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LEADING OFF

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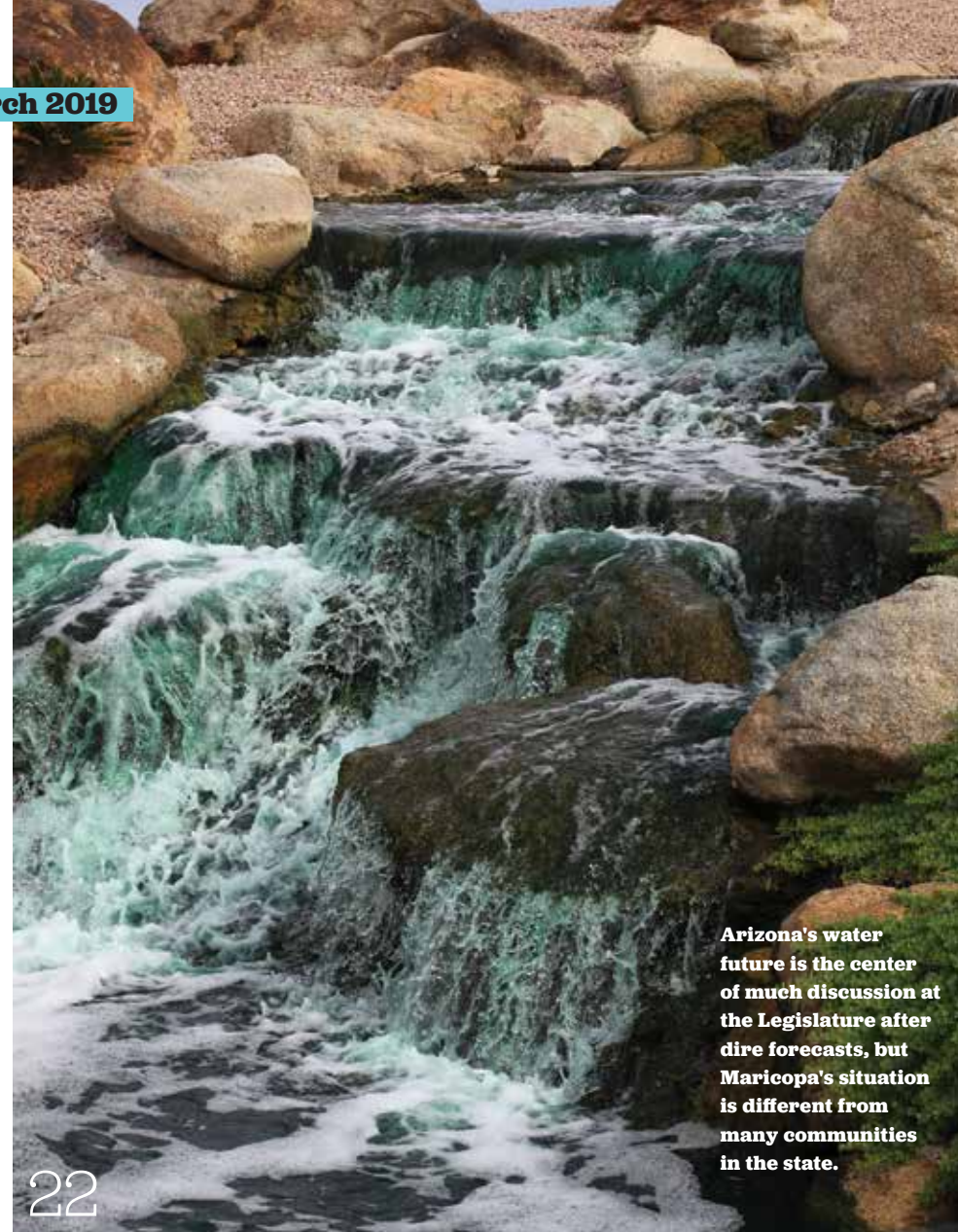
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Jim Headley

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ON THE COVER: InMaricopa launched in 2004 as 85239.com and started a magazine in 2006. This year the company is celebrating its 15th anniversary with a look back.

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Thanks for 15 years



When InMaricopa launched its online news service as 85239.com in March 2004, it was a one-person operation. The City of Maricopa was freshly minted as a municipality the previous autumn, and the population was growing exponentially.

Fifteen years later, we are looking back at how the company has changed as the city has evolved. 2004 was a big year, with a newly elected council, the arrival of Bashas' and Global Water, new schools built and parks planned. Since then, Maricopa boomed, busted and grew again. We salute all local businesses who weathered the Great Recession through wonderful support of residents and continue

to serve Maricopans.

While the city is seeing economic development and sales tax inflow like never before, there are challenges around the corner. The state is under a lingering cloud regarding water resources. In this issue, we look at how legislation will impact local agriculture and why Maricopa seems to be in a relatively strong position with its water supply.

Meet some of the outstanding Career Technical Education students at Maricopa High School, learn about strategic planning at City Hall and the school district, and find out about the mission of the Letters to Soldiers Club.

Our columnists have tips on growing tomatoes in Maricopa, being a good influence on youth and rising above bad habits.

And you will find lots to do in town this month, from Salsa Fest to the Spring Break Extravaganza Car Show — just check out our Things to Do section.

Happy reading,

RAQUEL HENDRICKSON | Editor

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Contributors



BERNADETTE RUSSONIELLO

The Career & College coordinator at Maricopa High School writes about educational opportunities in and beyond high school. She was regional Teacher of the Year for Association for Career and Technical Education in 2018.



RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

The editor of InMaricopa has a background in sports writing and her first "big" interview after college was with Whitey Herzog, then manager of the St. Louis Cardinals.



PRISCILLA BEHNKE

The director of Be Awesome Youth Coalition not only writes about keeping youth away from dangerous behavior but also about building them up to be leaders in their own lives.

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Gallery



Zezar Lopez of Casa Grande defeated Robert Shepardson of Avondale during the Ringside Unified Fighting mixed martial arts fights outside UltraStar Multi-tainment Center May 26.
Jim Headley



Mo Sheldon's Arizona Flying Circus at Motown Airport brought in hundreds of flight enthusiasts to the desert southwest of Maricopa Feb. 16.
Jim Headley



Arizona "hip historian" Marshall Shore had a presentation on Route 66 at Maricopa Public Library Feb. 4 for Maricopa Historical Society.
Raquel Hendrickson



Kevin McDill and Jeremy Waters with City Councilmember Rich Vitiello at Copper Sky promoted the annual Israel Calderon Softball Tournament to help the Calderon family.
Jim Headley



Students and other prospective employees met with employers during the Central Arizona College Job Expo Feb. 12.
Jim Headley



Artist and art teacher Kristal Hoeh explained her processes and toolbox for Maricopa Arts Council's "Inside the Creative Mind" series Feb. 9.
Raquel Hendrickson



Maricopan Jasper Smith competed in the All-Arizona Poetry Slam at Maricopa City Hall Feb. 2.
Jim Headley



A trucker drives through water on State Route 238 Feb. 22 and more than an inch of rain fell overnight and flooded streets and parks.
Jim Headley



City Manager Rick Horst (standing) talks to the city council about economic development during a retreat Feb. 6.
Jim Headley

History

Pool fades into history

A swimming pool that had been in Maricopa 60 years disappeared in February as the City of Maricopa filled it in with dirt. The work at the former Rotary Park was part of the plans to re-use the space next to Maricopa Unified School District and Maricopa Veterans Center. The property is now the new home of the California Zephyr railcar, which sits on the highway side of the old pool.

