negativity or fear because fear is very close to hatred and you can't play well with either one of those feelings," Harris said.

Harris is an experienced leader on the gridiron, having previously coached championship high school state teams and collegiately.

His goal is to reinvent the Rams, who will sport redesigned uniforms, into a team that not only wins games, but wins in life.

New district Athletic Director Jacob Neill likes the approach.

"If you have a high level of participation and you're successful in what you're doing with the



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kids in your program, it's going to ultimately have a positive impact on the culture of not just your athletics program but your entire school," Neill said.

In 2016, Neill left the district after working four years as head basketball coach at MHS. He was the AD and assistant principal of Poston Butte High School in San Tan Valley before his recent return to Maricopa.

That experience has lent well to the football program under Harris.

"First of all, he's a former coach," Harris said of Neill. "He's been doing this awhile and he gets it."

While the Rams work to recreate themselves and improve upon last year's 6-4 record, the team is also adjusting to a new, competitive region.

Harris said the team had "flashes of spectacular play" against opponents in the 5A San Tan Region during the 7-on-7s this summer.

But Neill and Harris agreed the region will be a great test for the program that is still developing its pulse.

"We are a team that's loaded with a lot of players and talent, and now it's just a matter of us putting that talent to use," Harris said.



Victor Moreno

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

MHS Football	
<i>All varsity games at 7 p.m.</i>	
Aug. 17	vs. McClintock
Aug. 24	@ Millennium
Aug. 31	@ Apollo
Sept. 7	@ South Mountain
Sept. 14	vs. Central
Sept. 21	vs. Higley
Sept. 28	@ Campo Verde
Oct. 5	@ Williams Field
Oct. 19	vs. Casteel
Oct. 26	vs. Gilbert
MHS Cross Country	
Sept. 12	Valley Christian @ Prospector Park 5 p.m.
Sept. 19	Casa Grande @ Copper Sky 2 p.m.
Sept. 26	Poston Butte @ Mesquite 2 p.m.
Oct. 3	Scottsdale Christian @ Marcos de Niza 2 p.m.
MHS Boy's Golf	
Aug. 16	Notre Dame @ Seville 3 p.m.
Aug. 21	Marcos de Niza @ Southern Dunes..... 3 p.m.
Aug. 28	Chandler @ Southern Dunes 3 p.m.
Sept. 4	Marcos de Niza (A) @ Arizona Country Club.. 3:30 p.m.
Sept. 6	Vista Grande @ Rolling Hills 3:30 p.m.
Sept. 11	Mesa @ Dobson..... 2 p.m.
Sept. 12	East Valley @ Las Colinas..... 3:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	Seton @ Ocotillo 3:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	Combs @ Southern Dunes 3 p.m.
Oct. 2	Saguaro @ McCormick Ranch..... 2 p.m.
MHS Girl's Golf	
Aug. 29	Campo Verde, Williams Field, Casteel @ Gilbert..... 3 p.m.
Sept. 5	Combs @ The Duke 3 p.m.
Sept. 10	Marcos de Niza, Youngker, Dysart @ Tempe 2 p.m.
Sept. 12	Dysart, Tempe, Williams Field @ El Mirage..... 2 p.m.
Sept. 24	Tempe @ The Duke 3 p.m.
Sept. 26	Dobson @ Mesa..... 3 p.m.
Oct. 1	Apache Junction @ The Duke 3 p.m.

MHS Swimming	
Aug. 30	Apache Junction @ AJ Aquatic Center..... 4 p.m.
Sept. 6	Valley Christian @ Copper Sky 4 p.m.
Sept. 18	Apache Junction @ El Dorado 4 p.m.
Sept. 27	Combs @ Copper Sky 4 p.m.
Oct. 4	Benjamin Franklin @ Copper Sky 4 p.m.
Oct. 11	Poston Butte @ Copper Sky 4 p.m.
Oct. 18	Charger Invite @ McClintock 9:30 a.m.
MHS Volleyball	
Aug. 28	vs. Camelback..... 6 p.m.
Aug. 29	@ Betty Fairfax 6 p.m.
Aug. 30	@ Verrado..... 6 p.m.
Sept. 4	vs. Paradise Valley 6 p.m.
Sept. 6	@ North Canyon..... 6 p.m.
Sept. 8	@ Greenway Tournament
Sept. 11	@ Ironwood..... 6 p.m.
Sept. 13	vs. Campo Verde 6 p.m.
Sept. 18	vs. Williams Field 6 p.m.
Sept. 19	vs. Centennial..... 6 p.m.
Sept. 20	vs. Higley 6 p.m.
Sept. 25	@ Casteel..... 6 p.m.
Sept. 27	@ Gilbert 6 p.m.
Oct. 2	@ Campo Verde..... 6 p.m.
Oct. 4	@ Williams Field 6 p.m.
Oct. 16	@ Higley 6 p.m.
Oct. 18	vs. Casteel..... 6 p.m.
Oct. 23	vs. Gilbert..... 6 p.m.

Sequoia Pathway Academy Football	
Aug. 31	vs. Imagine-Superstition 7 p.m.
Sept. 7	@ Canyon State Academy..... 6:15 p.m.
Sept. 14	vs. South Pointe 7 p.m.
Sept. 21	@ St. John Paul II 7 p.m.
Sept. 28	vs. San Tan 7 p.m.
Oct. 19	vs. Canyon State..... 7 p.m.



Maricopa High School students head up the stairs during an open house July 19 before the start of school. Raquel Hendrickson



Maricopa Unified elementary schools, including Butterfield, and Sequoia Pathway schools had Meet the Teacher Night July 19. Raquel Hendrickson



Maricopa High School Student Council members were part of the welcoming crew as parents toured the campus July 19. Raquel Hendrickson



Maricopa Little Leagues 8-9-10 team won the District 9 championship, qualifying for the state tournament: Ethan Cope, Micah Figueroa, Jackson Hinton, Matt Martin, Cristian Morgan, Adam Olson, Anthony Renda, Jovanny Sanchez, Cesar Santacruz, Ethan Taylor, Brayden Tracy, Jonathan Uribe, Manager Eric Cope, Coach Frank Tracy, Coach Frank Renda. Submitted



Maricopa High School band students warmed up for a new school year of performing July 19. Raquel Hendrickson

Shift teen conversation from ‘what college’ to ‘what career’

By Bernadette Russoniello

‘Where are you going to college?’ “What’s your major?” “Where do you want to go to school?” Unfortunately, these questions are far too common for the average teen. We place incredible pressure on students to pick their college of choice; we even measure or judge students by their college ambitions. The focus of meaningful college and career-ready conversations needs to shift to career. What career do you want? What major will help you attain your career plans? Where do you want to work?

