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# Maricopa

March 2018

## OUTDOORS

Top 10 area  
historical sites

## GOVERNMENT

Neighbors  
protest SR 238  
speed limit  
change

## PEOPLE

Thad Miller  
guides MWMS  
through 'tough'  
transition

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Calendar



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- 1 ATV crash fatal south of Maricopa
- 2 New businesses preparing to open
- 3 MUSD: Middle-school shooting threat 'not credible'
- 4 Man arrested after shots fired outside local tavern
- 5 Weapons, drugs, cash found in vehicle at gas station
- 6 'Peter Pan Jr.' musical will be high-flying time at Legacy
- 7 Vehicle rolls over into ditch in SR 347 accident
- 8 Martinez 'involuntarily committed' months before murder
- 9 Ex-basketball coach may be MUSD athletic director
- 10 City scrambles to fill Copper Sky funding loss



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839 Fox Sports 2 HD  
840 Fox Sports Arizona HD  
841 Fox Sports Arizona Plus HD  
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843 NHL Network HD  
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845 NFL Redzone HD  
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Investigating a ruin in the Sierra Estrella range are journalist Michelle Chance, outdoorsman David Marlar and archaeologist Aaron Wright.

12

Mason Callejas

## LEADING OFF

**Editor's Letter** *Page 6*

**Contributors** *Page 6*

**Faces in the Crowd** *Page 7*

## PEOPLE

A **photo gallery** captures Maricopans around town. *Page 8*

A **history of Mobile**. *Page 10*

**Archaeology folklore** and fact. *Page 12*

Tips for **safe shooting**. *Page 13*

Top 10 historical **heritage sites** in the area. *Page 14*

**Principal Thad Miller** has spent a lifetime in Maricopa. *Page 16*

## FAMILY

**Pickleball enthusiasts** draw in a younger crowd. *Page 20*

Be Awesome's **Priscilla Behnke** warns about underage drinking. *Page 22*

**Murray Siegel** celebrates local principals. *Page 23*

Schedules for **high school spring sports**. *Page 24*

## BUSINESS

**Business briefs** include new hires and company changes. *Page 28*

**Province landscapers** win awards. *Page 29*

**Directory** *Page 30*

## GOVERNMENT

**Election dates** and early candidacies for 2018. *Page 34*

How **COMET and the RTA** come together. *Page 36*

**Neighbors protest** a speed limit change on SR 238. *Page 37*

## HOME

**Most expensive** and least expensive homes sold. *Page 38*

**Rita Bricker** explains beneficial bugs in the garden. *Page 40*

A glimpse at **Maricopa's housing future**. *Page 42*

HomeSmart's **Dayv Morgan** says outdoor amenities affect home values. *Page 43*

## HEALTH

Longevity's **Aaron Gilbert** describes the "No Excuses" workout. *Page 44*

Get into a **healthy routine**. *Page 45*

## SENIOR LIVING

**You Are Not Alone** program helps vulnerable adults. *Page 46*

**Al Brandenburg** introduces the Senior Corner. *Page 47*

**Joan Koczor** explains how to get diabetes under control. *Page 49*

## THINGS TO DO

Sun Life hosts its annual **Chocolate Run**. *Page 50*

Check the calendar for **Maricopa activities**. *Page 51*

Presentation teaches the **history of sheep** in Arizona. *Page 51*

**Salsa Fest** spices up March. *Page 52*

Maricopa Music Circle performs a **spring concert**. *Page 53*

The annual **Millar Fly-In & Car Show** draws crowds by land and by air. *Page 54*

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## Taking it outdoors

We celebrate the outdoors in this issue, from archaeology to shooting etiquette to high school spring sports.

We chatted with Col. Chuck Millar and Mike Kerr about their upcoming Fly-In & Car Show, where plane and car enthusiasts can spend hours outside looking at engines. But there is a lot more going on at Millar's private airfield, including his growing military museum.

Check out other events that revel in the outdoors this month, like the Salsa Festival and Sun Life's Chocolate Run.

March is Archaeology & Heritage Awareness Month, and our staff took to the hills to investigate local folklore surrounding a mine site. They also picked up tips on the best historical sites to visit in the surrounding area.

Learn why there is a continuing campaign to get the city to build outdoor pickleball courts (hint: it's all in the numbers). Maricopans also shared their ideas of what else the city needs more of in outdoor recreation.

Realtor Dayv Morgan explains the value of outdoor recreational amenities for homebuyers. Murray Siegel celebrates local school principals. Joan Koczor warns about the signs of diabetes in her senior column.



This issue also shares a housing outlook from developers, information on "friendly" bugs in the garden, schedules for Maricopa high school sports and a great workout to get you back on track for those fitness resolutions.

Learn why a change in speed limit has incensed neighbors, and find out how the Pinal Regional Transportation Authority could affect the city's transit system.

It's all in this issue of InMaricopa.

Happy reading,

RAQUEL HENDRICKSON | Editor

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## What outdoor recreation would you like to see in Maricopa?



**Gordon Nanton**

"I'd like more tennis tournaments and things. And around the [outdoor] track if they could get those pull-up bars so when you're running you can stop and do pull-ups, that would be great. Because when I run I have to come inside just to do pull-ups."



**Dan Thomas**

"A permanent outdoor pickleball court... that [tennis] net you can't lower it to 34 inches, you can't make it a real pickleball court. But [otherwise], the skate park is good, and the dog parks are amazing, so."



**Kevin Behnke**

"I'd like to see more parent involvement, with regards to sports, and not so many unsupervised kids. You don't see any parents here [at Copper Sky], so I'd like to see something that keeps both the kids and the parents together and accountable."



**C.J. Rufo**

"Outdoor basketball. I know they have one here, but something a little more cost-efficient and outdoors. I [also] have kids, and I know they have something [the M.O.R.E.E. program], but something here and cheaper, instead of costing \$100-plus to go to Red Rock or something like that."



**Sara Allison**

"It's all pretty nice. There is a ton of stuff to do every weekend like the farmer's market, all the special walks, the dog park, so yeah I like it."

## Contributors



### MICHELLE CHANCE

The InMaricopa staff reporter isn't a natural long-distance hiker, but she went the extra mile or two for this issue's focus on the outdoors and specifically Archaeology & Heritage Awareness Month. Her adventure focused on the folklore of the so-called "lost Spanish mine" near Maricopa (page 12).



### RITA BRICKER

When Rita is not writing the garden column for InMaricopa (this month she describes helpful bugs, page 40), she's organizing her fellow Maricopa Master Gardeners to share their expertise. She supervises the staff and activities of the Pinal County Master Gardener diagnostic office in the Maricopa Agricultural Center.



### AL BRANDENBURG

Al, like Rita, is a Master Gardener, but he is also a senior and a senior advocate. His ongoing crusade is to prove the "economic impact seniors have" in the Maricopa marketplace and their value to the community. It all adds up to the campaign for a senior center (page 47).

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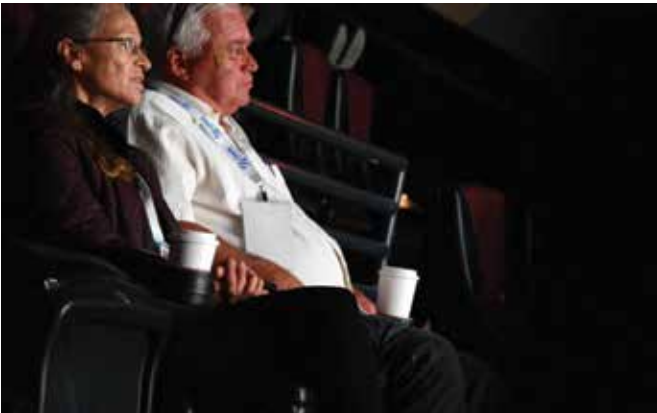
Gallery



Business owner Tena Dugan questions city staff about licensing during Councilmember on the Corner Feb. 3.  
*Michelle Chance*



Maricopa City Council issued a proclamation declaring February Black History Month Feb. 6.  
*Mason Callejas*



Alice and Jim Shoaf watch the documentary "Still Standing" on the big screen during Copa Shorts Film Festival Feb. 17. The film features the Shoafs' effort to bring post-hurricane aid to Rockport, Texas, as documented by Mason Callejas.  
*Raquel Hendrickson*



Maricopa actor Izzy Watts (right) talks shop with Matthew Earl Jones, director of the Arizona Office of Film & Digital Media, Feb. 16.  
*Raquel Hendrickson*



A Black History Month Musical Revue featuring A Touch of Class filled the Maricopa Public Library Feb. 10.  
*Raquel Hendrickson*



Scores of players converged on Maricopa Meadows Feb. 3 for the annual disc golf tournament Jan. 27.  
*Raquel Hendrickson*

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Pierre and Daniel Deck told their stories of growing up in Mobile to the Maricopa Historical Society's Pat Brock.

Maricopa Historical Society

# Life in Mobile: A close-knit family

By Patricia Brock and the Maricopa Historical Society

Mobile is a small community located about 15 miles west of Maricopa on State Route 238 (Mobile Road), and north of what was the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. It is in Maricopa County and bordered by two majestic mountain ranges — the Estrella Mountains to the east and the Maricopa Mountain Range to the west.

In the 1800s, this little settlement was named Mobile when the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks were laid across southern Arizona and a siding and section house were created to provide water for steam engines. Today, not much remains to indicate that at one time Mobile might have developed into a thriving town. In 1988, it was the proposed site for the Superconducting Super Collider and considered by the ENSCO Hazardous Waste Facility, but neither of these projects took root. However, against the wishes of many of its residents, the Butterfield Station Waste Management Facility did locate at Mobile.

**First Homestead**  
Edison Lung, a white man who first carved out a life in Mobile, homesteaded the area around 1921 and continued to live there for the rest of his life. Lung worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad pumping water for the steam engines. When the railroad transferred him to Yuma, he absolutely refused to go, quit his job and laid down stakes at Mobile catering to railroad personnel and travelers. Records show Lung filed an application to enlarge his homestead in 1922 and received a title to that land in 1925. His homestead consisted of a frame and stucco house, a store located downstairs and a post office with

sleeping quarters on the second floor. The homestead had a gas station, a cow barn, a chicken coup and a storeroom. His wife ran the post office and made a living by providing services to travelers and railroad employees. Edison Lung raised cattle, hogs and chicken on his homestead. Around 1935, he decided to modernize the property and bought a Delco electric generator that provided the family with lighting and the use of a few appliances. Records also show he and his family motored to Maricopa to dances at the Maricopa Hotel and to other recreational events throughout the 1930s.

**An African American Community**  
During the late 1920s and early '30s, Mobile became an African American settlement as people began to homestead the land. According to Mark Swanson (An Archaeological Investigation of the Historic Black Settlement at Mobile, Arizona), the population in the 1930s was between 100 and 150 and consisted of mainly black settlers. Most of these early settlers did not work for the railroad but came from Oklahoma or Texas by way of Phoenix. The first of the successful African American homesteaders were Lee Elliot Williams (homestead awarded in 1933); Richard Cobb

Williams (homestead awarded in 1933); Homer Abraham Williams (homestead awarded in 1933); and Willis Thomas, Hezekiah McGriff, Eli Weddington, James Manor, and the Israel Nelson families.

**Education**  
The first school in Mobile contained grades 1-8 and consisted of two railroad cars placed end to end. White children went to school in one car and black children went to school in the other car. Later, the white children were transferred to a wood frame schoolhouse that was moved from Rainbow Valley (1936-37) and placed near the home of Edison Lung. It continued to educate these children up to the 1960s. The black residents of Mobile built a small schoolhouse, Nelson Elementary School, for their children. When the community started to grow and needed a bigger school, the government built a much larger one in the same location. After eighth grade graduation, children were bused to Percy L. Julian or South Mountain High School.

**Growing up in Mobile**  
In an oral history interview with the Deck brothers, Pierre and Daniel, and their lifelong friend Fezel Adams, Pierre Deck recalled what it was like growing up in Mobile: “One thing about Mobile, I don’t care who you were, you were family. If you needed something, you got it. I don’t care how it came to you, you got it, you didn’t have to pay it back. It was just one big family.” Pierre Deck said, “I watched my grandfather come from nothing to having something ... to be proud of who you are. You just do the right thing and that’s how I was raised. In Mobile everybody stood out.” Daniel Deck said, “Nobody had running water or electricity. They hauled the water. No electricity, dirt floors, no windows, a potbellied stove you stuck wood into. My grandma and grandpa, they worked pretty hard. When sand was dumped out there, snakes would just lay down and sleep. You had to walk out to the outhouse; you didn’t have a bathroom. If you encountered a snake, you would just jump it or go around. There was not an animal around that the snake would back up from! You live here and they live over there. You had to look under the covers and under the bed and everywhere. You might get out of bed and they would be sleeping right next to you.” Today, Mobile has a population of less than 100 people who are mostly white. Besides the Butterfield Waste Management Facility, there is a private airport, Lufthansa, located to its north that is used for training pilots.

