

FAMILY

Meet the
graduates
of 2018

PEOPLE

Drama teacher
taking new part

ON A ROLL

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TO THE LANES**

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- 6 MUSD signs new superintendent to 3-year contract
- 7 'Garage murder' case heads to trial after Thanksgiving
- 8 MPD rookie receives county award for work with victims
- 9 Least expensive home a 'fire sale' bargain
- 10 5 tips for selling your Maricopa home



LEADING OFF

Editor's Letter *Page 4*

Contributors *Page 4*

PEOPLE

Enter the **Best Dad** in Maricopa contest. *Page 5*

A **photo gallery** captures Maricopans around town. *Page 6*

Cotton workers share a little history. *Page 8*

Enter the **Best Mom** in Maricopa contest. *Page 9*

Pro bowler **Steven Blake** is back in his lane. *Page 10*

Celebrated theater teacher **Cynthia Calhoun** is moving off-stage. *Page 12*

GOVERNMENT

ADOT **demolishes properties** ahead of the overpass. *Page 14*

Supervisor **Anthony Smith** offers a preview of his State of the County. *Page 16*

FAMILY

A **gallery** of family-oriented activities. *Page 18*

Ram Academy makes a difference in its first year. *Page 20*

MHS advisor **Bernadette Russoniello** says college can be a reality. *Page 21*

Senior Spotlights feature array of outstanding graduates. *Page 22*

Class of 2018 in photos. *Page 27*



Copa Center was knocked down in late March as part of ADOT demolitions.

14

Raquel Hendrickson

BUSINESS

Take a tour of **Global Water's** wastewater expansion. *Page 36*

Business briefs include new openings and health inspections. *Page 38*

Directory *Page 40*

HOME

Most expensive and least expensive homes sold. *Page 44*

New **home permits** *Page 45*

Get the **master gardener's** advice on growing queen palms. *Page 46*

HomeSmart's **Dayv Morgan** talks about the value of pools. *Page 48*

HEALTH

Ask the expert *Page 49*

Longevity's **Aaron Gilbert** explains the importance of water. *Page 50*

SENIOR LIVING

VFW's **Mike Kemery** offers the story of the poppies. *Page 52*

Joan Koczor provides tips on choosing assisted living. *Page 53*

THINGS TO DO

Check the calendar for **Maricopa activities**. *Page 54*

Maricopa Historical Society hosts a presentation on cotton. *Page 54*

Ak-Chin hosts televised **World Long Drive**. *Page 55*

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Change is in the air

May is a month of changes. In Maricopa, it's the end of the school year and the beginning of summer.

Professional Bowlers Association's Steven Black is coming back from a significant hiatus from the sport he loves to re-enter the tour. That means a lot of time on the road for him and his family, who already have been through a lot of changes moving back to Arizona.

The Class of 2018 is heading out into the world. In this issue, we spotlight some of them entering a full array of studies, from science to dance. Also get a peek at the graduating classes from Maricopa High School and Sequoia Pathway Academy.

Also at MHS, the much-lauded drama teacher Cindi Calhoun had a most difficult decision to make when it was time to renew contracts. She spoke to InMaricopa about the change she is making in her professional life without completely leaving her kids behind.

Change has been very obvious in midtown Maricopa, as the state cleared off several long-

standing buildings along John Wayne Parkway and Honeycutt Road ahead of the coming overpass. Our photos tell the story of the destruction before the construction.



Maricopa's business community is always going through changes, which are noted in this issue. That includes the expansion of the wastewater treatment facility at Global Water Resources, which also offers a glimpse inside the company's status.

In this issue, you'll also learn about queen palms, the VFW poppies, assisted-living facilities and the importance of water in your weight-loss program.

Ready for a change? Be the change, and keep reading.

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Who's the Best Dad in Maricopa?

Now through June 14, nominate your father by visiting Facebook.com/InMaricopa and posting a video and/or his photo on the contest post with a brief explanation of why he is the best. Readers will then vote for their favorites. The dad with the most "likes" will win.

The winning dad will get a prize package from Maricopa Ace Hardware, which is in its eighth year of sponsoring Best Dad in Maricopa.

Nominations must be no longer than 100 words or 60 seconds if video. Dads must be residents of Maricopa.

Winners will be notified on June 15 and will be announced on InMaricopa.com on Father's Day, June 18.

Nominate at Facebook.com/InMaricopa

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Contributors



MIKE KEMERY

A past commander of Maricopa's VFW post and currently the quartermaster, Mike said he wanted the public to understand why military veterans pass out poppies for the month of May (page 52). "We're not selling them," he said. "I just wanted people to know what they mean."



BERNADETTE RUSSONIELLO

An award-winning, long-time teacher, Bernadette is the Career and College coordinator at Maricopa High School. She wants to offer "different educational voices" for students and their parents trying to sort out the future, such as the affordability of college (page 21).



DAYV MORGAN

Owner of HomeSmart Success, Dayv gives advice on all things real estate, especially what works in Maricopa. The growing number of private swimming pools caught his eye, and he did the math on added value (page 48) for his column this month.



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Enthusiastic golfers participated in the Maricopa Lions Club's annual tournament at The Duke April 7, raising funds for scholarships, a women's shelter, F.O.R. Maricopa food bank, kids vision tests, eyeglasses, hearing aids and more service projects. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Maricopa Police Department rookie officer Tyler Pappas was one of 11 law enforcement personnel recognized by the Pinal County Attorney's Office April 10 at the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Law Enforcement Appreciation event. *Michelle Chance*



Hundreds participated in the fourth annual 5K Poker Run at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino April 14, benefiting United Way of Pinal County, Girls on the Run and the Ocular Melanoma Foundation. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Stacy and Jase Leonard's Crazy Cranberry again won the top prize at the Salsa Festival March 24. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Tracey Lopeman accepted a three-year contract to become the next superintendent for Maricopa Unified School District April 16. *Raquel Hendrickson*

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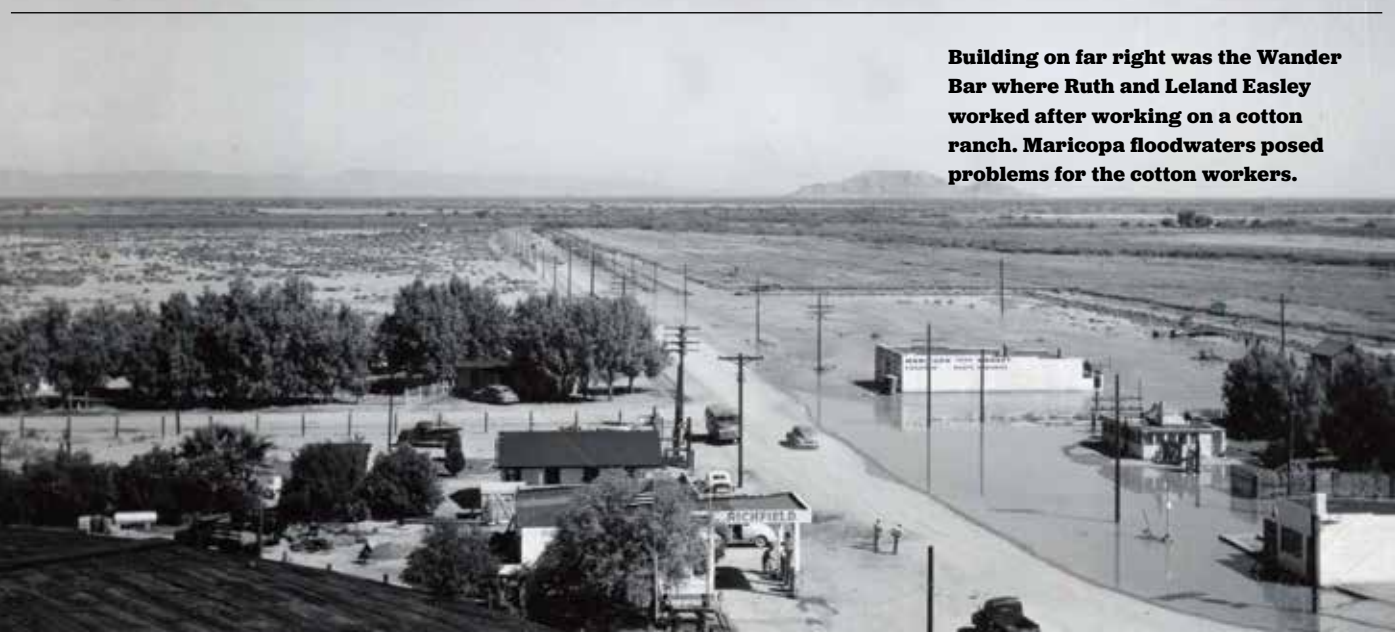


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Building on far right was the Wander Bar where Ruth and Leland Easley worked after working on a cotton ranch. Maricopa floodwaters posed problems for the cotton workers.

Courtesy Maricopa Historical Society

Cotton workers remember moving to ‘hellhole’ in 1940s

By Patricia Brock and the Maricopa Historical Society

Bertha Anderson Easley and her husband Jay Easley came to Maricopa in 1947.