The entire purpose of post-secondary education is to attain specific skills, knowledge and experiences to better prepare us for a career. At the secondary level, we tend to put too much emphasis on the two to eight years of college we prepare students for, rather than the

40 to 50 years that will span their working life. We need to shift the conversation from college and career to college FOR career. Why the push for college? Estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate the average earnings for those with college degrees or certified credentials almost double that of a high school graduate. The same statistics show unemployment rates decrease by the same margins.

College is any form of post-secondary education or training that prepares them for a career. College can take many forms apart from the four-year university, including trade schools, certification or licensure, community college, apprenticeships or the military. I challenge students to first consider what they want from life — what do they value? Is it money? Family? Lifestyle? Purpose? What do they consider



Bernadette Russoniello

a “good income”? Once these questions are prioritized, we can dive into possible directions and pathways for their consideration. When students consider career options, they need to consider how potential careers match their income needs and how the job fits their lifestyle needs and desires. There are many resources available online to help provide students guidance and direction in career aspirations. A good starting point is the Myers-Briggs-type indicator. Most universities have some form of an interest profiler and major match available on their websites. Arizona State offers the Me3 assessment, an online picture-based inventory while University of Arizona offers Degree Search, a clickable interactive checklist of criteria to help match students with their best possible field. Remember, a goal without a plan is just a wish. Research and set your career goals, determine what school or program will best fit those plans, and start building relevant skills and experiences to achieve your dreams. Bernadette Russoniello is the Career and College coordinator at Maricopa High School. She can be reached at BRussoniello@MUSD20.org.

Rookies and veterans alike head local charters

By Murray Siegel

Sequoia Pathway has two principals, one for the elementary grades and one for the secondary grades. Last year’s high school principal, Dr. Alfonso F. Alva, was promoted to assistant superintendent. The new secondary principal is Diane Silvia, who grew up in New York and started her career in retail management. Seeking a slower pace and better climate, she and her family moved to Arizona, where she discovered a passion for teaching. She earned a master’s in educational leadership and joined Pathway in 2009, holding various teaching and administrative positions.

When asked about the new school year, she stated, “I am excited about spearheading our mission at Pathway, which is to cultivate a community of excellence through pride and

appreciation for our surroundings, education and self.”

The elementary principal is Rachael Lay, who grew up in Houston, Texas, and holds a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from NAU and a master’s in administration and supervision from the University of Phoenix. She has been in education 13 years and has been principal at Pathway for seven years.

Lay points to the introduction of the Galileo set of academic tools and assessments this year, which has enhanced the daily classroom instruction. She looks forward to the new academic year due to the departmentalization of teaching in grades 4-6 and the addition of intramural sports.

Mat Reese is the principal at Leading Edge Academy (LEA) and was raised in Niagara



Murray Siegel

Falls, New York. He left New York to attend ASU and received his undergraduate degree there. He received a master’s degree in administration from NAU. Reese was a teacher, coach and principal in public schools for 32 years. He joined LEA as its first principal in 2008. He points with pride to the student- and parent-friendly nature of the campus, and he has an open-door policy that allows parents to see him without an appointment. His excitement for the new school year is the same anticipation he has each new year, watching students grow academically. At Legacy Traditional School (LTS), the principal is Amy Sundeen. She grew up in Chicago and received a B.S. from Northern Illinois University. She moved to AZ in 2006 and decided to pursue a career in education through the post-baccalaureate program at Rio Salado College and obtained a master’s degree in educational administration. Joining LTS in 2008 as a special education teacher, she became school principal in 2016. Sundeen believes in the success of the back-to-basics curriculum which is combined with a fine arts program. She is looking forward to continued success with the new VEX Robotics program this year.

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Scott Bartle
Publisher
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Unpaid loans left in city's hands after MCE closing

By Raquel Hendrickson

Among its incubation tasks, the now defunct Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship (MCE) distributed business loans funded by the City of Maricopa with a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development grant.

The loans totaled \$116,000 at a 5 percent interest rate. Years later, more than \$98,000 remains to be paid on the loans.

Nine fledgling businesses benefited from loan programs since 2015. Loans ranged from \$4,500 to \$25,000. The last loan was dispensed Dec. 16, 2016, to River Jumpers LLC.

The MCE was launched in 2013 as an incubator for start-up businesses and a resource for existing companies. It was seeded by a USDA grant of \$50,000. Another \$120,000 of city-maintained funds was spent that year on a management agreement with Northern Arizona Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology (NACET).

"It may have been a little bit before it's time," Mayor Christian Price said.

City Council fenced with three consecutive executive directors over how MCE reported its progress, its transparency and its accountability, including for business loans.

One qualifier for USDA loan candidates was that they had been turned down by a bank or other lending source. Low-interest business loans were an important part of MCE's offerings since 2014.

Two businesses paid off their loans. Some businesses that obtained loans no longer exist and the loans remain outstanding. Others say they are pushing forward and working at paying back the loans.

VENDOR	LOAN DATE	LOAN AMOUNT	LOAN TERM	REMAINING BALANCE
King and Queen	8/21/2016	\$25,000.00	36	\$26,356.24
Precious Hands Healthcare LLC	4/24/2016	\$25,000.00	36	\$21,065.77
RiverJurnpers LLC	12/16/2016	\$25,000.00	36	\$19,387.93
Ketalog, Inc	11/25/2016	\$12,000.00	24	\$ 12,312.47
ProX Detailing	6/12/2016	\$7,500.00	24	\$8,218.43
HobbyScopes LLC	8/1/2015	\$6,000.00	24	\$6,853.89
PropRX LLC	8/11/2016	\$4,500.00	18	\$4,049.57
True Reflections Boutique	11/26/2016	\$6,000.00	18	\$0.00
WYS Education	11/26/2016	\$5,000.00	12	\$0.00
TOTALS		\$116,000.00		\$98,244.30

Source: City of Maricopa

“We’ve taken those funds and beefed up our Economic Development Department and reallocated it to other departments.”

—Mayor Christian Price

Price said those results are the nature of incubating businesses just trying to get off the ground.

“As for repayment, that’s something we’re handling internally now,” said Cassandra Brown, the city’s grants coordinator.

The federally funded loans are in the City’s name, meant for MCE programs. Now the City and not MCE has the full task of tracking the loans. “We’re supporting these new businesses, and we’re actively working with these partners,” Brown said.

WYS Education and True Reflections Boutique had loans of \$5,000 and \$6,000 respectively, and both wiped them out in less than two years.

