



Maricopa

www.InMaricopa.com

January 2019



BUSINESS

Adjusting to
next minimum-
wage hike

Gold Standard

MUSD leads state in new
National Board Certified Teachers

PEOPLE

Master
embellisher
looks for
his next car

YEAR IN REVIEW

A look at
top stories
of 2018

**+ Business
Directory**

MCLAUGHLIN

Air Conditioning & Heating Service

2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR



- ✓ Fast, Friendly Local Service
- ✓ Affordable Service Repair and Replacement

FREE
NEXIA THERMOSTAT

With Installation of
New American Standard Unit

Nexia —
Control
at your
Fingertips



Coupon must be presented before
project completion. Expires 1/31/2019.



SAVE
EVEN MORE WITH
GROUP RATES!
Call for more info!

Quality Service
at a Fair Price
(520) 213-5021

24/7 SERVICE 

**Now providing American Standard
lifetime maintenance service**



Licensed, Bonded and Insured
ROC#294841

**GIVE YOUR
TASTE BUDS
SOME EYE CANDY.**

Breakfast spreads. Midnight snacks. Popping corks
and cheers. The choices are endless, whether you're
grabbing a quick bite or sharing plates with friends.
Sip, savor and forever run toward a bigger playground.



Play For All
harrahsakchin.com



Must be 21 or older to gamble. Know When To Stop Before You Start.
Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700 or 1-800-NEXT STEP.
©2018 Caesars License Company, LLC.

Harrahs
AK-CHIN CASINO



Aspiring musician Alex Medrano works as a custodian in Maricopa.

Jim Headley

LEADING OFF

Editor's Letter **Page 4**

Contributors **Page 4**

PEOPLE

Check out the most-read stories of 2018. **Page 6**

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

See the history photo before it's gone. **Page 9**

11 Maricopa teachers earn National Board certification. **Page 10**

At 79, pinstriper Lyle Fisk still has the itch for art. **Page 12**

Rapper getting started in local music scene. **Page 14**

Faces in the crowd. **Page 16**



ON THE COVER: A 16-year veteran teacher and Maricopa Unified School District (and a former student at MUSD), Jenn Miller is among 11 who earned National Board certification. *Photo by Jim Headley*

FAMILY

Check out the most-read stories of 2018. **Page 6**

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

See the history photo before it's gone. **Page 9**

11 Maricopa teachers earn National Board certification. **Page 10**

At 79, pinstriper Lyle Fisk still has the itch for art. **Page 12**

Rapper getting started in local music scene. **Page 14**

Faces in the crowd. **Page 16**

BUSINESS

The top stories in economic development in 2018. **Page 32**

Business briefs include new companies, expansions and moving. **Page 34**

Another hike in the minimum wage has impact. **Page 36**

Directory **Page 38**

Elliott Pollack's economic forecast for 2019 is bullish. **Page 41**

HOME

Learn the challenges of local soils for gardeners. **Page 42**

Realtor Dayv Morgan looks at year-end housing market. **Page 43**

Most expensive home sold comes with a pool. **Page 44**

New home permits **Page 45**

HEALTH

Trainer Aaron Gilbert gives both sides of cleansing. **Page 48**

SENIOR LIVING

Joan Koczor says caregiving has its stresses. **Page 49**

THINGS TO DO

Top photos of 2018. **Page 50**

What fish can you catch in Maricopa. **Page 52**

Check the calendar of Maricopa events. **Page 52**

Honeycutt Coffee hosts All-Arizona Poetry Slam. **Page 53**

Tommy Ronca introduces an entertainment blog. **Page 54**

Make the Most of Your New Hi-Tech Toys!



Get the Internet and WiFi package that is right for you!

100Mbps \$69.95

per month for 24 Months

Orbitel

520-568-8890

COMMUNICATIONS

www.orbitelcom.com

Residential customers only. Offer applies to new 100Mbps Internet customers only. All rates for a 24 month period. Regular rates apply after promotional period ends. Taxes, equipment, franchise fees, and other fees not included. Many factors affect speed. Actual speed may vary. Other restrictions may apply. Call office for complete details.

The future remains

Looking back is a way of looking forward. After an eventful 2018 that included many changes in Maricopa, 2019 brings the continuation of the transformation.

In this issue, InMaricopa looks at top stories from the past year and how the changes are shaping Maricopa's future. Economist Elliott Pollack shares his vision of what 2019 will look like, at least economically, and residents reveal what they would like to see.

On the cover, Jenn Miller is among 11 teachers from Maricopa Unified School District to achieve the "gold standard" of National Board certification in 2018, the most of any district in the state. Looking back on their months of intense work, principals and students sing their praises in this issue.

The increase in the minimum wage started in 2017 continues to 2020 and then beyond as it is linked to the cost-of-living index. Two businesses owners share how they've been impacted in the past and how they see the future.

Auto pinstriper Lyle Fisk looks back on an iconic career as an embellisher and artist, while custodian Alex Madrano is trying to make his future as a rapper.

Have plans for an adventurous 2019?

If it includes traveling abroad, this issue has tips from local experts. Master Gardener Al Brandenburg has ideas for improving your soil. And school counselor Bernadette Russoniello spells out the top scholarships available in the state.

Whatever paths are ahead in your 2019, have a happy New Year.

Happy reading,



Raquel Hendrickson

RAQUEL HENDRICKSON | Editor
Raquel@InMaricopa.com
520-568-0040 ext. 3

inMaricopa
MARICOPA. DELIVERED.

Publisher
SCOTT BARTLE

Editor
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

Writers
PRISCILLA BEHNKE
AARON GILBERT
JIM HEADLEY
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON
JOAN KOCZOR
DAYV MORGAN
BERNADETTE RUSSONIELLO
MURRAY SIEGEL
FRANCIS TRAST

Photographers
JOYCELYN CABRERA
MASON CALLEJAS
MICHELLE CHANCE
DAVID DURST
JIM HEADLEY
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON
VICTOR MORENO
KYLE NORBY
ANGELICA RAMIS

Designer
CARL BEZUIDENHOUT

Advertising
SCOTT BARTLE
VINCENT MANFREDI
TRISHA PAIGE
MICHELLE SORENSEN

Volume 14, Issue 1
InMaricopa
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 101
Maricopa, AZ 85138

520-568-0040 Tel
520-568-0050 Fax

News@InMaricopa.com
Advertising@InMaricopa.com
Photos@InMaricopa.com

Mission
Inform readers/viewers. Enrich advertisers.

Core Values
1. Integrity
2. Accountability
3. Open, honest and real-time communication
4. Prosperity for clients, community, company and employees

Published advertisements are not an endorsement of products or advertising claims by InMaricopa. No part of this magazine may be reproduced by any means without the prior written permission of InMaricopa. Copyright 2019.



From its agricultural heritage, the Ak-Chin Indian Community became uniquely adaptable to changing climates and conditions. This resilience laid the groundwork for a 21st century business philosophy and entrepreneurial spirit that capitalizes on changing markets and commerce opportunities that encourage economic diversification and self-sufficiency.

As an Arizona Gold certified site, Santa Cruz Commerce Center offers approximately 45 acres of shovel-ready lots for owner-built or build-to-suit projects that can speed your project to market.

- Lease Customization
- Low Land Lease Rates
- No Real Property Taxes
- Low Utility Rates
- Build-to-Suit Funding

Ak-Chin: A Great Place to Grow Your Business!



The Ak-Chin Industrial Park Board oversees the marketing, development and management of Ak-Chin's

industrial properties which include the Santa Cruz Commerce Center, Adobe Office Suites and the property surrounding the Ak-Chin Regional Airport. The Board acts as a location advocate both within and outside the Community to identify opportunities, streamline processes, and accelerate solutions to any issues that might arise.

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

1. Call 520-568-3246 or email marketing@leaseakchin.com for basic information or to arrange a tour of the property
2. Download Development Request Submittal Requirements and email to leasing@leaseakchin.com
3. Review by Ak-Chin Industrial Park Board
4. Board advises applicant of approval process and facilitates progression
5. Applicant meets with Board and Ak-Chin Planning Dept
6. Board representative prepares a Preliminary Site Plan Application (PSPA) and submits to Planning
7. Planning holds Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) meeting for Board representative and applicant to present project and respond to questions
8. PSPA comments submitted to Planning; Planning forwards to Board representative
9. Planning submits Application to Ak-Chin Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z)
10. P&Z meets to review and vote on PSPA
11. P&Z denies project as proposed to move forward or forwards to Ak-Chin Finance & Legal for review
12. If approved, it is forwarded to Ak-Chin Council who authorizes project to proceed or does not approve it to proceed as proposed
13. If approved, the same process is followed with a more detailed Site Development Plan Application


Santa Cruz
COMMERCE CENTER

custom leasing solutions in a native environment

For leasing info: **520-568-3246**
Murphy Rd. & Maricopa Casa Grande Hwy

www.leaseakchin.com
BROKERS WELCOME

Contributors



JIM HEADLEY
Besides reporting and photography, Jim plays a jaw harp and loves a good bluegrass band.



FRANCIS TRAST
The editorial intern attends Maricopa High School and has been seen interviewing Maricopans on the street.



AL BRANDENBERG
Both a master gardener and a senior advocate, he can tell you all about winters in Upstate New York.

TOP STORIES OF 2018

InMaricopa readers turned their attention to tragedy, transportation and economic development in 2018. Here are some of our most-read stories of the year:

No. 10 /

In December, readers were outraged by details of child abuse accusations against a Maricopa couple. Describing being hit, taped and deprived of food and water as punishment, three children were removed from the home.



No. 9 /

An August crash that killed Maricopan Johnnie Verdoza and another man on State Route 143 drew widespread attention for the alleged actions of others in the car, also from Maricopa, who reportedly hid the bodies and left. Manslaughter charges against Thomas Sikes, now 23, are still in Maricopa County Superior Court.

No. 8 /

Apex Motor Club and the City of Maricopa stuck to their guns in lawsuits filed over granting a use permit for the construction of a private race track on the west side of town. Apex finally broke ground on the complex in November.

No. 7 /

Gone, gone, gone. Several structures bit the dust in the Heritage District in 2018. Most, like the Copa Center, the former county jail and F.O.R. Maricopa food bank, were taken down to make way for the overpass. Some homes were simply condemned as blight.



No. 6 /

Readers were touched by the story of a Maricopa family seeking justice for a son killed by a hit-and-run driver in Phoenix in July. Though devastated by the loss of Joseph Schott, 27, mom Sue Ball was amazed at Maricopa's "overabundance of love and support."



No. 8

No. 5 /

Teachers found empowerment in 2018. Maricopa educators tentatively organized a non-disruptive walk-in and soon gained the courage to join a statewide walk-out that shut down some schools for several days during the state budget talks. It was all a battle for better funding of education, with mixed results.



No. 5



No. 4 /

Elections were mostly friendly at the local level, but Maricopa was no stranger to political divisiveness in the midterms. Republicans and Democrats, from constable to Congress, engaged in Maricopa town halls to debate hot-button issues. While District 11 remains legislatively Republican, state leadership will have a different look in 2019.

No. 3 /

Transportation — from the overpass to a lingering lawsuit over the funding of roadway improvements — was catnip to Maricopa readers. Pinal County appealed a tax court decision that would undermine efforts to widen State Route 347, and construction work on the overpass project was beginning to have an impact on in-town traffic by year's end.

No. 2



No. 2 /

The development of Edison Pointe south of Fry's Marketplace had the keen interest of Maricopans, who wanted to know which businesses were opening and when. Ross, Goodwill, Planet Fitness, Dollar Tree, Dunkin Donuts, Burger King, WingStop and Wynn Nails & Hair were all completed and open in 2018, with more to come.

No. 1

InMaricopa's most-read story of the year involved the violent murder of a beloved resident and the subsequent arrest of her grandson as the main suspect. Vicky Ten Hoven died Jan. 28 at her home in Rancho El Dorado. With aid from other law enforcement agencies, Maricopa Police Department took custody of Marcos Martinez, who is being prosecuted for homicide.





Henry Wade took the oath of office from Judge Lyle Riggs after re-election to Maricopa City Council and was then selected as vice mayor for 2019 in ceremonies Dec. 4.
Victor Moreno



Sisters Linda and Jenny Zaragoza made weighted blankets for autistic students in a December project. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Contractors made significant progress on the State Route 347 overpass in December.
David Durst

Arizona historian Doug Hocking spoke to Maricopa Historical Society about "The Apache Wars," separating fact from fiction, Dec. 3 at Maricopa Public Library.
Raquel Hendrickson



Maricopa Chorus Carolers performed Christmas tunes for a Grand Winter Holiday Concert at Maricopa Agricultural Center Dec. 8.
Raquel Hendrickson

Maricopa Music Circle musicians (from left) Holly Kordahl, Gary Zaimont and Suzette Moe play a flute trio during the Grand Winte Holiday Concert Dec. 8.
Raquel Hendrickson



On the move again



Maricopa Historical Society



Construction of the State Route 347 overpass bridge across the Union Pacific tracks has necessitated the removal of the Maricopa Historical Society's vintage California Zephyr railcar to the former Rotary Park. The last time the Zephyr moved was in 2001 (shown in these photos), when it was brought to Maricopa and placed by large cranes at its location next to the Amtrak station. The Zephyr once ran from Chicago to San Francisco. It made an appearance in the 2001 film *Pearl Harbor* before being acquired by Pinal County. Maricopa Historical Society purchased the railcar from the county for \$1 in 2017.

2001

READY FOR A NEW YOU IN 2019?

Improve your vision as well as your look and style.

Fresh styles in stock from top eyewear lines including Gucci.

GUCCI

Thorough Eye Exams by Dr. Roger Vesper, O.D.

520-568-7538 | Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Suite 119 of Maricopa Professional Village

maricopa eye care
Quality Eye Care and Distinctive Eye Wear since 2006

520-568-7538

MaricopaEyeCare

11 Maricopa teachers achieve ‘gold standard’

Maricopa Unified School District was informed in December 11 teachers achieved National Board Certification. Often referred to as the “gold standard” of achievement, NBCT certification asks educators to demonstrate standards-based evidence of the dynamic instruction that takes place in their classrooms. Each teacher spent time evaluating their own instructional strategies and worked purposefully to adjust their practices to better meet the needs of their students. MUSD’s newest National Board Certified teachers are:



Inez Ramirez



Janet Stensgard



Taryn Cummings



Jenn Miller



Aidan Balt



Katherine Persitz



Jennifer Cameron



Shelley Fisher



Treva Jenkins



Jacqueline Hahn



Staci Oliver



Inez Ramirez has been an employee with the school district since 2007 and has been at Butterfield since the 2012-13 school year. She is a first-grade structured English immersion (SEI) teacher. “Mrs. Ramirez is an amazing teacher who challenges herself, her students and others to improve and succeed. She is always looking for ways to help our school be the best it can be. She is an essential member of our Butterfield staff.” ~ Principal Janel Hildick



Janet Stensgard has been in the district since 2004 and has taught at Maricopa Elementary for the past seven years. She is an instructional coach/specialist providing resources and

instructional support to fellow teachers. “Mrs. Stensgard strives to impact our school culture on a deeper level ensuring scholars and teachers are successful. Janet supports teachers by working to create professional development based on their needs and the needs of our scholars. She is an asset to our school’s growth and success as a Leader in Me Lighthouse school.” ~ Principal Jennifer Robinson

Taryn Cummings began her career with MUSD in 2011. She has taught at Maricopa Elementary School for seven years. Currently, she teaches fifth grade. “Taryn seeks out new strategies and feedback to help support her scholars and their learning, pushing on them to provide evidence and explain their thinking. She also openly shares and collaborates with other colleagues elevating teaching

and learning across our campus. She is an asset to our school’s growth and success as a Leader in Me Lighthouse school. An outside the box thinker, she challenges herself and others to be the best every day.” ~ Principal Jennifer Robinson




Aidan Balt is an eight-year veteran at Maricopa High School. This year she is teaching ninth-grade Honors English Language Arts (ELA) and Advanced Placement (AP) Literature. “Ms. Balt is a shining example of support and collaboration and shares her expertise with her peers as a mentor and master teacher.” ~ Principal Brian Winter “I was in Ms. Balt’s class in my freshman year. She was the best teacher I had ever had and going to her class was the highlight of my day. I learned so much from her and gained

my love of language in her class. Ms. Balt completely deserves this certification and I’m not at all surprised that she got it.” ~ Student Abby Poland **Jenn Miller** has been committed to the district and MHS for 16 years. This year, she is teaching English 2 Honors and is a mentor and master teacher. Mrs. Miller is also a favorite of her students, and they lined up to share what she means to them: “The best thing that Mrs. J. Miller has done for me is that she helped me accomplish my goals of becoming a better writer and reader in my life.” ~ Alana Daniels “I have never had a teacher like her (in a good way) and I absolutely love being in her class. She is an amazing teacher. I learn something new every day, and not just about English. I feel privileged to be in her class.” ~ Abby Poland “The best thing about Ms.