The pool opened in 1958, thanks to donations of money, labor and time by members of the Rotary Club and other residents of the community who deemed it a vital service after a string of drownings in local washes. The pool closed in 2014 after the opening of Copper Sky. Last year, the realignment of Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and creation of Plainview Street wiped out most of Rotary Park, leaving only the pool on the land that had been donated by the John and Mary Lou Smith family.



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Volunteer firefighters

Volunteer fire department watches 25 square miles in Hidden Valley

By Jim Headley

Members of the North Hidden Valley Volunteer Fire Department pay to protect 25 square miles of Pinal County out of their own pockets and through fundraisers.

Chuck Millar is chief of the department, and S.L. “Shotzy” Rimek assistant chief.

“Essentially, we’re in an area with no fire protection at all, and most of Pinal County is that way,” Millar said. “We agreed as a community that we needed some kind of fire protection. Without a dedicated area, the city wouldn’t come out to help much, so we decided to form our own.”

Millar said the group went to the State Fire Marshal’s Office and requested a designated area eight years ago. They now protect 25 square miles in western Pinal County.

“We respond to fires only. We do not have medical support. We have to rely on Ak-Chin typically, or the city, to cover that in this area,” Millar said.

The department has five trucks, about 20 firefighters — half of whom live in Maricopa — and a firehouse, located at Millar Airport, 53510 W McDavid Road.

The department averages 20 to 25 calls per year, Millar estimates. He said calls can be minor, such as a smoke alarm going off, while others can be a fully-engulfed structure fire.

North Hidden Valley Fire Department is completely volunteer-run and gets no funding from city or state governments. The department protects areas west of Maricopa, and there are no fire hydrants in that area. Firefighters fight fires only with the water they can bring with them.

“It’s all funded by our own people. We don’t have any public money. We’re not a fire district, so we don’t have any taxing authority,” he said. “Most is paid out of the pockets of firefighters. We don’t charge any fees to the residents.”

North Hidden Valley Volunteer Fire Department has a mutual aid agreement with Ak-Chin, Thunderbird and Stanfield.

Volunteer firefighters from the department were at Maricopa Meadows during the



Submitted



Submitted

The volunteers of the North Hidden Valley Fire Department don't see action often, as they did at a church fire (left), but they train regularly with Thunderbird and Ak-Chin departments.

Maricopa Open Disc Golf Tournament in January selling water to players and spectators as a fundraiser. They used the funds to help pay building and upkeep costs of a new training structure that has been donated to them by Milky Way Dairy.

The department has training and maintenance meetings monthly. They do mutual training with Thunderbird and Ak-Chin Fire Departments. Millar said it helps all departments when they cross-train together.

Josh Bush has been a NHVFD firefighter for only four months, yet he already understands the importance of their mission.

“I’m new to it, but I’m trying to do as much as I can to help them out,” Bush said. “Every month we have training, so everyone can get their FF1 and FF2 firefighter credentials. We’ve learned a lot about venting roofs and putting holes in walls and roofs to help alleviate heat from a burning building.”

He said the volunteers get together to

perform maintenance on their trucks on a regular basis.

“Most of them are old Air Force and military firefighting vehicles. We make sure everyone knows how to drive them and operate the pumps. We do basic maintenance to make sure we’re not driving out a broken truck,” Bush said.

Without any government funding, the volunteers pay the fire department bills by having fundraisers and even out of their own pockets.

“There is a need for something. I don’t think a lot of people realize, everybody on that side of the Hidden Valley area relies on our fire department to be there to fix things if there is a fire,” Bush said. “There are no fire hydrants out there that can provide water for a burning building. There is no ability for other fire departments to get out there in time. It is a community service,” Bush said.



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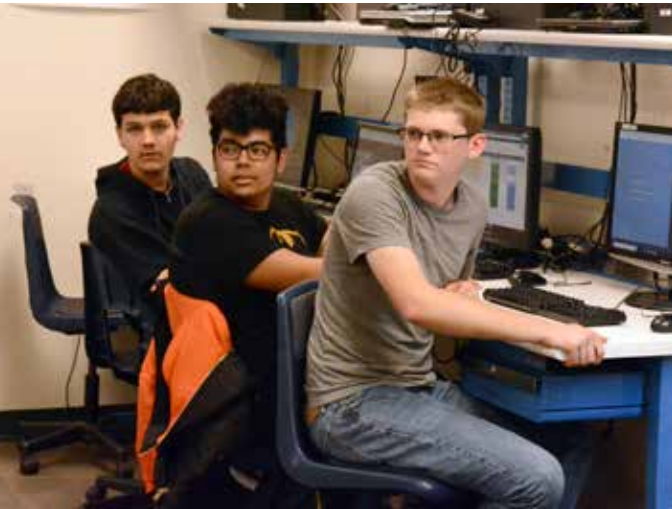
Gallery



Sequoia Pathway varsity girls' basketball team won the Division 2 state championship in Canyon Athletic Association play by defeating EVAC 24-18 Feb. 18 at Talking Stick Resort. The team was comprised of Farrah Ballou, Kymani Bledsoe, Leiana Brenes, Aleina Estrada, Paris Jones, Alicia Lewis, Jasmin Nafarrate, Destiny Rosales and coaches Dee and Jesse Estrada. *Submitted*



Jasmin Dimas told the story of 19th century astronomer Henrietta Swan Leavitt, who discovered a new way to measure distances, in a Maricopa High School production of "Silent Sky." *Raquel Hendrickson*



Members of Maricopa High School's 24PinTech IT crew Antonio Gonzales, Andre Martinez and Aaron Carpenter prepped the department for a tech recycling event.

Raquel Hendrickson



Lyla Kraay, Jamie Judkins, Madison Webster and Monroe Goodrich were penguins in the Legacy Traditional School production of "Mary Poppins Jr."

Raquel Hendrickson



Miss Indian ASU Kyla Jade Silas (left), Mr. Indian ASU Randal (RJ) Morin and other Arizona State University Sun Devils spoke during Maricopa Unified School District's Native American Regalia Fashion Show. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Legacy Traditional School hosted a VEX Robotics IQ Challenge Feb. 9 and placed first and second out of 11 teams. *Raquel Hendrickson*



MHS Theatre Company cast of the musical "[Title of Show]" were Kade Kruse, Julie Goodrum, Haley Raffaele, Joey Russoniello and Alex Hurley. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Leading Edge Academy hosted Diversity Day Feb. 4, and Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel led students in a community dance.