“We lived on Porter Ranch, and Jay worked for the Porter family,” Bertha said. Several members of her husband’s family were already living in Maricopa and working for E.K. Porter, who lived east of Maricopa on Porter Road. Family members included Jay’s brother Leland (wife Ruth) Easley, Richard Easley and Rufus (wife Rene Easley) Cooper working in the area.

Bertha was born in 1922 in Seamore, Texas, where she spent her childhood living in tents and following the oilrigs. Her father, Dee Anderson, worked as a driller for an oil company. However, this did not prepare her for life in a small farming community in the middle of the Arizona desert.

“We moved to Maricopa after the war when my husband came home from the service,” she said. “My first impression of Maricopa was I thought it was a hellhole. All the roads were fine dirt and gravel. The businesses in Maricopa consisted of a couple of bars, one store, a post office located in the train depot, one gas station located on one street (Maricopa Highway) and a small school.”

During cotton-picking season, the Easleys went to Oklahoma and hauled people into Maricopa to pick the cotton.

Living in a cabin and a boxcar, Bertha ran lunch wagons for cotton pickers. She served stew or beans, making trips once a week to Phoenix to get groceries. They also served dinners at night for the pickers.

“We ate meat, potatoes and vegetables, and for dessert we had cake or cookies,” she said. “We had no refrigerator, just an icebox. Nor did we have indoor toilets or showers ... just outside toilets and bathtubs. I picked some cotton, but not much. I helped cook and served. We paid in cash to the pickers.

“While in Maricopa, we had flash floods that washed our roads out. We couldn’t get out unless we walked through water...which we did. Sometimes, Mr. Porter would take us through the water on a tractor to get our groceries at Casa Grande, or we would walk to Maricopa along the railroad tracks. We would take the kids’ wagon to bring back ice and whatever else we needed until the water went down.”

Ruth Easley, who was married to Jay’s brother Leland, said, “My family and my husband’s family were part of the ‘Dust Bowl’ migration to California in the 1930s. I met

George Leland Easley in Modesto, California, and married him June 29, 1947.

Ruth and Leland moved to Maricopa in 1949 to work on the Porter cotton ranch, which was located just east of town on the way to Casa Grande.

“On weekends, the camp could get pretty rowdy,” Ruth said. “There would be gambling, drinking and fighting. My niece, Bobbie Honeycutt Stewart, reminded me of an incident where my husband suffered an injury to his hand, when he attempted to break up a fight and was cut by a knife. Just one more Saturday night on the farm.”

They later moved to a small ranch owned by Bruce Wing and Jack Wright, where Leland worked as a farmhand and ran a harvesting crew. After the birth of their second child, they moved into Maricopa and ran the Wander Bar, built by Jack Burkett, a Maricopa pioneer. That property, just north of present-day Napa Auto, later became La Roca, which has since been demolished.

“I remember there was a post office, two grocery stores; hotel and restaurant combined in Maricopa,” Ruth Easley said. “There were two bars, one service station, some Southern Pacific railroad houses along the railroad tracks. Possibly some others I’ve forgotten.”

Who is the Best Mom in Maricopa?

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

Nominate as Best Mom your:

- Mother
- Wife
- Friend
- Daughter

Visit Facebook.com/InMaricopa & post photo or video on the contest post with a brief explanation of why she is the best.

Readers will vote for their favorites by "liking" nominations.

Winning mom will receive prizes from Maricopa businesses and a special Mother's Day bouquet courtesy of Fry's Marketplace.

Written nominations must be no longer than 100 words, and video nominations should be no longer than 1 minute.

Moms must be Maricopa residents.

- Voting deadline **May 9**
- Winners notified **May 10**
- Winners announced on **May 13**

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A League of His Own

Pro bowler rolls for a comeback

By Fran Lyons Photos by Mason Callejas

Arizona native Steven Black lives and breathes his passion for bowling. Now on the professional circuit, Black, 33, loves his sport, loves to win, and aspires to reach the highest level of mastery. In a narrative of successful junior career, college, pros, injury, sabbatical and comeback, one could say he is in a league of his own.

As a toddler, Black was frequenting bowling alleys on the weekends with his dad Ronald. From the beginning, it was clear he had a natural aptitude for the game. His father enrolled Steven in a Bantam League at the ripe old age of 2 because of his potential.

"My dad was my greatest fan, coach and supporter and was always there for me," Black said.

Starting competitive bowling at age 7, he traveled with his father almost every weekend. At 9, he played his first tournament in the Junior Bowlers Tour, and won.

"I just wanted to win everything, every tournament I could get my hands

on, and played my first 300 game at age 9," Black said.

Into his early 20s, he continued to travel around the country in league tournaments using his spare time to practice and hone his skills. All the money he won competing went into a scholarship fund for college. Altogether he managed to collect over \$75,000.

"My entire education at ASU was paid for with my scholarship fund," Black said.

He graduated with a degree in film and media. At ASU, Black was also the captain of the bowling team, which competed in tournaments throughout the United States.



Rancho Mirage resident Steven Black tries out the lanes at Ten Pins Down in UltraStar Multi-tainment Center. Returning to the pro circuit, he has the full support of his family: wife Kassie and kids Eliana, Zackary, Emma-Mae and Zander.



Before entering ASU, Steven married his high school sweetheart Kassie. She is an athlete in her own right. Captain of her high school golf team, she won an Arizona state championship.

After college, Black went on tour and won his first Professional Bowlers Association title. In 2010, he won three regional titles and was named PBA Western Region Player of the Year.

Kassie Black is the backbone of Steven's career and public life. She manages all the strategic business details and accompanies him on tour.

"She's my eyes and ears and really knows my game," Steven Black said. "It's become her game, also."

"It's been an adventure," Kassie Black said. Black will tell you, "Kassie and I are a power couple!" In addition to their turbo-charged career-life, they are raising four young children — Eliana, Zackary, Emma-Mae and Zander — and Kassie said they love going to competitions with them. Steven's pro career is the family's lifestyle.

"It's not always easy, but it's what we do, it's what we love," she said.

After being diagnosed with two herniated discs and sciatica as a result of the years of

intense activity, Black took a sabbatical from the bowling world and opened a restaurant with his wife in Dana Point, California. After two years, he returned to Arizona to be close to his dad, who was recovering from heart surgery.

The Blacks moved to Rancho Mirage in Maricopa in 2014. He entered a rehab program for his back with an intense regimen of physical therapy, training and medication.

"I found a regime that would help keep me fit and enable me to resume my bowling career," he said.

Black also works from home as a certified bowling coach. He coaches professionals, juniors and kids.

"I know how to win, and that's what I can teach them," he said. "You have to have winning eyes. You have work harder and longer than the next guy to finish strong."

Black also has a few tips for amateurs: Go to a pro shop to make sure you get the proper fitting shoes. It is also crucial to have a professional assist you in selection of a bowling ball.

Earlier this year, Black was approached by sponsors to return to professional bowling and the National Bowling Tour. He and Kassie will be touring all of 2018 with a full schedule.

"We love the touring life," Black said. "This is my job. This is my passion."



Cynthia Calhoun

Mason Callejas

After reviving theater at MHS, Calhoun stepping off-stage

By Michelle Chance

The curtain closed on Maricopa High School's theater program in 2010 when low interest in enrollment could no longer sustain it.

Then came along Cynthia Calhoun.

At the time, she was already a full-time English teacher at MHS with doctorate and master's degrees in literature, as well as bachelor degrees in English, Theater and Education.

With \$12 and a loan from student council, Calhoun revived interest and took on the theater club as an extra-curricular activity in the days before the high school's state-of-the-art performing arts center.

"We built this really kooky little set and we did William Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* in the lecture hall," Calhoun recalled.

Dressed in costumes inherited from Calhoun's predecessor, the cast decorated their humble stage with the few props remaining from the shuttered program.

That spring, Calhoun wrote and directed a cabaret-style musical chronologizing Broadway's biggest hits.

The following year, MHS drama found a home as it opened the PAC and its cozy Black Box Theatre.

Calhoun has since resurrected the theater program at MHS and developed it into an award-winning, competitive troupe, MHS Theatre Company. In her tenure, she has directed 11 plays and eight musicals while supervising four student-directed plays.

The 2017-18 school year was the first Calhoun spent teaching only drama courses full-time. And it will be her last.

In April, the Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board approved Calhoun's resignation.



Joycelyn Cabrera

Cynthia Calhoun is taking a break from the classroom.



Mason Callejas

"A lot of the decision came down to just trying to manage my health because teaching is an incredibly physically demanding discipline — especially teaching theater," Calhoun said.

Calhoun was diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome as a teenager.

The genetic condition causes chronic health issues in those affected and has spurred Calhoun's three knee surgeries and a heart operation.

"I'd like to stave off surgeries for a long time and be there for my children, who are in elementary school," Calhoun said with tears in her eyes. "I decided it was probably best for me to not work as full-time as possible. It sucks."

Last year at the Arizona High School Drama Coach Convention, she was elected a representative to the Central Region of Arizona Thespians. Her students have gone on to earn scholarships and awards.