Miller is her sole dedication to seeing every child succeed in her class. She will look over the need of the student and help them individually to make certain that they do their best.” ~ Hannah W. Paul Gindiri “The best thing about J. Miller is that there was never a moment where I didn’t think she cared. There was never a moment that I thought I wasn’t good enough to be in her class. Even when I would get the slightest bit of doubt, she would tell me that I was enough. She never let me question myself. That’s what the best thing about J. Miller is.” ~ Hannah Bailey **Katherine Persitz** has been a mainstay of Maricopa High School and the district for the past nine years. She teaches 11th and 12th grade ELA and Journalism and is an Arizona Master Teacher as well. You can tell she is making a positive impact on her students. “Ms. Persitz impacted my education by really giving me

the feeling that she cares about not only me but all of her students, and our personal lives.” ~ Bryce Wildermuth “The best thing about Ms. Persitz is that she is always so caring and willing to help students. I love Ms. Persitz!” ~ Chayla Holloway  **Treva Jenkins** is a 12-year veteran teacher and has spent every year at Maricopa Wells. “Ms. Jenkins is a long-time staff member at Maricopa Wells Middle School, a district mentor, and she runs our Panther Ambassador program here at Wells. Her experience and understanding of all students is a great example of how to be an excellent educator.” ~ Principal Thad Miller **Jennifer Cameron** has been with MUSD for seven years and has called Maricopa Wells home for the last two.

“She is a district mentor who has an immense background in multiple areas of education. That experience and knowledge is what makes her so great for kids, while also being helpful to our entire staff here at Maricopa Wells Middle School.” ~ Principal Thad Miller **Jacqueline Hahn** has been with the MUSD for six years and has been part of the Maricopa Wells team for the last two. “Mrs. Hahn is a part of our Leadership Team here at Maricopa Wells, while still heading up our Site Council committee on campus. Her educational and real-life experience allows her to apply those concepts in everyday practice for her students.” ~ Principal Thad Miller  **Shelly Fisher** has been an MUSD teacher 13 years and a teacher at Pima Butte for 12 years.

Mrs. Fisher teaches third grade; however, she’s also taught first grade and second grade, too. “I appreciate Mrs. Fisher’s dedication and commitment to do the best job teaching each and every day. Mrs. Fisher has high expectations for all of her students and strives to see that each student in her classroom succeeds.” ~ Principal Randy Lazar **Staci Oliver** has been a teacher for the Maricopa Unified School District for 12 years and joined the Pima Butte family 11 years ago. Mrs. Oliver teaches third grade and previously taught fourth grade. “Mrs. Oliver praises her students often for a job well done and encourages her students to praise each other. She ensures that her students are engaged in her lessons and when she notices that a student may need more direct guidance and support, she takes the time to get a student back on track.” ~ Principal Randy Lazar

- 4 Certification components**
- 1** An assessment of the teacher’s content knowledge.
- 2** A portfolio showcasing student work samples and how the teacher provides feedback and reflects on student learning.
- 3** Two videos of the teacher in the classroom, showing lessons taught and the interaction with and among students demonstrating the depth of teaching and learning.
- 4** A portfolio of “reflective” work demonstrating what the teacher does outside the classroom that translates in the classroom, from collaboration to using assessments to inform instruction and learning.



Jim Headley



Submitted



Jim Headley

Maricopa Meadows resident Lyle Fisk is often listed with Von Dutch and Big Daddy Roth as the best in the world of auto striping.

In fact, if you look up “pinstriping” on Wikipedia, Fisk’s name is first on the list of the world’s best “stripers” in history.

“I’ve been in almost every magazine that has to do with custom cars. I’ve been on the TV shows. I do all the cosmetics — everything from gold leaf to airbrush, striping, lettering characters, whatever,” Fisk said.

After growing up in Yuma, Fisk, now 79, got into the custom car business in 1955.

“Yeah, I was born really young you know. I was born right there in Yuma, so I am an Arizona guy. I lived in San Diego for a hundred years. That is where I made my mark and I enjoyed every minute of it,” he said.

Fisk has been in such demand in the custom car world that a lot of people have paid to fly him to them and work on their car collections.

“They’ll fly you to kingdom come to get something on their car. It’s not your normal car. It’s usually Pebble Beach kind of stuff. You know, the real high-end million-dollar vehicles. That’s what I did a lot of. I don’t think there’s a car that exists that I haven’t worked on,” he said.



Jim Headley



Submitted

“Lyle was very instrumental in the ‘60s and ‘70s in the pinstriping in the street rod, hotrod and custom car industry,” said Alan Taylor, one of the nation’s leading car restoration experts from Escondido, California. “He was one of the pioneers. There were a couple other guys who had more fame and notoriety than Lyle, but they were all buddies. They all worked together. Lyle typically let them take the glory for things that he really created and helped them with.”

Fisk is far from being just a car painter.

“It doesn’t always have to be a car. It can be anything. I’ve done some crazy stuff over the years. It could be an airplane or a guy’s special thing that he wants, and he loves. I am an embellisher basically — that’s an eight-cylinder word,” Fisk said.

He has embellished some very interesting things in this world, including the Channel 10 news helicopter in San Diego, an enormous facade stage set for a musical, a famous mansion on Coronado Island in San Diego, the famous Fink Rat logo for car designer Ed “Big Daddy” Roth, an aquarium in La Jolla, California, and extensive work for the famous car collector Bill Evans. He even painted and restored a 22-foot



Lyle Fisk has been “embellishing” cars since 1955, and his art ranges from cartoons to faux finishing.



“I can make things look like wood or marble or anything like that. That opens up a door from the car-thing. Anything that ain’t moving, I’ll do it.” —Lyle Fisk

tall fiberglass statue of Trigger for the roof of the original Roy Rogers Museum in Apple Valley, California.

Fisk is also famous as a faux painter.

“I can make things look like wood or marble or anything like that. That opens up a door from the car-thing. Anything that ain’t moving, I’ll do it,” he said.

Lyle has been married to Yolanda Fisk for 24 years, and they have lived in Maricopa for nearly three. Lyle said he has had some health and cognitive issues.

“Lyle Fisk is very real,” Taylor said. “There are a bunch of us in the automotive industry who are really concerned about him. We are trying to put together a project right now. In fact, I was just getting ready to call the Peterson Museum and talk to them about doing a project for Lyle. A tribute to Lyle.”

Taylor said Fisk is a person who is very genuine and an icon in the custom car and street rod industry.

“One of the best in the world,” Taylor said, “right along with Big Daddy Roth and Von Dutch.”

While most people are looking to retire long before 79, Fisk isn’t one of them. He said he enjoys his work so much he wishes someone would call him up right now so he can paint for them.

“I’m pushing 80 real hard, but I’m still doing what I do,” he said. “I can still stoop over and walk backwards. A lot of these guys say, ‘Oh, you gotta be careful around me; I’m 72 years old.’ Oh, wow, how did you make it? I’m going to die with a brush in my hand. I don’t want to quit doing what I do, as long as I can do it.”



Alex Medrano is trying to break into the music business and recently produced an album independently that garnered attention in the Phoenix market.

Jim Headley

Nominated for state award, local rapper uses music to overcome

By Jim Headley

A 27-year-old custodian is starting to make some noise in the rap world. Alex Medrano spends his days as a janitor at Butterfield Elementary, a job he really loves, but his real passion is rap music and love for his city. His passion for music is beginning to propel him onto stages and into awards. His music is bright, catchy, interesting and flowing. He's quickly becoming an inspiration to those who love rap.

Medrano, known as BG Boss on stage, said rap fills his soul. He's been honing his craft for the past decade.

"I've been performing in public for six years. I had to take that risk," he said. "I like where I'm at right now. I'm in a good position."

Alex's older sister, Yuri Medrano, said her brother has always been musical.

"He is very passionate about rapping. He has always been into music. When he raps he is more comfortable with himself and more confident. It helps him a lot. It is his way of communicating with the world," she said.

Alex Medrano is an MC rapper and he's got a deep message.

"Think before you react," he said. "I hear music on the radio. They're all about partying, and that's cool. It's good to have fun in music. I have fun in music, but then there's my serious side. You know the real side of me."

He just "dropped" an independent album titled "Highly Anticipated" in a deal with Rockstar Entertainment. The album is available through Reverbnation.com. According to Arizona Mixtapes (AZMT) in Phoenix, Medrano's album was nominated for Lyricist of the Year and Album of the Year in its annual awards voted on by the public in December.

"When I was younger, I used to get bullied a lot. Basically, I took the anger and put it on

paper instead of doing action. That's how I released my feelings at that time. I was actually a good kid, you know. My brother is the one who kept me out of trouble," he said.

Medrano writes songs about a lot of different subjects, including "metaphor-" and "true life-" inspired songs.

"Real-life songs about the struggle and what is going on in our society as well. It opens people's minds. It's kind of like saying, 'wake up,'" Medrano said.

One of his songs on the new album is "520 in Arizona," which is very much about something he dearly loves, the city of Maricopa.

"I'm originally from California. Once I moved down here, it opened a lot of doors. That's why I represent Arizona. Now it's about my family. They opened a lot of opportunities as well. I feel good when I'm in Maricopa. Maricopa is like my home," he said.



He did weekly rapping videos while producing his album. After he released the album, he did his own show in Phoenix. He said Rockstar Entertainment is teaching him moves behind the scenes.

"I'm a lyricist and that's what my music is about. I'm going to take this risk — you only live once. I'm going against the best but, win or lose, I keep my head up high. We're all winners."

He usually performs "a cappella" but sometimes to a beat.

"I just think about metaphors. With my rhyme schemes, I name drop a lot of artists or a line from a movie. People sometimes don't get it. I find anything," Medrano said, adding his inspiration for most of his rap music is "his whole day in Maricopa, the city he represents and is proud of."

"I just think about metaphors. With my rhyme schemes, I name drop a lot of artists or a line from a movie. People sometimes don't get it. I find anything." —Alex Medrano


When he was younger Alex was bullied for being blind in one eye, a condition he was born with.

"He is blind in his right eye," Yuri said. "Rapping has made him come out of his shell. He was more timid when he was younger. For a time, I know he has battled with anxiety. When he raps he forgets about the rest of the world and every worry."

She added that Alex is pretty good at what he does and is also a nice guy.

"He loves to help others. His rapping helps him communicate and helps him overcome a lot. He's always been into music, even when he was little. All his toys were always (musical) instruments. He's always been into singing. When he was 3 or 4 years old he would use a toy microphone. Now that I see him rapping I knew he was something and I hope that he becomes bigger. He is so passionate and so good at it," she said.

Alex said he is grateful for the support he receives from his family, fiancée and son.

"Even my little son, he supports me. He looks up to me and he gives me motivation," Medrano said. 

New Year, New You We Can Help!

Botox • Fillers
3D Body Scans
Fast Start Rapid Weight Loss
Skin Tightening &
Body Contouring with Exilis
Rapid Weight Loss With HCG



FIT Life
Med Spa

480-300-7350

Locally Owned & Operated by your neighbors
990 East Bigge Road, Suite 3
Chandler, AZ 85249
www.FITLifeMedSpa.com

J. Warren
FUNERAL SERVICES

Our family serving yours

Arrangement Center

CALL ANYTIME
FOR APPOINTMENT!

The Suites at Maricopa Business Center
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 102
(520) 836-8041
www.JWarrenFuneral.com

Thank you for supporting our advertisers.
It's because of them you are reading this magazine.

in Maricopa

HAPPY NEW YEAR WISHES from ED3

2019 RATE DECREASE

- 2019 rates down an average of 2.00% for residential, commercial, small industrial, large industrial, and agriculture.
- This is the fourth year in a row ED3 will provide a rate decrease to its customers effective January 1, 2019.

DID YOU KNOW?
On average, ED3's standard residential rates are 10% lower than APS.

19756 N. John Wayne Parkway,
Suite 101
(520) 424-9021
www.ed3online.org

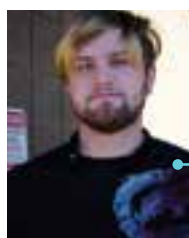


What do you want to see in Maricopa in 2019?



"I'd like to see a sit-down Mexican restaurant."

Manny Gauna



"I wanna see an art gallery. You know, the type of place where people can check out local artists and stuff."

Santiago Manzo



"Race track. That'd be cool."

Jaydun Johnstun

"It'd be good to have a nice, sit-down dinner place. And a Target; we need a Target."

Jody Rathfelder

"We need a good, sit-down restaurant, a hospital and a Home Depot."

Joanne Goodrich



COPPLE & COPPLE, P.C.

Personal Injury
Medical Malpractice
Wrongful Death
Insurance Bad Faith

*Empathetic
representation
with decades
of experience
driving results*

S. Christopher Copple, Esq.
(602) 528-4705
Chris@CoppleLawFirm.com

44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 102
Maricopa, AZ 85138

15333 N. Pima Road, Suite 200
Scottsdale, AZ 85260




Grades K-12 TUITION-FREE

Where character leads to success.

- + Academic Excellence
- + Character Education
- + Small Class Sizes
- + Uniforms (K-8)
- + Robotics, Choir, Art, Athletics, & Tech

LEADING EDGE ACADEMY
Maricopa

LOCATED AT:
18700 N. Porter Rd.
(Next to Pacana Park)
Maricopa, AZ 85138

TO ENROLL, CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
520.568.7800 K-8
480.257.5362 ONLINE 9-12

Now Enrolling

LeadingEdgeAcademy.com

In accordance with Federal law, Leading Edge Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability.

International Travel Tips

Points to ponder when going abroad in 2019



READER TIPS

Our readers also had tips for Maricopans planning to go international:

Donna Fisher

Definitely get a TSA precheck ID as well as a passport card. The passport card will also work when traveling domestically when the ID laws change soon.

Ev Glasser

Don't forget your neighbours to the north; international travel doesn't need to cross an ocean. As a Canadian with a home in Maricopa, I recommend visiting our Rocky Mountain national parks in the summer.

Jorge Antunez

TSA precheck/Global entry always helps, especially if you are connecting with different airlines, as in some cases you have to exit one terminal and go through a different one. And check in early as airlines have different cutoff times to check in on domestic and international flights.

Adriane Borrego

Put some toiletries in carry-on luggage; for long flights you may need to freshen up in the airport bathroom. Best experiences I have had was having drinks with new people and finding places off the beaten path.

MORE TIPS: USA.gov/Americans-Abroad

A study completed by AARP Travel found 94 percent of its respondents expecting to take personal time to travel in 2019. Among Baby Boomers planning vacations, more than half are traveling internationally.

Millennials, too, are heading overseas, but, without the time or resources of the older generation, and not in the same numbers. Those Millennials who are going abroad are a little farther ahead in the planning process than Baby Boomers.

Patti Bradley from Far Horizons Travel provides the following international travel tips:

1 Take empty water bottle or cup with a lid. Once you pass through security, you can fill the bottle with water and take it with you on the plane. Lots of airports even have the water bottle fill stations now. Buying water at the airport can be \$3-\$4 a bottle.

2 Take a wash cloth. If you normally use a wash cloth, you may not find them in a lot of countries. I always put one in, just in case. I have been to several places that don't use them. Or even if they do, they don't always replace used ones when cleaning the room.

3 Make a copy of your passport and put it in a separate place from the original. I do this just in case my passport gets misplaced. If you have a copy and need to go to the consulate to get a replacement, it takes a lot less time. It's expensive to replace, so try very hard not to lose it.

4 Separate your money. When taking cash, even if not a ton of it, put some in your purse or wallet, and some in your carry-on. That way if you get pick-pocketed or lose your wallet, you will still have some cash left. Also, buy foreign currency before you go. They do not take USD in most countries so if you want to tip your baggage handler, buy a soda or food or anything else, you have their money. You can exchange in most international airports upon arrival, but the exchange rate is not the best. Also, get smaller denominations if you can.

5 Call your cell service provider, your credit card companies and your bank to let them know you will be gone. I do not take my debit card when I travel because you cannot replace cash. However, credit cards have a fraud clause that will safeguard you in case of theft. Take only a Visa or Mastercard. They don't take American Express and Discover cards in most countries. Not all cell phones will work abroad, and some have a temporary international plan. I have AT&T and it's \$10 a day for when I use it for texting, talking and data. I do believe Verizon also has that. Otherwise you can pay over \$3 a minute in most countries.