Raquel Hendrickson



Maricopa High School seniors Destiny Chavis (24) and Jayla Johnson (12) had their hands full with the state's top team in Arizona Interscholastic Association play during the 5A quarterfinals, ending the season with a loss against Jasmine Singleton (2) and Millennium Feb. 14, 71-35. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Isabella Ayala, 16, with teacher Glen Hale at Sequoia Pathway, was one of the new program's early students. *Raquel Hendrickson*

Celebrating success in CTE with students exemplifying ‘what’s next’

By Bernadette Russoniello

February was CTE month, celebrating all things related to Career Technical Education. Maricopa High School hosted a number of events, from Future Freshmen Tours and Showcase to CPR classes, Market Day student business expo and technology recycling. What better way to celebrate CTE than to profile some of our most successful seniors?



Bernadette Russoniello

Jennifer Nguyen (Technical Theatre) initially chose Technical Theatre because she wanted to be part of a fun, hands-on program... and to get to DJ. She was inspired her freshman year when she attended her first dance concert — she found herself more fascinated by the digital lighting, the sound and transitions than by the dancers. She found even more opportunities in Tech Theatre, including event management, show production, set design, construction, lighting, sound and rigging. She even was part of the flight crew for “Peter Pan.” She intends to pursue audio engineering as a career and will start class at the Conservatory for Recording Arts and Science this fall.

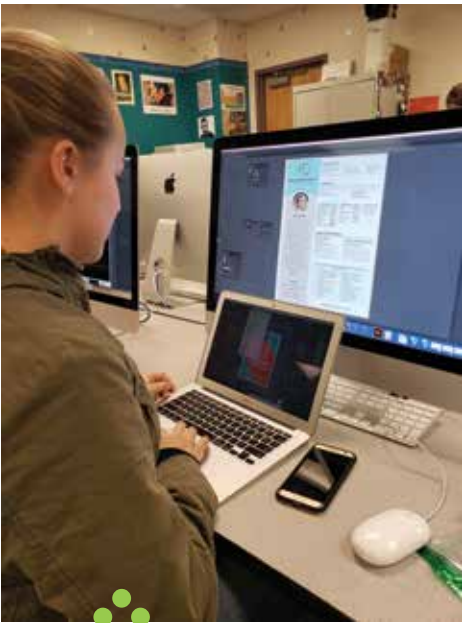


Hayley Mase (AFJROTC) originally joined Junior ROTC for the leadership opportunities. The core values of service before self, integrity first and excellence above all resonated with her as a ninth grader. She explains the most impactful experience in JROTC has been the personal changes, morphing her from a shy young woman afraid to speak publicly to the commanding officer for the entire program. Hayley aspires to a career in the military as a pilot and has received Congressional nominations to the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Naval Academy and West Point. She will receive her appointment by April.

Brayden Sanders (Computer Networking) enjoys taking things apart and learning how they work. He always has had an interest in the complexity of computers. However, it was the mentorship of teacher Brad Chamberlain who inspired Brayden to take his interests to the next level. He loves the possibilities in the Networking class — competitions, work experience, industry certifications and the potential for high paying jobs and careers. Brayden is already an IT assistant for MUSD. Brayden plans to attend a university in the fall, majoring in computer science with the goal of working as a cyber security analyst to protect companies and consumers. Brayden has already been accepted to University of Michigan, Penn State, Colorado School of Mines, New York Institute of Technology, Illinois Institute of Technology, ASU, NAU and Gus Davis. He is considering the many offers and scholarships and will make his final decision later this spring.



Ivan Maldonado (Automotive Technologies) joined Auto because of his personal interest in cars. He enjoyed working on engines before joining the class. However, in MHS Auto Shop he learned more than he imagined possible. He credits teacher Erick Fierro with finding ways to teach both practice and theory; to demonstrate hands-on in the shop yet familiarize students with manuals and “by the book” techniques. Ivan will attend Yavapai Community College to study collision repair.



Katelyn Dayley (Graphic Design) was accidentally placed into graphic design her sophomore year — she never even signed up for the course. However, because of her background in art, she soon realized the potential in the program. Katelyn was fascinated realizing we are surrounded by graphic design in images, logos, social media posts, print media, TV and broadcast. She has enjoyed her ability to create while contributing to her school and community with her designs. Katelyn plans to pursue a career in graphic design and advertising. She will attend CAC on her Promise for the Future Scholarship, serve a mission for her church and eventually transfer to BYU-Idaho to finish her degree.

Jacquelyn “Jackie” Cooter (Marketing) chose marketing on purpose. She was new to Maricopa, painfully shy and knew she needed a program to help her get out of her shell. What she’s enjoyed most about marketing are the real-world skills — public speaking, presentations, pricing, the psychology of marketing and perspectives into the adult world. Jackie plans to major in nursing at ASU on a full-ride scholarship and knows she will take the professional skills, conflict resolution, project management and inter-personal communication skills with her into her future career.





Tyler Griego (Computer Repair and Maintenance) had an early interest in computers. He figured taking a computer class would be an “easy A.” He was unprepared for where the rabbit-hole of technology would lead him. Tyler enjoys creating websites and appreciates the most important elements of his learning: personal accountability, time management and people skills. Tyler attributes teacher Brad Chamberlain’s caring, enthusiasm and genuine passion as a major source for his success. Tyler will attend ASU with a full tuition waiver and major in computer science with an emphasis in cybersecurity. He’s open to career possibilities in any tech-related field.



Alana Daniels (Culinary Arts) comes from a family heritage of cooks; her mother is a professional chef. She entered the program as a sophomore with a passion for food and fond memories of making dough in her grandma’s kitchen. Alana has an interest in culinary arts therapy — using food and food preparation as healing. Alana will attend Johnson and Wales University in Denver, earning \$70,000 in scholarships. Pending the outcome of her upcoming CCAP competition, Alana could earn a full ride from the American Culinary Federation to complete her study in culinary arts.

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Letters to Soldiers sends a piece of home overseas

By Raquel Hendrickson

For nearly nine years, U.S. service-members stationed around the world have been receiving packages from Maricopa.

The Letters to Soldiers Club sends cards, letters and care boxes to deployed troops, most of whom are strangers. It all started as an after-school project.

“Back in 2010 I kind of created the opportunity to send support to the troops,” said LTS founder and Villages resident Heather Blakely. “At my son’s school [Legacy], we would get together about once a week during the school year and write cards and letters.”

The project evolved as the school conducted donation drives, and soon care packages were being assembled. Letters to Soldiers became a year-round activity.

“I have a couple of organizations online that I’ve known for years. They usually provide the names,” Blakely said. “Some of them are family and friends. At some of the vendor events here in town, I’ve been able to connect with a couple wives whose husbands are currently deployed, so it’s nice to represent the locals.”

The organization achieved its nonprofit status in 2018. To do so, it needed a board. Blakely reached out to one of her former tennis students, Alicia Hills, and to Robin Bennett, who had allowed LTS to bring its cards to Maricopa Community Church as part of a crafts project.