A break from the mainstage doesn't include a permanent absence from her students, however. The celebrated theater teacher plans to register as a volunteer for the drama program at MHS next year.

Many of Calhoun's students have been under her instruction their entire high school experience and have gained a sense of independence from it, like MHS senior Collin Martin. "She helped me discover my love for theater, and she's also taught me many important life lessons, such as getting your stuff together before something big happens, or always act professional and how to have a certain manner about yourself that you can portray to other people to show you're serious about something," Martin said.

Calhoun said she hopes the next theater teacher will find ways to challenge the acting students while at the same time know how to have fun with them.

The effect her own compassion has had in the classroom is evident in Calhoun's students.

"Not many theater teachers truly treat their students as not only professionals but also as equals, and she allows us to learn in so many different ways," said senior Britney Montgomery.

Calhoun's departing lesson comes from a line written by American poet Walt Whitman.

"He writes: 'The powerful play goes on and you will contribute a verse,'" Calhoun said, adding, "And I always want to challenge kids to think about what their verse is going to be. They get to decide that — so, make it a good one."

Reporter Joycelyn Cabrera contributed to this story.



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Before the former Pinal County Sheriff's Office substation was demolished, Maricopa Historical Society asked to acquire the barred windows for future display. The City of Maricopa brought over a couple of men from an inmate work crew to "break in" to the storage yard and help remove the windows.

Photo by Paul Shirk



CLEARING THE WAY

Contractors for the Arizona Department of Transportation began the massive project of clearing a path for the upcoming grade separation in midtown Maricopa in late March. The weeks-long process included several properties the state acquired north and south of the Union Pacific railroad tracks.

The Copa Center, a one-time church on Honeycutt Road that served as a gathering place for seniors, was knocked down March 27. Behind it on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, a building that had been a series of eateries (most recently Spoon's) was razed the same day.

On residential properties, two abandoned trailer homes that had already been stripped, were torn apart and hauled away on Honeycutt Road. Just east of those properties, buildings and brush were cleared along a narrow strip to provide space to widen Honeycutt.

Mobile homes that housed the administration of what is now Maricopa Fire/Medical Department were moved off the lot along John Wayne Parkway. Next to them, other MFMD buildings and the former county sheriff's substation that had been F.O.R. Maricopa food bank took a little longer to tear down completely. Contractors also cleared pavement and pole foundations from the site, which was at the northeast corner of JWP and Honeycutt Road.

To make way for a connecting road to take westbound traffic off Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and move it to Honeycutt Road, contractors took down old trees from Rotary Park and blocked off a portion of Fourth Street.

Photos by Raquel Hendrickson



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State of the County to address growth, teamwork

By Raquel Hendrickson

In what will be a first for Maricopa, a State of the County Address is scheduled for May 17, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

District 4 Supervisor Anthony Smith of Maricopa will talk about what's happened in the past year and what's ahead for Pinal County. Smith said outgoing chamber executive Terri Crain approached him about providing the update as a chamber fundraiser.

Though Maricopa is the second-largest municipality in Pinal County, Smith acknowledged many of its residents know more about what is happening in Maricopa County.

"We're going to identify what kind of services we bring here, where the county offices are at the library/health department/HUD," Smith said. There is a fair county presence in Maricopa, but we'll eventually need more. It's just a matter of growth."

Smith is bringing with him several elected

IF YOU GO

State of the County

When: May 17, 5:30 p.m.

Where: Elements Event Center at Ak-Chin Circle

Who: Supervisor Anthony Smith

How much: Individuals \$35; table of eight \$280

RSVP: MaricopaChamber.org

and appointed county officials, from County Manager Greg Stanley to Sheriff Mark Lamb. In fact, he's set aside two tables for county personnel.

"I'm going to emphasize teamwork between the county and the city," Smith said.

Atop that list is the successful campaign for the regional transportation authority. Though it is still in court on a lawsuit from the

Goldwater Institute (and probably will be for the summer, Smith predicted), it saw a variety of Maricopa entities and individuals come together in support.

He will also talk about the growing job market, predicting Maricopa will provide 25 percent of the labor for new projects in the county. Maricopa, he said, has a well-educated work force, "and that's an advantage when recruiting for jobs."



Anthony Smith

Smith said Pinal was the first county to manage its way out of the recession and continues the highest rate of growth (14.5 percent compared to Maricopa County's 12.5 percent).

In his forays into District 4, Smith also fields concerns and complaints the county needs to address. Those include emergency-response time in rural areas, illegal dumping and code compliance.

Overall, however, he thinks Pinal County is on strong footing.

"Our finances are very solid," Smith said. "We have a decent reserve. We balance our budgets." ☐

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Youth Gallery



Community of Hope's Maricopa Easter Egg Hunt March 31 drew families to the lawn at UltraStar Multi-tainment Center.
Michelle Chance



First responders staged an accident scene at Sequoia Pathway Academy April to warn prom-going students about drinking and driving.
Victor Mornjo



Patrick Flint, also known as The Yo-Yo Guy, was named Mr. MHS after a first-time pageant April 6.
Joycelyn Cabrera



Senior Jordan Dubois pitches for Sequoia Pathway, which finished its regular season 15-2-1 overall before heading into the state playoffs.
Raquel Hendrickson



MHS softball freshman Karyn Meier tags out a runner. The varsity Rams finished the season 4-21-1.
Raquel Hendrickson



Maricopa High School senior Eric Witteman was part of the Rams tennis team.
Joycelyn Cabrera

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

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

mcaasa.org Be-Awesome-Youth-Coalition



Ram Academy to graduate 24 students in first year

By Michelle Chance

Cianni Burgos dropped out of high school her senior year to care for her newborn daughter. Jack Williams encountered road blocks and was losing hope of graduating high school.

Both were among the first students in Maricopa High School's Ram Academy — a credit-recovery program for juniors and seniors.

"I was at a point in my life where I felt like there wasn't much room to go, and when I heard about Ram Academy I felt like that was my opportunity to get somewhere in life," Williams said during a presentation to the Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board.



Mason Callejas

Williams recently graduated, and Burgos will complete her final high school credit in May.

The school-within-a-school at MHS opened in August and has since graduated 12 students previously considered at-risk of never receiving a diploma.

Unsurprisingly, the school is an alternative from the traditional campus in many ways.

With a 125-student capacity, Ram Academy sticks to a 20-to-1 student-teacher ratio.

The small staff bring with them big experience, according to the school's administrator, MHS Assistant Principal Steve Ybarra. "It is a team effort, and teachers make the program."

The five "master teachers" are highly qualified instructors in their individual subjects, Ybarra said. Two of them are former principals, and another has experience in guidance counseling.

"We teach kids how to advocate for themselves in a way that is really applicable," math teacher Reid Martin said. "The relationships that the kids have in Ram Academy, they walk into an environment that is completely different than our high school. The culture that is being created inside Ram Academy is really unique."

Fifth-year seniors — students who dropped out senior year and have returned — are among Ram Academy's most successful participants.

"At the start of my original senior year, I was having my daughter. She's now 1 and a half years old," Burgos told the governing board.

The young mother said she nearly lost the drive to pursue a diploma. But then she enrolled in Ram Academy.

She found small class sizes and thoughtful guidance when selecting courses.

"I have a personal connection with every teacher I have, (and it) makes me so much more motivated to graduate," she said.

Read the full story at http://bit.ly/INMAR_Ram033118.

College more affordable, available than many students think

By Bernadette Russoniello

"I can't afford college."
"I didn't apply. I didn't think I could afford it."

These comments resound among students in Maricopa and present a challenge for parents and educators. News media is filled with reports on the rising costs of college and the declining worth of college degrees — and students are internalizing the message. Giving up; abandoning hope and potential without even considering the options.



Bernadette Russoniello

However, many of our Maricopa students have plenty of affordable options; they simply do not realize it.

Maricopa Unified School District is a Title I district, indicating 50 percent or more of students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch programs. These students are highly likely to qualify for the Federal Pell Grant — an award of up to \$5,920 annually — for the pursuit of college, university or trade school programs.

Many colleges and universities provide matching funds for qualifying students. Northern Arizona University awards "University Grants" of \$6,000 to students who receive Pell Grants. Arizona State University offers College Attainment grants that cover all direct costs and fees. Numerous Maricopa graduates receive more funds in grants than the actual cost of attendance.

The more competitive the school is, the greater the financial award. Competitive

colleges accept fewer than 35 percent of applicants and usually have more intense requirements for college admissions. Many of these schools cover 100 percent of financial need. Consider Harvard, America's

oldest and most prestigious college. Harvard's Financial Aid Initiative requires no contribution from families earning less than \$65,000 per year. For families earning under \$150,000, students will pay no more than 10 percent of their income to cover college costs, making the most coveted school's attendance cost lower than in-state universities. The only catch? You have to be accepted.

If a student doesn't apply for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), he or she will never know what awards they might be eligible for. The application process

does not commit students or parents to accept awards; it simply informs families of what aid is available. Students can apply anytime; for rising seniors (current juniors), the application window opens Oct. 1, 2018.