Several of the loan recipients no longer have functioning webpages and have not

posted in social media in more than a year. In default or merely delinquent, four owe more than their original loan due to interest and fees.

HobbyScopes LLC was the first business to land an MCE loan, which was from a revolving loan fund (RLF) in 2015. As an RLF loan was paid off, the money went back into the program to fund more small-business loans. HobbyScopes loan was for \$6,000, but the company struggled and still has a balance to be paid.

The next two recipients, Precious Hands Healthcare (\$25,000) and ProX Detailing (\$7,500), have had varying success paying down their loans.

In 2016, though still questioning MCE’s accountability for the loans, City Council unanimously approved up to \$200,000 for MCE expenditures. Shortly after, NACET fired the executive director, Dan Beach. Last fall, the city council effectively fired NACET, and MCE closed in spring.

Price said that allowed the city to take a step back and find a different use for money it had dedicated to MCE.

“We’ve taken those funds and beefed up our Economic Development Department and reallocated it to other departments,” the mayor said.

Price said an incubator is still a good idea for Maricopa but will probably change the approach for “growing an economic garden.”

“We’ll probably focus more on partnerships and stair-step it up,” he said. “I envision we’ll have one in the future. I just don’t know when that future will be.”

Multiple attempts to reach loan recipients for comment were unsuccessful.

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Hydroponics



Carlos Ibarra Sr., Ak-Chin Councilmember Ann Marie Antone and Carlos Ibarra Jr., from left, show off seed packets at the groundbreaking for Ibarra Family Farms at Santa Cruz Commerce Center.

Ibarra Family Farms brings hydroponics to Ak-Chin

By Michelle Chance

The Ak-Chin Indian Community has deep roots in traditional agriculture. In July, it welcomed a new kind of agribusiness to its enterprise: hydroponics.

Ibarra Family Farms recently broke ground on a 1.2-acre parcel at Santa Cruz Commerce Center and hopes to be ready for production before January.

“Although it’s different technology, we are longtime farmers, and this is going to work out perfect together,” said Ak-Chin Tribal Council Member Ann Marie Antone during a groundbreaking ceremony July 19.

Owner Carlos Ibarra, his wife, sons and daughter will operate their future 16,128-square-foot greenhouse that is unlike any other in the country.

“What I did with this and the design is I adapted everything, technologies from different parts of the world, and I’m trying

“What I did with this and the design is I adapted everything, technologies from different parts of the world, and I’m trying to adapt it to Arizona weather conditions.”

—Carlos Ibarra

to adapt it to Arizona weather conditions,” Ibarra said.

The greenhouse will be lower in height than traditional structures. A motor-operated weather station will open and close the roof automatically, depending on weather conditions.

The cosmopolitan operation will include hydroponic channels from Brazil, a Canadian greenhouse and various equipment from the United States.

Ibarra is a third-generation farmer with previous operations in Mexico spanning more than 25 years, growing a variety of crops from sugarcane to soy beans. His latest project will produce organically and conventionally grown lettuce, kale and spinach year-round, thanks to the adapted greenhouse design.

Hydroponics is a soilless cultivation that utilizes recycled nutrient solution to grow small crops. Ibarra Family Farms estimates it will save up to 95 percent of traditional water usage, pumped from underground Ak-Chin water.

Carlos Ibarra Jr. will take up marketing for the Maricopa location. He hopes to bring a fresh perspective to the farm’s philosophy as the next Ibarra generation to cultivate the family business.

“It’s also good to have the best of both worlds: the older generation and our new generation, in a more sustainable way, a greener way,” Ibarra Jr. said.

As the farm grows, Ibarra Jr. would like to explore solar power options to its greenhouse and include sustainable friendly packaging and labeling for its produce.

Phase 2 of the project could see new crops including edible flowers and other vegetables.

Maria Hernandez, vice chair of the Ak-Chin Industrial Park Board, said the Ibarra Family Farms project has been two years in the making. She views the operation as the beginning of what’s next in the local agro-industry.

“We’re a farming community, but this is a different aspect of farming where we are getting into more of what’s in the future: hydroponics,” Hernandez said. “It was kind of exciting because this is what we always wanted this area to be: more agribusiness type.”

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Sun Life welcomes new staff to Maricopa

Sun Life Family Health Center welcomed James M. Underwood, DO, to the organization's location on Bowlin Road.

Underwood earned his Bachelor of Science degree in human ecology in 1987 from Rutgers University. In 1995, he completed his doctorate in osteopathic medicine from Ohio University. In 1999, he completed his residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron.



Dr. Underwood

Underwood is board certified with the American Osteopathic Board of Pediatrics. He is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, Ohio Osteopathic Association and Ohio State Medical Association.

He moved to Arizona in May. He and his wife of 23 years have four children. In his free time, he is actively involved in church, loves spending time with his family, and he enjoys playing keyboard, cooking and baking.

Apex wins case in appeals court

Private Motorsports Group (PMG) and the City of Maricopa came out on top in a case before the Arizona Court of Appeals. PMG is trying to build Apex Motor Club in northwest Maricopa. Both the City and PMG were sued by a Maricopa resident claiming the city council acted incorrectly when it granted a permit to Apex and claiming a private racetrack's noise, smell and traffic would harm her more than the community at large.

The Division II appeals judges declared Bonita Burks had no standing to sue the auto club and the city in a judgment handed down July 16. The Burks lawsuit and a previous suit by an out-of-town group, a case also won by the City, have delayed PMG's building plans more than a year.



Sunrise Preschool

Raquel Hendrickson

Commercial activities, in brief

Dutch Bros. received a variance from the City's Board of Adjustments July 17 to change the maximum setback on the property on John Wayne Parkway north of Fast & Friendly Car Wash where it plans to build a store. Tom Glissmeyer, director of development for Via West Group, said the existing water easement on the property was an impediment to complying with the setback standard. The variance increased the maximum setback 168 percent and places the front of the building more than 67 feet from the property line.

Ross Dress for Less, ahead of its July 21 opening, installed a low-voltage, anti-shoplifting system at the front door of its store at 205951 N. John Wayne Parkway. The store also received a permit July 16 for four signs with internal LED illumination.

Daycare owner **Marie Garcia**, 43595 W. Chambers Court, passed fire inspection June 27.

KB Home received a permit June 20 to remodel a home garage at 18174 N. Christopher Drive into a temporary sales office. The project is valued at \$10,000. KB Home also received a permit for sales/construction office at 20209 N. Lauren Road in Homestead and picked up a temporary-use permit for its model home complex at 20181 N. Lauren Road.

An empty office space at 20924 N. John Parkway is being re-worked, with Desert Metropolitan receiving a permit for interior demolition. The work is valued at \$7,800.