Hills’ father and grandparents were in the military. “It’s always something that’s held a high value, very honorable to me,” she said. “I have cousins that are in the military as well. I just think if I were in their shoes and in a foreign country, it would be nice to have those comforts of home and the assurance that people are thinking of you.”

Bennett, too, has had family in the military, and her son was a military contractor in Kuwait.

“He told me when a box came, even his box came where the soldiers got their boxes, and they are all over those boxes,” she said. “It’s just a piece of home.”

Blakely said becoming a nonprofit opened opportunities to gain more fundraising avenues and grants.

“And it gives it some legitimacy to what you’re doing because they know that you have to go through checks and balances on the other side,” Hills said.

“Otherwise, it comes out of her pocket,” Bennett said.

With a goal of shipping 20 packages a month, LTS also seeks more local businesses and organizations as sponsors. A large box costs \$18.45 just for shipping. The group attends many vendor events in town, including Salsa Fest and Merry Copa, to gain sponsors and collect donations.

“And that’s something we want to do more of,” Hills said, “through getting our name out in the public to the community and letting people know, ‘Hey, we’re here to support your deployed loved one.’”

The website LettersToSoldiersClub.com includes a list of most-requested items on its contact page. Those include baby wipes, baby powder and beef jerky. Western Kentucky University even donated small towels. Last year, LTS sent out 106 care packages to service members.

For Halloween, the club hosted “Treats for Troops” with dentist Karen Kramarczyk offering a \$1-per-pound buyback of donated excess candy. During Veterans Day weekend, a box-packing event at Blakely’s house finished with 40 packages.

The club partners with the Casa Grande school district and has groups within Maricopa schools participating. The Maricopa High School National Honor Society has provided letters to soldiers and some boxes.



Raquel Hendrickson

Heather Blakely (from left), Alicia Hills and Robin Bennett of the Letters to Soldiers Club.

While the club does not release the names of service members for operations security, it wants to build up its list of troop members. Blakely said they want to have that on the website by the end of the year, “so they can contact us, and we can get their names out to those who want to support.”

Besides those deployed, the club wants to reach out to Maricopa’s service members who still may be stateside. They sent packages to both Maricopans currently at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Hills said LTS supports veterans through the Tucson Honor Flight Program and has a soft-spot for K9 military working dogs and their handlers.

“The postal service, on an APO address, gives you a \$2 discount on the large size,” Bennett said. “That’s a nice thing for the postal system to do.”

“Generally, if you send to one service member, they share with about five,” Blakely said. “So, the larger the better, so there’s more to share.”

[LettersToSoldiersClub.com](https://www.lettersetosoldiersclub.com)

HOW TO HELP

- Craft handmade cards, write hero letters, color pages
- Donate care-package supplies
- Host a packing party
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- Follow “Letters to Soldiers Club” on Facebook
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Add your deployed Marine, Airman, Soldier or Sailor to the LTS Club beneficiary list at LettersToSoldiersClub@gmail.com

Fyre up your influence on youth

By Priscilla Behnke

The temporary highs associated with illicit drugs, the false sense of security through insincere relationships, the seeking of momentary comfort and happiness instead of perseverance and long-term purpose doesn't end well. We have a plan to influence the culture through our programs like mentoring, education and other community services.

An anecdote of how culture can lead to disarray is Fyre Festival. Netflix and Hulu both released documentaries on the ordeal. In case you don't know what the Fyre Festival is, here's a quick recap. An overindulgent 20-something with too much access to investors and celebrities simultaneously closes himself off from those wiser and more experienced. He ends up overwhelmed. Then, when he can't deliver on any of his promises, he attempts to con his way out.

Thousands of millennials lose even more thousands of dollars, get trapped on an island with subpar, unsafe and unsanitary conditions. Then no bands showed up to perform. The head organizer is now serving a six-year prison sentence, owes \$26 million from a criminal conviction and is facing millions more in civil lawsuits.



Priscilla Behnke

To date, few have seen their money. This includes the staff, contractors and customers who couldn't convince their banks the charges were fraudulent. Each documentary attempts to dissect how the calamity occurred. Each appeared to agree that a slick and well-strategized social media campaign carried out with several celebrity influencers was key. One quote from the Hulu documentary is "what the Fyre Festival did prove was that the power of influence is real."

People raised red flags on social media, a website was updated daily with the dysfunction on the island, and the *Wall Street Journal* wrote a piece. No one listened. The platforms for the warnings were no match to counter the influencers' hype.

In the end, thousands had a desperate experience while paying for the privilege. Each documentary tried to conclude who was to blame. Neither questioned the concertgoers and a culture that would lead so many to ignore the warnings and expend as many dollars as they did to hang out with those they deemed fabulous.

Andrew Klavan, author and political commentator, is right when he says polls don't matter, culture does. If we don't start aiming to impact our culture, we will see more disasters.

The good news is parents are still ranked the No. 1 influencer in their children's lives. You have more power than a glitzy, well-produced media campaign. Utilize it.

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

Kyrene/Tempe parents explain decision to send kids out of town

By Murray Siegel

The December education column discussed students who should attend Maricopa Unified School District schools but ride to schools in Kyrene and Tempe.

Parents of these students were asked why they send their children out of town. What follows is a digest of some of those replies.

One parent raised concerns about her special-needs son, who received grades of D and F in Maricopa but who has gotten A's and B's in Tempe. She writes, "You want these children and their funding back, prove to us (parents) that we can trust you to not only properly educate our children but to keep them safe, comfortable and really CARE what happens with them."



Murray Siegel

Another parent is concerned about the teaching of math and writes, "I have friends who go to the schools in Maricopa and they are falling behind in math. Maybe hiring teachers with higher pay and see how the Kyrene school district does it. I don't have the kids take the bus. We drive them every day."

A third parent has one child in a Kyrene middle school and one in a Tempe high school.

Her top reasons for leaving MUSD are academic programs and available electives. Concerns also include spending significant funds on a new math curriculum while disregarding needed building maintenance.

A parent whose children were bused to high school in Tempe and are now in college was concerned about restrictions on her children's growth. When they had the chance to go to Tempe, they did, and they say the results validated that decision.

Another parent is sending her daughter to kindergarten in Kyrene because of the Dual Language Academy. She wrote, "I do not enjoy waking up my little girl at 5:30 in the morning, but her father and I feel that this is a sacrifice that she will benefit from."

MUSD Superintendent Tracey Lopeman was sent all the parental comments with any identifying information deleted before transmission. Excerpts from the superintendent's reply:

Knowing there was room for improvement, I implemented Superintendent's Advisory Councils for students, parents and employees to share observations and identify goals to support the needs of students and families. The District also invited parents, students, and community leaders to work with district staff to begin developing a Five-Year Strategic Plan.

This year, MUSD led the state in new National Board Certified Teachers. Often referred to as the "gold standard" of achievement, National Board Certification asks educators to demonstrate standards-based evidence of the dynamic instruction that takes place in their classrooms.

Obviously, the new superintendent is motivated to accelerate improvement in Maricopa schools. Hopefully, her leadership will upgrade MUSD schools so more students will attend school here.