If a student wants to earn these scholarships, they need to set that goal early. Before even attending high school, a student should decide to take the most rigorous classes and to earn the best grades they can. NAU offers the Lumberjack Scholarship to students who meet all university admissions requirements and maintain all A's and B's in core classes. Having this goal set before starting ninth grade helps students attain their best performance.

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

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Senior Spotlights



The class of 2018 at Maricopa High School and Sequoia Pathway Academy is filled with many goal-oriented, career-minded individuals. Learn about a few of them as they prepare for the commencement of the rest of their lives. Maricopa High School graduation is May 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Ram Stadium. Sequoia Pathway graduation is set for May 18 at 7 p.m.

Photos by Victor Moreno

Already impressive in their fields of interest, Maricopa's class of 2018 includes (clockwise from left) Lindsay Hubbard, Porter Jones, Alessandro Hernandez and Britney Montgomery.



Ethan Armendariz

When he's not working or going to school, Armendariz likes to study math, physics, psychology and biology. He has been accepted at Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University and University of Southern California.

School: Sequoia Pathway Academy

Years in Maricopa: 3

Originally from: Wasilla, Alaska

Career goal: Pediatric physician for Doctors Without Borders

Proudest accomplishment: Moving away from my parents at 16 to pursue my education while maintaining my grades, 35 hours a week at work and all my extracurriculars.

Moving forward: I plan to attend medical school at NYU or Stanford after my undergraduate degree in an engineering field. Following this I would like to take my education and training to families in need across the world while traveling to impoverished countries and making an impact in the lives of the youth who have yet to see life without suffering.



Edgar 'Harrison' Edmondson IV

Edmondson is president of the MHS chapter of DECA and has participated in summer programs such as ASU's Fleischer Scholars Program, which helps high school seniors explore W. P. Carey School of Business.

School: Maricopa High School

Years in Maricopa: 3

Originally from: Superior, Ariz.

Career goal: Supply chain manager

Proudest accomplishment: During my sophomore year, I was awarded the Emerging Leader Award by DECA advisor Mrs. Bernadette Russoniello, an award given to a select few students in the Marketing I classes that showed outstanding leadership potential.

Moving forward: I am pursuing a bachelor of science degree in supply chain management and another in management at ASU's W. P. Carey School of Business. During college, I hope to gain work experience by getting various internships, expand my network to have the connections needed to go where I wish to go in life, join clubs and, of course, have fun!



Fernanda Garcia

Garcia has been in CAVIT's veterinary assisting program and competed in a Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) veterinary competition to prepare for her studies in animal health.

School: Sequoia Pathway Academy

Years in Maricopa: 2

Originally from: Phoenix

Career goal: Veterinarian or biologist

Proudest accomplishment: I am proud of the 33 college credits I have earned at CAC as a high school student, the \$10,000 scholarship I earned from ASU, being a member of our school's National Honor Society, being CAVIT's HOSA president and my straight A's throughout high school.

Moving forward: I plan on working in an animal clinic while going to ASU for my bachelor's degree. From there, I will apply to vet school or pursue a master's degree in biological sciences.

Joycelyn Cabrera

Accepted to Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at ASU, Cabrera made scheduling choices to be involved only in journalism-related courses at MHS and has interned during the past year at InMaricopa.com to gain real-world experience.

School: Maricopa High School

Years in Maricopa: 13

Originally from: Yuma

Career goal: Journalist

Proudest accomplishment: I would say I am most proud of having my writing published in the local magazine and doing my first real broadcast, which was aired to the community. I have built a very strong resume and have developed many relationships with various members of the community because of the networking required for these articles.

Moving forward: I plan to study at the Walter Cronkite school and participate in more internships at the university. From there, I'll be able to decide what specific aspect of journalism I want to pursue and continue into that field.



Youth



Alessandro (Giovanni) Hernandez De La Pena

Hernandez is the salutatorian of the MHS senior class. His AP classes include chemistry, giving him a foundation in pharmaceuticals, which he wants to make his future. He will attend the University of Arizona and its Honors College.

School: Maricopa High School
Years in Maricopa: 6
Originally from: Eastvale, Calif.
Career goal: Pharmaceutical scientist
Proudest accomplishment: My naming as a National Hispanic Scholar was definitely one of my proudest moments, and it has opened up to me many opportunities, such as those in scholarships and admittance.

Moving forward: I plan to attend the University of Arizona and pursue either an undergraduate degree in biochemistry or later a PharmD. Pursuing a further education at a graduate school is also something to be kept in mind while working toward a successful career in science and medicine.

Dylan Hill

Nominated for two military service academies, Hill has become involved in serious responsibilities during her high school years, including leadership of the city's Youth Council and the MHS Air Force Junior ROTC program. She intends to foster her leadership skills in college to prepare for life in the military.

School: Maricopa High School
Years in Maricopa: 11
Originally from: Chandler
Career goal: Serve in the U.S. military



Proudest accomplishment: I have received the National NROTC Marine-option scholarship valued at over \$180,000 and have received a service academy appointment.

Moving forward: I plan on attending college in the fall, then continually progressing through taking on leadership roles and increasing my physical fitness so I can become more prepared to lead others after I graduate.



Christiana Holguin

Holguin is headed to Villanova, where she intends to continue her study of English literature in hopes of becoming a professor. To prepare, she has tutored English, volunteered at the library and wrote an article about a local veteran for the Veteran's Heritage Project.

School: Sequoia Pathway Academy
Years in Maricopa: 12
Originally from: Gilbert, Ariz.
Career goal: English professor

Proudest accomplishment: I'm proud of the fact that I was invited to give a speech at the TEDx (Technology, Entertainment and Design experiences) event as a sophomore.

Moving forward: I was accepted to Villanova University, and I intend to study English literature and pursue a doctorate.



Lindsay Hubbard

Hubbard is enrolled at ASU's Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering to study aerospace engineering in the fall. But first, in June, she will be competing in the Miss Arizona pageant.

School: Maricopa High School
Years in Maricopa: 12
Originally from: Phoenix
Career goal: Aerospace engineer at NASA

Proudest accomplishment: I am most proud of my title as Miss Pinal County. With this title I get the chance to have a voice and expand my platform "Starting at the S.T.E.M." Sharing my passion and dreams with others is not something I thought I would be able to do so early in my life. I hope to make my county and the city of Maricopa proud by bringing home the title Miss Arizona.

Moving forward: I plan to achieve my career goals by continuing the process of applying for scholarships to make my college and future stress-free. I want to focus on my first responsibility – being a student.

Porter Brigham Jones

Jones is the valedictorian of this class and accepted a full-ride scholarship to NAU. He studies languages and ancient civilizations when not focused on service, art and theater.

School: Maricopa High School
Years in Maricopa: 16



Originally from: Chandler
Career goal: Archaeologist/linguist, husband and father

Proudest accomplishment: The things that have given me the most pride in my life so far have to include some things that naturally come from a school environment, like learning how to get along with everyone you meet (and still keep your opinion), learning time management and, most importantly, making so many outstanding and phenomenal friends who inspire me to do better.

Moving forward: I will be spending my first year of college attending Northern Arizona University, where I plan to get some preliminary archaeology and language classes out of the way. Soon after, however, I hope to have saved enough money to go on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



Britney Montgomery

Montgomery has been a mainstay of the MHS Theatre Company and has earned a musical theater scholarship with her "superior" vocal abilities, honed in statewide and international competitions.

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Youth

School: Maricopa High School
Years in Maricopa: 4
Originally from: Freeport, N.Y.
Career goal: Broadway performer/theatre teacher

Proudest accomplishment: I am most proud of being awarded the Amy Bennett Foundation Scholarship. To receive something that means so much to someone is really an honor.

Moving forward: I plan on going to University for musical theatre and secondary education and get my teaching degree and also a degree in theatre.

Haley Petersheim

Petersheim plans to study political science at ASU with a broader goal of civic leadership. As part of the nonpartisan Junior State of America, she has learned how to be an effective civic participant and debater. She is on Maricopa Youth Council and attends school site council and district budget meetings.

School: Maricopa High School
Years in Maricopa: 12
Career goal: To work in legislation
Proudest accomplishment: I am most proud of the fact that I can see the students



Jalen Reyes

Reyes intends to earn a university degree in dance education and was recently accepted into a Silver-Medal competitive Urban Dance team, The Elektrolytes.

School: Maricopa High School
Years in Maricopa: 6
Originally from: Greeley, Colorado
Career goal: Choreographer and dance studio director

Proudest accomplishment: Joining the Elektrolytes is definitely one of my greatest accomplishments. The discipline of dance is very subjective, and to be accepted to such a prestigious team is validating. It is not every day that the winners of America's Best Dance Crew accept dancers onto their competitive team.

Moving forward: After receiving my degree in dance education, I plan on traveling to New Zealand to audition for The Royal Family, one of the best and biggest dance teams in the world. With experience and training, I will be in a position to mentor the next generation of performers in a dance studio of my own.

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Global Water wastewater expansion keeps focus on conservation, redundancy

Story and photos by Raquel Hendrickson

Global Water Resources showed off its not-yet-commissioned wastewater expansion project April 2, and it became an opportunity to update customers on how Maricopa's primary water utility is trying to adapt to the city's growth.