Far Horizons Travel

608 258-1600
www.far.horizons.travel



Maricopa High School Music Director Ivan Pour gathered his marching-band seniors for a group selfie after the Pass in Review concert Dec. 4.
Raquel Hendrickson



DSPA Gems dance students performed for the annual Sugar Plum Tea Dec. 8 at Maricopa Performing Arts Center.
Raquel Hendrickson



MHS boys' soccer team listened to their coaches during halftime of a home victory Nov. 27. The Rams got off to a 1-5 start.
Raquel Hendrickson



MHS senior David Onquit got the advantage in a home dual Dec. 5, as the Rams dominated Sierra Linda and North Canyon.
Raquel Hendrickson



MHS senior Jene Brown and the girls' basketball team posted a record of 11-2 before a holiday tournament.
Raquel Hendrickson

Rotary Students of the Month announced Nov. 28 at a meeting of the Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board were junior Adam Olsen, eighth grader Kiefer Sordia, senior Nathan Wallin and eighth grader Fernando Herera Ortiz.
Raquel Hendrickson



Residents of all ages turned out for Maricopa Agricultural Center's annual Family Farm Day Nov. 17.
Raquel Hendrickson



MHS 2018 graduates Dylan Hill (left) and Brianna Barnes took a break from West Point and the U.S. Navy, respectively, to visit with MHS AFJROTC instructor Allen Kirksey Dec. 21.
Raquel Hendrickson



Maricopa Unified School District choir performed their fall concert Dec. 6.
Raquel Hendrickson



Sequoia Pathway senior Malachi Hogg and the Pumas started the basketball season 6-3.
Raquel Hendrickson

Scholarships

Dollars for scholars: Arizona’s best scholarships

By Bernadette Russoniello

At Maricopa High School, the No. 1 reason students cite for not planning to attend a two-year or four-year college after graduation is “I cannot afford to go to college.” Yet the federal government offers billions of dollars in aid for students, while private foundations and businesses offer hundreds of millions in scholarship dollars. Where is the disconnect?

Grants and scholarships are free money.

Here is a quick overview of some of Arizona’s most generous scholarship programs.

Flinn Foundation: Students must be in the top 5 percent of their class, have an unweighted GPA of 3.5 or better and earn top test scores to be eligible to apply. Twenty Flinn Scholars will be awarded a full tuition waiver, housing, meal

plans, books, technology and foreign travel stipends at any of the three state universities.

Dorrance Foundation: Awards up to 36 students \$12,000 per year to assist with their studies at one of the three state universities. Students must be the first generation to attend college, minimum 3.0 GPA, minimum 1120 SAT or 22 ACT and demonstrate financial need.



Bernadette Russoniello

National Merit Scholarship is awarded to the top 1 percent of test scores in the state. Students must take the Fall PSAT as juniors to be considered for this award. Typically, universities waive tuition and give generous scholarship packages to both National Merit finalists and even semi-finalists. At our in-state universities, the typical package is about \$18,000 per year.

Barack Obama’s Scholarship at Arizona State: Students applying to ASU must have a family income below \$42,400 and meet one of the three academic competencies for ASU — 3.0 GPA, top 25 percent of class or 1040 SAT/22 ACT. The Obama Scholarship covers all direct costs of attendance (tuition, housing, food). Candidates must apply to ASU and submit FAFSA before Jan. 1.

Lumberjack Scholarship: Students attending NAU will receive a full tuition waiver (\$10,000 per year) for maintaining all A’s and B’s through their high school career. This year, MHS has 18 Lumberjack Scholars earning more than \$1 million in academic scholarships.

In addition to these major scholarships, there are hundreds of local scholarships ranging from \$500-\$2,500 that students can seek out and apply for. Scholars who want the dollars need to start planning and researching now, not wait until the spring semester of senior year to look for assistance.

Bernadette Russoniello is the Career and College coordinator at Maricopa High School. She can be reached 520-568-8100, ext. 4218.



BATTLE MOOSE IMPROV
Thurs, Jan. 24 | 6 pm | FREE
CAC Maricopa Campus, A101
Inspired by audience suggestions, this group of talented individuals brings family-friendly laughs through improv, comedy scenes, and games!

SENIOR MOMENTUM
Moving forward, always learning, living to the max!
4th Annual Senior Expo
Sat, Jan. 26 | 10 am - 2 pm | FREE | CAC Maricopa Campus, A & B Buildings
Come and learn about resources, attend workshops, and network!

Central Arizona College

www.EventsAtCAC.com | 520-477-SHOW

Facebook.com/CACCommunityEvents

Stop by Our Open House...
Every Thursday at 2:30 p.m.!
Join us for food, drinks and music

Stop by and see our 2 bedroom apartments!
For more information, call (520) 316-8041

CALICHE
SENIOR LIVING
1640 N. Peart Road • Casa Grande, AZ 85122
CalicheLiving.com

Dr. C. Jon Beecroft

Dr. Kelvin Crezee

Dr. Alex Stewart

- Ingrown Toenails
- Sprains & Fractures
- Athletic Injuries
- Warts
- Plantar Fasciitis
- Varicose Veins Treatment
- Ankle & Foot Surgery
- Bunions & Bone Spurs

Two convenient locations

Maricopa Foot & Ankle Center
(520) 494-1090
MFAAC.com
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 126
Just south of ACE Hardware

Ahwatukee Foot & Ankle Center
(480) 893-1090
AHWFAC.com
15810 S. 45th St., Suite 190
Just south of Chandler Blvd.



Wait times so short your kids will barely notice you were gone.

Get family friendly emergency care in 30 minutes or less.

Life is unpredictable, so in an emergency you want to feel confident in the care you get and you don’t want to spend a lot of time in the waiting room. At Banner Casa Grande, you can take comfort knowing we treat a variety of emergency needs, from minor illnesses and injuries to serious medical emergencies. Best of all, we see most patients in 30 minutes or less. That way, you can get treated and get back home before anyone notices.

Banner
Casa Grande Medical Center

BannerHealth.com/CasaGrande

Student explains impact of Be Awesome

By Tyler Awosika

At Be Awesome, we believe the best way to impact our works is to help develop confident, connected and successful youth by offering community-focused programs and services. One of the programs we are most proud of bringing to our community is the mentoring program where we pair young people with positive role models in school. One of our mentees is sharing what it's like for him to have a mentor.

My name is Tyler Awosika. I go to Maricopa Wells, and I'm known as the weird creative kid. I sing, design shoes, rap, write music, produce, skate board and even direct films. I am also the owner of my own business, CLBGMSW. I have been part of Be Awesome Youth Coalition for about a year now. All the members show support and train us on how to

be better people, how to be prepared for what we may encounter in the future. Mr. Doug, my mentor, is on campus at MWMS almost every day, and I can see him whenever I want or need to. He approaches me before school or between classes to see how things are going and talks with other kids about the dangers of using illegal substances or other things that are important to them. He talks with me about my hobbies, some of which he is interested in, too. We talk about the things I do, my visit with family and vacations. When we get together sometimes, we talk, watch videos and listen to the music that I like to listen to. My mentor lets me know that he is there to help me with schoolwork if I need it; I usually don't so we just hang out. Several times through this past year I have been able to share the lyrics with Mr. Doug.



Tyler Awosika

One day I was telling him my idea about a Skate Day in Maricopa. He encouraged me to talk with a city council member about it. He told me the protocol of making a presentation to the council before they meet in private to discuss city matters. He encourages me to be myself and not worry about what other people think about me because I can't do anything about what other people think anyway. The Be Awesome program really helps a lot, whether it's meeting someone to talk, or just hanging out, you know, they make me feel welcome. They let me skate on campus after we're done with the after-school program on Wednesdays; they have no problem with it so it's fun. Thank you, Be Awesome Youth Coalition. To get involved and make a difference for the next generation contact us at BeAwesomeYouth.life.

How Butterfield Elementary improved grade from C to A

By Murray Siegel

In October, Arizona Department of Education released school letter grades. Three Maricopa schools received the highest grade of A: Legacy Traditional, Pima Butte Elementary School and Butterfield Elementary School, the latter two being Maricopa Unified School District schools. Butterfield reached the A grade after having been a C school last year. What does it take to obtain the A grade? Principal Janel Hildick said there were many contributing factors, including:

- A new math curriculum
- Override funds, which reduced class size
- An advanced fifth-grade math class
- An on-site school counselor
- The implementation of the PBIS Program to reduce discipline issues and keep children in classrooms learning

With these important tools, teachers could enhance student learning in English Language Arts, math and science. The school received 49.3 out of 50 points in the student-growth evaluation. I sought reaction from Butterfield parents and faculty. One parent replied three of her children had attended Butterfield with one currently in fourth grade. "For the last 10 years we have had the joy of watching Butterfield grow, change and excel," she said. "The teachers we have had along the way have such a connection and personal interest in our children. Their passion and dedication prove their desire to see the student succeed." One teacher, who is the parent of three Butterfield students, said, "As a parent, you want the best for your children, and Butterfield has now officially proven what we have always felt about the school, which is that it provides an outstanding education for its students. I have so much invested in this school and we as a staff have worked so hard to achieve this kind of success. I know that my children are getting the absolute best education possible at Butterfield and It is a privilege to be a teacher there." Another teacher, who has one son at Butterfield and another in middle school, wrote, "The staff and students at the school are some of the most incredible people in Maricopa." She and her husband, both actively involved at the school, are proud to be Butterfield parents. Another teacher who is the parent of a third grader and whose daughter is at the middle school, responded, "I know that my child is more than just a number on a test; he is a student that deserves every opportunity to succeed. As a parent, I can't picture my child at a better school. I am proud of what the staff and students have accomplished." One more Butterfield parent said she had a daughter at Butterfield in third grade and another daughter now at middle school. She wrote, "I didn't need a grade to know how wonderful the faculty and staff were."



Murray Siegel

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



JOB FAIR

Saturday, Jan. 26
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MUSD District Office
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway



- ### OPENINGS
- Kindergarten Teachers
 - Elementary Teachers Grade 1 through Grade 5
 - Middle School Teachers Grade 6 through Grade 8
 - (Math, Science, Language Arts and Social Studies)
 - High School Teachers Grade 9 through Grade 12
 - (Math, Science and English)
 - Special Education Teachers Kindergarten through Grade 12 (Self-Contained and Resource)
 - Substitute Teachers
 - Paraprofessionals
 - Custodians
 - Food Service Workers



Signing bonuses for math, science and special education teachers!
Relocation bonuses for various teaching positions!

Please submit online application in advance at
mud20.tedk12.com/hire
www.MaricopaUSD.org



Tin H. Nguyen, DDS





WE HONOR VETERANS 30% OFF ALL SERVICES

- Compassionate team members
- Sedation
- Massage chairs
- Individual music preference
- All-digital office with 3D technology
- 24-hour emergency, after-hours and Saturday appointments

NO INSURANCE? NO PROBLEM.
Ask us about our KLEER Membership Plan

OPEN Saturdays

\$99
X-RAYS, EXAM AND ROUTINE CLEANING (Patients without insurance)
One coupon per visit. Coupon and ad must be presented at time of service. Expires 1/31/19.

FREE
2ND OPINION ON ALL TREATMENT
One coupon per visit. Coupon and ad must be presented at time of service. Expires 1/31/19.

CALL NOW OR GO ONLINE TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

(833) 793-7773
20917 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite A105
Just north of Fry's Marketplace
SmileyDentalMaricopa.com

TOP SPORTS STORIES OF 2018

A diverse collection of sports stories in Maricopa were interesting for different reasons in 2018. Some were about the new and shiny, others about overcoming challenges while the top story was flat-out victory.



No. 1

The MHS 4x100-meter boys' relay team won the state gold medal in Division II in May, running the fastest circuit of any team of any division in the Arizona Track & Field Championships in 2018. Longman Pyne, Jacob Cowing, P.J. Austin and Frank Jones ran their lap in 41.51, breaking their previous school record by nearly 2 seconds.



No. 2

Jeff Hazlett

Even readers who don't usually follow high school sports took interest in this year's Homecoming game at MHS after a fracas between head coaches capped off the Rams' 55-0 win. Central suspended its coach long-term, Maricopa's Harris sat out a game, and both teams were given warnings by AIA.

Visit InMaricopa.com to read these and related stories.



Brady Wilson

No. 4 / Ak-Chin Southern Dunes, one of the top-rated golf courses in the state, was inundated with floodwaters from Vekol Wash in October, causing the course to close for nearly a month. General Manager Brady Wilson and his staff soldiered on, keeping the pro shop and restaurant open while water was pumped off the fairways.

Glen Hale



Victor Moreno

No. 5 / New coaches and athletic directors were hired this year at Maricopa High School and Sequoia Pathway Academy. At MHS, Brandon Harris became the varsity football head coach while RaShawn Calvert was hired as girls' basketball head coach and Laura Logan launched the swim team. Former boys' basketball coach Jake Neill returned as AD. At Sequoia Pathway, Glen Hale took over the football and boys' basketball teams and was named AD.



RaShawn Calvert



No. 3

THE PERFECT HEADPHONES TO MATCH YOUR PERFECT SMILE

FREE beats wireless headphones
with braces or Invisalign



FREE
BEATS WIRELESS
HEADPHONES

With comprehensive braces or Invisalign
New Patients only. With Co-insurance Only. Expires 12/31/19

WE'LL MATCH YOUR
DOWN PAYMENT UP TO

\$500

When starting comprehensive braces or Invisalign.
New Patients only. With Co-insurance Only. Expires 12/31/19

PREMIER
Orthodontics

OVER 15,000 PATIENTS HELPED IN ARIZONA

Find out why more parents choose Premier Orthodontics for Braces or Invisalign

520-448-4059

www.YourAZBraces.com

★★★★★
5STAR RATING*

According to the independent marketing firm "So Tell Us"

AS SEEN ON
TV
EXPRESS FLOORING

WE TAKE ALL THE STRESS
OUT OF PURCHASING FLOORING!
CALL NOW TO SCHEDULE YOUR
FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE
520-487-1393



**CARPET SALE &
FREE INSTALLATION***

SAME-DAY, WEEKEND & EVENING APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

**WE MOVE YOUR
FURNITURE FOR FREE***

**WE BRING THE STORE
TO YOUR DOOR!**

**SAVE YOUR
TIME AND GAS!**

SENIOR CITIZEN & MILITARY DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE*

**First 50 Callers
Additional 10% OFF**

Must mention promo code InMaricopa

520-487-1393

SAVINGS FROM
72% TO 43%
***OFF FLOORING**

GIGANTIC SALE!

**PET
RESISTANT
FLOORING**



AND
FREE
CARPET INSTALLATION!*

UP TO AN ADDITIONAL
\$501 OFF
ANY PURCHASE!*

LVP Specials

Carpet Discounts

WE SUPPORT



OUR TROOPS!

*Minimum purchase required. Free installation with in-stock carpet. Offer good only at initial consultation. Promotions not to be combined with any other discounts or special offers. Residential only. Express Home Services LLC (ROC 200037) DBA

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION



MUSD NEWS

MUSD TO OFFER PRESCHOOL ON 2 CAMPUSES

You asked, we acted.

As Superintendent Dr. Tracey Lopeman began meeting with strategic planning and parent advisory committees this year, one question kept resurfacing. Why don't we have more quality preschool options in Maricopa? That was a great question.

Research shows that high-quality preschool education has a lasting impact on children's school success. We know in order to achieve a 100 percent high-school graduation rate, we need to invest in our scholars early and consistently.

The district is thrilled to announce we are offering preschool on two new campuses scheduled to open July 2019. Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Elementary Schools are already making plans to welcome your little ones next school year.

Our district is in a unique position to partner with families from their child's first day of preschool to the day he or she steps on stage to receive a high school diploma. It is a long-term relationship we take seriously, so quality programming is our first priority. Here are a few things that will set us apart:

- Certified Teachers
- Full-Day Preschool Programming
- Wrap-Around Childcare for Before and After School Care
- Licensed Facilities
- Curriculum Designed to Educate the Whole Child
 - o Early Reading
 - o STEM Activities
 - o Character Education
 - o Arts and Music
 - o Physical Education



We hope you plan to stop by the District Office on Feb. 15 to begin the enrollment process. We can't wait to meet you! ■



MHS Senior Leads Toy and Gift Drive for Project Hope

For his third year in a row, MHS Senior Evan Grace, led a toy and gift drive to aid Project Hope! This year, he focused his efforts on teens, and the community really came through! Items collected included Bath and Body Works gift sets, ear buds, art kits, skateboards, sleeping bags, hoodies, perfume and cologne, shaving kits, makeup and various gift cards! Great job, Evan! ■

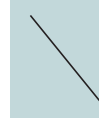


Online high school to expand

Maricopa Unified will be expanding our online high school offerings in the 2019-20 school year. Initial plans are to meet the needs of high school students, but with time, expand to middle school students.

Students could have the opportunity to attend online school full-time or part-time. Curriculum to support this expansion will be piloted during the spring semester in current programs on the high school campus.