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



Dr. C. Jon Beecroft



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Education

CAC revises high school program opportunities

By Angela Askey
Executive Director Public Relations and Marketing

Central Arizona College recently revised its high school program opportunities to provide the best experience for Pinal County high school students. In prior years, the college offered a First Step program during the summer and an Early College program during each fall and spring semester. With the newest changes, these two programs have been combined and are now officially named the Early College program.



CAC will continue to provide a quality opportunity to access college-level course work for Pinal County high school students through the Early College program. Students will have access to the five-credit tuition waiver beginning the summer after the completion of their sophomore year through the summer after their senior year. The admissions and enrollment process for this programming will remain the same with an online application form to be available in the future.



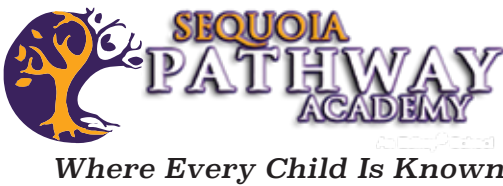
To ensure students are working on early college completion and advancing their college-goal attainment, they will be required

to take college-level courses. Additionally, participants must meet CAC’s GPA component for all terms as opposed to just the fall and spring semesters. The migration of the summer First Step program to the Early College program will be phased in as CAC moves into the 2019 summer session.

The Early College programming change was implemented to provide a more optimal experience for students and families of Pinal County. Access to programming for college ready students, the ability to increase accountability amongst participants, and to limit continued confusion that exists among all stakeholders, were all key factors the college considered.

 Centralaz.edu/EarlyCollege
 [Hazel Rossi EarlyCollege@centralaz.edu](mailto:Hazel.Rossi.EarlyCollege@centralaz.edu)

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

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–**Trecia Koozer, Teacher**

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The Ak-Chin Industrial Park Board recently welcomed two new tenants, AP Cycle and LiquidateAZ, to the Mesquite Building and is working with current tenant, Rockstar Arizona, on an expansion project.



Ibarra Family Farms has broken ground in Santa Cruz Commerce Center. Construction of the 16,000 SF greenhouse will be underway in March 2019.



The neighboring Ak-Chin Regional Airport just completed its 2019 resurfacing project.



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County ag at ‘edge of sustainability,’ but Maricopa touts strong water supply

By Jim Headley



Jim HEADLEY



Jim HEADLEY

Drought and global warming are combining to turn Arizona’s dream into a mid-summer nightmare. According to many climatologists, Arizona is in the worst drought in more than 1,000 years, based on tree-ring studies. Maricopa City Councilman Marvin L. Brown said the state is already into a severe water crisis.

Brown serves on the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority, which has a presence in and provides input on state and regional water issues. Representatives from cities in Pinal County sit on the board.

“Even with Global Water’s very sophisticated process of cleansing, I give Arizona 30 years, if that long,” Brown said. “I don’t even think it will be that long. Lake Mead seriously is distressed. We are not getting the snowfall that we’re used to getting. We’re not getting the rain. I don’t think I’m being pessimistic, I am being realistic.”



Jim HEADLEY

Maricopa’s Water Outlook

Meanwhile, Maricopa’s future looks solid compared to the rest of the state because of water.

“Global Water has a really great supply,” said Jake Lenderking, Global Water Resources director of Water Resources. “They have a designation of an assured supply for our service area and for growth in our service area.”

Lenderking said because Maricopa is a relatively new city, Global has been able to design a unique and efficient water delivery and sewer system.

“We have water, and nobody else does,” City Manager Rick Horst said at a Maricopa City Planning & Zoning Commission meeting Feb. 7. “The message that is going out to all the world is ‘Arizona has a 20-year drought and they have a water problem.’ All the headlines say we’re in trouble, but we are not.”

“I actually agree with that,” said Brian Betcher, general manager of the Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District. “The city of Maricopa is sitting on some of the best groundwater. This is groundwater that I use to supply to farmers. This is the shallowest groundwater in the area. The farther south and east you go, the deeper it gets. This is our most-abundant and least-expensive water supply.”

He said Pinal County is a great place to grow crops, if you have the water to do it. That is a big “if.”



Jim HEADLEY

Global Water CEO Ron Fleming included Maricopa Economic Development Alliance among the organizations he spoke to in February about Arizona’s water situation.

Pinal County Agriculture at a Minimum

In Arizona’s newly passed Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), farmers in Pinal County stand to lose two-thirds of the irrigation water they have been receiving from the Colorado River.

The DCP is an effort to keep the Colorado River’s major reservoirs from reaching catastrophically low levels. DCP goes into effect

when levels in Lake Mead hit a specified low level of 1090 MSL (mean sea level). Lake Mead is currently at 1085 MSL, meaning water experts believe Arizona will likely lose quite a bit of their Colorado River allocations in 2020.

Betcher testified twice before state legislative committees as they were forging the DCP.

Continued on page 24

Maricopa’s water supply

RICK HORST, CITY MANAGER: “We have water and no body else does,” Horst said Thursday at a Maricopa City Planning meeting. “The message that is going out to all the world is ‘Arizona has a 20-year drought and they have a water problem.’ All the headlines say we’re in trouble, but we’re not. We have lots of land and access to two major transportation corridors and a railroad. Not only do we have land, it’s inexpensive land. People now are paying attention to us.”



BRIAN BETCHER, MARICOPA-STANFIELD IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT GENERAL MANAGER: “I actually agree with that. The water companies have the ability to access, right now, on 100 percent groundwater. The city of Maricopa is sitting on some of the best groundwater. This is groundwater that I used to supply to farmers. This is the shallowest groundwater in the area. The further south and east you go the deeper it gets. This is our most abundant and least expensive water supply. The water table is higher here. This area under the city has benefited from the fact of having CAP water to the whole area and having groundwater supplies increase. Right now, they are positioned really good for water supplies.”



JAKE LENDERKING, GLOBAL WATER DIRECTOR OF WATER RESOURCES: “Yes, it is plain and simple. Our designation of an assured supply to 22,000 acre-feet is that water. We have proven that there is the groundwater. We have proved that we effectively use less though using recycled water. It is there, and we’ve proven it to a third party. ADWR has a rigorous process. These applications often take a long time. It is our primary thing. We can’t run out of water - then we don’t have business. In the long term, if we need more water for growth we going to go get it - that is our job (at Global Water); it’s what we do.”





Victor Moreno

For a closer look at Maricopa's sustainability, follow this series online at InMaricopa.com.

"Happy is not a great word," he said. "(I am) satisfied that they preserved what was agreed to in the steering committee."

Betcher said the agricultural industry in Arizona got the minimum amount of water necessary to keep ag alive in the agreement.

"It is the best that we could probably do in this environment. It is important to the state that the DCP gets done. We (ag) are the lowest-priority, water-user group. There stands to be a huge potential for economic loss in the ag community in Pinal County," Betcher said.

Without a drought plan in place, Arizona would still lose a total of 320,000 acre-feet of water from the Colorado River. When the DCP is fully triggered, in the event Lake Mead gets below 1075 MSL, an extra 192,000 acre-feet will be held back. This means Arizona effectively loses 512,000 acre-feet of water from the Colorado River if the drought continues.