"The evidence is in the data, so for last year we did 4.4 percent meter connection count growth, which is the most we saw in any year since before the great recession, [since 2007]. The permit data suggests it's actually going to accelerate. Last year, the City of Maricopa had the highest year-over-year permit growth rate of any submarket in metro Phoenix. They did about 60 percent more permits than they did in 2016, and in 2016 they did 60-70 percent better than they did in 2015. Obviously, permits are the leading indicator to new homes being built and our meters going in the ground." – Ron Fleming, Global Water president



19,000 metered locations
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The growth in western Maricopa, mostly along John Wayne Parkway, has put a lot of sewage pressure on the sanitary lift station at Rancho El Dorado. The company built a new, modular lift station to divert half of that wastewater to a gravity trunk line at Smith-Enke and Porter roads, from which it is conveyed to the plant.

"The iFAS system is a different biological process than we've seen here, continuous nonstop flow, less equipment, less overall operations and equipment. It will allow us in the future to build smaller, incremental expansions here. At the facility there is no odor. If in the event that we have that situation, we get a major upset, we have significant odor-control systems that are in place. That was all required and permitted through ADEQ" – Jason Thuneman, vice president of project management



Rancho El Dorado lift station at 90 percent capacity

50 percent of flows from RED lift station diverted to new facility

2.5 year process to create expansion facility

As part of its three-year, \$33 million project, Global Water also invested in a new well in Rancho Mirage. The well is intended to provide additional water into the system, especially when a major line break occurs, to lessen the impact of water fluctuations.

"Based on its location, it will provide a lot of benefits to the overall system. We haven't been able to wholly commission and operate continuously that facility in the past, and that's because there wasn't enough groundwater supply coming into those tanks ... to have it active all of the time. With this new well we'll be able to do that, which significantly extends the water capacity for the overall city." – Ron Fleming

New well is meant to provide 2,000 additional gallons per minute of "fresh" water, increasing raw water production 20 percent

In the past 24 months, Global Water has had three "major" line failures

100 percent of fresh water in Global Water's system is groundwater



Reclamation and recycling is a large part of the process, as any Maricopa resident can attest. Local lakes and water features are fed with nonpotable, reclaimed water. The system filters solids from the wastewater, resulting in biosolvents that are dried and, via an ADEQ permit, are sent to a local farmer, who uses it as fertilizer.

"All the waste that's conveyed to the centralized reclamation facility we try to reuse ... The only waste product is a single, 20-yard bin where solids are screened out at the beginning of the process." – Ron Fleming



Goal is re-use 80 percent of Maricopa wastewater to reduce the demand on potable water

Purple pipe (reclaimed water) reduced the demand on the aquifer by about 30 percent.

The caveat is no water supply, especially in Arizona, is an unending resource. While Global Water says its tactics are saving money and conserving water, and a large portion of its relatively high base water rates are attributed to wastewater costs, fresh water has no guarantee in the distant future.

"It's necessary to get as much from the local resources as possible, to stretch them as much as you can, before you have to go out and bring in other water supplies. Ultimately, that day will come, just like it will for anybody anywhere. It's a mathematical equation about how much water exists and how much population or growth that water then meet the needs of. We have to think of ways we can supplement the aquifer. Because of the way we're managing the aquifer here, doing the recyclable program and conservation program, we just have that inflection point a lot farther in the distance than a lot of communities are looking at." – Ron Fleming

The wastewater reclamation facility is expected to be commissioned at the beginning of May.





The **Ak-Chin Pedestrian Bridge** opened March 28. The bridge links Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino with UltraStar Multi-tainment Center. Crossing over the roadway between the two properties, the bridge is 180 feet long and air conditioned.

There are elevators at each end, directly linking the bowling alley with the new parking garage at the casino.

Maricopa's newest athletic gym officially opened March 27. **Planet Fitness**, 20595 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 400, is staffed 24 hours a day. City leaders and Maricopa Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



The planned **Dunkin' Donuts** at Edison Pointe received a commercial tenant improvement permit for its 1,811-square-foot space in the western building. That is valued at \$238,708.

Dollar Tree, moving into Edison Pointe adjoining Fry's Marketplace, also received a tenant improvement permit for its 9,920-square-foot space. The project is valued at \$145,000.

True Hearts received final inspection April 10 at its location, 19428 N. John Wayne Parkway, the former business barn.

Legacy Charter received a permit April 10 to make on-site improvements for Sunrise Preschool at 19287 N. Porter Road, valued at \$98,658.

Respados Locoz received a zoning permit for its mobile food vending at 44274 W. Smith-Enke Road.

Burger King, 20595 N. John Wayne Parkway, received permits for illuminated signage, logo and drive-thru menu boards as well as a monument sign. It is scheduled to open this spring.

OUT-OF-TOWNERS DOMINATE BUSINESS LICENSES

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

COMMERCIAL: Creative Blessings, Dollar Tree, Winkley Law Firm

HOME-BASED: Active & Pain Free, Bradley Goering Maintenance, Comfort Care Assisted Living Home, Erin Neidigh, LLC., Fernando Matus Janitorial Service, Fortified Collection, Gorilla Joe's Pest Control, Jewelry by Jenn, KRM Enterprises, La Bella Casa, M&T Services, Marick Home Care, Maricopa Handyman, Salud Cocktail Club, Santa Cruz Creative, Violet's Garden Assisted Living Home

OUT OF TOWN: Acton Contracting, B&J Glass and Store Front, Biscuit Freaks, CLW Construction, Cordova Contracting & Development, Data Specialties, Diego's Loco Dogs & Catering, Entrepreneurial Communities, Firehouse Concessions, Ironwood Cabinets, Khalymba Retail, Midway Chevrolet, Millie's Catering, Murrieta Landscaping, Patrick Riley Cooling, Heating and Plumbing, Quality Awnings and Patios, Scape Tech, Sistahstoo, Southwest Blinds & Shutters, Stage Right Entertainment, Sun Pumps Inc., Sunharvest Solar, Technology Services, Vape Scottsdale, Window Coverings, Zayne's Grill

DOUGHNUT SHOP GETS LOW RATING FROM INSPECTOR

One Maricopa eatery among those inspected by Pinal County's health department from March 15 to April 15 did not receive an excellent score.

Good Donuts was requested to fix or replace a refrigerator that was not keeping items at the required 41 degrees F or lower. Several items, such as milk, eggs and cheese, were measured at 49F. The inspector also noted washed but not sanitized blender containers and a bucket for wiping cloths on a work table. The establishment was given an "N" rating, a step below satisfactory.



EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- 99 Cents Only Store
- Butterfield Elementary
- Central Arizona College - Culinary
- Circle K, 18141 N. John Wayne Parkway
- Desert Wind Middle School

- Dickey's Barbecue Pit
- Domino's Pizza
- Francisco's Mexican Food
- Gyro Grill
- Helen's Kitchen
- Jack in the Box
- Jersey Mike's Subs
- Maricopa Head Start
- Maricopa High School
- Maricopa Wells Middle School
- Papa John's Pizza
- Pima Butte Elementary
- Pizza Hut
- Plaza Bonita
- Province Community Association Clubhouse
- Santa Cruz Elementary
- Santa Rosa Elementary
- Sonic Drive-In
- Subway
- Sunrise Cafe
- Taco Bell
- Water and Ice

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- None

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

- Good Donuts

UNACCEPTABLE [Gross, unsanitary conditions necessitating the discontinuation of service]

- None

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**MOST
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HOME SOLD**

1. N. Swan Court

Mason Callejas

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa from March 16 to April 15 was a 13-year-old Engle home in Province. The one-owner house with a play pool and fire pit went for \$9,500 under its asking price and was on the market less than three months.

Sold: March 24
Purchase price: \$390,000
Square footage: 2,830
Price per square foot: \$137.81
Days on market: 76
Builder: Engle
Year built: 2005
Bedrooms: 2
Bathrooms: 2.5
Community: Province

Features: Great views, granite countertops, his and hers walk-in closets, fireplace, covered patio, 2 master bedrooms, formal dining room
Listing agent: Dana L.P. Melcher, Revelation Real Estate
Selling agent: Patti Wasowicz, The Maricopa Real Estate Co.