Jiffy Lube, being built at 42100 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy. west of Walmart, had a flow test for its underground fire line and hydrant June 27.

EdKey Inc.'s **Sequoia Pathway Academy** received the OK June 28 for factory-built modular classroom buildings at the campus, 19265 N. Porter Road. The classroom space is estimated at 62-by-70 feet with electric but no water or sewer. The project is valued at \$30,000.

Community of Hope continued its remodel at 45295 W. Honeycutt Ave. with July 11 permits for remodel and relocation of factory-built building of three modular buildings, valued at \$20,000.

Burger King, 20699 N. John Wayne Parkway, received a permit June 19 to install a fire alarm for its business, which opened July 21. July 17, it was granted a permit for eight grand-opening pennants to be in place until Oct. 16.

Legacy Charter's new **Sunrise Preschool** received a permit July 3 for a fire alarm panel and smoke detector for its facility currently under construction at 19287 N. Porter Road. The project also received a permit for plywood signs on wood posts.

WingStop, to be located at 20555 N. John Wayne Parkway, received a permit for two internally illuminated wall signs, at a value of \$2,388.

Maricopa Wells Veterinary Hospital was given approval July 5 for a temporary banner to be in place until Sept. 11.

Oak & Fork earns Award of Excellence

Wine Spectator magazine announced Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino's Oak & Fork restaurant won the 2018 Award of Excellence.

According to *Wine Spectator*, the Award of Excellence recognizes restaurants whose wine lists feature a well-chosen assortment of quality producers along with a thematic match to the menu in both price and style. Ranging in size from 90 selections to several hundred, these lists are well-focused and tend to emphasize discovery.

"When we opened Oak & Fork earlier this year, we set a goal of achieving this important milestone from *Wine Spectator*," said Nate Kinstlinger, beverage operations manager of Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino. "And we couldn't be more proud of our team for this recognition."

Oak & Fork and was opened as part of a multi-million-dollar expansion of Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino & Hotel.



Oak & Fork

Submitted

NEW BUSINESS LICENSES

The following business received business licenses from the City of Maricopa June-16-July 15:

Commercial: Burger King, Ross Dress for Less

Home based: Avasu, Boundless Vacation, Color Street, Gemini Mapping, Helpful Howie Handyman Service, Keep the Beat Entertainment, Modern Glamour Photography, North Suburban Office Services, P&N Your Choice Cleaning Services, Pawdicure Pals

Out of town: Action Barricade Company, Desert Metropolitan, GE Home Services, InstaBright SmileLabs, Interior Logic Holdings, JLC Enterprises, Keiki Corner, Mobile Car Wash, Monarch Pools, Pearlman Architects of Arizona, Trinity Building Services

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Medicare

Facts about new Medicare cards

2018 means a change in Medicare cards. Here's a look at what's new.

What does the new Medicare card look like?

It has your:

- Name
- New Medicare number
- Dates that Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B coverage started
- It doesn't have your:
- Signature
- Social Security Number
- Gender



When will I get my new Medicare card? Medicare started mailing new cards in April. Everyone who had Medicare before April will get a new card with instructions in the mail. Mailing will take several months.

If you retired from a railroad, the Railroad Retirement Board will mail you your new card. People new to Medicare in April or later get the new card when they are enrolled.

Your card might arrive at a different time than your friend's or neighbor's. Visit Medicare.gov/NewCard and sign up for email updates, or like facebook.com/medicare.

Only your Medicare card and number are changing. Your Medicare benefits stay the same, and your Social Security Number stays the same. Any enrollments in Medicare Advantage, Part D prescription plans, and Medigap (Supplemental) policies don't change — keep those plan cards.

When do I start using my new Medicare card? Start using your new card as soon as you get it. Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, you can only use the new Medicare card and new number.

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



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Book: The Five Love Languages
Athlete: Seabiscuit
Getaway: El Yunque Rainforest in Puerto Rico
Quote: "We come to love not by finding the perfect person, but by seeing the imperfect person perfectly" – Sam Keen in the book "To Be Loved"

Learn more about Yolanda at InMaricopa.com/Getting-To-Know

Preventive measures for keeping brain healthy

By Joan Koczor

A recent article from Mayo Clinic states we are living longer than previous generations and should prepare ourselves to encounter new health risks, like cognitive decline.

Cognitive decline is among the normal processes of aging. It happens at different times and is noticed to affect different elements of people's lives, but it always has the same overall effect. Although it's age-related for most people, the exact cause of cognitive decline is not known.

Changes serious enough to be noticed by the individuals experiencing them or to others are often not severe enough to interfere with daily life or independent function.

In comparison, Alzheimer's and dementia are common aging-related issues. Cognitive decline is not a guaranteed part

of aging. However, in both Alzheimer's and cognitive decline there are steps you can take today to reduce your risk.

The article goes on to suggest integrating healthy habits into your everyday life. Even a small change can make a big difference.

1 Be Social. Recent studies show having social ties and maintaining frequent contact helps preserve mental ability. Participate in church groups, volunteer or join a group with similar interests.

2 Step out of your comfort zone. Plan a trip somewhere you had always wanted to visit. There are many, many topics and features of interest on the Internet — check it out to see what may interest you. Take a class, learn a new language, etc.



Joan Koczor

3 Take a fitness class. Exercise in mid-life years can significantly reduce the risk of mild cognitive impairment. It can also give your energy a boost and promote activity in different parts of the brain. It is also a great way to meet new people.

4 Maintain a healthy weight and diet. Obesity at mid-life can decrease brain function. Grab an apple instead of a donut. Fruits and vegetables help with weight control and help supply brain-healthy antioxidants.

5 If you smoke, stop. Mid-life smoking increases the risk of brain atrophy and decline in executive function in later years.

Maintain a common sense approach to your health, take preventative steps to ensure a healthy future. Visit your doctor regularly. Make a list of questions or concerns you might have. Don't leave until your questions are answered and your concerns addressed.

Information is out there — just ask.

MayoClinic.org

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

Home health care and other coverage by Medicare

By Al Brandenburg

This past month the Maricopa Multi Cultural Consortium (MMCC) hosted a presentation by Comfort Keepers on senior caregiving. Judy Housley, the care coordinator for Comfort Keepers in Maricopa, talked about how caregivers travel to clients' homes to provide care services and living assistance. Their work allows seniors and disabled individuals to live independently and as comfortably as possible.



Al Brandenburg

Here are five things Medicare may pay for you may not know about.