In a hypothetical irrigation water loss study, the University of Arizona found the effects on Pinal County and its economy could be enormous. If there were a loss of 300,000-acre feet of water in the county, the study estimated:

- \$63.5 million to \$66.7 million (7 percent) loss in gross, farm-gate sales
- \$94 million to \$104 million loss in total county sales
- \$31.7 million to \$35 million loss in county value added (e.g. net farm income, profits in other industries, employee compensation and tax revenues)
- 240 to 480 full- and part-time jobs lost

Currently, producers in the Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District receive 82,000 acre-feet annually. That would be reduced to about 35,000 acre-feet from the Colorado River under DCP.

Betcher told district members 30 to 40 percent of lands in the area could go fallow and not be farmed. He said Colorado River water cutbacks to 105,000 acre-feet in the CAP system will take Pinal County agriculture "right to the edge of sustainability."

Assured Water Supply

"A landowner or certain water utilities like us get designated as having an assured supply," Lenderking said. "You have to prove to the Department of Water Resources that you have a 100-year assured supply. When you prove that, you get a certificate or, like here in Maricopa, we went and got a designation under the utilities, and the landowner doesn't

have to prove it. We have it for our whole service area that we have 100 years of assured supply."

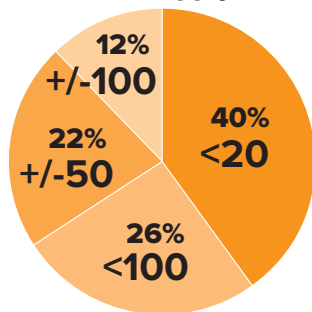
He said this means Global Water can serve an adequate amount of water to Maricopa for 100 years.

"We have the right to pump the groundwater beneath us," Lenderking said. "To say that it is there for 100 years, we had to actually prove through groundwater modeling that it exists. That water is there."

For Brown, however, it's not just water supply that will impact the ability to grow. He said he doesn't see any way out of insufferable drought and heat for the entire Southwest in the next 30 years. He said temperatures could hit "135 to 140 degrees."

"Climate change is real. The drought will, more than likely, continue. Since I've been here, the summers have been longer and hotter." ☞

How many years will Maricopa's water supply last?



Total votes: 177.

Source: InMaricopa.com Feb. 12-Feb. 18, 2019

Drought means no shortage of water issues

By Congressman Tom O'Halleran

There is nothing more important to the future of our state and the entire southwest region of our country than our access to water. I have spent most of my time in public service, as a state legislator, concerned citizen and community leader, and now in the United States House of Representatives, working extensively on Arizona water issues. I understand just how important this resource is to Arizona.

For years, Arizona has worked to implement a drought plan that ensures our state continues to have access to water from the Colorado River and other in-state water sources, while protecting the health of our waterways and national parks and forests. The outcomes of this work must honor our settlement agreements with Native American tribes and nations and ensure the rights of private property owners are protected. The decades-long drought Arizona is facing and the realities of climate change have jeopardized the long-term accessibility of our water and increased the fervency of getting a plan in place.

During my time in the Arizona Legislature, I spent years working with Republicans and Democrats alike to create Arizona's first-ever conservation, drought and statewide water management plans. I led these efforts, and my legislation to develop and implement these critical plans was passed with broad, bipartisan support.

Today, the recent passage of the Drought Contingency Plan expands on my work. The interstate plan is an important step, and I am pleased with the outcome. My staff and I have worked closely with tribal, local, state, and federal stakeholders throughout the entire process, and we must continue to work together to ensure this plan works for everyone in the state.

Now, as a member of the House of Representatives, I have continued to make protecting our state's water resources a priority. Two different efforts to jeopardize our watersheds in Northern Arizona were turned back in the last two years.

The first, a \$23 million cut to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund, would have impacted management programs and research that protects the long-term health of the Grand Canyon watershed and management of water supplies on the Colorado River. The second attack on our water came with the threat that the Administration would lift a ban on uranium mining near the Grand Canyon watershed. Uranium mining in the region would have a disastrous impact on our natural resources in an area that is still coping with the toxic legacy of abandoned uranium mines from World War II. I worked alongside then-Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva to prevent this ban from being lifted.

In addition to water conservation and sustainability across the state, there are communities in the most rural parts of the First Congressional District who are facing a completely different water issue. Rural and tribal communities often lack water infrastructure, leaving families without safe, clean drinking water. We were successful in passing legislation in the past year to allow the White Mountain Apache Tribe to use available funds to build a water delivery system that provides communities throughout the region with clean water. There are still communities that are facing this problem, and I will continue working to fund these critical infrastructure projects.

There will not be a shortage of water issues that will need to be addressed in the coming years, but it is imperative that we start those discussions sooner than later. Our children and grandchildren are relying on us to take action to ensure our state remains competitive and our economy thrives. We have a great deal of work ahead of us, but I am confident that we can work together to serve the needs of our communities today, and into the future. ☞

Tom O'Halleran is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing Arizona's District 1. A Democrat, he lives in the Village of Oak Creek.



Our children and grandchildren are relying on us to take action to ensure our state remains competitive and our economy thrives.

Planning

Goal-Makers

City, school district plan for future

In February, the leadership of Maricopa Unified School District and the City of Maricopa laid out goals and strategies for the near future.

MUSD Superintendent Tracey Lopeman shared elements of the district's strategic plan with Maricopa Economic Development Alliance before the full plan went before governing board for approval in February.

"Our four goals came from our inclusive process," she said. "This began in August with a group of over 100 people — parents, students, teachers, board members, the administrators, representatives of the police department, city council, the mayor was there, city manager was there, other community agencies were there. It was completely representative of every stakeholder group in the city."



MUSD Strategic Plan Goals

- 1 Every student graduating prepared to create, innovate, lead and succeed
- 2 Every student with access to and equity in excellent educational services, resources and programs
- 3 Organizational culture that prioritizes people over programs and invests in the support of students and staff
- 4 Community pride through excellent customer service, sound business practices, open and effective communication, and safe and attractive facilities

Maricopa City Council (from left) front row Marvin Brown, Mayor Christian Price and Vice Mayor Henry Brown; back row Rich Vitiello, Nancy Smith, Vincent Manfredi and Julia Gusse.

With each goal were a set of strategies Lopeman called critical to district success. "We're working on a number of our processes and procedures right now."

City Manager Rick Horst said the City's strategic plan is a two-year program "designed to provide a higher strategic direction that will give the community a better sense of where the city is heading."

Maricopa's guidepost is the 2040 Vision Plan, and the City has an ongoing process of setting goals and determining strategies, which Horst presented at a council retreat in February.

City of Maricopa Wildly Important Goals (WIGs)

- 1 Expedite removal of Maricopa from the FEMA 100-year flood plain
- 2 Public/private utilities infrastructure of the city ensures that economic development remains robust and citizens are served in the best and most reliable way
- 3 Encourage development of industrial and business parks to enhance employment opportunities and bolster the local economy
- 4 Creative placemaking and event tourism — creating a destination city
- 5 Evaluate annexation of land to accommodate the city's projected growth and economic prosperity

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Submitted

So, how many kinds of tomatoes are there?