- 2. 22386 N. Sunset Drive, Cobblestone Farms\$333,450
- 3. 41644 W. Springtime Road, Province.....\$332,846
- 4. 41903 W. Almira Drive, Glennwilde\$330,000
- 5. 42443 W. Bravo Drive, Rancho El Dorado\$325,000

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



1. 42968 W. Cowpath Road

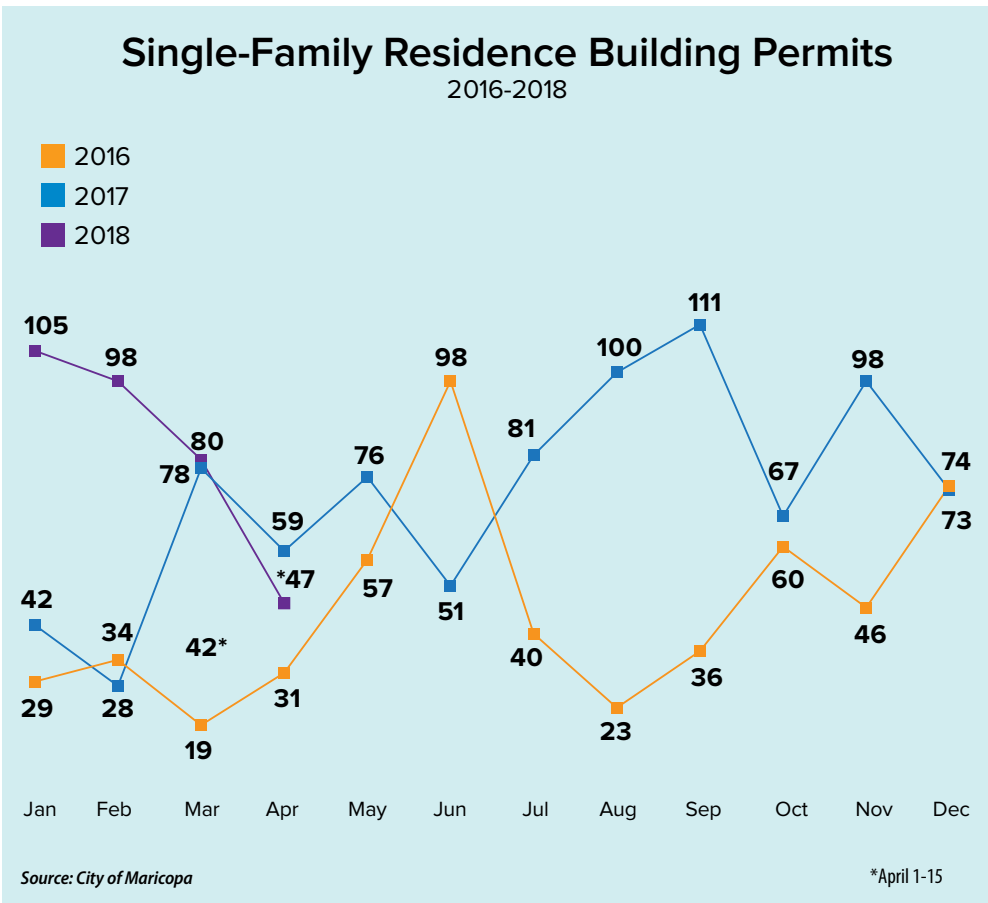
Mason Callejas

Marketed to first-time homeowners and landlords, the least expensive home sold in Maricopa from March 16 to April 15 is a no-frills house in Senita. It was sold for cash at asking price with no time on market.

Sold: March 20
Purchase price: \$130,000
Square footage: 1,509
Price per square foot: \$86.15
Days on market: 0
Builder: Unknown
Year built: 2008
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2

Community: Senita
Features: Basic house with three bedrooms and a two-car garage
Listing agent: Eric A. Hubert, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Arizona
Selling agent: Anthony Schumacher, The Maricopa Real Estate Co.

- 2. 19039 N. Ventana Lane, Glennwilde\$140,380
- 3. 36029 W. Velazquez Drive, Tortosa\$145,000
- 4. 42974 W. Jeremy St., Senita\$145,000
- 5. 43432 W. Rio Bravo Drive, Rancho El Dorado\$263,000



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Water, food key to caring for fickle queen palm

By Roger Lawrence

The beautiful, elegant and fickle queen palm (Syagrus romanzoffianum): Perhaps you have one of these stately palms in your yard. No doubt you have seen them in other landscapes.

Have you ever wondered why so many look dry and yellow or why yours is so hard to keep looking nice? The answer is quite simple, but the solution not so much.

The queen palm is a tropical tree. It enjoys year-round moderate temps, lots of humidity, and nutrient-rich soil. That's pretty much the opposite of Maricopa. Most of the queens in our area are planted near or around swimming pools or other bodies of water, so they do get some humidity from evaporation.

But our temperature swings, especially

in the winter months, prove problematic, occasionally dipping to freezing. And the soil in our area is a clay loam at best, with very little organic matter.

So, what to do? The secret is in watering and feeding. The rule of thumb for watering is the same as for most trees in our landscapes: deep and infrequent. During the winter months, water once every three to four weeks to a depth of three feet. In summer months, water every seven to 10 days and to the same depth of three feet. Water takes longer to soak into our clay soil, so a slow trickle over a longer period is required.

OK, what about feeding? Our alkaline soil makes it difficult for roots to absorb nutrients like iron and nitrogen and contributes to the yellowing of fronds. If new growth looks frizzy



and yellow and appears accordion-like, then a shot of manganese may be needed. Queens require more of this mineral than most palm tree fertilizers contain, so manganese spikes can add that needed nutrient.

Queen palms should be fertilized three times per year through the growing season. An easy way to remember is to fertilize on Valentine's Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day. Just be sure to use the amount of fertilizer recommended by the product manufacturer. Another way to nourish the queen palm is to use a 3- to 4-inch layer of organic mulch around the tree. This will also help to retain moisture in the soil after watering.

Lastly, when trimming the yellow or brown fronds, cut the unsightly parts back to any green showing, leaving as much leaf as possible so photosynthesis can take place.

Roger Lawrence is a master gardener and Maricopa resident.

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Maricopa homes with pools sell twice as quickly

By Dayv Morgan

As summer approaches and the weather warms up, the thought of having a backyard pool becomes more desirable.

But many people are hesitant to add one, thinking the cost is too great, and the return on investment will be too small when it's time to sell.

In Maricopa, however, neither seems to be accurate. Most appraisers will say a pool adds \$10,000 of value to a home.

In some parts of the Valley, pools are very common. Over the last month in Chandler, for example, almost 50 percent of the homes sold had a pool.

But in Maricopa, the number of properties with pools is quite low. Over the same 30-day period, only 22 of the 178 closed homes had pools (12.3 percent). Therefore, the added val-

ue is much higher than \$10,000, often \$25,000 or more in retail value.

So, what does it cost to keep cool?

A basic 80-foot perimeter pebble tec pool, with a maximum depth of 5 feet, should cost about \$22,000, depending on the access to the yard. This means in most cases you will get at least a 100 percent return on investment.

If you add other pool features such as a waterfall, spa, in-floor cleaning system or heater, the price will jump quickly and the overall return for the pool investment will decline.

Another factor to consider is the "days on market" when you list your home for sale. Properties with pools tend to sell much faster than those without.

In the last month listings, Maricopa homes



Dayv Morgan



without pools took an average of 73 days to sell, while homes with pools sold almost twice as fast, in only 37 days.

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

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What is the difference between respite care, hospice care and caregiving?

By Rev. Sherielyn Curry

A Good question. A good and general answer to all the parts of that question is to break it down into the 3 parts and answer them individually.

Respite care is caring for someone who already has a person caring for them, but that person may need some personal time. Time to either get away for a break, some relaxation or to take care of their own health concerns for a short period of time. The very word implies a temporary situation.

Hospice care is medical care, companionship and other services that most people normally associate with end of life care. Hospice Care is not limited to solely end of life care. It is usually done with more of a team approach. This

is whenever a person needs extra care for a period of time, usually at home but it can also be in a facility. Some Hospice agencies have their own facilities and also give care a rehab or skilled nursing center. Your doctor can help you find a Hospice agency and know more your personal needs.

Caregiving is basically assisting with daily living skills. It is done in the home of the client. Caregiving can but not necessarily includes assisting with bathing, dressing, meal and medication reminders, light housekeeping, errands, doctor appointments, companionship, just to name a few. Just what services

a person needs is assessed on an individual basis. To find out which services a client needs, an assessment is done in home with

the client. Then, together with the client and if applicable, their family, a plan of care is decided upon.

Comfort Keepers can assist you with most of your respite and caregiving needs. All you have to do in Maricopa is contact our local Care Coordinator at 480-467-7002 or call our Chandler office at 480-659-9201 to speak with someone about your caregiving and respite needs.

Comfort Keepers is locally owned and operated by Sherielyn Curry, MDiv, CSA. We offer a wide variety of services to give comfort and peace of mind. Serving Maricopa and surrounding areas for over 10 years, we create personalized care plans that are convenient for every budget. Call us today! 480-659-9201. Or Email us at Chandler@ComfortKeepers.com. Se habla español.



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Water’s role in weight loss

By Aaron Gilbert

Pretty much everybody has heard their body is over 60 percent water. Thus, if you weigh 150 pounds then 90 pounds of you is liquid. A lot of that body water is in your cells or attached to molecules like proteins and carbohydrates.

Water does six main things in our bodies — transporting, dissolving, cleaning, reacting, padding and regulating temperature.

Research question: Water is important stuff, but can it help us lose weight?

North American Association for the Study of Obesity detailed its findings in “Water consumption increases weight loss during a hypocaloric diet intervention in middle-aged and older adults.”*

In this study, researchers recruited men and women ages 55 to 75 who were overweight or obese, with exclusions for certain health ailments. Before the study started, everybody had to come into the lab twice — once to eat as much food as they wanted, and once to drink 500 milliliters of water and then eat as much as they wanted.