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Archaeologist Aaron Wright examines site west of Maricopa that has long been attached to a "lost Spanish mine" tale. An examination sorts fact from fiction.

# ‘Lost mine’ in Sierra Estrella: Fact or Folklore?

By Michelle Chance Photos by Mason Callejas

Embedded in Arizona is a history rife with facts, folklore and fantasy. The Wild West was alive long before statehood, and that allure of lawlessness, fame and fortune birthed romantic tall-tales that have survived the test of time. “One of the things that folklore does is it helps us get a good feeling of our heritage, a good feeling of the legacy that we enjoy,” said Maricopa Historical Society Vice President Denny Hoeh. “And what makes us a person sometimes is some of that background.”

Maricopa is no stranger to lore. An Internet search for historic sites has led many down a dirt path and up a rigorous hike into the Sierra Estrella to test the legend of a “lost Spanish mine.” The area is about an hour’s 4-wheel drive from the city along rough, saguaro-filled, desert trails. The site contains a mine and well with by a one-room stone house amateur history sleuths claim is one of the oldest, non-religious,

colonial structures in the state. The legend seems to have been first documented by an author who wrote about it in the 1930s. Excerpts from John D. Mitchell’s “Lost Mines and Buried Treasures Along the Old Frontier” and short stories by other local authors of Mitchell’s time have been cited in historical theories people have about the abandoned site.

Mitchell’s version refers to it as “Don Joaquin and his Lost Mine,” attributing the site to a so-called Don Joaquin Campoy, a Spaniard who allegedly built it with help from Pima and Maricopa Native American tribes in the mid-19th century. The fable claims Campoy extracted gold from his mine and buried the treasure in a nearby cave. Mitchell’s book is prefaced by the author’s research methods, claiming “this is not a book of fiction,” but a work of research gleaned from Native American oral history, Spanish and church records and the author’s own credibility documenting stories in the Southwest. Other questionable theories surrounding the stone structure have alleged its construction occurred even earlier by the Spanish in the 1700s. However, no mining or other records outside modern mid-century writings by Mitchell and others exist. An Arizona archaeologist recently agreed to travel to the site with InMaricopa and examine the claims. On the way, desert trails lead adventurers to the base of the Sierra Estrella on Bureau of Land Management property.



The hike is rigorous, but access to the site above is possible so long as explorers follow cairn stone piles and trail markers carved into boulders. The house emerges from the side of the mountain like a diamondback, with its dry-laid stones camouflaged like fossilized scales against its surroundings.

The house with three stone walls and one of mountain siding is sheltered above by saguaro skeletons, wood boards and one iron pipe. Inside, a jar seals notes written by visitors. One author promotes responsible adventuring in the area to preserve the site he pens as “the oldest structure in Arizona.” Analysis of the site by archaeologist Aaron Wright of Tucson-based Archaeology Southwest concluded the claim was about “300 years off” from being historically accurate. Wright examined the home, well, mine and artifacts scattered throughout the area. Altogether, Wright said the home site was constructed around the same time as the mine and well, but its builders used technology and materials not available to those in the 1800s or earlier. “We have a lot of evidence that it’s early 20th century,” Wright said, sitting at the base of the stone house. That places the house’s construction around or just decades before Mitchell’s first published account of it, contributing to the mystery shrouding the identity of the site’s builders. Wright chalks the lost mine stories up to folklore — a common product of the ‘culture of the West.’ However, he said, the site is still an impressive example of statehood-era prospecting and mining.

“The structure is one of the more substantial mining structures that I’ve seen. Some people put some hard work into this and the fact that it’s still standing is a testament to their will and their determination to eke out a living based on mining operations,” Wright said, adding there is not much evidence to support the mine ever producing much, if any, gold. Hoeh said folklore is usually peppered with bits of truth, and these stories are important to people because it provides them a sense of connection to those who may have lived and worked before them. “Things like the old Spanish Mine and the

house that is up there that’s built of rocks, it becomes a symbol that you can hold and touch that may be able to help people and give people a better feel for the legacy and heritage that we have in this area,” Hoeh said. No matter where the legends of the mine originated, or how much of it is rooted in truth, Wright said the site and the area surrounding it is an important part of local history. “Where we’re at has a lot of history to it, and building upon that history from the O’odham and Pee-Posh people, you do have Arizona history on a small scale here in the Sierra Estrella,” Wright said.

## Unsafe bedfellows: Target shooters, hikers, off-roaders must follow precautions

By Mason Callejas

As prime outdoor recreation weather moves into the area, it’s important to emphasize some of the basic safety advice all hikers, campers, park visitors and recreational shooters should remember — respect each other’s presence, follow posted regulations and shoot responsibly. According to the Bureau of Land Management, shots fired across the open desert can travel for more than a mile. BLM does not manage any shooting areas on Arizona public lands. The lack of regulation can often be dangerous with many shooters of varying skill levels firing powerful weapons sometimes recklessly. In January one such incident occurred near Buckeye when a young, expectant mother was struck in the chest by a stray bullet while at a public shooting area with family. Kami Gilstrap, 24, died at a hospital. Gilstrap was not the first to suffer such a fate. Trails and campsites near public and private shooting areas make for potentially hazardous conditions. Multiple hikers have been struck by stray or accidentally discharged bullets in the greater Phoenix area in recent years, including a 35-year-old man shot in 2015 while hiking in South Mountain Park. Though it was determined the male hiker was off trail, the nearby Phoenix Rod and Gun Club was investigated as a possible source of the bullet. Shooters who plan to target shoot must remember shooting is only allowed 100 yards away from any major road, and one mile from an inhabited structure. Always shoot against an adequate backdrop and follow standard safe shooting practices. And clean up after yourself. Hikers and off-road enthusiasts planning a desert excursion should do some research about the locations of both public and private shooting areas. Stick to marked trails and avoid areas within a 2-mile radius of shooting areas. Carry an adequate supply of water, a cellular phone and notify family or friends of the general location and intended duration of a planned hike or camping trip.

**AZ BLM SHOOTING GUIDELINES — [BLM.gov/arizona/target-shooting](https://www.blm.gov/arizona/target-shooting)**  
**UNLAWFUL DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS — [ARS 13-3107](https://www.azleg.gov/ars/13/03107.htm) — [AZLeg.gov/ars/13/03107.htm](https://www.azleg.gov/ars/13/03107.htm)**  
**AZ SHOOTING LOCATIONS — [AZShooters.org/map](https://www.azshooters.org/map)**



# Top 10 historical, archeological sites around Maricopa

By Maricopa Historical Society Vice President Denny Hoeh

For Archeology Month, Maricopa Historical Society Vice President Denny Hoeh shared his top 10 historically-significant sites that contribute to the rich and diverse social tapestry around Maricopa. He said he hopes residents will step out and learn a few things beyond the legends and oral histories of the community.

“There’s an old expression that’s attributed to Dr. [Richard] White from the University of Washington. He said that ‘Americans love history, but have little use for historians,’” Hoeh said. “We all like our histories and we all like our stories that we have grown up with and things of that nature, but it’s nice to go to these places and see a little bit more of the correct history, some of the artifacts and some of the information that we might have missed in the folklore.”



## 1 Ak-Chin Indian Community

“They actually have three museum sites... which give a lot of history of Maricopa and the Native Americans just to the south [of Maricopa]. Those are [all] free [and] open to the public pretty regularly.”

- **Him-Dak Eco-Museum** – 47685 W. Eco-Museum Road
- **Bureau of Indian Affairs Agency House** – 46348 W. Farrell Road
- **St. Francis of Assisi Mission Schoolhouse** – 16657 N. Church Road

## 2 Huhugam Heritage Center

21359 S. Maricopa Road, Chandler

“It’s significant because not only does it have displays on the Akiel O’Odham and Peeposh members of the tribe, but it also stores the artifacts from Snaketown. Snaketown was one of the most significant Hohokam centers.”



## 3 Sonoran Desert National Monument

“[The monument is] terribly underused, but through the national monument was a thoroughfare that literally people have been using for centuries. It designates nine different, recognized trails or nine different aspects to the trail.”

The area was traversed by pre-colonial indigenous cultures living around the Gila River basin; Spanish explorers in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, including Francisco Coronado, Juan Bautista de Anza and Father Kino; the Mormon Battalion, Forty Niners and multiple stagecoach routes.

## 4 Gila Bend Museum

644 W. Pima St., Gila Bend  
“In that museum it talks about [the historic] trails. It has pictures and exhibits and even some artifacts.”

## 5 Painted Rock – Petroglyphs

Rocky Point Road, Dateland

“It is the petroglyphs of the Hohokam people.”



It’s significant in that it is such a clear place that many of the folks who came along those trails and kept journals describe this area. So, we know exactly this area was visited by de Anza, was visited by the Mormon Battalion, was visited by gold rush pioneers as well as the Butterfield Stage[coach] line.”



## 6 Japanese Internment Camp

Butte Camp Monument – Indian Route 86

“There’s an old structure that used to be the cultural center of the Gila River community. They’ve closed that cultural center, but in front of that they have displays and information about the Japanese internment camps... that were just outside of Maricopa.”



## 7 Mathew B. Juan – Ira H. Hayes Memorial Park

Voak Drive, Sacaton  
“[The commemorative park] talks about Ira Hayes [and] it talks about the veterans of WWI. One of the first soldiers to be killed in WWI happen to be a member of the Gila River community.”

## 8 The Museum of Casa Grande

110 W. Florence Blvd., Casa Grande  
“It’s the old stone church building, [but] because Casa Grande and Maricopa paralleled a lot of history, when you go in and look at that museum, a lot of the history that is in that museum is also the history of Maricopa.”



## 9 Casa Grande Ruins National Monument

1100 W. Ruins Drive, Coolidge

“This has been around for a long time, It’s again one of those places that were recorded in lots of different histories, and when different people came into this area, they kept journals and they mentioned this area.”

In 1918 it officially became a national monument, so it is celebrating its 100th birthday as a National Monument this year.



## 10 Florence

“I think you have to go to [Florence] to have a feel for the history of the area. [It] has a state historical park called McFarland [Historic State Park]... it has some great displays on the WWII German prison camp that was there... Also, the Pinal County Historical Society has a great museum... it has some great displays about this area [and] Pinal County. It also has a whole section that looks at the state prison.”

“One of the [other] buildings that you see right away [in Florence] is the second Pinal County Court House. You can go in, there’s a little bit of an exhibit, and the fun thing about that is that when they built it they ran out of money before they put in a clock, so they painted a clock in the tower.”

- **MacFarland State Park** – 24 Ruggles St., Florence
- **Pinal County Court House** – 135 N. Pinal St., Florence
- **Pinal County Historical Museum** – 715 S. Main St., Florence

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# Lifelong Ram reigns over middle school in 'tough' transition

By Michelle Chance Photos by Mason Callejas

Maricopa Wells Middle School Principal Thad Miller has spent his entire professional career at Maricopa Unified School District. And his 20-plus years as an employee were preceded by 13 years as an MUSD student. "It was a small farming town back then, but we always had high expectations," said Miller, who attended Maricopa Elementary School.

Miller, a 1986 MHS graduate, moved with his family to Maricopa from Maryvale when he was 5 years old.

After receiving his teaching certificate from Arizona State University, Miller returned to Maricopa to teach middle school science in 1997.

"It was a pride thing," Miller said of his decision to teach in Maricopa. "I wanted to help the community I came from, and that's the way I still feel."

He spent 15 years coaching middle school football, basketball and other sports on the same fields and courts he played on in high school.

"I grew up Maricopa Rams," said Miller, who still sports his iconic, red, Converse sneakers every Friday.

Miller has been married to fellow MHS alumna Pauline Miller for 20 years, and their seven children have all attended MUSD schools.

**Thad Miller is principal of Maricopa Wells Middle School. He attended MUSD schools from kindergarten through high school graduation.**

In 2012, Miller began easing into administration at MWMS as a part-time teacher on special assignment focused on discipline, while still teaching science courses, before becoming a full-time assistant principal there.

Miller worked nearly a decade under former MWMS Principal Rick Abel.

"He was a great mentor for me, and we had a great situation. And it just so happened things went the way they did this year and changes were made," Miller said.

District officials transferred Abel from the middle school to Maricopa High School last fall after MHS principal Renita Meyers resigned.

Miller said the transition was tough on students and staff — as it was not the first temporary change in administration that semester. Months before Miller was named principal, he had been placed at MHS to fill the slot of another assistant principal for a short time.



**“Kids understand what they are expected to do, and he’s consistent with working with them.”**

—Rick Abel, former MWMS Principal

Miller's return to MWMS helped staff and students better adjust to the transition, he said.

"It was one of those things where you don't like change, but there is no reason to sit around and whine and complain. Our solution is to work together and move forward, and that's what we're going to do," Miller said.

"As a teacher, he was always one of the students' favorites," said teacher Jerri Early, who has worked with Miller for 20 years. "As an administrator, he has the full support of his staff."