1 Home Health Care: There are all different types of home health care services and many seniors don't think their situation may apply to the Medicare-covered home health insurance. Medicare created a home health care benefit for those who could receive more cost-effective care outside nursing homes and hospitals. Medicare may cover more home health care costs than people think. Plus, this type of home care comes with no copay.

2 Medical Equipment: Medicare Part B covers "durable medical equipment" for seniors who need it. This means older adults who may need a little extra help getting around can often get the assistance they need without paying an arm and a leg. This includes walkers, wheelchairs, hospital beds, canes, crutches, oxygen tanks and equipment, and blood-glucose monitors, among other things.

3 Wellness Care Visits: As more and more seniors are working hard to take care of themselves as they age, more and more seniors aren't requiring much healthcare. However, this doesn't mean they shouldn't be visiting the doctor. Medicare actually covers free wellness doctor's office visits every 12 months (I call them annual check-ups), meaning seniors don't have to pay anything out-of-pocket when they want to make a trip to the doctor to get everything checked out.

4 Chiropractic Care and Physical Therapy: Chiropractic care has become a major part of the overall wellness plans for many seniors today and those who have Medicare Part B can have their chiropractic care costs covered. There are also plans known as Medicare Advantage Plans that can provide additional chiropractic care benefits to those who see their chiropractor more frequently. Seniors who need physical therapy, speech therapy or occupational therapy will also find Medicare can cover many of their expenses.

5 Prosthetics: Prosthetics can be very costly, but artificial limbs and eyes are covered by Medicare when they are ordered by a doctor. Seniors who need both external breast prostheses, such as a post-surgical bra, and implanted breasts following a mastectomy may find their Medicare coverage pays for these prosthetics.

Source: SeniorAdvice.com

Al Brandenburg is secretary and board director of Maricopa Multi Cultural Consortium.



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Schedule your health, fitness and stick to it

By Aaron Gilbert

Create systems that make health and fitness faster and easier, such as:

- Keep fresh, whole foods in plain sight.
- Reduce or eliminate "treat" foods.
- Establish a morning or weekend routine to chop veggies and prepare protein+complex carbs in bulk.
- Sign up for a CSA box or healthy meal delivery.
- Keep berries and greens in freezer (for quick Super Shakes).
- Join a gym or personal training studio close to home or work.
- Keep a packed gym bag in your car or by the front door.
- Leave weights and resistance bands lying around for quick, convenient workout.
- Hold gatherings and meetings at parks and gyms.

Put meal prep and movement in your calendar. If we waited until we "felt like it," a lot of important things would get neglected.

Schedule it in, and stick to it.



Aaron Gilbert

Review at the end of each week: Did I use my time to support my health and fitness?

Yes

- Explore what worked and keep doing that.
- Celebrate! You deserve it.
- Add 15 more minutes of health food prep and movement next week.

No

- What do you do instead?
- If it was low-priority stuff, combine those activities with fitness+nutrition.

For example: Watch TV while prepping food.

- If it was high-priority stuff, does it happen often? That's OK! Life happens. Return to your goals and keep practicing. Set small weekly health+fitness goals and keep improving your systems. Get coaching to develop better systems and realistic goals.

As you can see, "being healthy and fit" is like an iceberg. Eating well and workout out is only the tip of the iceberg and it's supported by all the thinking, prioritizing, strategizing and planning underneath.

Aaron Gilbert, CSCS, owns Longevity Athletics and can be reached at 520-261-4661 and Aaron@LongevityAthletics.com.

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Sun Life welcomes new staff to Maricopa health care team

By Renée Louzon-Benn
Director of Community Outreach

Sun Life Family Health Center is pleased to welcome James M. Underwood, DO, to the organization's location on Bowlin Road in Maricopa, AZ.

Dr. James Underwood earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Human Ecology in 1987 from Rutgers University Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ. In 1995, he completed his Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, in Athens, Ohio. In 1999, he completed his residency in Pediatrics at Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron, Akron, Ohio.

Dr. Underwood is Board Certified with the American Osteopathic Board of Pediatrics. He is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, Ohio Osteopathic Association, and the Ohio State Medical Association.

Dr. Underwood was born in Englewood, New Jersey, and relocated from Brecksville, Ohio to Arizona in May 2018. He and his wife of 23 years have four children, 2 boys and 2 girls. In his free time, he is actively involved in church, loves spending time with his family, and enjoys playing the keyboard, cooking and baking.

About Sun Life Family Health Center

Sun Life Family Health Center is Pinal County's largest primary care provider, and was one of the first community health centers in the state to have received accreditation from the Joint Commission (the gold standard of quality in healthcare). Sun Life is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and serves both insured and uninsured patients, and provides health services in family practice, dentistry, women's health, pediatrics, integrated behavioral health, diabetes education, and much more.

Sun Life operates several family practice offices, located in Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Coolidge, Eloy, Florence, Maricopa, Oracle, and San Manuel. Women's wellness and maternity services are available at our Centers for Women in Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Chandler and Maricopa. Both Family and Pediatric Dentistry are available in Casa Grande. Our Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Eloy, Florence, Maricopa, and San Manuel locations offer a public pharmacy. Sun Life offers Pediatrics in Casa Grande and Maricopa.

To learn more about office locations and hours, visit www.sunlifefamilyhealth.org. Sun Life... Excellence in health, wellness and education.



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SmileyDentalMaricopa.com

Tips for fall gardening in the desert

By Julie Olson

Midsummer is a great time to start planning the fall vegetable garden.

Draw the garden to scale in air-conditioned comfort. A crowded garden won't yield or grow to potential.

Selecting seed varieties is a fun part of gardening. Check the days to maturity on the packet. The desert season is shorter than normal, so quicker-maturing vegetables are better. Make copies of the seed packet information for later reference.

After drawing the garden plot and deciding what to plant, the next step is

removing dead plants and debris. The soil may need amendments of fertilizer and compost if a summer garden was grown. September is a good time to start planting seeds as they like warm soil for germination. If using transplants, wait three to four weeks. Irrigation lines should also be checked and repaired. Watering problems are much easier to fix before planting.



Julie Olson

Plants and seeds need to be protected from birds and ground squirrels. It's very discouraging to find a row of holes where peas were planted. Birds will



PLANT SPACING RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and brussels sprouts: Rows 30 inches wide, plants spaced 20 inches apart**
- **Leafy greens like lettuce, chard and kale: 20-inch rows with 5-6-inch plant spacing**
- **Radishes and spinach: 20-inch rows**
- **Peas: 2-3 inches apart if grown on a fence or trellis to provide more garden space**

also eat tender new leaves and stems. A light-weight row cover or netting may be needed. Netting should be high enough to prevent birds from poking through to the plants.