Aaron Gilbert



Researchers wanted to see whether people would eat less if they drank water before a meal. Twelve weeks later, at the end of the study, the participants did the water-drinking test again.

Everybody was on the same diet, but half the participants had the secret pre-meal supplement — 500 milliliters water. Before each of their three meals, the water group drank 500 milliliters of water before eating. There was no other difference between groups for the 12 weeks of the study.

Over the three months, the water group dropped 4.4 percent body fat and 5.4 kg total fat while the non-water group only dropped 1.1 percent body fat and 3.3 kg of total fat.

Bottom line — Drinking two cups of water before a meal will keep you hydrated, fuller and may even boost your metabolism for an hour. Before you go off to your favorite vitamin shop to try the latest weight-loss supplement, try drinking two cups (500 mL) before you sit down for a meal.

Oh, and make sure you’re near a toilet. 🚽

Aaron Gilbert, CSCS, owns Longevity Athletics.

📞 520-261-4661
✉️ Aaron@LongevityAthletics.com

**[Dennis EA, Dengo AL, Comber DL, Flack KD, Savla J, Davy KP, Davy BM. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2010 Feb;18(2):300-7.*

Is it a cold? Or is it really Allergies?

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

Is it a cold or allergies? This is a question that plagues many people this time of year. On one hand you’ve been sneezing and sniffing, swallowing over-the-counter meds every few hours. On the other hand, it’s been going on for two and a half weeks now and it seems there is no end in sight. Let’s take a closer look at some of the similarities and differences to better understand what may be ailing you.

Similarities of Allergies & Colds:

- Sneezing
- Runny nose
- Congestion and stuffy nose
- Coughing
- Sore throat

Differences of Allergies & Colds:

- Itchy eyes is a less common symptom of a cold
- Severe colds can cause fevers and body aches and are not usually signs of allergies
- Sore throat in allergies is most often caused by postnasal drip
- Allergies can cause rashes

“People with allergies are sometimes more prone to catching colds. Recovery from a cold is usually quick - in fact, the average duration of a cold is 7 to 10 days. If symptoms last more than a week or two, the cold may have progressed into a secondary bacterial infection such as bronchitis or sinusitis. Allergies are more difficult to predict and can be a little tricky, they can be seasonal, or come and go daily and reoccur often” (Dr. Ted Crawford, DO, Medical Director, Sun Life Family Health Center, 2017).

As the season begins to warm, the plants begin to pollinate, spreading the ‘joy’ in the air to all of us who are susceptible to seasonal allergies. However, we are still in the middle of cold and flu season. So the sniffles may very well be one last ride on the Rhinovirus bandwagon.

Allergies range from mild to seasonal allergies with more severe symptoms; which can cause life-threatening reactions. People can have an array of symptoms and allergic reactions to any number of things, including various airborne pollens, foods, medications, and allergy shots. Whether you have a mild or severe allergy, you should know the proper response to a reaction, address accordingly, and minimize your discomfort.

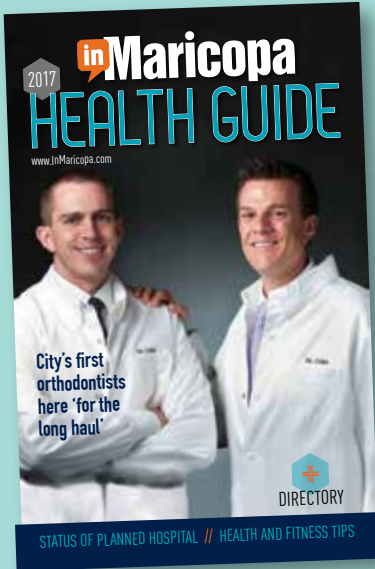
Keeping track of the local daily pollen percentages in your area can be very helpful and might make you Ah-Ah-Ah-choose to stay inside, wear a preventative mask, or limit your outdoor activities. Here is a helpful website that can help keep you informed of your local air pollen content. <https://www.pollen.com>

Scheduling an appointment with your Sun Life Family Health Center provider is the first step to treating your cold or allergies. He or she will be able to diagnose your symptoms and refer you to a local (specialist) allergist. The allergist can then test you to find out what triggered your allergic reaction and can prescribe medication or give you allergy shots to help manage your symptoms. 📍



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What the little, red flower means to veterans

By Mike Kemery

“What is that little, red flower, and why are the ‘old’ people trying to hand one to me when all I want to do is shop?”

During the month of May, many will see veterans passing out little, red, artificial flowers at many locations within our city. That flower is representative of the poppy, which is the official Remembrance Flower for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

It all began with a simple poem written during World War I called “In Flanders Fields,” and it impacted two women thousands of miles apart — a professor at the University of Georgia, Moina Belle Michael, and Madame Anna A. Guerin of France. Neither would know of the other nor meet for years.

Miss Michael was so deeply touched by “In Flanders Fields” she became a volunteer and

went overseas during the war and saw rows of dead soldiers, and the plight of the soldiers and the effects on their families. She vowed that those perished would not be forgotten. She became known as the “Poppy Lady” in the United States.

Madam Guerin lived through the devastation of her country. It was she who thought the poppy was appropriate for remembrance of so many lost lives, based on the poem. She established a way of making small, artificial flowers by paying those disabled by the war to make the poppies and then all the donations collected from the flowers would go to assist the widows and orphans. She was already known as the “Poppy Lady of France” when she came to the United States in 1919 and asked the newly-formed American Legion to sponsor her efforts.



Mike Kemery



In 1920, at their second national convention in Cleveland, the American Legion passed the resolution, but the following year the delegates repudiated the poppy in favor of the daisy. So later that year the two “Poppy Ladies” finally met and sought a new sponsor, the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The first successful nationwide distribution began in May 1922. The program was adopted by the VFW that August.

In 1924, the VFW had the name “Buddy Poppy” trademarked.

Today, all “Buddy Poppies” are still made by the disabled. They are only sold to local VFW posts and then distributed for free in the community. Any donations go into a special account to be used the way it was originally intended — for those veterans and their families in need.

The poppy is the Remembrance Flower, and it would be great if all wore it come Memorial Day. ☞

Mike Kemery is a past post commander of VFW 12043.

Questions to ask when researching assisted-living facilities

By Joan Koczor

Assisted living is defined as a type of long-term care facility for elderly or disabled people who are able to get around on their own but may need help with some activities of daily living, or simply prefer the convenience of having their meals in a central cafeteria and having nursing staff on call.

How active are you? How active do you want to be?

A few things to consider before making a life-changing decision:

- Is the residence in a convenient location?
- How about the outward appearance — is it clean and are the grounds well maintained?
- Were you greeted by staff? Did they provide a warm welcome? Were they personable?
- Are the doorways, hallways, common rooms easily accessible? Can they accommodate a walker, wheelchair or scooter?
- Were the residents friendly? Anyone you would consider as a possible roommate?
- Are the facilities secure? Doors monitored with an alarm? Security available?
- Is there a written agreement or contract listing services and accommodations provided?
- Is renter’s insurance required? Do monthly fees vary according to levels of service?
- Number of meals provided daily? Snacks?
- Are rooms equipped with TV and/or a



Joan Koczor

- telephone? Computer?
- Medication administrated by staff? Is self-medication allowed?
- Nurse or doctor on 24-hour call?
- Organized activities? Socialization encouraged?
- Pets allowed?
- Is the facility state licensed?
- What is the staff-to-resident ratio?

Not all assisted living facilities are state licensed and registered.

Each state has a different rule for resident-to-staff ratios. Look for one that is as low as possible. Make sure there’s never less than a 1 to 15 ratio. If you’re looking for memory or Alzheimer’s care, the ratio should be 1 to 8 or better.

Monthly costs are another consideration.

- Assisted-living facilities average \$2,500 to \$4,000 per month, with additional costs for memory care.
- Nursing homes are \$4,000 to \$8,000 per month.
- Residential care homes are \$1,500 to \$3,000 per month.
- Respite care is \$75 to \$150 per day; home-care aids \$20 to \$40 per hour.

A number of public programs, including Medicare and Medicaid, may help pay for some long-term care services. Keep in mind Medicaid rules vary by state. There are many different eligibility groups in the Medicaid program, and each one has its own set of



requirements. States have the option to cover or not cover specific groups.

To qualify for Medicaid, general and financial requirements must be met. Tax reform may also bring about changes to Medicare, Medicaid and other government programs. Please be aware of these changes and how they will affect you.

Information is out there. Don’t hesitate to ask questions. ☞

- ☞ LongTermCare.gov
- ☞ Assisted-Living.Caring.com
- ☞ [PriceComparision DOT COM?](http://PriceComparision.DOT.COM?)
- ☞ ElderLawAnswers.com
- ☞ SeniorAdvisor.com

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

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Maricopa became part of Pinal County's major cotton production, with ranch owners bringing in seasonal workers from as far away as Oklahoma City to work the fields. Pinal County remains Arizona's top producer, with about 85,000 acres of cotton.