By Julie Olson

Tomatoes are the most popular plant for the home gardener. Looking through a seed catalogue is a daunting experience and selecting which varieties to grow is a challenge. Several questions need to be addressed:

How will the fruit be used?

The tiny cherry tomatoes, which are available in many colors, are great for salads. Oblong paste tomatoes like Roma and San Marzano are meaty and contain less juice. They're great for salsa and recipes that require diced fruit. The larger beefsteak-style are sliced for sandwiches. Costoluto varieties are wonderful when used for roasting or stewing. Each type of fruit contributes different characteristics which determine their best use.

How much garden space do you have?

Plant breeders have developed compact-sized

plants that grow well in a large pot on the patio. These varieties usually produce smaller fruit with fewer per plant. Bush-style plants can support themselves and don't require being staked. These will take less room in your garden. Vine tomatoes must be staked or surrounded by cages. The sprawling habit can cover a large area if not controlled.



Julie Olson

Do you want lots of fruit at one time? If you are canning and preserving tomatoes, a determinate variety will produce fruit that ripens within a concentrated time period. Most heirloom tomatoes are considered indeterminate. These varieties will fruit over an extended time. Determinate or indeterminate type will be indicated on the plant tag or seed package of each variety.

Heirloom vs. hybrid tomato? Heirloom varieties have withstood the test of time. Seed has been saved and passed down through generations of growers. Heirlooms are almost as famous for being fickle in the garden as they are for their wonderful taste. Hybrid varieties are cross-pollinated from two different plants. They have been developed by growers for extra disease resistance, size or flavor. Fruit usually has thicker skin, which allows for less cracking.



Now, back to the original question — How many tomatoes are there? Listed heirlooms are about 3,000 varieties. Approximately 15,000 hybrids have been developed, with more to come.

Julie Olson is a member of the Maricopa Master Gardeners. They can be reached at macmastergardener@gmail.com.

Deep clean your home to sell faster

By Dayv Morgan

Updating your home with the latest trends in paint, appliances or countertops will not do much to help you sell your home if they are surrounded by dirty bathrooms, smudged windows and stained carpets.

Most people will make an effort to get their home de-cluttered before listing, but a deep cleaning is just as important, and will help it to sell faster. Here are a few tips to remember when spring cleaning your home to go on the market:

Dust in high places. Just because you don't always see it, it doesn't mean it's not there. Clean the air vents, ceiling fan blades and the tops of the cabinets and fridge. Don't forget the tops of wall mirrors and wall art.

Change out HVAC air filters. Make sure you have clean air filters. In addition to being both unsightly and unhealthy, dirty air filters

can cause extra wear-and-tear on the system and worry buyers about how well the system has been maintained.

Focus on floors. Steam clean all carpets, as well as the tile and grout. Include the space under any appliances like the fridge and the stove. Wipe the tops of the baseboards or repaint them if needed.

Get the corners. Whether the floor, countertops or windows, debris gathers in the corners. Though they can be the most uncomfortable to clean, corners are among the first things a homebuyer notices.

Let the light shine. Make a room feel welcoming and open by letting in light. Wash the windows inside and out, clean any screens, curtains and blinds, dust light fixtures and replace burned-out bulbs.

Spruce up your home's entry. There is a

lot to be said for first impressions. It is a good idea to power-wash the driveway, sidewalks and porch. Sweep and dust around the front door and light fixtures, and even consider painting the door.

Hire a professional. Your definition of clean could be different from a buyer's definition of clean, and we tend to have certain spots that we always overlook. When all else fails, a professional cleaning company can make your home shine for just a few hundred dollars, and this can be one of the best investments you make in getting your home ready to sell.

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

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1. 41840 W. Granada Drive, Glennwilde

Jim Headley

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa from Jan. 16 to Feb. 15 was a brand-new spec home by Fulton Homes in the Sycamore section of Glennwilde. Sporting tons of upgrades, from faucets to hardware, it has four bedrooms on one level and was on the market less than two weeks. Though having no landscaping yet in the backyard, the home is 2,500 square feet and comes with a three-car garage.

Sold: Jan. 30
Purchase price: \$340,598
Square footage: 2,517
Price per square foot: \$135.31
Days on market: 13
Builder: Fulton Homes
Year built: 2018
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 3
Community: Glennwilde

Features: All-new features with upgrades, dimmable task lighting, multiple ovens, energy efficient, huge great room, covered patio
Listing Agent: Linn Adair, Fulton Home Sales
Selling Agent: Jennifer Schumacher, Century 21 Arizona Foothills

- 2. 16944 N. Palo Verde St., Palo Brea\$335,000
- 3. 41858 W. Almira Drive, Glennwilde\$307,500
- 4. 40936 W. Hopper Drive, Homestead North\$300,000
- 5. 40810 W. Parkhill Drive, The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado.....\$300,000

**LEAST
EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD**



Jim Headley

The least expensive home sold Jan. 16-Feb. 15 sold in an online auction by the owner/agent in January. A two-story, four-bedroom, no-frills house, it is nearly 12 years old with basic desert landscaping front and back.

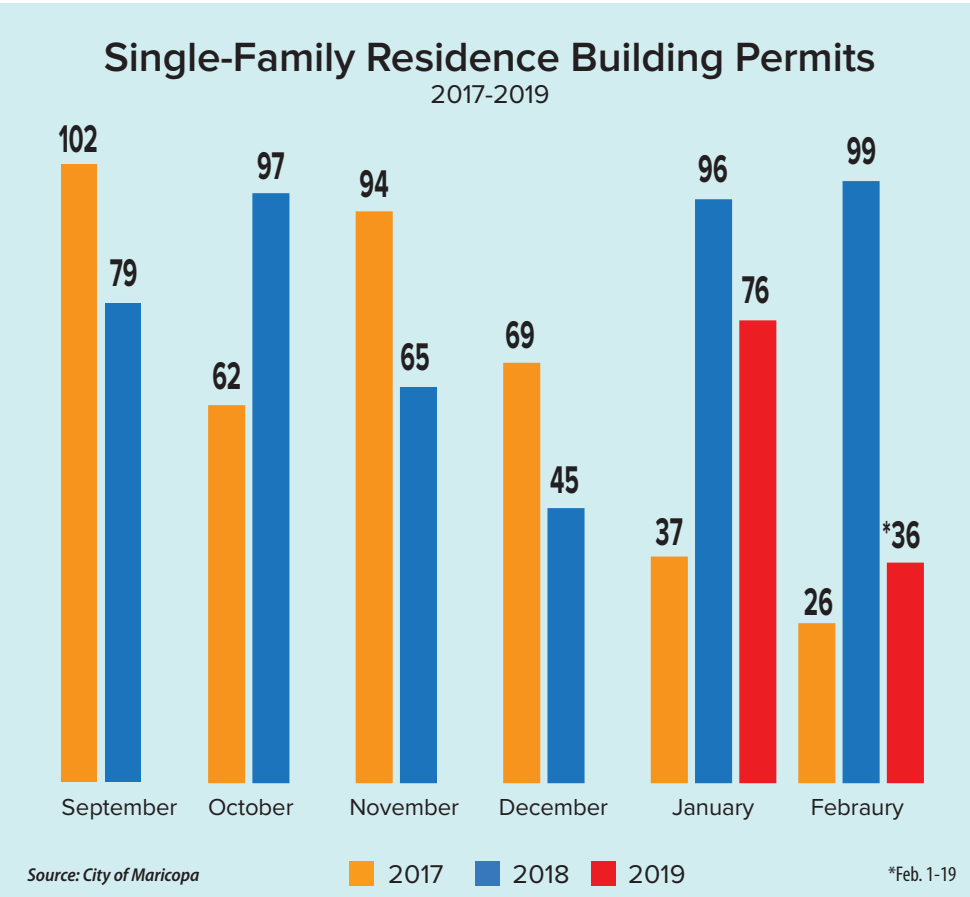
Sold: Jan. 28
Purchase price: \$154,000
Square footage: 2,195
Price per square foot: \$70.16
Days on market: 7
Builder: Meritage
Year built: 2007
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 2.5