Check daily for insect problems. A strong spray of water on the leaf undersides will knock off aphids. Insecticidal soaps will control many pests. Companion planting is another pest control. Onions and garlic help protect broccoli and cabbage from cabbage loopers which eat three times their weight every day.

Weeds are another garden pest that steal water and nutrients, crowd out and shade vegetables. Don't forget to mark the rows. Plastic knives with plant names written on them make good row markers.

By mid-October radishes and other short-season crops can be harvested. Vegetables harvested at their peak are most nutritious.

Cut the first leaves of swiss chard when 4 to 6 inches, let the next ones grow 6 to 8 inches. Harvest greens when young and dark green for best flavor. Old leaves will become bitter. Pick broccoli when heads are dark blue green and compact. Cabbage should be firm, crisp and rich green in color.

Enjoy fall vegetables through January and February, then it's time to plant for summer.

520-374-6263
MACmastergardener@gmail.com

Julie Olson is a Master Gardener and Maricopa resident.

Solar panels impact resale – good and bad

By Dayv Morgan

Considering Arizona's abundant sunshine, rooftop solar panels are an appealing feature for homebuyers looking at a resale home.

Market indications show that the value of solar panels is often less than sellers hope for when selling, however. In the last 12 months, over 2,000 homes were sold in Maricopa through MLS. Of those, only 87 (4 percent) were listed as having solar panels; 63 were leased and 24 were owned.

According to a reliable data source (DecisionData.com) – based on two ZIP codes in Maricopa – let's consider two scenarios: owned solar panels and leased solar panels.



Dayv Morgan

A 10kW system will double your savings. That's significant given the dramatic increase in electrical power consumption in summer

months due to A/C usage. Rising electricity costs and higher-than-average electricity usage means more opportunities for savings with solar even as rebates and incentives have decreased over the years. The average cost for a new system is \$18,000–\$20,000. When selling, the added value to the sale price amounts to

only about \$10,000. Nonetheless, it still only takes about four or five years to break even if you factor in the annual savings on electricity.

Leased solar

Leased solar panels are technically not part of the home. Anyone buying the home may have to qualify with the solar company. Buyers

may need a higher credit score than even the mortgage company requires to assume the lease, which may still have 15 years remaining. Homes with leased solar typically sell slower than homes with no solar, and may even sell for less. Furthermore, leased solar does not add value on the appraisal and lease payments often increase annually. Also, with most lenders, it increases a buyer's debt-to-income ratio and, thus, decreases a buyer's purchasing power.

Tips for selling

Emphasize how much money you save. (Don't be afraid to brag!) Provide buyers with written documentation on annual savings to help them understand kW and panel efficiency; they are more likely to see value if you can quantify the savings. Is it \$100 per month? Three hundred? Include info in the MLS or leave a copy of recent electric bills on kitchen counter.

Help buyers recognize the value over the long term.

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

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**MOST
EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD**

1. 22328 N. Risa Drive, The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado

Raquel Hendrickson

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa from June 16 through July 15 was a five-bedroom, lakefront property in an unfinished section of The Lakes. Along with a great view, the 5-year-old home has custom-built cabinets, hidden storage features, walnut flooring, bronze faucets, insulated garage door and much more. It sold for \$23,000 under the original asking price.

Sold: June 30
Purchase price: \$375,000
Square footage: 3,313
Price per square foot: \$113.19
Days on market: 133
Builder: Meritage Homes
Year built: 2013
Bedrooms: 5
Bathroom: 2.5

Community: The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado
Features: One owner, one-of-a-kind kitchen, high-end doors and floors, corner lot with views of lake, waterfall and mountains
Listing agent: Susana Wills, Realty ONE Group
Selling agent: Jesse Martinez, Rachael Richards Realty

- 2. 40848 W. Hall Drive, The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado**.....**\$355,000**
- 3. 19113 N. Falcon Lane, Glennwilde**.....**\$339,900**
- 4. 21998 N. Desert Park Court, Rancho El Dorado**.....**\$325,000**
- 5. 18955 N. Falcon Lane, Glennwilde**.....**\$322,500**



**LEAST
EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD**

1. 17453 N. Avelino Drive

Raquel Hendrickson

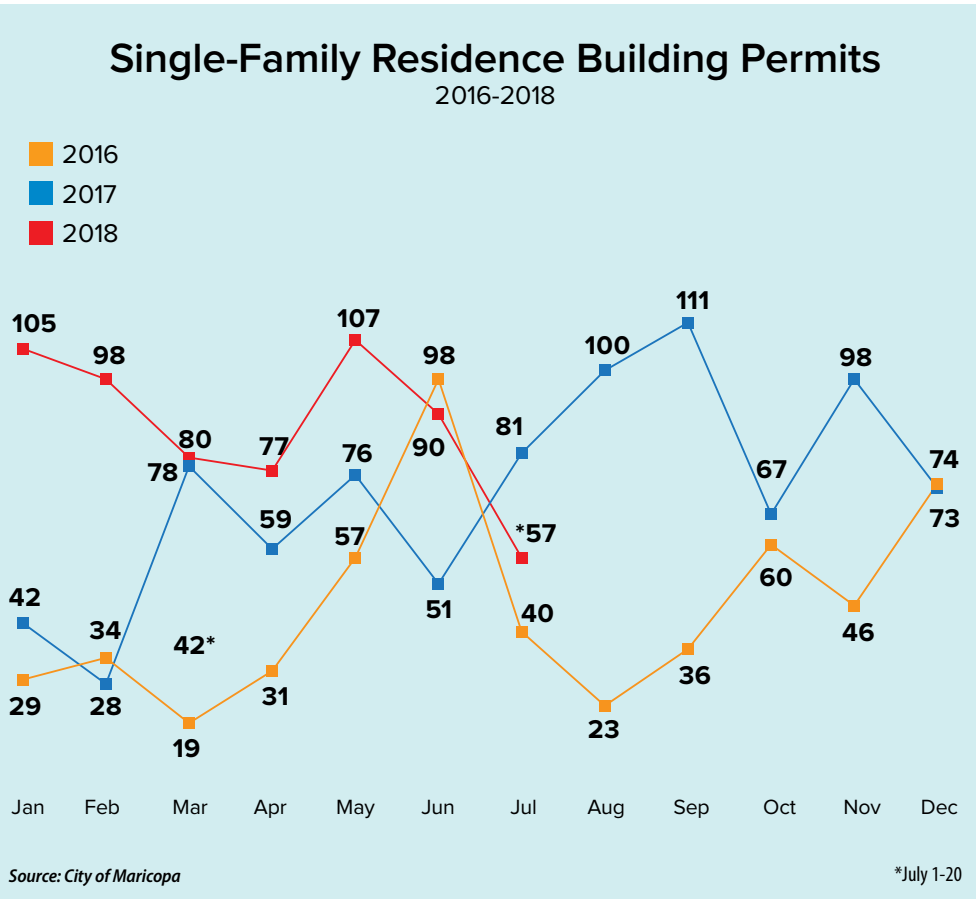
The least expensive home sold in Maricopa June 16 through July 15 went for \$2,000 above its asking price after multiple buyers sparred for the home in the far reaches of Sorrento. The final price of \$152,000 was nearly \$10,000 more than its selling price seven months earlier.