The former teacher, coach and disciplinarian said he practices positivity in every encounter with students in an ongoing effort to build relationships.

Abel said Miller has always been a "student-focused" educator.

"As a classroom teacher he had great management skills, and I think it's the same in his administrative role," Abel said. "Kids understand what they are expected to do, and he's consistent with working with them."

Among the changes at MWMS this school year, students welcomed 270 sixth graders back to campus, growing the student population to nearly 850, Miller said.

Additional challenges came from parents criticizing the school online, claiming student behavior is not properly addressed by administration. Miller said there is no major discipline problem at MWMS, though parents and guardians are welcome to visit him to express concerns.

"Passionate parents are who I like dealing with. They may have complaints at times, that's OK," Miller said. "I'm here to solve those complaints and make things better."

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Maricopa DECA competed in the Arizona DECA District 9 competition Jan. 18 and performed its personal best since the program was chartered in 2009. *Submitted*



The Maricopa High School girls' basketball season again ended in Round 1 of the AIA state playoffs. Jayla Johnson was top scorer in 5A Metro averaging 16.3 points per game. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Local high school students toured the Central Arizona College Maricopa campus Jan. 30 during College Fair day. *Michelle Chance*



Actor Brandon Korritky played an oddball in the MHS Theatre Company's production of "The Mousetrap" Feb. 1. *Raquel Hendrickson*



At the Ak-Chin Airport, where JROTC cadets had a pilot experience, were (from left) VFW past commander Mike Kemery, Cadet Reno Dugan, Police Chief Steve Stahl, Cadet Samantha Blaschke, Cadet Ian Mase and Capt. Jim Space. *Michelle Chance*



Feb. 10, the Maricopa High School Rams Choir attended the annual Jazz and Madrigal Festival at Northern Arizona University and received a rating of Excellent. *Submitted*



Leading Edge Academy Maricopa eighth grader Zach Kondravy won the state title at the Canyon Athletic Association's Junior High State Wrestling Championship on Jan. 27. *Submitted*



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Pickleball



Women gather for pickleball competition at Copper Sky (from left): front – Karlee Palmer, Amber Durfee and Rebecca Bennett; back – Valerie Silvers, Jessica Attkisson, Kim Hodges and Allison Atwood.



# Youth contributing to pickleball growth

Photos by Raquel Hendrickson

Pickleball aficionados proclaim it to be the fastest growing sport in America, expected to reach 8 million by the end of the year. In Maricopa, it is estimated over 1,000 adults and kids have learned to play. Five days a week, they take over half the gym space at Copper Sky, with players waiting in line for a game. Official pickleball ambassadors Rocky Myers and Will LaHousse have gathered their friends to teach the game at local middle schools.

“It was last year, I went to the school superintendent and said, ‘Hey, I’d like to introduce pickleball,’” Myers said. “And then I got a call [from Desert Wind], so that’s when we came down.”

DWMS seventh grader Adrian Caro is a natural at other sports and picked up pickleball pretty quickly. “It’s kinda cool, I guess,” he said.

The game is played indoors at Copper Sky Tuesday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is played outside on the tennis courts at Pacana Park and Copper Sky and on the nine private pickleball courts at Province.


For many months, Myers has been campaigning for outdoor courts dedicated to pickleball at Copper Sky, so residents can play in the evenings and weekends.

“There are 3-4 dozen avid Maricopa players that go every week or several times a



DWMS students get schooled in pickleball by ambassador Will LaHousse.

week to nearby cities to play,” he said. “Indoor play is great, but it doesn’t compare to playing outside.”

In March, local players will provide free pickleball lessons on the tennis courts at Copper Sky. Sessions are planned for March 3, March 10 and March 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. Paddles and balls will be provided. 

 [PBROcks001@gmail.com](mailto:PBROcks001@gmail.com)

PICKLEBALL BY THE NUMBERS



**8-88**

Ages of pickleball players in Maricopa

**8-9**

Ounces a pickleball paddle weighs

**9**

Pickleball courts at Province

**44x20**

Dimensions in feet of a pickleball court

**99.9**

Percentage of Maricopa pickleball matches played in doubles

**550**

Maricopa Wells and Desert Wind Middle School students taught in 2017

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# 860 teens took big risk last month

By Priscilla Behnke

With the Tide Pod challenge slowly losing steam, it's important to remember the No. 1 ingested poison by teens in Maricopa is alcohol. According to the latest Arizona Youth Survey (2016), roughly 860 teens consumed alcohol last month. It is more students than are enrolled at Maricopa Elementary School. The survey also told us of those who drank, 68 binge-drank (five or more drinks in one setting); 300 got their alcohol at a party and 200 directly by their parents. Thirty-five reported driving while drunk. And 138 reported riding in a car with a drunk driver.

We do not know if it is a friend or parent who was drunk while driving. We do know they thought a drunk driver was an acceptable mode of transportation. Alcohol abuse by teens is not a right of passage. It is a risk with possible lifelong consequences. Seventy-five percent of alcoholics began drinking before age 15. The AYS showed 14 was the average age of first use by Maricopa teens. Even scarier is aggregated data show eighth graders are starting at 11. If alcohol prevention isn't taken seriously by those guiding this generation, they won't be burning their mouths on Tide Pods; they will be sinking their potential down a glass of vodka or becoming another statistic on the 347. Parents should not be passive bystanders as children aimlessly wander through adolescence. It is a common misconception that underage drinking is OK if done with the parent. Research shows that kids who drink with their parents will drink without their parents. But teens whose parents talk with them about their disapproval of underage drinking are less likely to drink. Here are some tips to help you lead the



Priscilla Behnke

fight for prevention in your home:

1. Know the facts and share them with your child. Misinformation is bombarding your child daily. Share early and share often.
2. Set firm rules around drugs and alcohol in the home, let them know you expect them to abstain and, if they don't, what the consequences will be. Then follow through.
3. Monitor your alcohol and lock it up if you have too.

If you're wondering if your teen is already using, here are some signs to look out for:

- Changes in style of clothing, hair or music.
- Hanging out with a bad crowd or new friends you don't know.
- Isolating from the family.
- Changes in attitude or sudden burst of anger.
- Paranoia — acting like everyone is out to get them.

If you and your family need assistance finding help with alcohol and drug treatment, contact the Be Awesome Youth Coalition at 520-428-7750.

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

# Maricopa's Principals: Part 1 Meet some of MUSD's education leaders

By Murray Siegel

Who is the most important person in a school building? A previous column stated the answer is the school's principal. He or she influences the learning environment for students and creates an atmosphere where teachers and staff will excel. Maricopa is fortunate to have a number of excellent principals, yet few citizens know much about the people who occupy the seats of power in our schools. Over the next few months, this column will highlight the principals of Maricopa schools. Dr. Jennifer Robinson is the principal at Maricopa Elementary, where her credo includes focusing on high expectations for teaching and learning. She grew up in Buffalo, New York, and has degrees from SUNY Cortland, SUNY Buffalo and ASU. Her 25

years' experience in education include being a classroom teacher, various academic coaching positions and six years as principal at MES. When asked about a major accomplishment this year, she points to MES being in the Leader in Me Lighthouse process. Currently, three schools in the state hold this status. Looking forward to the 2018-19 year, she anticipates continued growth for her teachers who are working to achieve National Board certification. Randy Lazar, principal at Pima Butte ES, grew up in a rural area near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has lived in Arizona 35 years. His undergraduate and master's degrees were received at ASU, and he is in his 31st year in education. Prior to the five years he has been principal at Pima Butte, he was a special education teacher, education program specialist



Murray Siegel

and special education director. He points to the implementation of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program as a major accomplishment this school year. He looks forward to the introduction of a new language arts curriculum next year. According to his belief system, his function is to maximize the education provided at his school. Janel Hildick is in her seventh year as principal at Butterfield ES. She grew up in Toms River, New Jersey, and received her BA at Georgian Court University. Her master's in education was obtained at ASU, and she has 25 years in education. Prior to Butterfield, she was an elementary and bilingual teacher, as well as a high school Spanish instructor. She points with pride to the fact BES received a Results Based Award from the state this year. She eagerly anticipates the new language arts curriculum as it is implemented next year. Hildick believes all students are capable of high achievement, regardless of their background; high expectations equal high results. Murray Siegel has a PhD in MathEd and 42 years of teaching experience.

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# Spring Sports

High school varsity spring sports are under way. Maricopa High School introduces a new sport in beach volleyball while other sports hope to get back into state contention.

Left to right: Kalani Klepfer, senior, Sequoia Pathway baseball; Shannon Hughes, senior, Sequoia Pathway softball; Carter Paine, senior, Maricopa High School baseball; Caitlin Wilson, senior, Maricopa High School softball; P.J. Austin, senior, Maricopa High School track; Kayla Boice, Maricopa High School track; Eric Wittemann, senior, Maricopa High School tennis; Jaylene Gosselin, senior, Maricopa High School beach volleyball.  
Photos by Victor Moreno

**Sequoia Pathway Baseball**

CAA Division II Region II  
March 2 v. WSST 5 p.m.  
March 6 at HA-Laveen 4 p.m.  
March 9 v. El Dorado 4 p.m.  
March 21 v. South Pointe 4 p.m.  
March 26 at ASU Prep Poly 5 p.m.  
March 27 at HA-Mesa 4:15 p.m.  
April 3 at EVAC 4 p.m.  
April 5 at Imagine Prep Coolidge 4:30 p.m.  
April 7 v. ALA-Ironwood 11 a.m.  
April 9 v. Imagine Prep Coolidge 4:30 p.m.  
April 11 v. Canyon State 4 p.m.

**Sequoia Pathway Softball**

CAA Division II Region I  
March 1 v. ALA-Gilbert 4 p.m.  
March 7 at Imagine Prep Surprise 4 p.m.  
March 9 v. Imagine Prep Coolidge 4 p.m.  
April 2 at Tri-City College Prep 4 p.m.  
April 4 v. ALA-Ironwood 4 p.m.  
April 5 at ALA-Gilbert 4 p.m.

April 10 v. Mission Heights 4 p.m.  
April 12 at HA-Laveen 4 p.m.  
April 17 v. South Ridge 4 p.m.  
April 19 at Paradise Valley Christian 4 p.m.

**Maricopa High School Baseball**

AIA Division 5A Section Metro (remaining schedule)  
March 1 v. Sierra Linda 3:45 p.m.  
March 2 v. Desert Edge 3:45 p.m.  
March 5 v. Glendale 3:45 p.m.  
March 7 v. Ironwood 4 p.m.  
March 12-15 Bob Everett Spring Break Classic at Highland HS  
March 21 at Vista Grande 6 p.m.  
March 22 at Mesquite 4 p.m.  
March 26 at Kellis 3:45 p.m.  
March 27 v. Kellis 3:45 p.m.  
March 29 at Casa Grande 4 p.m.  
April 3 at Sunnyslope 4 p.m.  
April 5 v. Verrado 3:45 p.m.  
April 6 v. Sunnyslope 3:45 p.m.

April 10 v. Apollo 3:45 p.m.  
April 11 v. Ironwood 6:30 p.m.  
April 12 at Apollo 4 p.m.  
April 17 at McClintock 4 p.m.  
April 19 v. McClintock (Senior Night) 3:45 p.m.  
April 20 at Williams Field 3:45 p.m.

**Maricopa High School Softball**

AIA Division 5A Section Metro (remaining schedule)  
March 1 at Sierra Linda 4 p.m.  
March 2 at Desert Edge 6 p.m.  
March 5 at Glendale 4 p.m.  
March 6 v. Vista Grande 3:45 p.m.  
March 8 v. Williams Field 3:45 p.m.  
March 19 v. Mesquite 3:45 p.m.  
March 21-24 at Youngker Tournament  
March 27 at Kellis 4 p.m.  
March 29 v. Casa Grande 3:45 p.m.  
March 30 v. Kellis 3:45 p.m.  
April 3 v. Sunnyslope 3:45 p.m.  
April 5 at Verrado 4 p.m.

April 6 at Sunnyslope 4 p.m.  
April 10 at Apollo 4 p.m.  
April 11 at Ironwood 4 p.m.  
April 12 v. Apollo 3:45 p.m.  
April 17 v. McClintock (Senior Night) 3:45 p.m.  
April 19 at McClintock 4 p.m.

**Maricopa High School Track & Field**

AIA Division II  
March 7 at Chaparral 4 p.m.  
March 10 at Desert Tune-Up (Mountain View Marana) 8 a.m.  
March 21 at McClintock 3 p.m.  
March 22 at Schuster Jones Under-Class Showcase 12 p.m.  
March 23-24 at Chandler Rotary Invite  
March 28 at Maricopa Twilight 3:30 p.m.  
April 13 at Hohokam Invitational 9:30 a.m.  
April 20 at Southeast Valley Championship  
April 25 at Desert Vista Last Chance Meet  
May 2 at Division II State Championship

**Maricopa High School Boys' Tennis**

AIA Division I Section I (remaining schedule)  
March 2 v. Casa Grande 3:30 p.m.  
March 8 at Higley 3:30 p.m.  
March 22 at Williams Field 3:30 p.m.  
March 27 v. Cibola 3:30 p.m.  
March 28 v. Tolleson Union 3:30 p.m.  
March 29 at San Luis 3:30 p.m.  
April 3 at Millennium 3:30 p.m.  
April 4 at La Joya Community 3:30 p.m.  
April 10 v. Westview 3:30 p.m.  
April 12 at Kofa 3:30 p.m.