Find out how cotton became one of Arizona's five C's at an Maricopa Historical Society event.

Julie Murphree, outreach director for Arizona Farm Bureau, will talk about the history and importance of the cotton industry in a presentation May 7 at 5:30 p.m. in Maricopa Public Library. She will also address what's new in cotton, which started a bit of a comeback a decade ago.

Murphree, a native of Arizona, grew up on a cotton and alfalfa farm with three brothers. She partnered with her parents, Pat and Pennee Murphree, through 2005 in a cotton, wheat and alfalfa farm. Because of her love for agriculture and country life, she wrote a book called "Fresh Air."

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Arizona State University in addition to a management certificate in strategic sourcing and supply chain management from the University of North Carolina. She also graduated from a concentrated two-year leadership program, Project CENTRL, sponsored by the University of Arizona.

The community is invited to attend the presentation, which is free.

 **MHS50.com**



Julie Murphree

Submitted

Things to do

MAY 1

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

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

MAY 3

Costa Verde Homes Ribbon-Cutting
5:30 p.m., Oasis at Santa Rosa Springs
42332 W. Ramirez Drive

MUSD Art Walk

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

MAY 4 8-Bits

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

MAY 5

Maricopa Historical Society Golf Tournament
7 a.m., The Duke Golf Course at Rancho El Dorado
42260 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway

Movies Under the Stars

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

MAY 7

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

MHS Senior Honors Night

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

MAY 9

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

MUSD Governing Board Meeting

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

MAY 10

Chamber Breakfast Mixer
7 a.m., Elements Event Center at Ak-Chin Circle
16000 N. Maricopa Road

MAY 12

2nd Saturday Maricopa Market
8 a.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19265 N. Porter Road

Coffee with the Chief

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

Music-A-Thon

Noon-8 p.m., Maricopa Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MAY 14

Ak-Chin Smash in the Sun
8 a.m.-2 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road

MAY 15

Ak-Chin Smash in the Sun
9-11:30 a.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road

Legacy Junior High Choir Concert

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

City Council Work Session

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

City Council Regular Session

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

MAY 17

State of the County Address
5:30 p.m., Elements Event Center at Ak-Chin Circle
16000 N. Maricopa Road

MAY 18

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

Sequoia Pathway Graduation

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

Things to do

MAY 19

Councilmember on the Corner
9 a.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

Movies Under the Stars

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

MAY 22

MUSD Eighth Grade Unification Ceremony
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MAY 23

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

MAY 24

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

Maricopa High School Graduation

7:30 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

JUNE 2

Movies Under the Stars
6 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAYS-FRIDAYS

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

MONDAYS

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL)

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

TUESDAYS

Coffee with Friends of the Maricopa Library
1 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Celebrate Recovery Coffee & Karaoke

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

Al-Anon Meeting

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

Grief Journey

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

Harrah's Club 777 Toastmasters

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

S.M.A.R.T. Kids

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

Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting

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

AWANA

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

THURSDAYS

Color Me Calm
9 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Family Story Time

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

FRIDAYS

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



MAY
15

Brady Wilson, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes general manager

Mason Callejas

World Long Drive comes to Ak-Chin

By Michelle Chance

Golf's longest drivers will compete in Ak-Chin's first nationally televised sporting event May 15.

Ak-Chin Smash in the Sun is a three-day World Long Drive tour event May 11-12 and 14-15 at a course grid north of UltraStar Multi-tainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle.

It's the second stop on the World Long Drive Tour, which began in April with Mesquite, Nevada's Clash in the Canyon.

The sporting spectacle will feature men's and women's qualifying competitions.

The last day of the inaugural competition will be broadcast live on The Golf Channel and feature the final eight competitors, whittled down from a bracket of 32.

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes will also host a Pro-Am event the morning of May 15.

"It's showcasing Ak-Chin and Maricopa as a destination," said Brady Wilson, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes general manager.

The grid at Ak-Chin Circle was specially groomed for the event by Southern Dunes staff. Stadium seating will be constructed to hold 500 to 1,000 fans. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

The event is free and open to the public. It's expected to appeal to golfers and non-golfers alike.

"If you're not a golfer, the fun party atmosphere — along with seeing how far these guys hit the ball — and the national television aspect also makes you want to see it," Wilson said.

It's the first time the World Long Drive Association will make a tour stop in Arizona, according to its website. Wilson said it will return next year for the same event.

After Ak-Chin's Smash in the Sun, the tour makes stops in New Jersey, Tennessee, Canada, the Texas/Oklahoma Border and then back to Tennessee before the Volvik World Long Drive Championship returns to Texoma Aug. 30.



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



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



“In Memory of Joe Stanton”

Maricopa Ace Hardware is saddened by the loss of Joe Stanton but proud that he was such a big part of our Family.

We wish to sincerely thank the members of Maricopa Fire/Medical Department Station 575 for their outstanding professional service and personal care that they, and all of Maricopa’s First Responders provide to our community 24/7.

In honor of Joe, we will be ‘Rounding Up’ on behalf of the Maricopa Fire Department during the month of May and we invite everyone to come in and Round Up for Firefighters this month.



Thank you, Maricopa, for your unwavering support.

Reid Rogers
Mike Perkins
Danny ‘O’ Ashton
Justin Henzil
Ryan Powell
Kenny Buchanan



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ADVERTISER INDEX

| | |
|--|-----|
| Absolute Air Comfort | 45 |
| Academy Mortgage Dawn Svoboda..... | 39 |
| Ace Hardware..... | 56 |
| Affiliated Cardiologist of Arizona..... | 5 |
| Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club | 25 |
| Banner Casa Grande Medical Center | 15 |
| Be Awesome Youth Coalition..... | 19 |
| Brutinel Plumbing & Electrical | 39 |
| Caliche Senior Living..... | 52 |
| Camino Montessori | 17 |
| Central Arizona College | 26 |
| Copple & Copple, P.C..... | 47 |
| DCM Medical Supplies, LLC..... | 38 |
| Dignity Health..... | 3 |
| Electrical District No. 3..... | 20 |
| Far Horizons Travel..... | 39 |
| Global Water Resources..... | IBC |
| Golf Cart Parts Company | 39 |
| Harrah’s Ak-Chin | 9 |
| The Hearing Centers of Arizona..... | 52 |
| Holiday Custom Pools | 48 |
| HomeSmart Success Dayv Morgan | 49 |
| HomeStreet Home Loans Aaron Anderson ... | 45 |
| Housing Around AZ powered by MREC/ | |
| Jase Leonard | 46 |
| InMaricopa | 1 |
| J Warren Funeral Services..... | 53 |
| Leading Edge Academy | 32 |
| Lizard Heights Glass | 21 |
| Maricopa Eye Care | 19 |
| Maricopa Foot and Ankle..... | 13 |
| Maricopa Unified School District | 31 |
| McDonald’s | 33 |
| McLaughlin Air..... | 43 |
| Mr. Appliance of Maricopa..... | 46 |
| Mr. Electric | 49 |
| Native Grill & Wings..... | 35 |
| Orbitel Communications..... | 7 |
| Pinal County Federal Credit Union | 16 |
| San Tan Oral Surgery..... | 53 |
| State Farm Lance Lane | 17 |
| Sun Life Family Health Center..... | IFC |
| UltraStar Multi-tainment Center..... | BC |
| Veko! Market | 43 |
| Victor Moreno Photography..... | 32 |
| Vincent J Morrissey Insurance..... | 16 |
| Water & Ice..... | 26 |
| Your AZ Realty Guy Jeremy Winegard | 45 |

SAVING WATER TOGETHER

Here’s a fun and easy way to see how water-wise you are around your home. Check the box that describes your water use habits, then add up your score. It might surprise you just how easy it is to save water around your home.

WATER SAVING PERSONAL HABITS

| | ALWAYS 3 POINTS | SOMETIMES 1 POINT | NEVER 0 POINTS |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| KEEP SHOWERS TO UNDER 5 MINUTES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| LIMIT WATER USE WHILE TAKING A BATH | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| TURN OFF WATER WHILE BRUSHING YOUR TEETH | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FILL THE SINK WHEN WASHING UP. DON’T KEEP WATER ON | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FLUSH ONLY WHEN NECESSARY. DO NOT FLUSH WIPES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| USE A BROOM TO CLEAN THE DRIVEWAY OR WALKWAY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| USE A BUCKET WHEN WASHING YOUR CAR | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ENSURE THE FAUCET IS NOT DRIPPING WHEN TURNED OFF | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| PUT WATER IN THE SINK TO WASH AND RINSE DISHES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RUN THE DISHWASHER ONLY WHEN IT IS FULL | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RUN THE WASHING MACHINE ONLY WHEN IT IS FULL | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| REUSE TOWELS TO REDUCE WATER USED FOR LAUNDRY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YOUR SCORE

18 - 36 Points — Great job! You are on your way to saving hundreds of gallons of water a month.

12 - 17 Points — You’re off to a great start! Go to www.wateruseitwisely.com to learn how to save more water.

0 - 11 Points — There is some room for improvement. Check out www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve for more tips.





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MAY 11-15

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