Sold: June 23
Purchase price: \$152,000
Square footage: 1,193
Price per square foot: \$127.4
Days on market: 36
Builder: Unknown
Year built: 2008
Bedrooms: 3
Bathroom: 2

Community: Sorrento
Features: Well maintained, shady entry, grass landscaping in back, patio, energy-saving blinds
Listing agent: Stephen Cotton, West USA Realty
Selling agent: Mondai Adair, My Home Group Real Estate

- 2. 18495 N. Celis St., Smith Farms**.....**\$155,000**
- 3. 43206 W. Arizona Ave., Senita**.....**\$156,000**
- 4. 41374 W. Hopper Drive, Homestead North**.....**\$163,000**
- 5. 22046 N. Braden Road, Rancho El Dorado**.....**\$168,000**

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



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Things to do

AUGUST

3

8-Bits Gaming

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

4

InMaricopa.com Primary Election Town Hall

10 a.m., Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

7

City Council Work Session

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

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

8

MUSD Board Meeting

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

15

Holiday Homes & Businesses on Parade Registration Opens

8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

17

8-Bits Gaming

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

21

MHS Boys' Golf v. Marcos de Niza

3 p.m., Ak-Chin Southern Dunes
48456 W. Highway 238

22

MUSD Board Meeting

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

28

MHS Boys' Golf v. Chandler

3 p.m., Ak-Chin Southern Dunes
48456 W. Hwy. 238

MHS Volleyball v. Camelback
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

31

Sequoia Pathway Football v. Imagine-Superstition

7 p.m., Pacana Park
19000 N. Porter Road

SUNDAY

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



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

Things to do

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

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.

Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting

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



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

Town Hall at PAC to bring federal, state, local candidates

InMaricopa.com Town Hall supporting Maricopa High School and Be Awesome Youth Coalition is Aug. 4 at the MHS Performing Arts Center. The free event is open to the public and will feature nearly 40 candidates in 10 races.

Among the candidates who have committed to attend are all three Republican candidates for U.S. Congress District 1, six candidates for Arizona Corporation Commission, which regulates utility services, and seven candidates for Maricopa City Council.

InMaricopa.com Town Hall will be separated into time blocks. The first block starts at 10 a.m. with Congressional District 1 GOP candidates Wendy Rogers, Tiffany Shedd and Steve Smith.

“We want to markedly reduce the role of the moderator and let citizens get the answers to questions they want to ask,” InMaricopa.com Editor Raquel Hendrickson said. “We want a format that would allow candidates to more fully engage with each other on the issues.”

Candidates will take questions from the audience in attendance and watching live through social media.

Facilitators will enforce simple rules that apply to the candidates and audience alike: Be respectful, be succinct, stay on topic.

IF YOU GO

When: Saturday, Aug. 4
Where: Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
Cost: Free
RSVP: MaricopaEvents.com
Facilitators: Mayor Christian Price, Judge Lyle Riggs, Janeen Rohovit, Rick Abel
Questions: 520-568-0040, ext. 3, MaricopaEvents.com



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— DR. MARIA MONTESSORI

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New budget includes raises for teachers, staff

Reprinted from InMaricopa/Michelle Chance

Teacher raises and competitive compensation plans for new employees are included in the budget approved for Maricopa Unified School District.

MUSD's \$54 million budget for fiscal year 2018-19 was unanimously approved June 28.

Gov. Doug Ducey approved funding to Arizona school districts that would allow up to a 10-percent pay increase for teachers after educators held walk-outs in the #RedForEd movement. Teachers are also slated to receive an additional 10-percent increase by 2020 from the state.

MUSD received more than \$1 million from the state this year for teachers, but the board approved raises for administrators, classified staff, transportation and employees in health and related services at a cost to the district of about \$2.6 million.

Future funding from the state will have to be approved during annual budget sessions.

Administrative and classified employee raises this year are covered almost entirely by enrollment dollars alone, Human Resources Director Tom Beckett said. He predicted the new compensation plans for future

employees will attract and retain teachers.

Under the proposed 2019 budget, the average salary of all teachers will be \$47,748 — an increase of more than \$4,000 from last year's average.

The budget also allows for the purchase of one regular route school bus and a special education route bus. ■



Students Recognized for Perfect Attendance

Submitted by Diane Vigil,
Curriculum Generalist

May 15, 36 elementary students from the Maricopa Unified School District's six elementary schools went to the Ak Chin's Ultra Star Multi-tainment Center in Maricopa for MUSD's second annual field trip for students with perfect attendance. The students had to be in attendance at school with no absences or tardies from Aug. 7, 2017, to April 27, 2018, to attend the field trip. Each student received an hour and a half of bowling and pizza. The students enjoyed this well-deserved activity. Thank you to all the District chaperones for attending this special celebration.



For more information about the Maricopa Unified School District please visit our website at www.maricopausd.org or call 520-568-5100. ■

The mission of the Maricopa Unified School District is to ensure all students achieve excellence by preparing them to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens who value innovation and global diversity.

Desert Wind Performing Arts Receives Music Technology Grant

Submitted by Mr. Roger Wagner, Desert Wind Instrumental Instructor

Desert Wind Performing Arts —the collaboration of band, choir, orchestra, and popular music students and staff — received a grant for digital audio workstation software and hardware controllers from Ableton Inc., a Berlin-based music software company. The grant includes a classroom set of software licenses for Ableton Live, a digital audio workstation program, and 4 Ableton PUSH devices, a hardware controller for Ableton Live. Software and devices are provided directly from Ableton through their PUSH Initiative, a program where Ableton sold their new PUSH 2 devices at a reduced rate when previous PUSH 1 owners returned their devices. The company dedicated these buybacks to providing free resources for schools that applied for their grant and showed a cohesive plan or innovative strategy for use. This cutting-edge software will be used as a medium to create music in the popular music courses and implemented as an instrument into band and orchestra courses at Desert Wind.