**Maricopa High School Girls' Tennis**

AIA Division I Section I (remaining schedule)  
March 1 v. Casteel 3:30 p.m.  
March 5 at Casa Grande 3:30 p.m.  
March 8 v. Higley 3:30 p.m.  
March 27 at Cibola 3 p.m.  
March 28 at Tolleson Union 3:30 p.m.  
March 29 v. San Luis 3:30 p.m.  
April 3 v. Millennium 3:30 p.m.  
April 4 v. La Joya Community 3:30 p.m.

April 10 at Westview 3:30 p.m.  
April 12 v. Kofa 3:30 p.m.  
April 16 v. Williams Field 3:30 p.m.

**Maricopa High School Beach Volleyball**

AIA Division I Section IV (remaining schedule)  
March 5 v. Casteel at Copper Sky 4 p.m.  
March 24 at Cat Box Classic Invite at UofA  
March 26 v. Millennium at Copper Sky 4 p.m.  
March 28 at Willow Canyon at Victory Lane Complex 4 p.m.  
April 2 at Shadow Ridge at Victory Lane Complex 4 p.m.  
April 4 at Perry at Seville Golf & Country Club 6:30 p.m.  
April 9 v. Verrado at Copper Sky 4 p.m.  
April 11 v. Dysart at Copper Sky 4 p.m.  
April 13 v. Hamilton at Copper Sky (Senior Night) 4 p.m.  
April 16 at Mesquite High School 4 p.m.



# UPS Store goes beyond traditional services

The UPS Store has shipped packages, faxed, scanned and notarized documents in Maricopa since 2006.

But it's the store's welcoming attitude that has kept customers coming back for the past decade, said Store Manager Tracey Nagy.

"We know everybody's name who comes in here, it seems like," said Nagy. "We're happy about that and hopefully that comes across as a real, friendly atmosphere in here."

Nagy has worked for UPS for 13 years. She's spent the last dozen managing her store in Maricopa and has watched the city grow along with her customer base.

"I opened the store way back when and it definitely wasn't as busy as it is now, but we've grown leaps and bounds and it's a really good store," Nagy said.

The store provides more than just its traditional services.



Tracey Nagy

In addition to its printing and copying options, the UPS store also allows customers to send documents over the web.

Nagy explained that customers can email attached documents directly to the store from the convenience of their computers and pick up their copies once the order is ready.

It's one of many practices Nagy said the store has used to support local entrepreneurs.

"We definitely love the community and we like to help small businesses," Nagy said.

Some of the most popular services utilized by small business owners is the UPS Store's 24/7 access mailboxes, business cards and letterhead printing.

For traditional shipping needs, Nagy said her customers feel safe when sending important packages through the mail.

"The Pack and Ship Guarantee offers the customer a guarantee that their packages will arrive safely, and if not, they will get reimbursed for the charges," Nagy said.

520-568-5712  
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The UPS Store

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51%

of Maricopans don't feel connected to the community, As a result one of the top ways teens access alcohol is at parties. **There is something better for our youth!**

Source: Arizona Youth Survey 2016, Cenpatco Maricopa Community Survey



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# Business in the news

CPA **Jim Chaston** will be the guest speaker at the **Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Mixer** on March 8 at 7 a.m. at Elements Event Center. He will discuss the new tax law.

Chef **Josh Sweat** of South Carolina became the general manager of **Dickey’s Barbecue Pit** in March. He is in charge of day-to-day operations.

**Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino** is busily hiring leadership for its hotel expansion. **Linda Hughes McCarthy** of Maricopa was named hotel operations manager. She will direct the day-to-day operations of the hotel. She has a has a certificate in hospitality management from Cornell University. Harrah’s Ak-Chin also hired an executive housekeeper. **Daniel Piña** will be responsible for managing costs and hiring and training staff. He was a manager at The Omni Scottsdale and The Phoenixian and is currently attending Arizona State University to earn a bachelor’s degree in tourism development management.

**Fry’s Marketplace**, 20797 N. John Wayne Parkway, received a permit (as Smith’s Food &Drug Centers Inc.) to increase its fuel dispensers from five to seven for a 1,223-square-foot expansion of the fuel center canopy. The work, valued at \$221,000, is being done by Sigma Contracting. The project also received a permit for an underground fireline and hydrant.

**Denny’s**, 21171 N. John Wayne Parkway, received a permit for an LED sign.



Daniel Piña



Linda Hughes McCarthy

## NEW, RENEWED BUSINESS LICENSES

The following businesses applied for new or renewed business licenses Jan. 16-Feb. 15.

**COMMERCIAL:** CVH Construction, The Law Office of Elizabeth S. Thuenen

**HOME-BASED:** 911 Air Repair, AJ’s Creative Stitches, Annie’s Cleaning Services, AZ Trash Pirate, Bags and More by Julie, Beyond the Mast Fine Art Photography, Cargill Creative, Carmichael Enterprises, Carrasco-Gomez Tax Services, Ceja Supply, Copa’s Helping Hands, CraftyWellness, Denice’s Pool Service, Everything Steam Cleaned Auto Detail, Fit N-Motion, Forever Fiberworks, Fortified Collection, Happy Thoughts Hypnosis, J.A.M.E.S. Home Baked Goods, Howse Financial Services, JRM Crafting Design, La Bella Casa, Ms. Sparkle, Mytpop, News of Maricopa, Paparazzi Accessories, Piece of Shirt, Playdates for Pups, Positively Posh Events, Rhonda Lavender, Sunshine & Reign Photography

**OUT OF TOWN:** Arizona Commercial Signs, Central Arizona College, Cuties Lemonade & More, Desertbuild Construction, Driana of the Midnight Forest, Express Home Service, First Impression Iron Works, Nerium International, NOVA Financial & Investment Corporation, Pace Pacific Corporation, Patrick Riley Cooling, Rango Honey, Sierra H Broadcasting, Soft & Pure Plumbing, Soilworks, Springsted Waters Incorporated

**NONPROFIT:** Banner Casa Grande Medical Center, Education Community Partner, Homeless Shelter, Journey United Methodist Church



Submitted



Submitted

# Province landscaper wins awards

The Province community’s landscape maintenance contractor recently received an Award of Excellence and the Best Maintenance Practices Award for their work in Maricopa.

The awards are presented annually by the Arizona Landscape Contractors Association. BrightView received an Award of Excellence, the top prize for commercial landscape maintenance, in the \$350,000 to \$500,000 category and the Best Maintenance Practices Award,

which recognizes the best maintained community in the state across all categories.

“As a team, we work with the property management to refresh the landscape in the community while remaining water conscious,” said Robbie Stephens, associate branch manager at BrightView. “Over the past two years, we have implemented a plan to reduce water usage, mitigate the effects of poor quality effluent water, remove overgrown plant material, and enhance the landscape.”

## FOOD INSPECTIONS TAG WALMART

Of the 20 eateries inspected by Pinal County’s health department Jan. 16-Feb. 15, only one location did not receive excellent marks.

Walmart, its deli and its bakery were all marked down for what the inspector called a repeat issue — lack of hot water in the hand-washing sinks. In food establishments, hand-washing sinks are required to provide water at a temperature of at least 100 degrees. After several minutes running time, the water reached into the 80s and 90s at various sinks, an issue noted in an August inspection. The inspector also discussed the handling of raw chicken with the person in charge of the deli.

### EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Aliberto’s Maricopa
- Bashas’
- Bashas’ — Bakery
- Bashas’ — Deli
- Brooklyn Boys Italian Restaurant
- Central Arizona College — Café
- Central Arizona College — Culinary
- Circle K, 21212 N. John Wayne Parkway
- The Duke at Rancho El Dorado

- Helen’s Kitchen
- JB Farmer’s Convenience Store
- Li’s Garden
- Maricopa High School
- McDonald’s, 41710 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.
- The New HQ
- Plaza Bonita
- Raceway Bar & Grill
- Rock Garden Café
- Say Sushi
- True Grit Tavern

### SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- Walmart
- Walmart — Bakery
- Walmart — Deli

### NEEDS IMPROVEMENT [Critical items noted during inspection cannot be corrected immediately requiring follow-up inspection]

None

### UNACCEPTABLE [Gros, unsanitary conditions necessitating the discontinuation of service]

None



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21300 N. John Wayne Parkway  
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520-568-3303  
ChastonCPA.com

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MrAppliance.com

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**Caliche Senior Living**  
1640 N. Peart Road  
Casa Grande  
520-316-8041  
CalicheLiving.com

**Comfort Keepers**  
480-659-9201  
ComfortKeepers.com

## Visiting Angels

16815 S. Desert Foothills  
Parkway, Suite 123  
Phoenix  
480-886-1165  
VisitingAngels.com/  
SouthPhoenix

## ATTORNEY

**COPPLE & COPPLE, P.C.**  
*S. Christopher Copple, Esq.*  
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Malpractice Specialists  
(602) 528-4705  
Chris@CopplesLawFirm.com

## Jordan Law, L.L.P.

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520-483-3768  
85239spine.com

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## CLEANING

**Clean Sweep House Cleaning**  
480-448-5770  
CleanSweepHouseCleaning.com

**Oxi Fresh Carpet Cleaning**  
520-329-4027  
OxiFresh.com

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20987 N. John Wayne Parkway,  
Suite B-104  
502-568-5712  
TheUpsStore.com

## DENTISTS / ORTHODONTIST

**Premier Orthodontics**  
21083 N. John Wayne Parkway  
520-448-4059  
YourAZBraces.com

**San Tan Oral Surgery**  
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway  
Suite 112  
480-659-9820  
SanTanOralSurgery.com

## DRYER VENT CLEANING

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MrAppliance.com

## ELECTRICIAN

**Mr. Electric of Phoenix Metro**  
1155 W. 23rd St.  
Suite 3B, Tempe  
520-216-5648  
PhoenixMetro.MrElectric.com

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

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520-568-3333

**Maricopa Police Department**  
520-316-6800

**Poison Control**  
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## ENTERTAINMENT

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12601 E. US Hwy 60  
Gold Canyon  
FestivalRenFestInfo.com

**Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino**  
15406 N. Maricopa Road  
480-802-5000  
Caesars.com/Harrahs-Ak-Chin

## EYE CARE

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AkChinSouthernDunes.com

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1720 W. Elliot Road  
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**Banner Casa Grande Medical Center**  
1800 E. Florence Blvd.,  
Casa Grande  
520-381-6300  
BannerHealth.com/CasaGrande

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**The Friends of the Maricopa Public Library**  
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Occupation: Realtor  
Family: Wife, son, daughter, 5 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren  
Like most about Maricopa: Small-town feel  
Like least about Maricopa: Lack of restaurants  
FAVORITE ...  
Charity: American Cancer Society  
Restaurant: Plaza Bonita  
Words to live by: Keep on keeping on  
Anything else we should know? Played in Navy Drum & Bugle Corps. Played drums professionally, sat in with band "One Republic" last year. In a band called "Just for Fun." We play around town on occasion.  
Learn more about Kent at [InMaricopa.com/Getting-To-Know](http://InMaricopa.com/Getting-To-Know)





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CopaAz.com

**HomeSmart Success**  
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DWMS.MaricopaUSD.org

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520-494-6400  
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**520-568-7800**  
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**Maricopa Elementary School**  
18150 N. Alterra Parkway  
520-568-5160  
MES.MaricopaUSD.org

**Maricopa High School**  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.  
520-568-8102  
MHS.MaricopaUSD.org

**Maricopa Unified School District #20**  
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.  
520-568-5100  
MaricopaUSD.org

**Maricopa Wells Middle School**  
45725 W. Honeycutt Ave.  
520-568-7100  
MWMS.MaricopaUSD.org

**Pima Butte Elementary School**  
42202 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway  
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18600 N. Porter Road  
520-568-6110  
SES.MaricopaUSD.org

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19845 N. Costa del Sol  
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# 2018 Election Dates

PRIMARY ELECTION

May 30	Deadline to return candidate packets for city council
July 30	Deadline to register to vote
Aug. 1	Early voting begins
Aug. 2	Town Hall for city council, school board, county
Aug. 4	Town Hall for Legislature, Congress
Aug. 17 (5 p.m.)	Deadline to request early ballot by mail
Aug. 22	Deadline to return early ballot by mail
Aug. 24 (5 p.m.)	Deadline to vote early in-person
Aug. 28	Election Day

GENERAL ELECTION

Oct. 9	Deadline to register to vote
Oct. 10	Early voting begins
Oct. 26 (5 p.m.)	Deadline to request early ballot by mail
Oct. 31	Deadline to return early ballot by mail
Nov. 2 (5 p.m.)	Deadline to vote early in-person
Nov. 6	Election Day

**InMaricopa.com Town Hall** presented by Maricopa Chamber of Commerce for the Primary Election will be the evening of Aug. 2 for local and county races, and the morning of Aug. 4 for state and federal races.