Knowing that students have diverse needs, MUSD is working to provide multiple paths to graduation, that may include online offerings. Current educational trends suggest that students enrolling in post-secondary education will benefit from the experience of taking online course work as more and more post-secondary institutions deliver many courses via an online environment. ■



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

Congratulations to A-rated schools Pima Butte, Butterfield

We have two schools in our district that have worked tirelessly over the past year to achieve one of the highest honors in the state. Pima Butte and Butterfield Elementary Schools earned “A” ratings from the Arizona Department of Education.

When Pima Butte narrowly missed an “A” rating last time by just 4 points, their leadership team scoured assessment data and made a plan to level-up for the next year. We are proud to report this year, they scored 97.82 points are now a solid “A.” Principal Randy Lazar said he is “most proud of the hard work and dedication from his entire team as well as the students and their families. We are now reaping the fruits because of everyone’s commitment and dedication!”

The second school to achieve this impressive status is Butterfield Elementary. Butterfield’s last letter grade was a “C.” They missed a “B” by just five points. That did not stop them. They regrouped, used data results to set grade-level and school-wide goals, revamped the master schedule, used “Results-Based Funding” to equip third-fifth grade students with 1:1 laptops, and reconfigured classes to better prepare their students. As a result, Butterfield moved from a “C” to an “A” with the Arizona Department of Education.

Principal Jane Hildick said she is most proud of student growth. “It’s not just about how many students are passing, but how effective we are as teachers, how our students are growing. This year, we scored 49.3 out of 50 possible points for student growth.”

We are so proud of the hard work our students and teachers put in to earn the A grade! Well done, Pima Butte Elementary and Butterfield Elementary schools. ■



MUSD #20 Chief Science Officers at City Council Meeting And Steam Day Event



On Tuesday, Nov. 6 the Maricopa Unified School District students who serve as Chief Science Officers (CSOs) were welcomed at the City Council meeting. During this meeting the CSOs were introduced by Dr. Donna Jagielski, MUSD #20’s Technology Integration Specialist who serves as the district liaison for the program, and Mr. Dan Miller, executive director of the Maricopa Ak-Chin STEAM Foundation. During the city council meeting Mayor Price signed and read the Proclamation for STEAM Day. The CSOs invited Mayor Christian Price and city council members to the STEAM Day event which took place on Thursday, November 8th.

STEAM Day took place at Ultra-Star and

the students led STEAM-based hands-on activities. The CSOs also interacted with a number of STEAM-based industry and community leaders who participated in the event, and facilitated and led activities. Some of the organizations included: Civil Air Patrol (CAP), 4-H Development, Central Arizona College and Dinner at Eight.

To recognize the CSOs exceptional servant leadership to their schools and community, CSOs were provided a ‘behind the scenes’ tour of the 911 dispatch center at Copper Sky. This tour offered the CSOs a glimpse of how STEAM impacts all facets of the workforce including emergency response centers. ■

Maricopa High School to offer AP Capstone Diploma Program

Focuses on college-level research and presentation skills

Maricopa High School is one of approximately 1,800 schools worldwide and the second in Pinal County to implement the AP Capstone Diploma program, an innovative program that allows students to develop the skills that matter most for college success, such as research, collaboration, and communication. The program consists of two courses taken in sequence: AP Seminar and AP Research.

Students who score a 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing earn the AP Capstone Diploma. This signifies outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Students who score a 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research (but not on four additional AP Exams) earn the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

Maricopa High School will start offering AP Seminar in the fall of 2019.

Superintendent Dr. Tracey Lopeman shared, “Maricopa High School is one of two schools in Pinal County to offer the innovative programming that gets a broader, more diverse student population ready for college and the world outside our doors. The program gives our educators more flexibility with curriculum options, so their students can access more challenging coursework and sharpen their reading and writing skills.”

In AP Seminar, typically taken in 10th or 11th grade, students choose and evaluate complex topics through multiple lenses; identify credibility and bias in sources; and develop arguments in support of a recommendation. AP Seminar is a project-based learning course. Official AP Seminar assessments include research reports, written arguments, and presentations completed during the academic year.

In the subsequent AP Research course, students design, execute, present, and defend a yearlong research-based investigation on a topic of individual interest. They build on skills

developed in AP Seminar by learning how to understand research methodology; employ ethical research practices; and collect, analyze, and synthesize information to contribute to academic research. Like AP Seminar, AP Research is a project-based course. Each student’s official AP Research score is based on their academic paper, presentation, and oral defense.

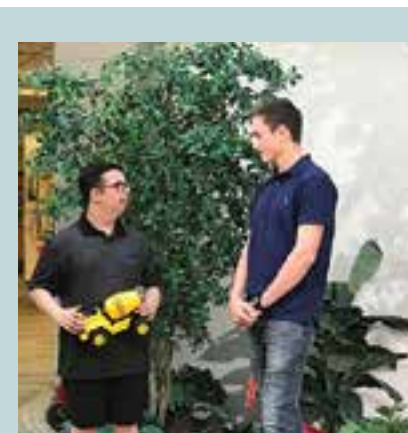
“We’re proud to offer AP Capstone, which enables students and teachers to focus on topics of their choice in great depth,” said Trevor Packer, senior vice president for AP and instruction at the College Board. He adds, “This provides terrific opportunities for students to develop the ability to write and present their work effectively, individually and in groups—the very skills college professors want their students to possess.”

“We’re proud to offer AP Capstone, which enables students and teachers to focus on topics of their choice in great depth.”

– Trevor Packer, senior vice president for AP and instruction at the College Board

In partnership with the higher education community, the College Board developed AP Capstone so students can practice skills that serve them well in college and career. Colleges and universities have voiced their support for the program.

“We are excited more schools are offering the AP Capstone Diploma program,” said Kedra Ishop, vice provost for enrollment management at the University of Michigan. “We believe the research, collaboration, and presentation skills taught in the two courses will be valuable to students throughout their academic and professional careers.” ■



Act of kindness

If you need a little inspiration to do a good deed, watch the video of MHS senior Jake Marr surprising sophomore Matthew Sabetta with a special gift.

The two became friends talking in the hallways before and after class. During those chats, Matthew sometimes talked to Jake about his love for cement trucks, so Jake searched high and low for the most perfect cement-mixer truck to give to Matthew.

Jake often told his parents how Matthew brightens everyone’s day with his friendly and joyful personality, so when Jake wrapped the gift, his mother asked him to have someone video it so she could see his reaction.

“Oh boy, I love it!” Sabetta exclaimed in the video.

The exchange was so heartwarming his fellow students encouraged him to share it on Twitter. He woke up the next morning to realize it had gone viral.


The boys have since been interviewed by local news stations and their footage has been picked up by affiliate stations nationwide.

We are so proud of the relationships our students build with each other and we were honored to witness such a touching moment between them. To see the video, just stop by our Maricopa Unified School District #20 Facebook Page, you might want to grab a tissue! ■



Veterans Day Breakfast

Maricopa Unified School District hosted our first-ever Veterans Day Breakfast. More than 60 employees and community members attended the event to pay tribute to our nation's veterans, and to honor those who have served our country. Our students played critical roles in the event — A big thank you to our Maricopa High School 2nd-Year Culinary students under the direction of Chef Greg Mahon who prepared the delicious breakfast, Maricopa High School Art Students under the direction of Mrs. Maria Pour, who created the patriotic table centerpieces. A special thanks goes to Cadet Russoniello who performed the *National Anthem* and *America the Beautiful*, and of course, our Junior ROTC cadets under the direction of Lt. Col. Allen Kirksey and Master Sgt. Dishon Gregory who posted colors and led us in a very moving *Missing Man Table Ceremony*. The event was a success, and we look forward to making this a tradition in MUSD. ■



MARICOPA
Unified School District
Dream. Learn. Become.

Maricopa Unified:
A community dedicated
to student success.

44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande
Highway
Maricopa, AZ 85138
Phone: 520-568-5100
Fax: 520-568-5110
www.MaricopaUSD.org

Maricopa High School DECA Shines at Western Region Leadership Conference

Recently, Maricopa DECA attended the Western Region Leadership Conference. The conference is open to 13 states and more than 15,000 members. At the conference, students from Maricopa High School competed in Business Administration testing and role-play, as well as the DECA Garage which is a mixture of popular television shows Kickstarter and Shark Tank where students present their ideas to real sharks in hopes of an investment. There was a ton of talent and competition, and that makes us even more proud to announce that Maricopa DECA represented the State of Arizona as the most successful chapter in the state at the regional competition. Congratulations to:

- Emily Hollingsworth for placing 3rd in the Western Region in the Marketing Information and Management Event
- Freya Abraham and Steel Lewis for placing in the top 5 for test scores
- Jamie Hall for placing 3rd in state, and Top 10 in the Region for the DECA Garage/Entrepreneurship event
- Freya Abraham and Anelaya Vasquez for placing 2nd in state, and Top 10 in the Region for DECA Garage/Entrepreneurship event
- Yasmeen Hanania and Daniela Smith for placing 1st in state and 4th in the Region for the DECA Garage/Entrepreneurship event

And we can't forget MHS teacher, Mr. Julian Rodriguez, for earning the Best Advisor in the Region award!

Way to go DECA! You make us proud to be MUSD! ■



Desert Wind Student Publishes First Novel

As far as Desert Wind 7th grade Blended Learning student, Gabriella Fisher, can remember, her mind was "constantly swimming with all sorts of stories and ideas."

And one of those ideas led her to write *Inferious*, a story about a high school girl who gets captured by a secret organization known as Covax and discovers an entire world that she never knew about! Her pen name is R.J. Carestia. R.J. stands for Riley Joanne, which was the name of a character in one of her very first short stories and Carestia is a family name.

Inferious was officially published on December 1st. It is available to download on Kindle for \$2.99 and the paperback version can be purchased on Amazon for \$12.95. ■



Gabriella Fisher



Local News • Coupons • Calendar
Business Directory • Advertising



Maricopa's Homepage



Trending on InMaricopa.com

1 Couple accused of child abuse; 'My family tortures us'

2 Pellet mill coming to Maricopa

3 DUI suspect found asleep at wheel, arrested after...

4 New Fire/Medical admin building design debuts



5 Companies coming to Maricopa, expanding, moving

6 Woman arrested for meth during search

7 Man accused of hit-and-run of bicyclist

8 Orange cones causing construction blues

9 Maricopa population tops 50,000

10 City to eliminate business licenses, request voluntary registry



TOP BUSINESS STORIES OF 2018

Maricopa saw several businesses come to town in 2018, many of them in new buildings. Our readers expressed excited anticipation over the possibilities of more shopping and dining opportunities and possible jobs as well as a bit of impatience with the whole process. Here are some of our top-read economic development stories:

No. 5 /

Denny's Restaurant caused much curiosity during its construction on a seemingly small lot and then more enthusiasm when it started hiring. It finally opened its doors in February near the southeast corner of John Wayne Parkway and Smith-Enke Road.

No. 5



No. 4 /

Those involved weren't happy about the situation, but readers were amused when the new Dollar Tree opened in May and then immediately had to close for a couple of hours as city inspectors did their job.



No. 3 /

With the many businesses opening, there were also some closures. That included Zoyo Yogurt in Maricopa Station. However, readers were happy to see Rosati's Pizza immediately announce its intention to take over the spot. It opened in December.

No. 1

Hands down, the most reader interest garnered by an economic development story was the series of business openings in Edison Pointe, developed by Vintage Partners. 2019 will see the openings of IHOP and Brakes Plus there as well.



No. 2 /

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino was majorly transformed in 2018 in its continuing expansion. It added a skybridge to UltraStar Multi-tainment Center, opened the restaurant Chop Block & Brew and a spa. It is also adding ballroom space and 200 hotel rooms.



Visit InMaricopa.com to read these and related stories.

2018 taxes will see biggest changes since mid-1950s

By James A. Chaston, CPA



Changes to Individual Taxes

Taxpayers either take itemized deductions or the standard deduction whichever is greater. In 2017, the standard deduction for a married couple was \$12,700, for 2018 it is now \$24,000. As a result, most people that used to itemize now will just claim the standard deduction. Which also means, that your mortgage interest, state taxes, charitable deductions, work related expenses and medical expenses will provide NO TAX BENEFIT when you claim the standard deduction. Singles are half of Marrieds and Heads of Household is 75% of Marrieds.

Personal Exemptions, which in 2017 provided a deduction for each person and dependent of \$4,050 is now gone. It has been replaced by an increased or new dependent credit. For dependents 16 and under, the credit increased to \$2,000 from \$1,000 and the phaseout of this credit increased from \$110,000 to \$400,000 which means that for many two income homes, they will actually get this credit now. For dependents over age 16, there is a new \$500 credit per dependent.

Mortgage interest is only deductible for proceeds that go directly to purchase or improve the property, proceeds that pay for other items are not deductible and you must prorate the deductible and non-deductible portion, this includes wrapping refinance costs into the new loan, interest for these costs are no longer deductible. Only interest for loans up to \$750,000 for up to two properties is deductible, loans above this is not deductible.

Work Related Expenses are no longer deductible for those that can still itemize deductions.

State Taxes paid are limited to \$10,000 for

those that can still itemize deductions.

This is only for Federal Taxes, Arizona did not change the standard deduction, it is still \$10,336, so many taxpayers will claim the standard deduction for Federal, but still have to track and file itemized deductions for Arizona.

Alimony, moving expenses, investment expenses, casualty losses, union dues, tax preparation fees all no longer deductible.

Entertainment is no longer tax deductible, but just recently the IRS clarified that business meals are still 50% deductible.

Depreciation changes, for the most part you can depreciate 100% of equipment purchases and much more on vehicles than prior years.

Like-kind exchanges only available for Real Property and more clarification that they are not available for fix and flips.

Cash Basis is available for all companies with less than \$25 Million in gross sales and they can automatically change back.

Flat rate for C Corporations of 21%



James A. Chaston

Changes to Small Business Taxes

Small Business Owners get a 20% deduction for Qualified Business Income, this is quite convoluted and not as straight forward as you might think, talk to a tax professional about this one. But basically, if you make \$50,000 of qualified business income you get a \$10,000 deduction and pay tax on \$40,000, not \$50,000.



Sponsored content



Business briefs

Harrah's Ak-Chin team raises funds for Against Abuse

The Harrah's Development System Associates team planned and executed an Indian Taco Fundraiser on Nov. 16 to recognize Native American Heritage Month. HDS is the Ak-Chin Indian Community's career development program at Harrah's Ak-Chin.

The associates chose to donate the proceeds from that event, which totaled \$1,258.25, to Maricopa Against Abuse, Inc. According to Torri Anderson, a member of the beneficiary's board of directors, the money will be used for operational expenses at the shelter in Maricopa.

The HDS Associates also coordinated the shelter's Adopt-a-Family effort.

"Many of our Harrah's Ak-Chin employees give so much of themselves at the holidays and throughout the year," said Jane Stimmel, employee engagement and HDS manager. "We are honored to be a part of this community and lend our support to those in need."

Dan Wolfrum from U.S. Foods donated all the ingredients for the event, ensuring that all proceeds would go directly to Maricopa Against Abuse, Inc.



From left, front row: Christopher Pablo, HDS associate; Savanna Gonzalez, HDS associate; Melanie Antone, HDS associate and intern in facilities; and Erica Manuel, HDS supervisor. Back row, Norma Vincent, Risk and Safety administrative assistant and HDS graduate; Colin Ribble, executive chef; Jane Stimmel, employee engagement and HDS manager; Torri Anderson, member of Maricopa Against Abuse board of directors; Robert Livingston, general manager/regional president; and Mike Kintner, director of Marketing and Operations

NEW BUSINESS LICENSES & REGISTRY

Maricopa is in the middle of changing from business licensing to a business registry. Here are businesses that applied for a business license and/or registered with the city between Nov. 16 and Dec. 15.

Registered businesses: Ageless Cycles, Graybar Electric, InMaricopa, Jazzy on the

Spot Mobile Grooming, Rosati's Pizza, So EZ Mortgage, Sunbelt Home Watch

Commercial license: Collins Comfort Masters, Foroudobus, Holistic Mental Health, Oasis Oral and Facial Surgery, Victoria Puckett

Home-based license: Adam Knutson, Ageless Cycles, Castle Sign Group, Elain Glasgow, Felix Home Repair, Get Up and Move Kids Fitness, The Sharp Solution,

HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Health inspectors filed reports on 11 Maricopa eateries between Nov. 16 and Dec. 15, and all but one received excellent ratings. The kitchen at QuikTrip was marked down for having a bottle of oven cleaner on its side in the same cabinet as pretzels and foil, a violation of rules to keep chemicals away from food and food-related items.

EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Carl's Jr.
- Children's Learning Adventure
- Circle K (18141 N. John Wayne Parkway)
- Circle K (21212 N. John Wayne Parkway)
- Dunkin Donuts
- McDonald's (20700 N. John Wayne Parkway)
- McDonald's (41710 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.)
- QuikTrip
- Subway
- WingStop

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- QuikTrip - Kitchen

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

None

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

None

Small Town Treasures, Suzette Gilbreath, Las Tostaditas

Out-of-town license: Aeos Energy, Cholla Pavement Maintenance, Fatbeam, Seamless Flooring, Sledge Concrete Coatings, Universal Solar Direct, Waite Arizona

Special-use license: Redemption Tattoo

Nonprofit license: Winged Hope Family Advocacy Foundation

Development keeps trending up in Maricopa

T&K Contracting received a permit for grading and drainage at the northeast corner of Costa del Sol Boulevard and Honeycutt Road for a **Tortosa Homeowners Association** clubhouse. Tortosa also was approved for right-of-way use for a waterline extension for a proposed lake and a lake pump.

Rosati's Pizza opened Dec. 12 at Maricopa Station, 21423 N. John Wayne Parkway. It previously received permit for sprinkler system remodel as it took over the space from the former Zoyo Yogurt.

Escape Room Maricopa opened Dec. 7 at Stagestop Marketplace, 44301 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy., in space once occupied by the former Camino Montessori charter school.

On the other hand, **Carl's Jr.** abruptly closed its doors Dec. 13 in anticipation of a change in franchise ownership. It was removed from the corporate map, and no formal announcement has been made about a re-opening.

Sacate Pellet Mills, 38743 W. Cowtown Road, received a zoning change from CI2 to CI1 as it moves its operations to Maricopa from Laveen. (See story at InMaricopa.com.)

IHOP, under construction at 20429 N. John Wayne Parkway in Edison Pointe, was permitted a wet fire sprinkler system Dec. 10 and a fire suppression system Dec. 14.

Also in Edison Pointe, **WingStop** opened its doors Nov. 15, and Wynn Nails & Hair Salon opened next door Dec. 7.

Legacy Charter's Sunrise Preschool, under construction at 19287 N. Porter Road, was approved for four shade structures at \$4,320 each. It also received the OK for a monument sign.

East Valley Cardiology, 20924 N. John Wayne Parkway, was given a commercial tenant improvement permit for a project valued at \$188,960.

Walmart and **Fry's Marketplace** were given permission to sell fireworks in anticipation of New Year's Eve celebrations. Fry's was also permitted for Christmas tree sales in its parking lot.

Dutch Bros., planned for Sonoran Creek Marketplace at 20232 N. John Wayne Parkway, received an on-site improvement permit, valued at \$147,388.

The City of Maricopa was permitted a real estate sign for **Copper Sky Commercial Development**.

Rehoboth Residential, a group home, received a zoning permit for a Rosa Drive residence in Santa Rosa Springs.

TAXES

- *Individual* • *Corporations*
- *Partnerships* • *Trusts* • *All states*

- **Specialists in non-resident tax returns and issues**
- **Small business experts**
- **IRS Acceptance Agent for W-7 preparation**



6 tax preparers with more than 140 years' combined experience

NOT YOUR ORDINARY CPA!

James A Chaston CPA
TAXES & ACCOUNTING

(520) 568-3303

Jim@ChastonCPA.com

21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 110

ChastonCPA.com



Minimum-wage increase to \$11 forcing businesses to be creative

By Jim Headley

The gradual increase of the minimum wage in Arizona is supposed to help those at the lower edge of pay scales, but it's also impacting the bottom line of business owners.

Under Proposition 206, the so-called Fair Wages and Healthy Families Act, Arizona minimum wage increased from \$8.05 to \$10 per hour in 2017, then to \$10.50 in 2018 and increased again to \$11 per hour on Jan. 1.

In 2020, it will jump to \$12.

"I feel like there's nothing wrong with it," said Antonio Gonzales, a senior at Maricopa High School who also works. "More money is more money, and it's not that big of a jump like [\$8.05] to \$10 was. I think it's a good change."

Starting Jan. 1, 2021, the Arizona minimum wage will increase each year by the cost of living rate (or Consumer Price Index).

"Before that passed, we always took pride that we never started anybody at minimum wage," said Mike Richey, owner of Maricopa Ace Hardware. "Today we have to start at minimum wage pretty much defensively because of how fast the rise (in minimum wage) is. When you couple that with some of the issues with margin and prices, especially with what's happening with tariffs because everything comes out of China, it has an accumulative effect."

Voters approved the increases 58 percent to 41 percent in 2016, but even those who benefit from the increase are divided about the issue.

"That's more money for me to pay for college and stuff," said Kamille Boyce, a Denny's employee and a junior at Maricopa High School.

"I don't think it's a good idea," said fellow MHS junior Douglas Moulton. "When minimum wage goes up, people can stay at a minimum-wage

job and never better themselves. It makes people lazy."

One of the hurdles in this scenario is businesses cutting costs. Big-box stores have numerous self-checkout lines, eliminating the need for cashiers. Fast-food restaurants are installing touch-screen ordering systems that don't involve an employee in the order-taking process.

Employers are finding creative ways to eliminate higher paychecks and, ultimately, jobs.

Richey said the set increases are not the big problem looming on the horizon. He worries about what will happen when minimum wage is tied to the cost-of-living index.

"My concern is the tariffs that we're looking at now may well cause an increase in



Maricopa Ace owner Mike Richey, left and Native Grill and Wings owner Pat Kieny

the CPI (Consumer Price Index), and now we're dealing with CPI increases on wages and not just a fixed amount," Richey said.

He said he's not ready to say his company will be hiring fewer employees because of the wage hikes.

"Service levels are key to our business. It is not something that we are considering at this point. Once we start looking at CPI and it's not a moderate increase, we'd have to consider it at that time," Richey said.

He added while big-box stores have self-checkouts and fast food has touch-screen ordering systems, "It's not going to happen here. Service is king. It is what we do. It is how we identify ourselves."

With minimum wage increases after 2021 tied to the CPI, wage increases "go on forever. If we can't settle this thing with China and the CPI goes up by 12 percent, it's going to be tough on businesses."

The food service industry has been hit hard by increases in minimum wage.

Pat Kieny, owner of Native Grill and Wings in Maricopa, said, "This is the third time we've been through it in the last three years. It's not as much. The initial one had the largest effect. We always have to plan to price ourselves right between the ability to earn money running a business and paying the increased costs that the minimum wage brings."

He said the increases are leading to fewer and fewer employees to cover shifts.

"We mostly try to keep our turnover really low and have highly experienced people. They are twice to three times as good as new employees. Which is our case in Maricopa. We have lots of veteran employees. So, it doesn't affect us as much here as it does in some of the other restaurants throughout the Valley," Kieny said.

Five of his servers/bartenders are former managers with Native.

"They know everything, and it is just awesome to have them," he said, adding Native corporate offices are looking at integrating technology into the restaurant to decrease costs.

"We are less likely to do that because the full-service restaurant industry has a lot of interaction between the employees and the customer. We are more likely to buy some things that are more prepared on the food side of the business," he said.

Kieny said adding more sales is the best way to cover increasing costs.

"Everything always goes up," Kieny said. "The rent goes up. Labor costs go up. Food cost over a 10-year period is pretty equal but you can have spikes. With all the bad stuff going on, it's really great to have positive feelings I get from working with people in Maricopa."

Maricopa Ace Hardware
21542 N John Wayne Pkwy.
Maricopa, AZ 85139
(520) 494-7805
www.maricopaace.com
Store Hours: Mon-Fri 7-7, Sat 7-7, Sun 8-6

Fuel up with us

Whether it's charcoal, pellets or propane. We're your neighborhood resource for grilling fuel.

Serving delicious breakfasts and lunches daily!

WE CATER, TOO!

Vekol Market

LOWEST TOBACCO PRICES IN TOWN!

Convenience Store, Deli and Fuel Station
Open 6 a.m. M-F and 8 a.m. Sat. & Sun.

47021 W. Farrell Road
(520) 568-1654

SCOTT DILLMAN
RENT-A-VET

Why we love shopping at Ace Hardware!

- ✓ Local business and provides money back into the local economy
- ✓ Most who work here also reside here
- ✓ It's very convenient and also quick and easy
- ✓ Prices comparable to any big box stores and here they know my name

MAKE YOUR MARK SHOP LOCAL SUPPORT MARICOPA

Business Directory

ACCOUNTING

James A. Chaston, CPA
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite 110
520-568-3303
ChastonCPA.com

ADVERTISING

inMaricopa
Maricopa. Delivered.
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 101
520-568-0040
InMaricopa.com/Advertising

See your ad on the
BIG SCREEN
520-233-2441
UltraStarAZ.com

AIR CONDITIONING

911 Air Repair
Air Conditioning & Heating
Maintenance, Repair & Installation
0% Financing | ROC: CR39-312225
480.360.1234

Ace Home Services
(520) 365-0001
AceHomeAZ.com

MCLAUGHLIN
Air Conditioning & Heating Service
Quality service at a fair price
• Service and Repair
• Replacement
• New Home Construction
• Free Estimates
520-213-5021
Fully licensed and bonded
ROC#294841

APPLIANCE REPAIR/SALES

MARICOPA APPLIANCE REPAIR
Local, Family Owned and Operated
(520) 424-8435

Mr Appliance
EXPERT APPLIANCE REPAIR
Local and Dependable
520-635-2400
MrAppliance.com

ASSISTED LIVING/ HOME CARE

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

Comfort Keepers
• In-home Care Services
• Happy Independent Lives
• Concierge Services
Care - That's At Home, Wherever You Live
Sherielyn Curry - Franchise Owner
(480) 659-9201

ATTORNEY

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

AUCTION

Liquidate AZ
12501 N. Murphy Road, Suite E
480-415-9869
LiquidateAZ.com

AUTOMOTIVE PARTS/ REPAIR/SERVICES

Hidden Valley Auto Parts
Since 1961
★ USED AUTO PARTS ★
WE BUY JUNK CARS
53501 W. Jersey Drive • 520-568-2945
HiddenValleyAutoParts.com

CAR WASH

Always FREE Vacuums
FAST FRIENDLY
Ask About Discounts for Our
VIP SPEED PASS Members
20168 N. John Wayne Parkway
520-381-0044 • FastAndFriendlyCarWash.com

CARPET CLEANING

Dave Roling Carpet, Tile, Wood & Stone Care
520-371-6153

Oxi Fresh
CARPET CLEANING
Find coupons at
InMaricopa.com/
Coupons
Children & Pet Safe
Remove Stains & Pet Odor
One-hour Dry Time
(520) 329-4027 • OxiFresh.com

CHIROPRACTIC

A-1
Auto, Sports & Family Care
Dr. Donohue DC, CCSP, FIAMA, GIC, MUA
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 109
520-494-7788 • MaricopaChiropractor.com

AZ Chiro & Acupuncture
44400 W. Honeycutt Road,
Suite 102
520-483-3768
85239spine.com

CHURCHES

CALVARY CHAPEL MARICOPA
Sundays at 8:30 or 10:15 a.m.
Children's Ministry at 10:15 service
Stage Stop Market Place
44301 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.
520-428-0463 • CalvaryMaricopa.org

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Santa Cruz Commerce Center
Murphy Road & Maricopa-Casa
Grande Highway
520-568-3246
LeaseAkChin.com

COMPUTERS

Data Doctors
21116 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite B-1
520-868-6161
DataDoctors.com

CONCRETE

• Sidewalks • Flagstone
• Pool Deck • Concrete
• Acid stain • resurfacing
• Patios • Driveways
SALT RIVER CONCRETE LLC
480-560-7514 • SaltRiverConcrete.com

CONVENIENCE STORE

Vekol Market
Breakfast & Lunch
Served Daily!
Open 6 a.m. M-F and
8 a.m. Sat. & Sun.
47021 W. Farrell Road
520-568-1654

COPY SERVICES

The UPS Store
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

Smiley Dental

20917 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite A-105
833-793-7773
SmileyDentalMaricopa.com

DRYER VENT CLEANING

Mr. Appliance of Maricopa
520-635-2400
MrAppliance.com

ELECTRICIAN

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

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Maricopa Fire Department
520-568-3333

Maricopa Police Department
520-316-6800

Poison Control

800-222-1222

ENTERTAINMENT

Arizona Renaissance Festival
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

Ak-Chin Circle

16000 N. Maricopa Road
520-568-1045
Ak-Chin.nsn.us

Copa Shorts Film Fest
CopaShortsFilmFest.org

UltraStar Multi-tainment Center

16000 N. Maricopa Road
520-568-3456
UltraStarAz.com

EYE CARE

Maricopa Eye Care
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite 119
520-568-7538
MaricopaEyeCare.com

FLOORING

EXPRESS HOME SERVICES
We Bring The Store To Your Door!
Free In-Home Estimates
on Floor and Installation
Express Flooring
(520) 487-1393

FUNERALS

J. Warren Funeral Services
44400 W. Honeycutt Road
Suite 102
520-836-8041
JWarrenFuneral.com

This ad could be
yours for less than
1/2¢ per household
520-568-0040
Advertising@InMaricopa.com

GLASS

IMPACT WINDSHIELD
Mobile Repair Service:
• Cracked Windshield
• Chipped Windshield
• Windshield Replacement
(520) 568-3933 • ImpactWindshield.com

LIZARD HEIGHTS
AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS
Service At A Higher Level
520-868-6180 • LizardHG.com
ROC 222193 K-65
★ Licensed ★ Bonded ★ Insured
★ Master Auto Glass Techs

GOLF

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club
48456 W. SR 238
520-568-2000
AkChinSouthernDunes.com

GOVERNMENT

City of Maricopa
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza
520-568-9098
Maricopa-AZ.gov

HANDYMAN

R.S. Handyman Services
No Job is Too Small
480-204-3345
We do all repairs inside and outside from A to Z.
*Not a licensed contractor

Tile & Flat Roof REPAIR
Drywall & texture matching
Top craftsmanship guaranteed
Maricopa • Casa Grande
Painting & Floors • Free estimates
520-208-4185
30+ years experience
Not a licensed contractor

HARDWARE

Ace Hardware
21542 N. John Wayne Parkway
520-494-7805
MaricopaAce.com

HEALTH, FITNESS. & WELLNESS

Longevity Athletics
20924 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite D2-A
520-261-4661
LongevityAthletics.com

HOME IMPROVEMENT

EZ Roll-Out Shelves
480-703-1617
EZRollOutShelves.com

HOSPITALS

Banner Casa Grande Medical Center
1800 E. Florence Blvd.,
Casa Grande
520-381-6300
BannerHealth.com/CasaGrande



Find details on these and many other local businesses on your computer/tablet/phone 24/7 at InMaricopa.com/Directory.