Javad Butah, West Coast Brand Manager for Ableton, shared his excitement and support of the program at Desert Wind, "Desert Wind is one of the few schools in the country that we have this partnership with. What's happening at Desert Wind really cutting edge and we're excited to continue collaborating." The popular music program at Desert Wind stemmed from staff push to be more inclusive and innovative in music education practices. Roger Wagner II, Director of Instrumental Music at Desert Wind, shared "We've worked with Ableton, Arizona State University School of Music, the Phoenix Ableton User Group, and as a staff to expand our program offerings so include more for our students. We're trying to be on the cutting edge of music education, using music



industry standard technology, while also continuing our more traditional programs with some contemporary flare." Ableton Live 9 has already been implemented in Desert Wind's classrooms and the PUSH devices are expected to arrive in the upcoming weeks.

Desert Wind popular music students are currently working on a digital songwriting collaboration with Dr. Isaac Bickmore and undergraduate music education students from the University of Central Missouri. They have previously collaborated with Arizona State University undergraduate music educators, Desert Wind Blending Learning, and within Desert Wind Performing Arts. MUSD Music is looking to continue to expand this program from Desert Wind Middle School to Maricopa High School. Ivan Pour, Director of Instrumental Music at Maricopa High School, said "We're excited to expand the popular music program from Desert Wind to Maricopa High School. We hope this will provide a new extension of our program and engage even more students."

For more information about the Maricopa Unified School District please call 520.568.5100 or visit the District's website at www.maricopausd.org. ■

Bernadette Russoniello Region V Teacher of the Year

The Association of Career and Technical Educators (ACTE) Region V held its annual conference on April 11-14 at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, Colorado. On Saturday, 54 state award winners from 14 states vied for the title of ACTE Region V Excellence Award winner. These awards recognize members for their contributions to career and technical education. Maricopa High School's Bernadette Russoniello was one of the eight winners recognized.

"Bernadette Russoniello was presented the ACTE Region V



Teacher of the Year award. This award recognizes teachers who have provided outstanding CTE programs in their respective fields and communities.

Bernadette is a Marketing instructor at Maricopa Unified School District in Maricopa, Arizona."

LeAnn Wilson, ACTE executive director, commented "From students to businesses, the American economy relies on high-quality career and technical education. All across the country, CTE professionals work hard to lead these programs and prepare students for both education and career success. The National ACTE is grateful for the efforts of these CTE leaders here in Region V, and we congratulate them for this

well-deserved recognition."

The ACTE Region V Excellence Award winners will advance to the national level where they compete against the other four Regions at CareerTech Vision 2018 to be named the ACTE Excellence Award winner of the year. CareerTech Vision 2018 will be held Nov. 28-Dec. 1 in San Antonio, Texas.

For more information about the Maricopa High School's Career and Technical Programs or the Maricopa Unified School District please call 520-568-5100 or visit the District's website at www.maricopausd.org. ■

Desert Wind Middle School Memorial at the Maricopa Veteran's Center

Submitted by Desert Wind Blended Learning Teacher, Shannon Hull

During the flag raising ceremony at the Maricopa Veteran's Center on May 28 — Memorial Day — the Desert Wind Middle School Blended Learning Memorial created by Mrs. Shannon Hull's 8th grade social studies class was dedicated. Mrs. Hull's class began the process of designing this memorial after an October visit from one of our Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) members, Clarence "Golde" Golden visited their classroom. Golde said he had a project for the students, to take an existing wall and create something for the Veteran's Center.

In a few weeks, each student had designed a memorial. The chosen design came from 8th grade student Kimberly Mask. Kimberly envisioned the poem "In Flanders Fields" written on the wall surrounded by red poppies and framed on the ground in brick. Mrs. Hull started a Go Fund Me page to raise money to create Kim's vision. A total of \$730.40 was raised and utilized on this lasting memorial for the Maricopa community. The project finally came to fruition on Memorial Day when the memorial was presented by Mr. Mike Kemery of the VFW to the crowd at the flag raising at the Maricopa Veteran's Center.



Kimberly is an honors student, an avid artist and an asset to our city and our schools. She will begin her studies at Maricopa High School this fall, being accepted into the AP Art class, which is a rarity among freshmen.

Mrs. Hull's class has a long-standing relationship with members of the VFW, they regularly come in to speak with Desert Wind Blended Learning students throughout the year and the class just recently had a clean-up and landscaping day at the Veteran's Center. The Desert Wind Middle School Blended Learning students' next goal for the Center is to bring in gravel and a few new trees to help further beautify the grounds of the Veteran's Center.

For more information about Desert Wind Middle School or about the Maricopa Unified School District please call 520-568-5100 or visit the District's website at www.maricopausd.org.



MHS Cadets present colors at Run For The Wall Cross-Country Ride

Submitted by Lt. Col. Allen Kirksey, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor at MHS

May 17, Maricopa High School Air Force Junior ROTC cadets presented the colors at the 30th Annual Run For The Wall Cross-Country Ride at Chandler Harley Davidson located at 6895 West Chandler Blvd, Chandler, Arizona.

Run for the Wall Background Information:

MISSION STATEMENT — To promote healing among all veterans and their families and friends, to call for an accounting for all prisoners of war and those missing in action (POW/MIA), to honor the memory of those killed in action (KIA) from all wars and to support our military personnel all over the world.

Goals:

- To guide the participants across America.
 - To educate future generations on the importance of accountability in wartime actions, emphasizing that no one should be left behind.
- "We are the Largest and Longest Organized Cross-Country Motorcycle Run of its kind in the World, and we travel from California to Washington, DC every May with over 1,800+ participants annually."

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

Butterfield Students Lend a Hand

Submitted by Butterfield Elementary School Principal Janel Hildick

Students of the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) from Butterfield Elementary School spent their time lending support to those who need it the most. Over the years as members of the NEHS, the students are able to provide service to various organizations — this time it was rendered to Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) located in Mesa. The 18 students were able to prepare over 39,000 meals for children located in the Philippines. FMSC was founded in 1987 and has outreach programs in more than 70 countries. The service project coincides with the celebration of the 10-year anniversary of Butterfield Elementary in the Maricopa Unified School District.

For more information about Butterfield Elementary School or the Maricopa Unified School District please visit our website at www.maricopausd.org or call 520-568-5100. ■



MHS Teachers BTS

Breakfast treats and coffee, donated by Dunkin' Donuts and Starbucks, greeted Maricopa High School teachers as they returned to campus July 17. New Principal Brian Winter took to the lecture hall stage early July 17 to discuss school goals, including improving the culture and perception of MHS. Administration and staff began a new school-year calendar, with the first day of school for students July 23.

Photos by Michelle Chance



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