FEDERAL ELECTIONS

U.S. Senate Seat

To be vacated by Jeff Flake

- Deedra Abboud
- Bob Bishop
- Chris Russell
- Richard Sherzan
- Kyrsten Sinema

- Joe Arpaio
- Craig Brittain
- Christian (C.J.) Diegel
- Michelle Griffin
- Martha McSally
- Nicholas Tutora
- Kelli Ward

U.S. Congress District 1

- Tom O'Halleran\*
- Kevin Cavanaugh
- Shawn Redd
- Wendy Rogers
- Tiffany Shedd
- Steve Smith
- Ray Parrish

ARIZONA STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

Governor

- Steve Farley
- Kelly Fryer
- David Garcia
- Angel Torres

- Noah Dyer
- Patrick Masoya

- Doug Ducey \*

- Merissa Hamilton
- Kevin McCormick
- Jeff Funicello

Secretary of State

- Mark Robert Gordon
- Katie Hobbs

- Steve Gaynor
- Kevin Gibbons
- Lori Klein-Corbin
- Michele Reagan \*

■ Democrat ■ Republican ■ Green Party ■ Independent ■ Libertarian \*Incumbent

Attorney General

- January Contreras
- Michael Kielsky
- Mark Brnovich\*

Treasurer

- Mark Cardenas
- Mark Manoil
- Thomas Forese
- Kimberly Yee

Superintendent of Public Instruction

- David Schapira
- Katherine Hoffman
- Stacie Banks

- Robert Branch
- Diane Douglas\*
- Jonathan Gelbart
- Tracy Livingston
- Frank Riggs

- Stuart Starky

Mine Inspector

- Bill Pierce
- Joe Hart

Corporation Commission (2 seats)

- Bill Mundell
- Kiana Sears
- Brenda Barton
- Rodney Glassman
- James O'Connor
- Justin Olson
- Eric Sloan

Arizona Legislature District 11

State Senate To be vacated by Steve Smith

- Ralph Atchue
- Vince Leach



State Representative (2 seats)

- Hollace Lyon
- Barry McCain
- Mark Finchem\*
- Bridger Kimball
- Brett Roberts

PINAL COUNTY

Clerk of Superior Court

- Amanda Stanford\*

Justice of the Peace Precinct 4

- Lyle Riggs\*

Constable Precinct 4

- Andre LaFond
- William Griffin
- Glenn Morrison

CITY OF MARICOPA

City Council (3 seats)

Candidates who have pulled packets

- Sarah Ball
- Linette Caroselli
- Vincent Manfredi\*
- Bob Marsh
- Cynthia Morgan
- Viola Najar
- Daniela Piceno
- Rich Vitiello
- Henry Wade \*

Maricopa Unified School District (2 seats)

- Patti Coutre\*
- Gary Miller\*

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# RTA lawsuit could impact city’s COMET budget

By Mason Callejas

The Maricopa City Council approved an application for federal transit funds Feb. 6. But those funds are just part of the budget puzzle for city transportation.

Development Services Director Martin Scribner said the Section 5311 grant from the Federal Transit Administration is something the city applies for every two years. By continuing to do so, the FTA remains informed about the goals of the city, making it more likely to continue to receive the funds, which make up more than half of the transportation department’s budget.

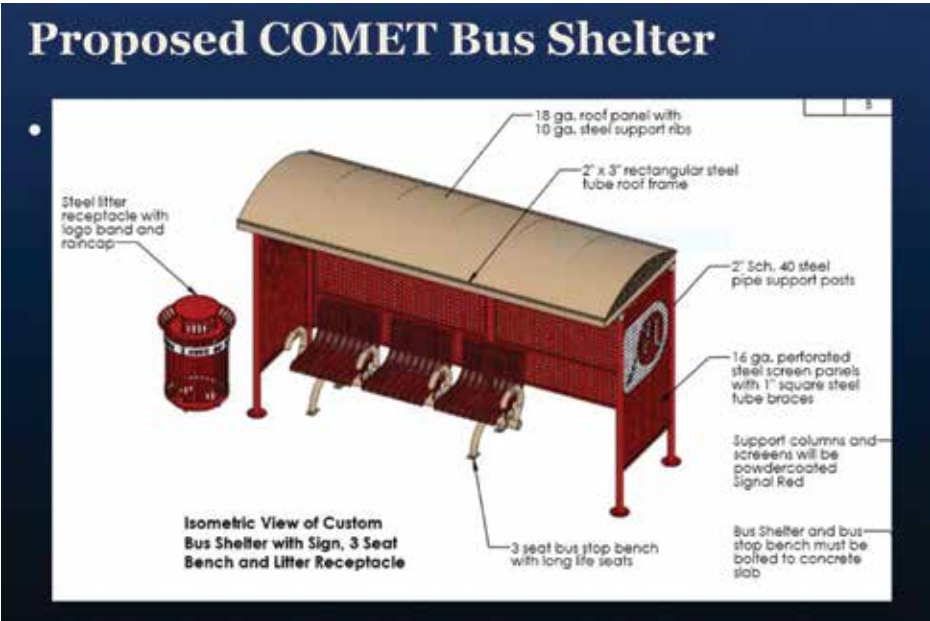
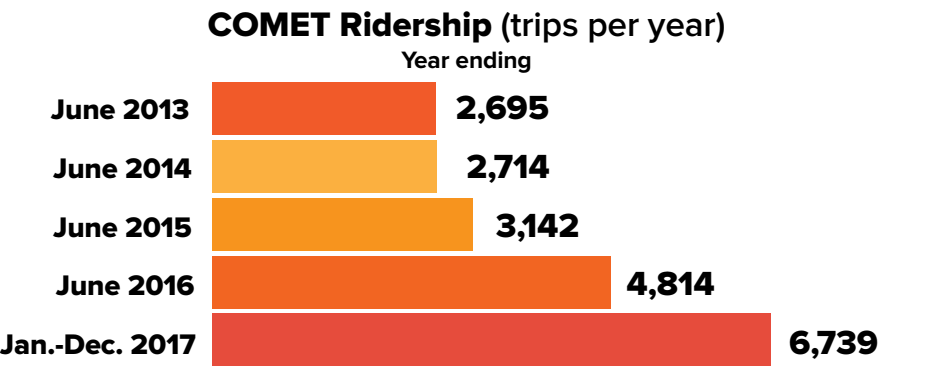
For the next two fiscal years combined (2018-20), the proposed budget for the City of Maricopa Express Transit (COMET) is just under \$924,000. Of that, \$579,000 is from federal funds, leaving \$344,366 to be paid locally.

That is where the recently passed Pinal Regional Transportation Authority could come into play. The plan provides \$1 million annually to transit systems in the county. Though it has not been determined how much would come to Maricopa, it could be applied to offset COMET’s hit to the city budget.

The RTA may go into effect in April, but there is an active lawsuit by the Goldwater Institute attempting to stop it. However, there is not an injunction in place.




Michelle Chance



Courtesy City of Maricopa

If the half-cent sales tax goes into effect and pays out money to transportation and transit projects for a year, and then the court rules against the RTA, Councilmember Marvin Brown questioned whether the used funds would be expected to be returned.

Mayor Christian Price said the tax collection will proceed if there is no injunction. He said there are a number of theories and “potential variances” at hand if a court rules in favor of the Goldwater Institute after money has been collected.

As for COMET, the city is hoping to use a combination of federal funds and funds from the RTA tax to purchase six more bus stop shelters to cover all 11 current stops on the scheduled route and have one as a reserve. 



Mason Callejas

# Acacia residents take issue with speed limit, ADOT

By Michelle Chance

Neighbors in a residential area say their quality of life has been disturbed and their road safety is at risk thanks to a speed limit increase on a busy state route.

Greg Swindall, his wife Carol and their friend Roger Tull are Acacia Crossings residents with a bone to pick with the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Their neighborhood borders SR 238 and, for the past six months, their friends and they have noticed an increase in traffic noise and speed.

The culprit?

ADOT increased the speed limit on the highway from 40 mph to 50 mph next to the subdivision in August, and neighbors complain large trucks and other traffic drive well over the new speed limit.

“The real problem is when diesel trucks come into town and they’re engine breaking,” Greg Swindall said. “They’re down-shifting and some of those engines are really, really loud.”

Tull, vice president for the neighborhood HOA board, said residents make regular

complaints during meetings against the loud, rumbling noise braking diesel trucks make when approaching John Wayne Parkway.

Carol Swindall was visiting her neighbor one morning and heard a big rig brake just outside the subdivision.

“I about jumped out of my seat. It was so loud,” she said.

But the noise increase isn’t the only issue. Residents say safety is a concern too.

Traffic heading east and west is traveling around 10 mph over the new limits, neighbors estimate, and it’s making access out of their neighborhood more difficult and dangerous.

“Now when they come in town they’re doing 60 to 65 mph, and when you’re turning out of Roosevelt and you’re not used to those trucks being on top of you in a heartbeat, we have pulled out and really had to speed up because you don’t realize how fast those trucks are going,” Greg Swindall said.

Residents expressed their concerns with ADOT online and by telephone, but ADOT redirects their concerns to local authorities or within their own engineering department.

The Swindalls said follow-up is non-existent.

“I just don’t understand the rationale of why they did it,” Greg Swindall said. “Why would you increase the speed right behind a residential area?”

ADOT spokesman Tom Herrmann said the reason behind the increase is department staff observed traffic in the area driving faster than the previously posted speed limits.

Herrmann said most of the speed limits in the ADOT-managed stretch of SR 238 were generally 55 mph.


The observation led to a speed study.

“Following the ‘Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices’ from the Federal Highway Administration, speed limits are posted to reflect the maximum speed considered safe and reasonable by the majority of drivers,” Herrmann said.

The majority of drivers defined by ADOT is the speed driven at or below by 85 percent of drivers.

West of Acacia Crossings, the study led ADOT to increase its portion of the roadway from 55 mph to 60 mph.

But residents in the subdivision experienced what they view as a substantial 10 mph increase just outside their neighborhood and would like to see it changed back.

“We aren’t asking a whole lot. Just put it back the way it was,” Greg Swindall said. 





**MOST  
EXPENSIVE  
HOME SOLD**

**1. 40856 W. Chambers Drive**

Raquel Hendrickson

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa Jan. 16-Feb. 15 is a spacious, two-story house on a 9,000-square-foot lot that includes a pool and putting greens overlooking a lake. On the market for more than two months and primarily used as a second home that left it in like-new condition, it sold for just \$5,000 under its asking price.

**Sold:** Feb. 2  
**Purchase price:** \$330,000  
**Square footage:** 3,296  
**Price per square foot:** \$100.12  
**Days on market:** 72  
**Builder:** Meritage  
**Year built:** 2012  
**Bedrooms:** 5  
**Bathrooms:** 3

**Community:** The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado  
**Features:** Upgraded, stainless steel appliances, 3-car garage, RV gate, fireplace, loft, swimming pool, mini-golf, patio with BBQ  
**Lister's agent:** James Aarhus, Arizona Elite Properties  
**Seller's agent:** Van Talley, The Maricopa Real Estate Company

- 2. 19074 N. Ibis Way, Senita .....\$320,000
- 3. 41881 W. Springtime Road, Province..... \$315,000
- 4. 18334 N. Arbor Drive, Glennwilde .....\$309,998
- 5. 40979 W. Pryor Lane, Homestead .....\$309,900