HOUSE CLEANING

Clean Sweep House Cleaning
480-807-0227
CleanSweepHouseCleaning.com

INSURANCE

Haldiman Insurance
Hillary Haldiman
MEDICARE SPECIALIST
602-799-3571
Hhaldiman04@msn.com

INTERNET

Orbital Communications
21116 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite B-9
520-568-8890
OrbitalCom.com

LANDSCAPING

Prestige Landscaping
Commercial or Residential
Quality Work • Affordable Prices
Call to schedule a consultation
480-388-9345
PrestigeLandscaping.us
Licensed & Insured BL#20160937 • Not AZ ROC Listed

MASSAGE THERAPY

Petersen Physical Therapy
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite 125
520-568-2723
PetersenPhysicalTherapy.com

Relay for Life Maricopa
1-800-227-2345
RelayForLife.org/MaricopaAZ

Veterans of Foreign Wars
44240 W. Maricopa-Casa
Grande Hwy.
602-920-3933

NONPROFITS

Against Abuse, Inc.
PO Box 10733
Casa Grande
520-836-1239
AgainstAbuse.org

American Legion Post 133

44240 W. Maricopa-Casa
Grande Hwy.
520-208-6434
ALPost133AZ.org

Family, Friend & Neighbor COAP

402 E. 10th St., Casa Grande
520-836-0736
UnitedWayofPC.org

F.O.R. Maricopa

PO Box 82
520-251-0226
ForMaricopa.org

The Friends of the Maricopa

Public Library
520-568-8094

Maricopa Historical Society

Paul Shirk, President
909-260-3020
MHS50.com

Maricopa Little League

PO Box 82
520-350-4080
MaricopaLittleLeague.com

Maricopa Veterans Center

44240 W. Maricopa-Casa
Grande Hwy.
520-404-6672

Relay for Life Maricopa

1-800-227-2345
RelayForLife.org/MaricopaAZ

Veterans of Foreign Wars
44240 W. Maricopa-Casa
Grande Hwy.
602-920-3933

OPTOMETRY

Maricopa Eye Care
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite 119
520-568-7538
MaricopaEyeCare.com

PAINT SUPPLIES

Ace Hardware
21542 N. John Wayne Parkway
520-494-7805
MaricopaAce.com

PEST CONTROL

MARICOPA BUG BUSTERS
General Pest • Only \$40
BIRD PROOFING • BED BUGS
No contract required
520-423-9542
Firefighter family owned & operated
Frank and Talisha Bradstream

Smart Pest Management
• Black Widows
• Pigeon Control
• Scorpions
• Termites
(520) 800-4667
Retired/Veteran
\$20 OFF Initial Fee
*Must present coupon Service

PET WASTE REMOVAL

Maricopa's Pet Waste Removal Company!
Turds To Go
P.O. Box 445 • TurdsToGo@gmail.com
520-510-4921 • TurdsToGo.com

PHARMACY

Sun Life Pharmacy
Open to the Public
44572 W. Bowlin Road
520-350-7646
SunLifeFamilyHealth.org

PHYSICIANS

• Weight Loss Management
• Hormone Replacement Therapy
• Multi-Specialty Group specializing in Primary Care
• Two convenient East Valley locations

Banner Medical Group
20928 N. John Wayne
Parkway, Suite C4
480-306-5151

Banner Health Center

Open
Monday - Saturday
17900 N. Porter Rd
(520) 233-2500
BannerHealth.com/Locations/Maricopa/
Banner-Health-Center-Maricopa

Center for Women

44765 W. Hathaway Avenue
520-788-6100
SunLifeFamilyHealth.org

Health Matters

9180 E. Desert Cove
Suite 103, Scottsdale
480-993-3331
HealthMattersAZ.com

The Hearing Centers of Arizona
Hearing Affects Everything
Between Your Ears
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 116
(Inside Vidal Medical Clinic Office)
(520) 494-3285
HearingCenterAZ.com

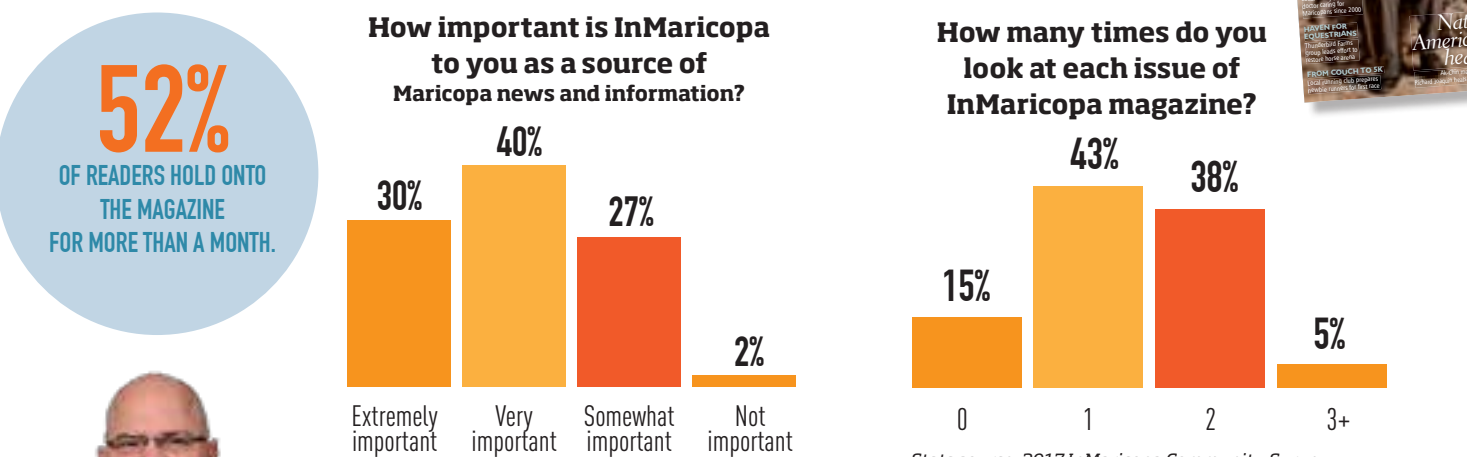
Many Healing Hands, PLLC
Yolanda Rodriguez, N.D.
Healing People
and Communities
Naturally
INTEGRATIVE/HOLISTIC MEDICINE
(480) 322-3055 • MyNaturalDoc.com

Maricopa Foot and Ankle
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite 126
520-494-1090 • MFAAC.com

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARD
CERTIFICATION CENTERS OF AZ**
✓ \$98 renewals
✓ Referral Program
✓ Discreet Locations
✓ We follow the rules
21300 North John Wayne Parkway Suite 112
(480) 378-8530 • MMJCCC.com

inMaricopa
MARICOPA. DELIVERED.

Maricopa's hyperlocal
advertising source since 2004



Vincent Manfredi
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 101
Maricopa, AZ 85138
(520) 568-0040
Advertising@InMaricopa.com

Best Product + Best Distribution = Best Results
www.InMaricopa.com/Advertising

Petersen Physical Therapy
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite 125
520-568-2723
PetersenPhysicalTherapy.com

SUN LIFE CENTER FOR WOMEN
• Gynecology • Obstetrics
Delivering at Dignity Chandler Regional
and Banner Casa Grande
44765 W. Hathaway Avenue
(520) 788-6100
www.SunLifeFamilyHealth.org

SUN LIFE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER
• Primary Care • Pediatrics
• Pharmacy Open to the Public
44572 W. Bowlin Road
(520) 568-2245
www.SunLifeFamilyHealth.org

Tomar Pain Centers
• Live Without the Pain!
• Safe & Therapeutic approach
• Medicare Certified
1821 N Trekell Road, Suite 3B
Casa Grande
(520) 876-0528 • TomarPainCenters.com

PHOTOGRAPHY
Victor Moreno Photography
602-723-4338

PLUMBING
Brutinel Plumbing & Electrical
600 E. 1st St.
Casa Grande
520-836-5802
Brutinel.com

POOL SUPPLIES
Ace Hardware
21542 N. John Wayne Parkway
520-494-7805
MaricopaAce.com

PRINTING
BENCHMARK PRINTING
Helping You Sell Yourself
• High Quality Brochures & Booklets
• Postcards, Flyers & Business Cards
• EDDM & Direct Mail
• Retractable & Vinyl Banners
(602) 231-8525
BenchmarkPrinting.net

PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS
Outside the Box MARKETING, INC.
• Promotional Products
• Apparel • Printing • Signage
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 102
520-568-0040 • Market247365.com

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Ahwatukee Realty & Property Management
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite 120
520-568-3572
AhwatukeeRealty.com

Desert Canyon Properties
44565 Granite Drive
602-818-2511
DesertCanyonProperties.com

REALTORS
AHWATUKEE REALTY
SINCE 1974
CHAD CHADDERTON
SALES & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 120
Chad@AhwatukeeRealty.com
520-568-3572 • AhwatukeeRealty.com

Cactus Mountain Properties, LLC
Kent Richards
(520) 568-8001

Desert Canyon Properties
Rita Weiss
44565 Granite Drive
602-818-2511
DesertCanyonProperties.com

Duke Plaza
19756 N. John Wayne Parkway
520-549-2405
SimplifiedProperties.com/
ForLease

HomeSmart Success
Brian French
623-451-1916
CopaAz.com

HomeSmart Success
Dayv Morgan
19756 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite 100
480-251-4231
HomeSmartSuccess.com

Housing Around AZ/The Maricopa Real Estate Co.
Jase Leonard
480-808-0883
HousingAroundAZ.com

YesMaricopa.com
Paul Hykes 520.332.8641
Realtor paul@yesmaricopa.com
475 Cottonwood Lane
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Brian Petersheim
REALTOR, ABR, ONE
(602) 206-9644
MaricopaNewHomes.Net
CanadiansInArizona.Net

RESTAURANTS
Arroyo Grille
Ak-Chin Southern Dunes
48456 W. SR 238
520-568-2000
ArroyoGrille.com

native grill wings
21164 N. John Wayne Parkway
520-568-6077
NativeGrillAndWings.com

SCHOOLS
Almentia Academy
PO Box 925
480-577-2831
AlmentiaAcademy.com

Butterfield Elementary School
43800 W. Honeycutt Road
520-568-6100
BES.MaricopaUSD.org

Central Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive
520-494-6400
CentralAZ.edu

Desert Wind Middle School
35565 W. Honeycutt Road
520-568-7110
DWMS.MaricopaUSD.org

Heritage Academy – Maricopa
520-367-3800
HeritageAcademyAZ.com

LEADING EDGE ACADEMY
18700 N. Porter Road
520-568-7800
LeadingEdgeAcademy.com

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
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
520-568-7150
PBES.MaricopaUSD.org

RAM Academy
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
520-568-8100
MHS.MaricopaUSD.org

Saddleback Elementary School
18600 N. Porter Road
520-568-6110
SES.MaricopaUSD.org

Santa Cruz Elementary School
19845 N. Costa del Sol
520-568-5170
SCES.MaricopaUSD.org

Santa Rosa Elementary School
21400 N. Santa Rosa Drive
520-568-6150
SRES.MaricopaUSD.org

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

SPA
FitLife Med Spa
990 E. Riggs Road
Suite 3
Chandler
480-300-7350
FitLifeMedSpa.com

TAX SERVICES
James A Chaston CPA
TAXES & ACCOUNTING
• Small Business Accounting
• Consulting
• Tax Planning
• Tax Preparation
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 110
520-568-3303 • ChastonCPA.com

UTILITIES
Clark's SEPTIC TANK SERVICE
(520) 836-5545
✓ Installation ✓ Certifications
✓ Pumping ✓ Repair
www.ClarksSepticTankAZ.com
Licensed & Bonded • ROC 186986

Electrical District No. 3
19756 N. John Wayne Parkway
520-424-9021
ED3Online.org

Global Water Resources
22590 N. Powers Parkway
866-940-1102
GWResources.com

WEDDINGS
Ak-Chin Southern Dunes
48456 W. SR 238
520-568-2000
AkChinSouthernDunes.com

elements EVENT CENTER
AT AK-CHIN CIRCLE
WEDDINGS - PARTIES - CONFERENCES
25 to 350 Guests
Indoor and Outdoor Space
Call: (520) 233-2431
UltraStarAZ.com

10 Takeaways from 2019 Economic Forecast

Economist Elliott Pollack, CEO of Elliott D. Pollack and Company, delivered his annual economic forecast Dec. 7 to Pinal Partnership. “Long-term, I’m still bullish on the United

States,” he said. Here are some takeaways from his predictions.

1 “Enjoy yourself. It’s going to be a great year.” Economic growth and job growth are forecast for Pinal County, the state and nation during 2019, though the rate of growth may slow “somewhat.”

2 Housing prices have recovered from the Great Recession. Prices in general are above pre-recession numbers, with most homes recovering their value.

3 Consumer confidence is high. People are spending again consistently if not excessively.

4 The Greater Phoenix area accounts for 88 percent of Arizona’s job growth. The Valley is relatively weak in population growth, but job growth is twice as fast as the rest of the United States.

5 The nationwide labor market is not big enough to fill all available jobs, leading to a rise in the employment-cost index and therefore higher prices. There are an estimated 7 million unfilled jobs.

6 A “short and shallow” recession is coming but not in 2019. Not all recessions are the same, and the predicted economic contraction will feel more like a correction than a freefall.

7 Within the next five years, the entire demand for new housing will come

from “millennials.” Professionally and personally impacted by the Great Recession, the millennial generation has been less materialist than its predecessors and now prioritizes retirement funding and home ownership over marriage and kids.

8 Lucid Motors and Nikola Motors should be adding jobs in Pinal County and could combine for 3,750 jobs by 2025.

9 “Ultimately, some generation is going to pay for all this debt, but it’s not your generation.” Deficit spending is a concern but a delayed concern. The national debt is \$21.9 trillion.

10 New home inventory is low with no signs of oversupply. Builders are battling supply-side constraints, meaning production is unable to keep pace with demand.



Elliott D. Pollack

WANTED 20 PEOPLE TO
Test Brain Hearing technology in the real world!
BRAIN HEARING TECHNOLOGY is Different ...
OTICON | Opn
The Dominant technology in the hearing industry.
BRAIN HEARING TECHNOLOGY WORKS!
Call **NOW** For Your **FREE, NO OBLIGATION**, demo and trial of this Amazing technology in your everyday environment!
FREE LUNCH For qualified participants!
LUNCH-AND-LISTEN EVENT
(520) 494-3285
DON'T MISS THIS LUNCH-AND-LISTEN OPPORTUNITY!
The Hearing Centers of Arizona®
HearingCenterAZ.com
21300 N John Wayne Parkway, Suite 116
(Inside Vidal Medical Clinic Office)

Tomar Pain Centers
FULLY LICENSED MEDICAL FACILITY
SPECIALIZING IN PAIN MANAGEMENT:
• Back, Neck & Joint Pain • Arthritis
• Sciatica • Fibromyalgia • Constant Headaches
• Other Acute and Chronic Pain Conditions
• Live Without the Pain!
• Safe & Therapeutic approach
• Medicare Certified
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION APPOINTMENT*
*Present this ad at your initial visit to receive a FREE Consultation
1821 N Trekell Road, Suite 3B
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
(520) 876-0528
TomarPainCenters.com

Work in Maricopa!

- Appliance Repair Technician
- Food Service
- ASE Certified Technician
- Freelance Reporter
- Bus Aides & Drivers
- Groundskeeper
- Custodian
- Paraprofessionals
- Sales Professional
- Volunteers

More local jobs at InMaricopa.com/Jobs

Southwest soil problems and fixes

By Al Brandenburg



Everyone who lives in southern Arizona knows our soils can be difficult for producing healthy plants for the average home gardener. The challenge is hard soil and alkalinity.

Desert gardening demands the balancing of the environment, and desert soils are high in clay, calcium and sodium. They are



Al Brandenburg

extremely hard and impermeable to water. Before doing anything, you must open and balance your soil. If not, you waste water and nutrients (either already in your soil or from fertilizers).

There are three primary types of soil, determined by the amount of clay, silt or sand particles present.

1 Clay soil contains a high percentage of clay and silt. The particles are small and cling together, holding water and nutrients well. However, clay soil is susceptible to compaction, which can make it difficult for the moisture and nutrients to reach plant roots and for roots to penetrate the soil. You can identify clay soil by its sticky, slippery feel and its tendency to cling to garden tools.

2 Sandy soil is composed of larger, coarser particles. It drains quickly, but it isn't effective at holding moisture and nutrients. This type of soil feels rough and doesn't hold together well.

3 Loam, however, has a good balance of clay, silt, sand and organic material. It's the best type of soil for gardening, providing drainage and retention of moisture and nutrients. Loam holds its shape when you squeeze it lightly and is easier to dig than other types.

The soil in your landscape likely will not be ideal initially, but soil amendments can help you improve it, allowing your plants to thrive.

So, what are some of the fixes?

Sphagnum peat moss absorbs water, slowly releasing it for use by plant roots. It lightens clay soil, providing aeration, and adds mass to sandy soil, helping prevent the leaching of nutrients.

Humus consists of decayed organic matter. It improves fertility and aeration and helps soil hold moisture.

Composted manure is an odorless farm byproduct. In addition to improving aeration and moisture retention, it enriches the soil. Dehydrated manure is a similar product that contains less moisture.

Garden topsoil is a commercially produced compost usually partially decomposed. Because of its rough texture, you use topsoil in the yard or mixed with other products, but not as a potting soil.

Organic soil amendments: Many gardeners choose to make their own soil amendment by composting dead leaves, coffee grounds and other organic materials (not weeds) to add to their existing soil.

If you have questions that aren't covered here, call the local Master Gardener problem office at 520-374-6263 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until noon. You can also e-mail macmasterfgardener@gmail.com.

Maricopa's 2018 housing market may foretell 2019

By Dayv Morgan

To say the least, 2018 was a good year for housing in Maricopa. Prices went up, availability tightened a bit and 101 more houses sold compared to the year before.

Meanwhile, house construction continued at a rapid rate, proving builders are bullish on Maricopa. The month of May was particularly hot, with 106 building permits filed. Year-over-year, building permits increased 34 percent.

The number of active listings stayed fairly consistent, as did the average number of days on the market, which is slightly above the Valley average. The average selling price in



Dayv Morgan

Maricopa by year's end had increased to \$214,000, still well below the Valley average of \$235,200, which might explain the continued housing demand in Maricopa.

While the number of homes for sale was shrinking, it was even more difficult to find a house to rent in Maricopa, and rents climbed to an average of \$1,300.

The nationwide shortages in construction supplies and labor were felt in Maricopa and may contribute to higher home prices when houses currently under construction go on the market in 2019. Mortgage rates also went

up during 2018, putting more pressure on buyers.

For the most part, 2018 was a seller's market in Maricopa. That will likely continue in 2019. Potential homebuyers are expected to enter the market by spring to get ahead of rising prices.