**LEAST  
EXPENSIVE  
HOME SOLD**



**1. 46001 W. Tucker Road**

Mason Callejas

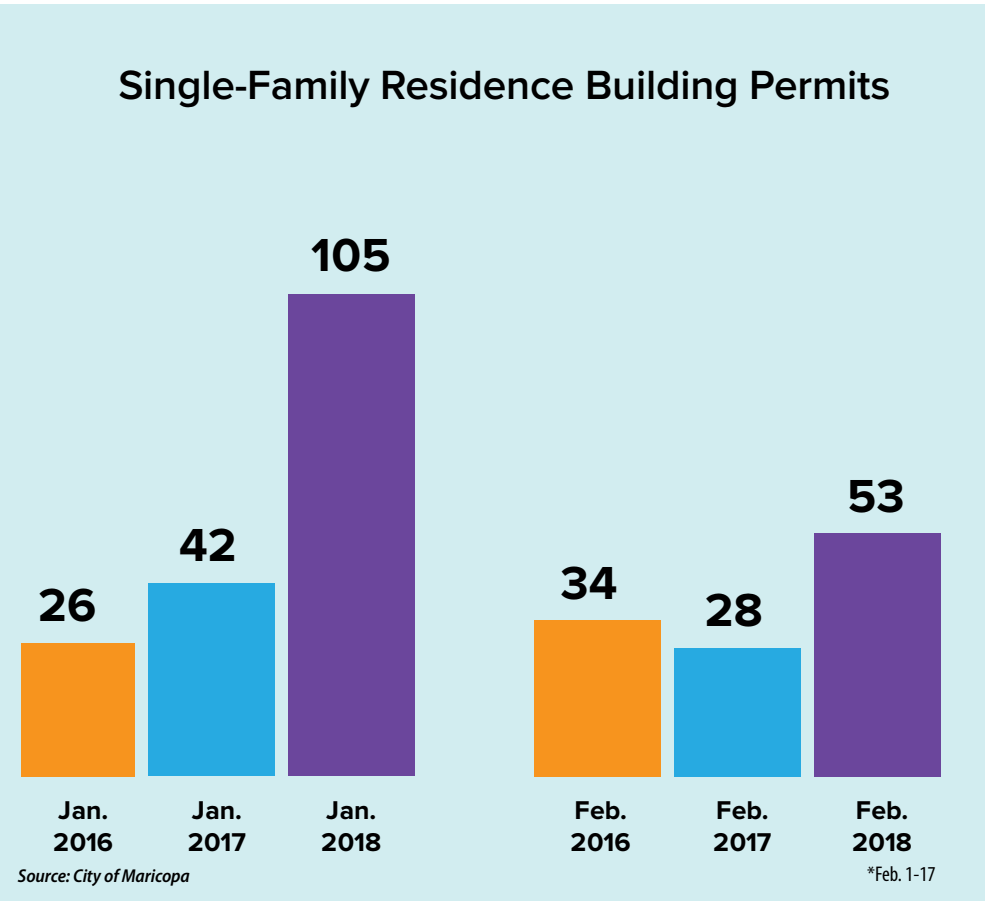
The least expensive home sold in Maricopa Jan. 16-Feb. 15 has been around the block, so to speak. A short sale that previously changed hands for less than \$1,000 in 2008 and again in 2014, the basic house is a fixer-upper. It was put on the market last March, had a contract fall through and was placed back on the market in October and sold for \$5,000 over its list price.

**Sold:** Feb. 14  
**Purchase price:** \$125,000  
**Square footage:** 1,893  
**Price per square foot:** \$66.03  
**Days on market:** 16  
**Builder:** Standard Pacific  
**Year built:** 2005  
**Bedrooms:** 4  
**Bathrooms:** 3

**Community:** Maricopa Meadows  
**Features:** All the basics, with 2-car garage, front lawn, separate tub and shower in master bath  
**Lister's agent:** Leslie D. Wright, Revelation Real Estate  
**Seller's agent:** Peter Kamboukos, Revelation Real Estate

- 2. 19324 N. Costa Verdez Ave., Tortosa .....\$139,000
- 3. 46165 W. Sheridan Road, Maricopa Meadows .....\$146,000
- 4. 42719 W. Hillman Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$148,000
- 5. 45537 W. Windmill Drive, Maricopa Meadows.....\$149,000

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



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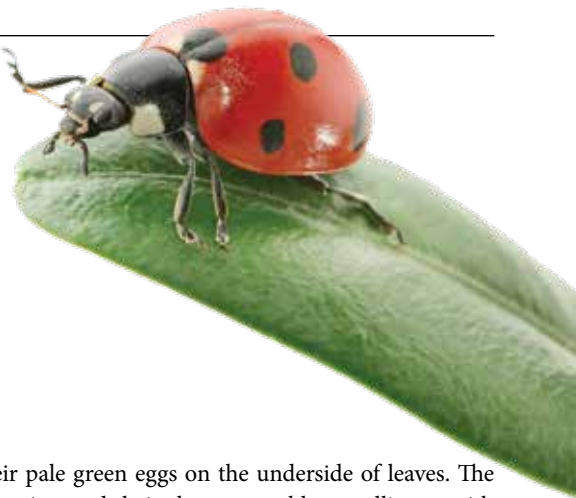
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# That's no lady – that's a beneficial bug

By Rita Bricker



Before you smash, spray or otherwise annihilate that insect in your garden, make sure it is not one of the good guys. There are many insects that can eliminate other destructive pests for us. They are called “beneficial” insects and are of two types, either predators or parasites.

Beneficial predators feed on the insect pest itself. Lady beetles (ladybugs), lacewing larvae and assassin bugs are examples of predator insects. The praying mantis is another well-known predator in our gardens.

The lady beetle is one of the most famous of the predator insects. These beetles have colorful red, orange, or sometimes yellow front wings speckled with black markings. The adults lay clusters of orange eggs on plants near groups of aphids. After hatching, tiny black and orange larvae feed on aphids in great numbers.

The delicate lacewing is another champion predator insect. The adult lacewings are pale green or light brown insects about a half-inch in size. Their delicate appearance comes from the many veins in their wings, giving them the netted or lacy appearance. The adults feed on nectar and are not predatory themselves, but their larval offspring are.



Rita Bricker

Lacewings lay their pale green eggs on the underside of leaves. The lacewing larvae are tiny, and their shape resembles an alligator with large jaws for sucking the juices from small prey and other insect eggs. They consume large numbers of aphids and other insect pests and insect eggs of all kinds.

The praying mantis can be seen sitting on plants or on a wall under a light waiting patiently for another insect to cross its path; then it captures its victim with its spiny front legs and chops down. Perhaps you have seen a praying mantis egg case about an inch long made of a brownish-gray papery material with numerous compartments glued to a twig or branch. The praying mantis young emerge in the spring looking like miniature versions of their parents.

The eponymous assassin bugs and ambush bugs have their own brand of predatory treachery. Other predatory insects include damsel bugs, big-eyed bugs, minute pirate bugs, syrphid flies, wasps and dragonflies.

Beneficial parasitic insects differ in their tactics. Typically, they lay their eggs on or within the bodies of their prey. After hatching, the young larvae use the host insect for food. There are parasitic wasps and flies in this category.

One unusual example of a parasitic insect is the eucharitid wasp which lays its eggs in trees. As worker ants search for aphids and other food in the leaves, the parasite larva attaches itself to an ant, hitching a ride back to the ant nest. Once there, the parasite drops off the transport ant and attaches itself to an ant larva to feed.

Isn't nature fascinating? We owe a lot to these beneficial insects. Let's protect and encourage them.

Rita Bricker is a Pinal County Master Gardener.

520-374-6263  
macmastergardener@gmail.com

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## Housing market



Raquel Hendrickson

## Homebuilders offer insights on local housing market

By Raquel Hendrickson

Pinal Partnership hosted its March breakfast at Elements Event Center with the focus on the housing market in Pinal County. Jeremy Ramsdale of Ashton Woods and Jeff Gunderson of Lennar comprised a panel discussing the home-building and home-buying outlook. Some points to ponder:

- There is an overall good outlook for housing in Pinal County.
- Both Ashton Woods and Lennar are very active in San Tan Valley. Maricopa is “not quite as active” as STV but more typical of a steady growth in home-building.
- “We think the future is bright for Maricopa,” Ramsdale said. “I think it’s going to be an attractive location.”
- Developers see Maricopa has a wonderful quality of life but has “some challenges” with traffic.
- Maricopa needs a new sign policy allowing builder signs to direct traffic to developments off the main road. Ramsdale said the current kiosks are hard to read, so newcomers on John Wayne Parkway have trouble finding Sorrento, where Ashton Woods operates as Starlight Homes.
- Lennar has taken “a couple of looks” at Maricopa, Gunderson said, but the market “hasn’t matured enough” for the company to come to town.
- All existing home sites are being absorbed. When all are absorbed, the prices will go up.
- Good things will happen south of the railroad tracks when the overpass is completed.
- Finding labor for home-building continues to be a big challenge. Many workers were lost to the recession and SB1070, a sweeping, anti-illegal immigration law. A program was even started in the penal system to train inmates in building trades, with “fantastic response.”
- Home-builders are advertising all across the country to get skilled labor to move to Arizona.
- Gunderson said more young people need to be encouraged to go to a trade school rather than college to fill a need in the market and “make more money.”
- Pinal County is finally seeing entry-level homebuyers coming into the market.

## Outdoor amenities valuable in housing market

By Dayv Morgan

This is the perfect time of year to get out and get active before the summer heat wave hits Maricopa — and you don’t have to go far to do it.

It’s likely your neighborhood has great amenities waiting to be discovered.

Buyers often ask me to tell them which communities have the best amenities. It’s no surprise that Province would top the list in almost any survey. But for families with children, or those who want to be active but not in an “active adult” subdivision, there are 17 other wonderful communities to consider.

Throughout all these neighborhoods are multiple parks and playgrounds. There are four subdivisions that also include community pools: Glennwilde, The Villages, Cobblestone

and Desert Passage. Outside the swimming season, and for those without the option of a pool, there are plenty of other activities to choose from.

Here are a few of my favorites:

**Maricopa Meadows** features a 27-hole frisbee golf course, a basketball court, an exercise course along walking trails, a huge waterfall and lake surrounded with benches.

**Tortosa** also offers a frisbee golf course, nine holes with printable scorecards and a course map on the neighborhood’s HOA website.

**Homestead** is ideal for athletes as it offers 10 basketball hoops, a full-size soccer field with two goals, and a sand volleyball court. There’s also a large lake with benches for those who prefer a relaxing walk with views.



Dayv Morgan

**Desert Passage** is also perfect for family-fitness enthusiasts. This neighborhood has a full-size soccer field with two goals, a sand volleyball court and two basketball hoops. It also has a baseball field with a backstop, sand infield and benches for each team.

**Cobblestone** has a variety of outdoor activities for its residents, including eight horseshoe pits, four basketball hoops, a full-sized soccer field with two goals and a baseball backstop. It also features a large lake with five fountains.

**Sorrento** has a family-friendly splash pad and two tennis courts.

Keep in mind that many of the neighborhood parks have signs posted indicating they are for use by residents and their guests only. So, if you’d like to use amenities in another neighborhood, consider growing your social circle outside your subdivision.

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

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# Hacking your 2018 resolutions

## Part 2: The ‘No Excuses’ Workout

By Aaron Gilbert

It's one of the most common patterns we see among incoming Longevity Athletics clients: Folks who want to get (or stay) fit will exercise diligently for months, only to “fall off the wagon” for the entire year and battle with getting back into it to achieve resolutions. That's why we came up with this short, simple and effective workout you can do anywhere.

1. Move through each exercise in sequence. 2. Do 10 reps of each exercise. 3. Minimal to no rest between exercises. 4. Rest 1-2 minutes at the end of the circuit. 5. Repeat for a total of 2-4 circuits.

### BEAR CRAWL

Starting on all fours, push down with toes to bring knees off floor. Keeping pelvis centered,

“crawl” with right arm and left leg moving forward together, and vice versa. 10 seconds = 1 rep

### PUSH-UP

Start in “plank” position, hands directly under shoulders and fingers forward. Maintaining a straight line from head to heel, keep elbows in as you bend them to lower your body as far as you can without shoulders popping forward. Squeeze shoulder blades together and down toward glutes as you lower, then allow them to spread fully apart at the top. Keep abs tight, tailbone tucked under and shoulders down away from ears.



Aaron Gilbert

### SQUAT

Stand with feet shoulder-width apart, arms extended in front of you or behind your head. With abs engaged, ribs pulled down and tailbone tucked under, push hips back and

lower as far as you can, keeping feet straight and knees aligned with little toe. Drive weight into heels and midfoot to return to start.

### SINGLE-ARM DUMBBELL ROW

Keeping ribs down, abs tight, tailbone tucked, and weight through forward heel, pull dumbbell up toward lower ribs while locking your shoulder blade inward and down.

### MAKE IT EASY

Can't do one or more of the exercises in the circuit? Skip them. If possible, focus on the lower body, which requires greater muscle engagement and energy burn.

No dumbbells? Use whatever you can find to add weight to the moves.

Aaron Gilbert, CSCS, owns Longevity Athletics.

520-261-4661  
Aaron@LongevityAthletics.com

# Good health starts with a healthy routine

By Andrew H. Jones

Community Relations Coordinator  
Sun Life Family Health Center

As parents we never hesitate to schedule regular routine checkups for our children, but as adults we often times put aside our own health needs, and too often, we only see a doctor when we are sick.

People are changing their ways and are becoming more conscious about their health with improvements in diet, exercise and regular health check-ups. A routine and regular health check-up is a detailed test of your body, which should be done annually to monitor your health, reduce your risk of getting sick and detect any potentially life-threatening health conditions and/or hidden disease in your body and lower its effect with early treatment, or best-case scenario prevent it. Routine health checkups have many advantages as it will increase your lifespan by getting the right health services, screening and treatments your body requires.

### Importance of Routine Health Check-Ups

Many serious health problems do not have any symptoms but can be found during a routine health check-up. Therefore important to have health checkups often. Any serious illness found in its early stage is much easier to cure. Early detection also enhances chances of survival.