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

480-251-4231
DayvMorgan@gmail.com

Sponsored content

MARICOPA DATA

	Jan. 1, 2018	Dec. 1, 2018
Median sold price	\$190,000	\$212,000
Average sold price	\$204,000	\$214,000
Ratio of original list price to sold price	97.7%	97.4%
Active Listings	428	406
Average days on market	60	66
	2017	2018
Homes sold in first 11 months	1,805	1,906
Single-family house building permits in first 11 months	708	951

520.868.6180
250.868.6180

LIZARD HEIGHTS
Glass

Maricopa's
Full-Service
GLASS
Company

Home

- Dual Panes (Insulated Glass)
- Fogged Windows
- Single Pane Windows
- Window Repairs/Replacements
- Window Retrofits
- Custom Shower Doors/Enclosures
- Multi-Slide Patio Doors
- Enclosed Patios
- Table Tops
- Shelves
- Mirrors

Auto

- Window Replacement
- Windshield Repair
- RVs
- Luxury Vehicles
- Heavy Equipment
- Insurance Accepted
- Mobile Service

Business

- Mirrors
- Transaction Windows
- Desk Tops
- Display Cabinets
- Entrance Doors
- Mail Slots
- Store Fronts

Service At A Higher Level

Over 25 years experience

Let us SHOW YOU what service SHOULD be!

www.LizardHG.com

ROC 222193 K-65 * Licensed * Bonded * Insured * Master Auto Glass Techs

Member
NGA
National Glass
Association

The UPS Store

HAPPY NEW YEAR

PACKING SHIPPING

- Printing
- Mailboxes
- Notary
- More!

Located in the "Fry's Marketplace Plaza"

(520) 568-5712

3 MONTHS FREE WHEN PURCHASING A 12 MONTH MAILBOX

Valid only at Maricopa store through 1/31/19.

The UPS Store

\$9.99 ea PASSPORT PHOTOS

Regular \$12.99

Valid only at Maricopa store through 1/31/19.

The UPS Store

99¢ FAXING PER PAGE

Valid only at Maricopa store through 1/31/19.

The UPS Store

20987 N John Wayne Pkwy, Suite B104

MR. ELECTRIC
EXPERT ELECTRICAL SERVICE

24 Hour Emergency Service
Residential & Commercial

- Install, Service & Repair
- Immediate Response
- Scheduled Appointment Times
- Exact Price Upon Arrival
- Clean, Courteous Service Professionals

(520) 216-5648

PhoenixMetro.MrElectric.com

DISCOVER
MasterCard
VISA
AMERICAN EXPRESS
ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Financing Available

Licensed & Insured
Lic # ROC 149003, 149004



1. 43195 W. McClelland Drive, The Villages

Kyle Norby

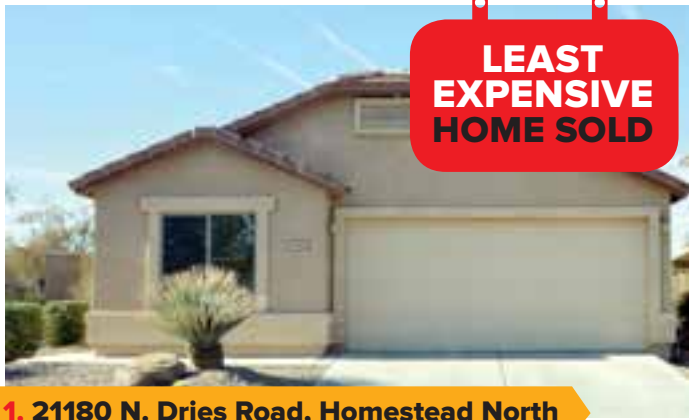
The most expensive home sold in Maricopa Nov. 16-Dec. 15 is a 4,000-square-foot house on a 14,000-square-foot lot in The Villages. Its price tag was 12.8 percent higher than its previous sale 17 months earlier. The five-bedroom house is two stories with a master-suite balcony overlooking a private pool.

Sold: Nov. 27
Purchase price: \$335,000
Square footage: 3,955
Price per square foot: \$84.70
Days on market: 51
Builder: Unknown
Year built: 2005
Bedrooms: 5
Bathrooms: 3

Community: The Villages at Rancho El Dorado
Features: Sunken living room, built-in wet bar, private dining room, 3-car garage, covered patio
Listing Agent: Amy Haight, Arizona Best Real Estate
Selling Agent: Wayne Knight, ProSmart Realty

- 2. 42612 W. Blue Suede Shoes Lane, Province.....\$325,000
- 3. 20197 N. Marquez Drive, The Villages.....\$295,000
- 4. 42037 W. Baccarat Drive, Province.....\$280,000
- 5. 41981 W. Solitare Drive, Province.....\$278,000

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



Raquel Hendrickson

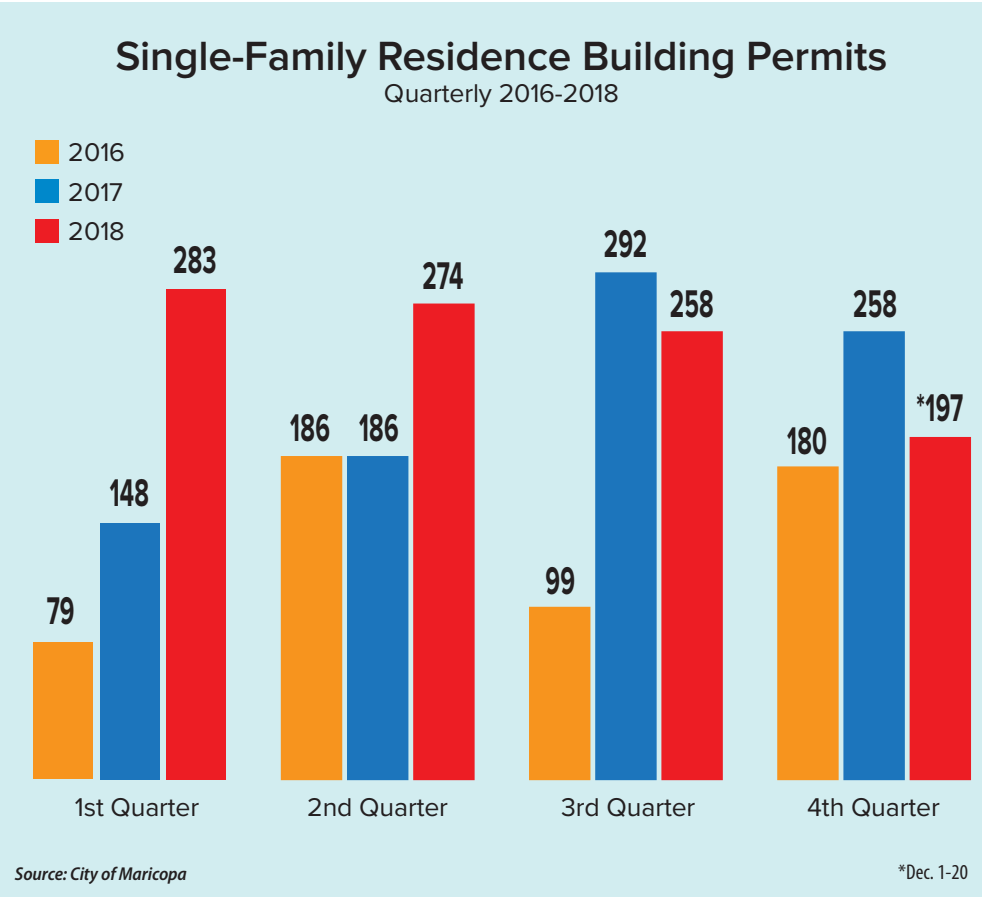
1. 21180 N. Dries Road, Homestead North

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa Nov. 16-Dec. 15 is a one-owner home in Homestead that is 1,400 square feet on a desert-scaped lot. Built nearly a decade ago, it is well-maintained and across the street from a park.

Sold: Dec. 13
Purchase price: \$161,000
Square footage: 1,454
Price per square foot: \$110.72
Days on market: 10
Builder: DR Horton
Year built: 2009
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2

Community: Homestead North
Features: Three-quarter bath with master bedroom, kitchen island, low-maintenance landscaping, 2-car garage
Listing Agent: Melissa Rush, Rush & Associates Realty
Selling Agent: Merdad Meraban, Delex Realty

- 2. 37037 W. Bello Lane, Sorrento.....\$161,500
- 3. 43826 W. Lindgren Drive, The Villages.....\$172,500
- 4. 43230 W. Chisholm Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$173,000
- 5. 42006 W. Anne Lane, Rancho El Dorado.....\$173,000



BRUTINEL
PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL, INC

SERVING ARIZONA SINCE 1949
"PROFESSIONALS YOU CAN TRUST"

- Plumbing
- In-line Video Camera Service
- Leak Detection
- Backflow Testing & Installation
- Drain Cleaning
- Re-pipe of Water Lines
- Repairs/Remodeling
- Hydrojetting
- Gas Line Installation
- Electrical
- FINANCING AVAILABLE

520-836-5802
www.Brutinel.com

ROC 068025 ROC 074815
ROC 067458 ROC 067457

Indulge Yourself with Superior Service.

Calling Mr. Appliance® ensures:
A solid quote before the work begins - no surprises
Courteous & skilled in-home service professionals
Our "Leave No Trace" clean-up commitment
Prompt, efficient attention
All work & parts guaranteed
Never an overtime charge

We service all major household appliances.

Mr. Appliance
EXPERT APPLIANCE REPAIR
(520) 635-2400
www.mrappliance.maricopa
Independently owned and operated.

HOME SMART
Real Estate Made Easy

Brian French
623-451-1916
copaaz.com
Friend me on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/brianfrenchrealtor)
[/brianfrenchrealtor](https://www.facebook.com/brianfrenchrealtor)

Text
"InMaricopa"
to 31996 for
local news
and info

HOUSING AROUND AZ
powered by
THE MARICOPA REAL ESTATE COMPANY

Jase Leonard
REALTOR

(480) 808-0883
Jase@housingaroundaz.com
HousingAroundAZ.com

Fourth Annual Fun Run!

FOR THE LOVE OF CHOCOLATE FUN RUN

March 2nd, 2019 • 8am

Copper Sky Recreation Center, Maricopa

Register Now at SunLifeRun.com

\$35/1 mile \$40/3 mile

Save \$5 if you sign up by Feb 15th!

Sleep-in supporter \$35 — Get your shirt but stay snuggled in bed!

#RunForTheSun

Registration starts at 7am

www.SunLifeRun.com

f t

Local Realtor pays for homeowner upgrades

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

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

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

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

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

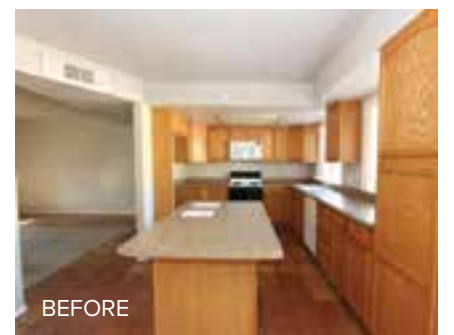
The program Dayv developed allows a seller to access his pool of preferred contractors, with whom he has negotiated reduced fees, or sellers can use their own referrals to make the repairs. Regardless of who completes the work, he pays up front for the improvements and is reimbursed from the proceeds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



The idea came to him after seeing companies like Open Door and HomeVestors "low-ball" sellers to buy their home as-is, and then after making a few cosmetic improvements they would list the home on the MLS and resell it for a profit. He was surprised to see how much equity owners were giving away by selling their home direct to an investor. As a listing agent he created a process that allows sellers to "flip their own house" and keep the profit themselves. "It doesn't cost the owners anything out

of pocket, and it increases their return," Dayv noted. "It's a win-win for everyone involved — the buyer, the seller, myself as the Realtor, and even the city of Maricopa as it helps the neighborhood values to increase."

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



480-251-4231
dayvmorgan@gmail.com

Content sponsored by Dayv Morgan, HomeSmart Success.

Roll-Out Shelves

Licensed • References

Made to Order

- No Bending
- No Stooping
- No Crawling

20+ years in business

LIFE-TIME WARRANTY!

Greg Miller - Owner
(480) 703-1617
www.EZRollOutShelves.com



Care That's At Home, Wherever You Live.

Comfort Keepers® provides in-home care services that help seniors and others live safe, happy and independent lives in the comfort of their own homes.



Maricopa Caregivers serving Maricopa clients

Serving Maricopa and
Surrounding Area



Contact us today!
(480) 659-9201

© 2017 CK Franchising, Inc. An international network, where most offices independently owned and operated.

ComfortKeepers.com

Fitness

To cleanse or not to cleanse in your fitness regimen

By Aaron Gilbert, CSCS

What is a cleanse or detox diet?

Detox diets, or cleanses, typically include a highly restrictive list of foods, juices, teas and/or a whole lot of nothing (i.e. fasting). These diets will typically require you to purchase “detox/cleanse kits” or premade juices.

The promise? To rid your body of all the bad stuff, toxins. Sounds like a sweet deal, right? Clear out all the bad stuff causing havoc within your body and maybe lose a few pounds and some inches while you're at it.

Maybe not so much.

Buyer Beware

A cleanse can possibly do more harm to your body than good. Some frequently reported side effects include intense headaches, sleep problems and feeling weak or dizzy.

Additionally, high levels of fruit juices, i.e. fructose, aka sugar, can cause a major roller-coaster ride with your blood-sugar levels. Many cleanses are also low in protein. Protein deficiencies can prevent your body's natural ability to eliminate toxins.

Here's a big one: Cleansing will not help you lose weight, at least not the fat weight you want to lose. In fact, it might even lead to weight gain. Here's why:

- Any weight loss is probably from water, stored carbohydrate and stuff in your intestines — all of which will come back in a few hours after the cleanse ends.
- Most weight-loss cleanses are extremely low in calories. In other words, they're starving you. Many cleanses are so low in calories they'll negatively affect your hormonal health.


The Solution: Cleanse Naturally

If you're eating too much, you're building up more toxins. For general use, try your using your hand for portion and calorie control. Active women — one palm size of lean protein, one fist of dark green vegetable, one cupped hand of a minimally processed, whole carbohydrate and one full thumb of healthy fat. Active men — two palms of lean protein, two fists of dark green vegetable, two cupped hands of minimally processed, whole carbohydrate and two full thumbs of a healthy fat.

Drink enough fluids, including water and tea. Give your toxin-filtering kidneys a break and keep them healthy by consuming minimally 3.7 liters a day for men and 2.7 liters for women.

Get outside in the sun and enjoy some fresh air each day. The sun makes vitamin D happen from our exposure to it.

Exercise and sweat regularly. Skin is a major organ, and this is where a lot of toxins leave the body.

At the end of the day, keeping it simple with well-balanced nutrition made up of mostly whole, real foods, along with plenty of water, exercise and some fresh air will do your mind and body some wonders. 



Aaron Gilbert

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

Caregiving

Caregivers – the other side of the story

By Joan Koczor

Caregiving, while rewarding, can often be a challenge.

Somehow, you think it's never going to happen to your parents or loved one, but often times the unexpected does happen and you find yourself in the role of caregiver.

Suddenly, it seems you are spending several hours a week helping a loved one with everyday chores, seeing to their medical needs, making sure they take their prescribed medications on time and putting their needs before your own.

As a caregiver you experience feelings that are new to you. The sense of satisfaction that you are giving back to a parent(s) or a loved one who has cared for and loved you for most of your life. And the guilt you feel when you become angry, overwhelmed, burdened and the feeling you just can't do this another day. But the love you've always known is there and it gets you through another day and another day...

A Sept. 21 article, “I'm the sole caregiver of my aging parents and I resent them for it,” written by Jill Gleeson was featured in Woman's Day. The following tells it best about being a caregiver.

**“I was
picking up
their meds and
dispensing them,
running errands
and cooking when
I could. And it still
wasn't enough.”**


—Jill Gleeson

for dying, for leaving me all alone to take care of our mom and dad. I was angry at our relatives, my parents' siblings, too busy with their own lives to lend us a hand. And I was angry at my parents, who were never supposed to get old, or sick, or hurt.”

As a caregiver you need to remember to take care of yourself. Schedule time for yourself. Check out the various caregiver support groups available. Don't hesitate to ask for help.

AARP has a Prepare to Care: A Resource Guide for Families [aarp.org/preparetocare, 1-877-333-5885].

AARP Arizona Caregiver Guide has services and support groups in Arizona [aarp.org/caregiverresourceguides]. The “Today” show has a video available online — When Kids get to be Caregivers. How to prepare to be a Caregiver.

Information is out there — just ask. 

Joan Koczor is a senior advocate and a member of the Age-Friendly Maricopa Advisory Commission. She also writes a newsletter of community updates.



Joan Koczor

4TH
ANNUAL




SENIOR
INFO/EXPO
2019

SENIOR
MOMENTUM
Moving forward, always learning, *living to the max!*

— SATURDAY —

JANUARY 26, 2019
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

NEW SITE! CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE
17945 N. REGENT DR. (BUILDING A&B)

-  **Informative Workshops!**
-  **Over 40 Exhibitors!**
-  **Resources, resources, resources!**

Thank you to our sponsors



REGISTER AT

WWW.MARICOPA-AZ.GOV



Year in Review
 **Maricopa**
 2018



PHOTOS WE LOVE

 **See gallery of Photos of the Year in InMaricopa.com**





File

JAN
12

Fish you'll find in Maricopa waters

The city's annual free fishing day is Jan. 12 at 8 a.m. at Copper Sky Lake. Fishing licenses are not required for those registered in the event, but fishing is readily available at both town ponds throughout the year.

What kind of fish will you encounter at Copper Sky and Pacana Park?

Bass are the most sought-after fish among U.S. anglers, according to U.S. Fish & Wildlife, but they are getting harder to find in community waters. According to Arizona Game & Fish Department, largemouth bass in particular cost four times as much as trout and nearly six times as much as catfish to stock. AGFD tries to stock bass at least once a year, usually in spring.



Catfish are omnivorous bottom-feeders and one of the most instantly recognizable fish. Anglers also consider them a fun sport fish. They will be stocked in Maricopa again in late March, according to AGFD.



Trout are also a popular game fish across the country and the focus of Arizona hatcheries. They again will be stocked in Maricopa waters in January and February.

White Amur, named for the Amur River in Asia, are commonly called grass carp outside of the United States. The Amurs do well in standing bodies of water like ponds and lakes. They can be difficult to catch and can be fighters once they're on the line.



The city's fishing waters are typically open from sunrise to 11 p.m., and anglers can fish for free year-round. Anglers age 10 and over must have a license to fish.

Things to Do

DECEMBER

7

The '49ers meet the Maricopa and Akimel O'Odham
5:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

8

Heritage Academy Job Fair
5-7 p.m., HomeSmart Success
19756 N. John Wayne
Parkway, Suite 100

MHS Girls' Soccer vs. Willow Canyon
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MHS Boys' Basketball vs. Williams Field
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

9-12

'The Good Doctor'
7 p.m., Leading Edge Academy
18700 N. Porter Road

9

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

MHS Boys' Basketball vs. North Canyon
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

10

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

A+ Charter Schools Open House
6 p.m., Leading Edge Academy
18700 N. Porter Road

11

MHS Girls' Soccer vs. Paradise Valley
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MHS Boys' Basketball vs. Higley
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

12

Family Fishing Day
8 a.m.-noon, Copper
Sky Regional Park
45345 W. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

15

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

MHS Boys' Soccer vs. Sunrise Mountain
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MHS Girls' Basketball vs. Casteel
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

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

16

MHS Wrestling Meet
4 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

SPA Boys' Basketball vs. Heritage-Mesa
7 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19265 N. Porter Road

18

MHS Boys' Soccer vs. Goldwater
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MHS Girls' Basketball vs. Gilbert
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.



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

Things to Do

22

MHS Girls' Basketball vs. Campo Verde
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

23

MHS Wrestling Meet
4 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

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

24

Battle Moose Improv
6 p.m., Central Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

25

Game Night
6:30 p.m., Copper Sky
Multigenerational Center,
45345 W. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

MHS Girls' Soccer vs. Williams Field
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MHS Girls' Basketball vs. Williams Field
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

26

Senior Expo
10 a.m.-2 p.m., Central
Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

SPA Boys' Basketball vs. Bella Vista College Prep
7 p.m. Sequoia Pathway Academy
19265 N. Porter Road

MMA Fight Night
4 p.m., UltraStar Multi-
tainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road



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

Jan. 28-Feb. 1
Super Bowl Change Wars
8 a.m., Saddleback
Elementary School
18600 N. Porter Road

28

SPA Boys' Basketball vs. AZ Compass
7 p.m. Sequoia Pathway Academy
19265 N. Porter Road

29

MHS Girls' Soccer vs. Higley (Senior Night)
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MHS Girls' Basketball vs. Higley (Senior Night)
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Jan. 31-Feb. 2
"The Curious Savage"
7 p.m. (2 p.m. Saturday matinee),
Maricopa Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

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.



FEB
2

Jasper Smith (left) and Tristan Marshall are set to represent Maricopa in the All-Arizona Slam.

File

All-Arizona Slam returns to Maricopa

Maricopa will host its own championship contest on Saturday of Super Bowl weekend when Maricopa Arts Council presents the 2019 All-Arizona Poetry Slam Championship.

Poets from all over the state will join the top two prize-winning Maricopa poets in the three-round elimination contest — a 14-person "duel" in the art of performance of original poetry.

National Slam rules will prevail: Each poem must be the poet's own creation and should be no longer than three minutes. Judges are chosen from the audience, and every performance is rated by each judge Olympics-style. At the close of both rounds 1 and 2, the competitors will successively be cut down in numbers until only five poets compete in the final round.

MAC is offering the top three money prizes, with the top prize set at \$400.

The full list of 14 starting poets in the first round will be selected online Jan. 11 from a two-month-long lottery run by MAC's slam master, nationally known poet and shark enthusiast Bernard Schober, who performs as The Klute. He has led all MAC's poetry slam events since Maricopa Arts Council introduced this type of event to the city in 2016.

The 14 All-Arizona Championship competitors include representatives of the Phoenix Slam, Sedona Slam and Flagstaff Slam, and the top two poets from MAC's Maricopa Poetry Slam, Jasper Smith and Tristan Marshall. An additional four poets on the Wait List will be listed at the event Facebook site.

The Slam Championship event is preceded by a different type of artistic "prelude," Art "On-the-Spot" on Honeycutt Coffee's windows will be created 5-6 p.m. by Maricopa artists selected for this event.

Admission is \$10 at the door. Honeycutt Coffee will have food and drinks available for purchase

IF YOU GO

What: All-Arizona Poetry Slam
When: Feb. 2, 5:45-9:30 p.m.
Where: Honeycutt Coffee, 44400 W. Honeycutt Road
How much: \$10
Info: [Facebook.com/events/1588942727874228](https://www.facebook.com/events/1588942727874228)

EXPERIENCE RAUCOUS REVELRY!

31ST ANNUAL ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

EIGHT FESTIVE WEEKENDS
FEBRUARY 9TH THRU MARCH 31ST
 SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS & PRESIDENTS' DAY
 10AM-6PM

The Festival is a medieval amusement park, a 14-stage theater, a 30-acre circus, an arts and crafts fair, a jousting tournament and a feast — all rolled into one non-stop, day-long adventure!

SAVE WITH VIP DISCOUNT SAVINGS AT **fray's**

PRINT DISCOUNT TICKETS ONLINE
 GET DIRECTIONS & FESTIVAL INFO
RENFESTINFO.COM

facebook

VICTOR MORENO PHOTOGRAPHY

20% OFF ON YOUR NEXT SESSION
 UP TO \$300 SESSION

VICTOR MORENO PHOTOGRAPHY 602-723-4338

Things to do

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL)

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

TUESDAYS

Celebrate Recovery Coffee & Karaoke

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

WEDNESDAYS

Babytime

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

Harrah's Club 777 Toastmasters

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

S.M.A.R.T. Kids

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

Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting

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

THURSDAYS

Family Story Time

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

FRIDAYS

Al-Anon Meeting

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



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

'The Beat'

Maricopa's entertainment scene picking up

By Tommy Ronca

Hello everyone and welcome to my first "Maricopa Entertainment Scene" blog.

This is a very exciting time in our town. Big things are coming to Maricopa, and it's about time.

After sitting with Niesha Whitman, the City's events coordinator, I was overwhelmed with excitement. Brand new pickleball courts and pickleball tournaments will be coming to Copper Sky. Maricopa is also planning to bring back "Stagecoach Days" this year along with our first competitive car show with the partnership of Apex Motor Club.

Niesha said Maricopa is working on several new events including an outdoor "Hip Hop Night" and upgrading all our current events with more added activities and excitement.

Each month, I will bring you all the new and current entertainment events coming to Maricopa and our area.

Please pass the word to all your friends to read my monthly Blog "The Beat." If you have any entertainment questions please email me at: thebeat.inmaricopa@gmail.com.



Tommy Ronca

An original member of the doo-wop group *The Chaperones*, Tommy Ronca produced several shows in Las Vegas. He is a member of the Maricopa Parks, Recreation & Libraries Commission.

COPA SHORTS FILM FEST

FILMFEST!

COPA SHORTS FILM FEST
February 23-24, 2018
Films • Music • Parties • Food Trucks
Saturday, February 23
Maricopa HS Performing Arts Center
 MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL — 2:30 pm — 7:30 pm
 AWARDS/ WRAP PARTY to 9:00 pm
FREE FILMMAKING WORKSHOPS (Saturday morning, Feb.23)
Money-Panel — Funding Your Film
Award-winning Make-Up Artist — Aeni Domme
Award-winning Music — Brent Michael Davids Film Scoring
Sunday, February 24
Maricopa City Hall
HIGHLY-RATED SHORT FILMS (2-20 MINUTES)
 COLLEGE • SCREENPLAY TABLE READS • NATIVE AMERICAN
 MILITARY VETERAN
FILMS IN ALL GENRES
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

Presented by:



CopaShortsFilmFest.org

native grill & wings
YOUR GAMEDAY HQ

\$17.99
20 WINGS ANY STYLE

Must present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only at Maricopa location. Expires 1/31/19.

\$5 OFF
GET \$5 OFF ANY PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE!

Must present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only at Maricopa location. Does not include alcohol, tax, or gratuity. Expires 1/31/19.

18 INCH PIZZA
1 Topping for \$9.99

Additional toppings for an extra charge. Must present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only at Maricopa location. Expires 1/31/19.

Happy New Year FROM YOUR NATIVE

Also find coupons at InMaricopa.com/Coupons

native grill & wings

21164 N. John Wayne Parkway, Maricopa
 Kitchen Open: 11am-11pm; Lounge: 11am-2am
520-568-6077
NativeGrillAndWings.com

ARROYO GRILLE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**ARROYO
GRILLE**
at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

WEEKLY SPECIALS

WEDNESDAY
CLASSIC FISH FRY \$13

THURSDAY
KANSAS CITY
STRIP & FRIES \$13

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
PRIME RIB DINNER \$22

Weekly Specials Served after 5pm
Quantities are Limited

**SHORT ON TIME?
ORDER TO GO!**



VOTED MARICOPA'S
BEST BURGER

520.426.6832 ARROYOGRILLE.COM

EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST \$5



TWO EGGS, BACON, HASHBROWNS FOR \$5 BEFORE 8AM. MUST PRESENT COUPON TO SERVER. NO SUBSTITUTIONS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER SPECIALS, OFFERS OR DISCOUNTS. ONE COUPON PER TABLE. NO SPLIT CHECKS. DOES NOT INCLUDE ALCOHOL. NON-TRANSFERABLE. NOT AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS. OFFER EXPIRES 01/31/19.

520.426.6832

ARROYOGRILLE.COM



Proudly owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community **TRON GOLF**

48456 WEST HIGHWAY 238 • MARICOPA

ADVERTISER INDEX

Ace Hardware.....	37
Ace Home Services.....	IBC
Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club	56
Arizona Renaissance Festival.....	54
Banner Casa Grande Medical Center	21
Brutinel Plumbing & Electrical.....	45
Caliche Senior Living.....	20
Central Arizona College	20
Comfort Keepers.....	48
Copa Shorts Film Fest.....	55
Copple & Copple, P.C.....	16
Electrical District No. 3.....	15
Express Flooring.....	26
EZ Roll Out Shelves.....	47
FitLife Med Spa.....	15
Harrah's Ak-Chin	1
The Hearing Centers of Arizona.....	41
HomeSmart Success / Brian French	45
HomeSmart Success / Dayv Morgan.....	43, 47
Housing Around AZ / Jase Leonard.....	45
InMaricopa	39
InMaricopa.com	31
J Warren Funeral Services.....	15
James A Chaston CPA.....	33, 35
Leading Edge Academy	16
Lizard Heights Glass	42
Longevity Athletics.....	48
Maricopa Eye Care	9
Maricopa Foot and Ankle.....	21
Maricopa Unified School District.....	23, 27
McLaughlin Air.....	IFC
Mr. Appliance of Maricopa.....	45
Mr. Electric	43
Native Grill & Wings.....	55
Orbitel Communications.....	3
Premier Orthodontics	25
Santa Cruz Commerce Center	5
Senior Info/Expo.....	49
Smiley Dental.....	22
Sun Life Family Health Center.....	46
Tomar Pain Centers.....	41
UltraStar Multi-tainment Center.....	BC
The UPS Store	43
Vekol Market.....	36
Victor Moreno Photography.....	54

ABSOLUTE

AIR COMFORT

Heating and Air Conditioning

**JOINS OUR
FAMILY!**

ACE

HOME SERVICES

Since 1994

Call for quick, honest, reliable A/C and Plumbing services 7 days a week!

- ✓ NO Weekend Charges
- ✓ NO Overtime Charges
- ✓ NO Holiday Charges
- ✓ NO After-Hours Charges
- ✓ FREE Estimates Valleywide

Proud sponsor
of Maricopa
youth sports

**BAD CREDIT?
BANKRUPTCY?
NO PROBLEM!**

Ask us about our exclusive
rent-to-own program for
new AC units.

**FREE
Service Call***

*with repair

Limited time offer. Expires 01-31-19.
Restrictions may apply. Call for details.

**Warehouse
Blowout Special**

A/C Units starting at

\$3,995

Limited time offer. Expires 01-31-19.
Restrictions may apply. Call for details.

Drain Cleaning Special

\$69

Includes FREE camera
inspection with cabled cleanout

Limited time offer. Expires 01-31-19.
Restrictions may apply. Call for details.



STUART MYERS
Service Technician and Maricopa Resident

ACE

HOME SERVICES

Veteran and Family Owned Since 1994

(520) 365-0001

www.AceHomeAZ.com



A+ rating

LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED
ROC LIC #283290, 286869



**SENIOR, VETERAN, & TEACHER
DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE**

**0% FINANCING
AVAILABLE**

**UP TO 72 MONTHS ON
QUALIFYING A/C SYSTEMS**

Offer not valid with other offers. Residential Heating & Cooling
Units only. On approved credit. Restrictions may apply.

inMaricopa

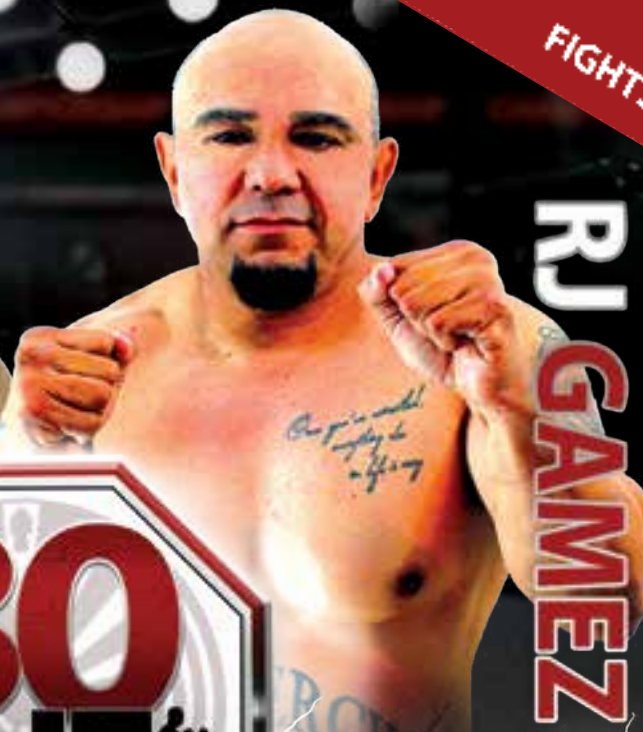
44400 W. Honeycutt Road
Suite 101
Maricopa, AZ 85138

ECRWSS

Postal Customer
Local

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Maricopa, AZ
Permit No. 13

JEFF THORNTON



15
FIGHTS TOTAL!

RJ GAMEZ



MMA FIGHT NIGHT!

SATURDAY JAN 26TH, 2019

DOORS OPEN AT 3PM • FIGHTS START AT 4PM-8PM



VIP TABLES \$500 +TAX (SEATS 8) | FOUR TOPS \$200 +TAX | CAGESIDE \$75 +TAX | FRONT ROWS \$50 +TAX | GENERAL \$35 +TAX



Tickets can be bought online at **NITRO TICKETS** or www.rufmma.net.

Go to www.rufmma.net for more info.

*Card subject to change