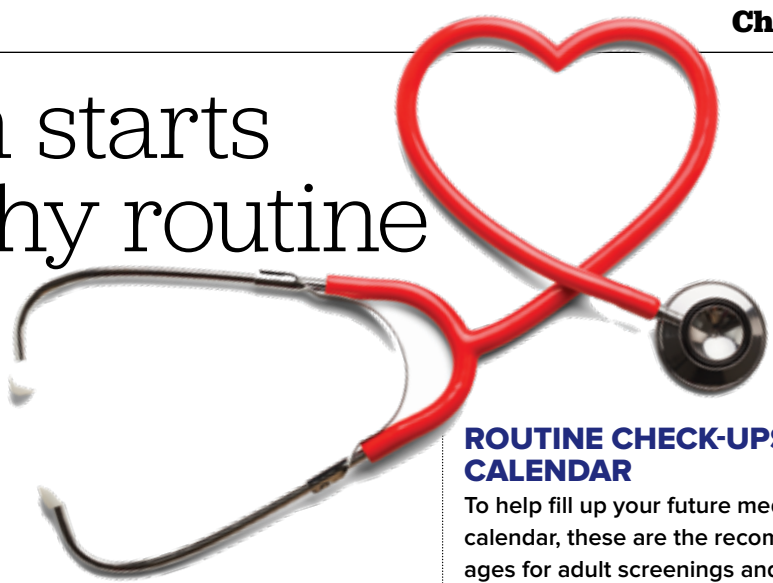
Without routine health check-ups, you cannot regulate some health problems such as diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol, etc.

Having a regular health check-up can improve your quality of life and help you avoid a serious problem such as cancer, osteoporosis, heart diseases, etc.

Routine check-ups for women such as diabetes, high blood pressure, cervical screenings and a breast exam will help to detect the signs of diseases at most treatable stages.

A regular scheduled check-up is also a good time to get up-to-date information on new medical technologies that are available.

A routine health exam helps to maintain and keep one's medical history up to date. A clear and complete medical report can help to detect hereditary and early health problems.



### ROUTINE CHECK-UPS CALENDAR

To help fill up your future medical calendar, these are the recommended ages for adult screenings and vaccines. It is important to become familiar with these lifelong milestones and coordinate a routine yearly schedule to maintain your overall health and wellness.

**20** - The age when the American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends beginning annual skin cancer screenings.

**21-29** - The age when women should begin getting a cervical screening every three years, according to the ACS.

**30-65** - The age when women should begin getting a cervical screening combined with an HPV test every five years, according to the ACS.

**50** - The age when men should begin getting prostate screenings, according to the ACS. Also the age when men and women should schedule their first colonoscopy.

**60** - The age when men and women should get the shingles vaccine, according to the CDC, which recommends getting the vaccine regardless of whether you recall having had chickenpox.

**65** - The age when men and women should receive the pneumococcal vaccine, according to the CDC. In addition, the age when women should get a bone density scan.

**70** - The age when men should get a bone-density scan.

TIP OF THE MONTH

CREATE A MEDICAL ROUTINE

Create a Medical Routine for yourself and your family. Monitor your health, reduce your risk of getting sick and detect any potentially life-threatening health conditions with routine check-ups. #OneSmallChange



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# City program keeps watchful eye on vulnerable adults

By Michelle Chance

A citywide, free program aims to assist its homebound residents through phone calls and social visits.

The You Are Not Alone (YANA) program launched in 2015 and has since saved lives, said Mary Witkofski, Maricopa's community programs manager.

Maricopa Police Department volunteers make weekly phone calls to participants. If contact is not made after three attempts, an emergency contact person is notified.

That's what happened one Fourth of July two years ago when a woman was not answering a volunteer's calls.

"The emergency contact, thank goodness, lives down the street," Witkofski said. "He went (to her house) and actually found his mother laying on the floor."

Emergency responders transported her to a local hospital where she eventually recovered.

Situations like these, Witkofski said, are reasons YANA is effective; and in cases where an emergency contact person cannot be reached, YANA volunteers will enlist the help of MPD.

In addition to the weekly calls, volunteers connect with participants by making quarterly, planned visits to their homes.

Witkofski said the volunteers socialize, play card games and have conversations with the residents.

Volunteers pass a fingerprint and background clearance and then go through



training. MPD volunteers are mandatory reporters to adult protective services and have learned to identify signs of late-life domestic violence, abuse, depression, identity theft and scam.

Vice Mayor Peg Chapados, a senior advocate through Maricopa Seniors Inc., said YANA is a valuable resource for seniors living alone "because it's a way to 'stay connected' and let people know that there is always someone who cares about their well-being."

Generally, program participants are over 65 and live alone or are alone during the day and have limited mobility.

"(YANA's purpose) is to maintain their independence, not take it away from them and I think that's an important piece," Witkofski said.

Age is not necessarily a qualifying condition, however. Those who have disabilities or are at home recovering from a procedure and are alone during the day are also eligible for the program.

Qualified, part-time residents are also eligible to enroll while they are living in the city.

The program currently has 19 enrollees and Witkofski would like to see more.

"We definitely have room for growth," she said.

YANA partners with community and social service agencies like the Maricopa Public Library's All Access Homebound Delivery, COMET transit, Age-Friendly Committee and the Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens to provide additional resources for its participants.

The program came about after the city conducted a human-needs assessment which identified a gap in senior assistance.

Witkofski said participants who are hearing impaired can opt for a weekly text message instead of phone call.

520-316-6800, ext. 1234  
vaps@Maricopa-AZ.gov

# Is a senior center viable in Maricopa?

By Al Brandenburg

At the Senior Info/Expo Jan. 20, we had hundreds of seniors (and several children of seniors) stop by our Maricopa Multi-Cultural Consortium table to talk with us about the need for improved coordination and distribution of senior services as well as a senior center in Maricopa.

MMCC was formed to help Maricopa get its act together for seniors. We recognize Maricopa's seniors are missing out on some programs and services from the county and state because there is no senior center here, no place for those programs and services to land. Sure, we'd love to have a senior center—something like the senior center Florence built into its central library. Perhaps we can do the same when Maricopa builds its central library. But

that's several years down the road and, unfortunately, beyond the life expectancy of many of today's seniors.

We recognize we need at least an interim solution: a place for today's senior programs and services to land and a person to manage their distribution — services such as legal assistance, health counseling and Meals on Wheels, to name just a few. These services are provided in one form or another throughout Pinal County, but not in Maricopa.

Several seniors at the Expo were quite vocal about our situation — one woman pounding her fist on our table, saying in a forceful voice: "Darn right, we need a senior center." Many others expressed frustration



Raquel Hendrickson

more services for seniors were not provided locally. Some people with senior parents said they would consider moving to Maricopa if only there were somewhere their parents could go and spend their time.

If you're a senior living in the Maricopa area or if you have senior parents who live here, please contact me at the MMCC so we can put you on our email list and keep you informed.

Al Brandenburg is a board member of Maricopa Multi-Cultural Consortium.

abrands80@gmail.com

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# Diabetes: Control it so it doesn't control you

By Joan Koczor

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, diabetes is estimated to affect 25.8 million Americans. In the United States, about one in four people over age 60 has diabetes.

Diabetes is a chronic condition in which the body does not properly process food for use as energy. It is the seventh-leading cause of death in the United States.

Diabetes doesn't allow your body to make enough insulin or isn't able to use its own insulin as well as it should, resulting in a buildup of sugar in your blood. Serious health complications can include heart disease, blindness, kidney failure and lower-extremity amputations.

There are two types of diabetes: Type 1, which requires insulin as medication, may start as early as childhood; Type 2 is sometimes called adult-onset diabetes. The most common Type 2 may be hereditary. It is more common in people who are overweight.

The ABC method is used for managing diabetes and any complications: A for the A1C test, B for blood pressure and C for cholesterol. Controlling blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol can aid in reducing the risk of long-term complications.

A1C test measures your average blood glucose for the past 2-3 months. Normal A1C levels are less than 5.7 percent. Levels for diabetes is 6.5 percent or higher. Prediabetes levels are 5.7 to 6.4 percent.

Pain or numbness in the hands and feet, extreme fatigue and blurry vision are just a few of the warning signs you might be at risk for diabetes. Check with your doctor if you are experiencing any of these symptoms. Early detection and treatment can decrease the risk of complications.

Living with a chronic condition, such as diabetes, can leave you feeling tired or depressed. Some days will be harder to get through than others.

Take care of your emotional health. Diet, exercise and taking time to relax are very important and contribute to your overall health. Have regular checkups. Do simple things that you enjoy. Go to a movie. Take a mini road trip. Read a book.

And more importantly, keep informed. Make a list of questions and take them with you to your next doctor appointment.

**Diabetes.org**, for American Diabetes Association 2018 Standards of Care

**ChooseMyPlate.gov**, for USDA information on the five food groups and how to adjust portions to insure healthy eating

**ndep.nih.gov**, National Diabetes Education Program to improve treatment and outcome

Ref: American Diabetes Association

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



Joan Koczor

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**MAR 3**

**Lots of medals and lot of chocolate are dispersed at a typical Sun Life Chocolate Run.**

## Chocolaty fun run benefits nonprofit health center

By Michelle Chance

The annual event that pairs people's love of chocolate with exercise returns to Maricopa this month.

Sun Life Family Health Center will host the third annual "For the Love of Chocolate" Fun Run at Copper Sky on March 3.

Beginning at 8 a.m., participants can choose to run or walk the 1-mile or 3-mile course. A runner's brunch will be available prior to and after the race as well as photo booths to capture the memory of the event.

Finishers will be rewarded with a bag of chocolate goodies, a chocolate donut medal and an event T-shirt.

Top three 5K finishers in various age groups will also receive winners' medals.

Pre-registration costs \$35 for the 1 mile/walk run and \$40 for the 3-mile walk/run until March 2. A mail-in payment method is also available. Race-day registration is \$40 per person for the 1-mile run/walk and \$50 for the 3-mile run/walk.

"One of the things that people can keep in mind is Sun Life is Pinal County's nonprofit community health center, and the run is a fun way to support a local nonprofit," said Renee Louzon-Benn, director of community outreach.

It's also a way to enjoy chocolate, which, in moderation, is considered a healthy treat, she said.

"(Chocolate) has health benefits, and we thought chocolate is fun and people enjoy it, so why not bring people, exercise and chocolate all into one event?"

Participants can pick up race packets March 2 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Sun Life Family Health Center, 44572 W. Bowlin Road. Packets can also be retrieved the morning of the event beginning at 7 a.m.

[SunLifeRun.org](http://SunLifeRun.org)

# Things to do

## MARCH

**1**  
**Healthy Living Workshop**  
10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**2**  
**8-Bits**  
4 p.m., Maricopa Public Library  
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

**3**  
**2018 Spring Fling Craft and Vendor Event**  
8 a.m.-4 p.m., Maricopa Community Church  
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

**Sun Life Chocolate Run**  
8 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**MAC Master Gardeners Plant Sale**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m., Maricopa Agricultural Center  
37860 W. Smith-Enke Road

**Seeds of Change Gala**  
6 p.m., Province Town Hall  
20942 Province Parkway

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

**6**  
**Canyon Lake Dolly Boat Tour**  
9 a.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**8**  
**CPA Jim Chaston at Maricopa Chamber of Commerce**  
Breakfast  
7 a.m., Elements Event Center  
16000 N. Maricopa Road

**Healthy Living Workshop**  
10:30 a.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**10**  
**Tortosa Community Spring Garage Sale**  
7 a.m.-1 p.m., Tortosa Community  
36340 W. Picasso St.

**2nd Saturday Maricopa Market**  
8 a.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy  
19287 N. Porter Road

**MPD Free VIN Etching**  
9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bashas' Supermarket  
21044 N. John Wayne Parkway

**Maricopa Marketplace**  
9 a.m.-2 p.m., Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship  
20800 N. John Wayne Parkway

**14**  
**MUSD Governing Board Meeting**  
6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District Administration Building  
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

**14-17**  
**Slot Canyon Backpacking**  
8 a.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**16**  
**8-Bits**  
4 p.m., Maricopa Public Library  
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

**20**  
**Chamber After Hours Mixer**  
5:30 p.m., F.O.R. Maricopa Business Center  
19428 N. John Wayne Parkway

**Maricopa City Council Work Session**  
6 p.m., City Hall  
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

**For details on these and other local events — and to list your own — visit [InMaricopa.com/Calendar](http://InMaricopa.com/Calendar).**

**MAR 5**

Courtesy of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Pastured sheep in southwest Arizona.**

## Woolly topic for historical society presentation

Shepherding for its wool and meat has been an Arizonan occupation since the mid-1800s, and if the Native Americas are included, the date can be pushed back to the early 1600s when sheep were pilfered from the pueblos in New Mexico.

Historical geographer Barbara Jaquay will visit Maricopa to talk about the history of sheep and shepherding in the state and how it still survives today.

Her presentation is hosted by Maricopa Historical Society March 5 at 5:30 p.m. at Maricopa Public Library. All are invited, and the event is free.

Sheep were one of the many livestock breeds Father Kino introduced into the Pimeria Alta. He taught the local southern Arizona Native Americans sheep husbandry in order that they would have a constant supply of wool and meat.

At the height of the industry there were approximately 150 sheep owners, consisting of Basque, Americans, Mexicans and Canadians men and women who

came as owners and some as shepherders who eventually became owners themselves. Today, two families still graze sheep in the traditional method of moving the animals from the desert ranges to mountain pastures every year in the cyclical rhythm of the land. This is the story of the many sheep owners.

Jaquay has traveled extensively to all seven continents and has traveled to more than 50 countries; hiking the Andes Mountains and the Bhutanese Himalayas in her understanding of the many mysteries of the people of both regions. She has written on Cuba, Costa Rica and Arizona Native Americans as well as a book on the sheep industry in Arizona, "Where Have All the Sheep Gone: Sheep Herders and Ranchers in Arizona — A Disappearing Industry."

### IF YOU GO

**What:** "Where have all the sheep gone?"

**Who:** Maricopa Historical Society

**When:** March 5, 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Maricopa Public Library, 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

**How much:** Free

**Info:** [MHS50.com](http://MHS50.com)





Raquel Hendrickson

**Maricopa's biggest party, Salsa Fest, gets cooking March 24.**

## Get fired up for 13th Salsa Festival

By Raquel Hendrickson

Do you like your salsa hot or mild? Or just interesting?

A little of everything is expected at Maricopa's 13th annual Salsa Festival. The city's biggest event is set for March 24 from 2 to 8 p.m. at Copper Sky Regional Park.

It is a time of salsa tasting, game playing, hot-pepper eating, piñata busting, salsa dancing, music listening and, yes, beer drinking.

City events manager Niesha Whitman said more than 30 vendors have signed up.

As for the salsa, contestants can enter one category for free and others for \$5. The three categories are hot, mild and unusual. Chefs will compete for cash prizes up to \$1,000.

Each category win is \$500 while second place is \$150 and third is \$50. The celebrity Judge's Choice earns \$250. The overall best, based on public voting, wins the coveted \$1,000.

To try the salsas and vote, attendees purchase a \$1 box with corn chips and room to place plastic cups of the competing salsa they can get.

Attendees who want to win a hundred bucks the hard way can enter the Chili Pepper Eating Contest. Contestants must work their way through a series of progressively hot peppers to take the title.

As usual there will be live mariachi music and performances by community groups.

Besides the Lil' Pepper Zone with inflatables, Whitman said Artisan Signs is providing a craft area with sand painting, coloring, piñatas, face painting and more.

Admission to Salsa Fest is free. There is a \$5 charge for Lil' Pepper Zone wristbands. Parking at Copper Sky will also be \$5, but there will be free park-and-ride areas at six schools and Maricopa Ace Hardware, with a shuttle service running from 2 to 8:30 p.m.

 [Maricopa-az.gov/salsa-festival](http://Maricopa-az.gov/salsa-festival)

## Things to do

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

**24**  
**AZGF Outdoor Expo**  
8 a.m.-6 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**Tortosa's 10th annual Easter Eggstravaganza**  
10 a.m.-1 p.m., Santa Cruz Elementary School  
19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.

**Salsa Festival**  
2-8 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**26-27**  
**Antelope Canyon & Rainbow Bridge**  
8 a.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**27**  
**Grand Opening Ribbon-cutting**  
11 a.m., Planet Fitness  
20797 N. John Wayne Parkway

**28**  
**MHS Twilight Track & Field**  
3:30 p.m., Maricopa High School  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

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

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

**31**  
**Maricopa Easter Egg Hunt**  
10 a.m., 1 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center  
16000 N. Maricopa Road

**Maricopa Music Circle Spring Concert**  
7 p.m., Maricopa Agricultural Center  
37860 W. Smith-Enke Road

### APRIL

**7**  
**Maricopa Lions Charity Golf Scramble**  
7:30 a.m., The Duke at Rancho El Dorado  
42660 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway

**Maricopa Music Fest**  
1-10 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

### SUNDAYS

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

### MONDAYS

**Seniors play Pinochle**  
8:30 a.m., Santa Cruz Elementary School  
19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.

**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., 19395 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 16

### TUESDAYS

**Seniors play Pinochle**  
8:30 a.m., Santa Cruz Elementary School  
19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.

**Seniors play Canasta**  
1 p.m., Santa Cruz Elementary School  
19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.

## Things to do

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

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

### WEDNESDAYS

**Creative Sisterhood**  
9 a.m., Santa Cruz Elementary School  
19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.

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

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

**AWANA**  
6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church  
18705 N. John Wayne Parkway

### THURSDAYS

**Seniors play Pinochle**  
8:30 a.m., Santa Cruz Elementary School  
19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.  
**Seniors play Farkel**  
9 a.m., Santa Cruz Elementary School  
19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.

**Seniors play Canasta**  
1 p.m., Santa Cruz Elementary School  
19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.

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

### FRIDAYS

**Seniors play Pinochle**  
8:30 a.m., Santa Cruz Elementary School  
19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.

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



Mason Callejas

## World music joins orchestra, dancers in concert

Maricopa Music Circle's spring concert "Rhythms & Tunes Across the Globe" samples melodies from four continents in a full-length program March 31.

In line with the music's wide-ranging spirit and the flavor of dance that is often part of a nation's unique artistry, several of the pieces will also be



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danced by members of the ONYX Contemporary Company, the dance troupe of Desert Sun Performing Arts.

The concert takes place at 7 p.m. at a non-traditional performance site, the University of Arizona's Maricopa Agricultural Center.

The fundraiser evening embodies MMC's tagline "Orchestra of Soloists" with music for the full ensemble plus individual and sectional solos.

Musical inspiration comes from Trinidad, the Andes' Lake Titicaca and Mexican volcano Popocatepetl, Nagasaki, Japan, Canada, Norway, Hungary, France, Austria, India and, of course, the United States. You might even peek into a "Cantina" in a "galaxy far, far away."

The scene is set by Ernst Toch's clever Geographical Fugue, a Maricopa premiere. Scored for four-part spoken chorus, this true musical form — all rhythms, no pitch — mixes together many place-names in a catchy, organized tumble that registers with listeners as a big machine moving ever forward, and has been described more than once as "inspired 1920s rap."

And the evening will conclude with light refreshments, offering a perfect chance to mingle with the performers.



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*Things to do*

**MAR 17** **Millar Airport revved up for annual fly-in, car show**

Dean Crandall

**By Raquel Hendrickson**

A British Spitfire from World War II buzzed the field, dropping as low as 30 feet from the runway at full throttle before banking to fly away again.

“That sent a shiver down my spine. It was like watching a World War II movie,” said Mike Kerr, describing a previous fly-in at Millar Airport in Maricopa.

The Maricopa Fly-In & Car Show has turned into an annual event on retired Col. Chuck Millar’s property on West McDavid Road. Last year included a 16-piece big band and a death-defying aerialist.

The fly-in is March 17 starting at 8 a.m. with a pancake breakfast.

Kerr, who runs the car show, and Millar, who runs the fly-in, never know what pilots are going to show up. Millar said he gets calls and emails from pilots, but that is never an indicator of who will drop in. Because it is a short runway, not every aircraft can land. That does not keep them away.

“What’s funny is a lot of people hear about it, but they don’t come in to be part of it,” Kerr said. “But they’ll fly over.”

Drivers entering the car/truck/motorcycle show pay a fee for a chance at a special trophy, but there is no general admission charge.

The fly-in is a nonprofit event. Each year, Millar and Kerr select a charity as a beneficiary. This year, that is the Shriners.

“We’ll have the band back,” Millar said. “I’ve actually thought to do a concert out here one night. It’s one of those things where you have an activity, but you don’t know who’s going to show up. So, you’re really apprehensive. It’s like having a party at your house and you have all these things set up and no one shows.”

That has never been a problem for the Fly-In & Car Show. Last year, the event drew 65 airplanes. Kerr said there were 45 entries in the car show. They expected around 550 spectators and ended up with more than 600.

*Things to do*

Raquel Hendrickson

Dean Crandall

Dean Crandall

Kerr came to Millar about five years ago with the idea of hosting a car show at his private airfield, where Millar had started a display of historic military items and vehicles. Millar’s hangars house the Vietnam Aviation Veterans of Arizona Museum.

“When he realized he had fun, he started showing everybody everything,” Kerr said. “There’s an experimental aircraft association that once a month does a fly-in someplace, so he coincided that with the car show.”

From there, the Fly-In & Car Show has taken off.

“I’ve done car shows for years.

You go to car shows, everybody sets

their lawn chairs up behind the car

and they sit there in the sun and then

wait ‘til judging,” Kerr said. “Here,

Millar gets the halftrack out and pro-

vides rides in the desert. There’s stuff

for the kids to do. He set a dumpster

out here last year, and people would

fly over and try to throw toilet paper

in the dumpster.”

Having grown up in California

surrounded by citrus and fruit trees, Millar planted a grove as a wind-break, and it included oranges, ruby red grapefruit, lemon, peaches, plums, nectarines and apples.

“People are more than welcome to come out and pick fruit,” Millar said. “I’ll even supply the baskets.”

Millar Airport is west of Maricopa near the intersection of Hidden Valley Road and McDavid Road. Activities will be available most of the day.

“We do it ‘cause it’s fun,” Kerr said. “You know you can’t buy fun.”

**IF YOU GO**

**What:** Maricopa Fly-in & Car Show

**When:** March 17, 8 a.m.

**Where:** Millar Airport, 53510 W. McDavid Road

**How much:** Free

**Info:** 602-571-1059, crmusa06@gmail.com



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## ADVERTISER INDEX

Academy Mortgage   Dawn Svoboda.....	39
Ace Hardware.....	IBC
Affiliated Cardiologist of Arizona.....	44
Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club .....	15
Arizona Renaissance Festival.....	33, 54
At Home Furnishings .....	27
Banner Casa Grande Medical Center .....	19
Be Awesome Youth Coalition.....	26
Brutinel Plumbing & Electrical.....	56
Caliche Senior Living.....	47
City of Maricopa Salsa Festival.....	9
Comfort Keepers.....	48
Copple & Copple, P.C.....	35
Data Doctors.....	43
DCM Medical Supplies, LLC.....	22
Dignity Health.....	21
Druwest Landscaping.....	56
Electrical District No. 3.....	56
Far Horizons Travel.....	48
F.O.R. Maricopa Food Bank.....	33
Global Water .....	1
Golf Cart Parts Company .....	47
Harrah's Ak-Chin .....	7
The Hearing Centers of Arizona.....	48
HomeSmart Success   Dayv Morgan .....	49
InMaricopa.....	2
J Warren Funeral Services.....	22
James A Chaston CPA.....	17
Jersey Mike's Subs.....	53
Leading Edge.....	29
Lizard Heights Glass .....	22
Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship .....	33
Maricopa Eye Care.....	23
Maricopa Foot and Ankle.....	42
Maricopa Unified School District.....	11
McLaughlin Air.....	41
Mr. Electric .....	39
Native Grill & Wings.....	55
Orbitel Communications.....	3
Oxi Fresh Carpet Cleaning.....	29
Pizza Hut.....	41
Premier Orthodontics .....	5
San Tan Oral Surgery.....	47
Sequoia Pathway Academy .....	50
State Farm   Lance Lane .....	40
Sun Life Family Health Center.....	IFC
UltraStar Multi-tainment Center.....	BC
The UPS Store.....	50
Victor Moreno Photography.....	54
Vincent J Morrissey Insurance.....	49
Water & Ice.....	46
Your AZ Realty Guy   Jeremy Winegard .....	39

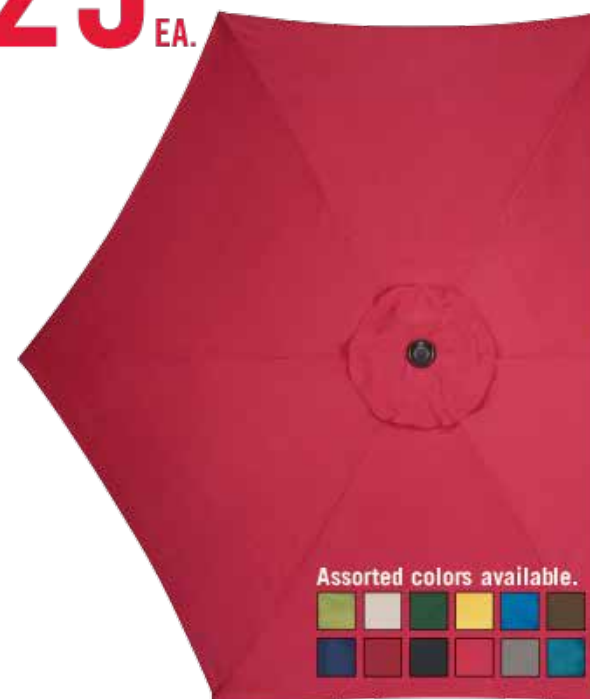


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