Community: The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado
Features: Master bedroom downstairs, walk-in closets, large kitchen, water softener, tile flooring throughout lower level
Listing Agent: Don Juvan, Gentry Real Estate
Selling Agent: Don Juvan, Gentry Real Estate

- 2. 40215 W. Green Court, Desert Passage\$159,900
- 3. 35978 W. Costa Blanca Drive, Tortosa\$160,000
- 4. 42515 W. Hillman Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$164,000
- 5. 42359 W. Sunland Drive, Rancho El Dorado\$168,000

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

Permits



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Maricopa's Homepage

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15
Years
Since 2004

Trending on InMaricopa.com

- 1 Credit card skimmers found in Maricopa
- 2 Obituary: Charles Clayton Helton (1997-2019)
- 3 Subdivision to Subdivision: A Maricopa real estate analysis
- 4 Say goodbye to Rotary pool
- 5 City Council to hire architect for new library
- 6 Rising construction costs blew Tortosa Trails budget
- 7 Motorcyclist dies after collision with truck
- 8 Man accused of throwing rocks through house window
- 9 Global CEO talks about water cutbacks in Drought Contingency Plan
- 10 Man sentenced to 2 years for assault on Ak-Chin baby

City of Maricopa Programs & Activities

PLAY

Maricopa
Spring 2019

PROVIDING LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR YOU

For full program offerings go to PlayMaricopa.com



23

March



Salsa Fest

New to Salsa Fest this year:

- Prize give away including a trip to Disneyland
- Lucha Libre matches
- Hot sauce eating contests
- Mariachi battles
- Little Pepper Zone

Color Run

This vibrant, memorable, family event is really a great chance to participate in a new and different event that involves running and walking with a slight twist! As you make your way through the course you will go through "color stations" where you will be greeted by our amazing, well-trained "color throwers" who will make sure you get all the color you need to stay motivated to complete the course. The rewards are a cool Copa Color Run Headband, and you will be able start to the New Year sharing the coolest pictures of you having fun and being fit at the same time!



TOT OLYMPICS

Calling all future Olympians! Tots 3-5 will compete in six individual events and one team event on March 9.





Membership

We love our City and our Copper Sky Members and we are adding value to your membership. Check out these new benefits for annual memberships:

- Discounts on programming including sports, aquatics, enrichment classes and more
- Free event parking and fun zone passes
- Access to offsite programming
- Free Buddy Passes
- New Senior programming
- New Drop in programs at Copper Sky including volleyball, basketball, soccer, and more
- Priority Registration for popular programs
- More coming soon

There is also a new Membership Discount program that could save you as much as 40% off your membership. Call Copper Sky at (520) 316-4600 for more details about these exciting changes.



SENIOR PROGRAMMING

Join us for social hours, Lunch and Learns, and more activities at Copper Sky. We want to hear from our seniors. What do you want to see? Contact Brandelyn Baumhefner at Brandelyn.Baumhefner@maricopa-az.gov or 520-316-6842.

Go to PlayMaricopa.com.



Copper Sky Active

We are excited to bring this new program to our members.

Copper Sky Active will offer children ages 9-11 years old an opportunity to partake in fitness activities, sports, school games, pool tournaments and much more. Anyone age 9-11 years old with an active Copper Sky membership or day pass is invited to participate. A Copper Sky instructor will lead all activities. No registration is needed, just drop by the activity room and sign in to participate in this fun new program. Copper Sky active is Tuesday and Thursday 5-7 p.m.

"I am so excited to finally have some fun programing for my kids to do at Copper Sky while I work out!" - JESSICA

AQUATICS - LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATIONS

Do you want to become part of the lifeguard and swim instructor team? Become certified with the City of Maricopa Aquatic Staff, help the community, and have a great summer!

"This is the best summer job I've ever had"
- BRIAN



Henry Pollock Fitness Spotlight



Q How long have you been at Copper Sky?

I have been here since March 14, 2014, when Copper Sky opened.

Q What education certifications and degrees do you currently hold?

Associate in Exercise & Wellness, Bachelor in Parks & Recreation Management, NASM Certified Personal Trainer, multiple TRX Certifications, multiple Fit-tour Certifications, multiple ISSA Certifications, Grid Rolling Certification, and Running Revolution.

Q How did you get to where you are now with the City of Maricopa, which is recreation service specialist?

I started as a rec aide, cleaning machines, and I was going for my associate's degree in Exercise Science. Right when I graduated with my associate's degree, a personal trainer position opened up, and I got the job. I successfully personal trained for one and a half years, and a full-time fitness position opened up called recreation service specialist, which means I supervise and assist the daily operations of the fitness floor and Copper Sky Fitness Programming.

Q What do you enjoy most about being in the fitness industry as a public servant?

It's a lot different in the revenue and pure profit aspect than

being a private sector personal trainer. Within the city we of course have to generate revenue, but we can also focus on serving the community with great, affordable programing and making the city a healthier place.

Q What do you like to do for your workouts and recreation?

Running, hiking, mountain biking, and functional style resistance training.

Q What's your favorite nutrition or fitness book?

"Good Calories, Bad Calories" and "Born to Run"

Q What do you like most about the City of Maricopa?

The people, small-town feel and the growth of the city is so exciting. I really appreciate the sense of the community we have created; it feels like a family.

Q Any last words?

I am extremely appreciative of all the opportunities that I have been given here at the City of Maricopa. It was exciting to be here at the beginning and create new and exciting programs and watch my clients become fit. I am excited to have a career and I am excited to watch this city grow towards a healthier and happier future!

FAMILY FITNESS

Copper Sky Recreation Center is more than just a fitness center; it is a community center where your whole family can play, learn, recreate, and be active together. From art to Zumba we offer something different for everyone in your circle. We have the state of the art fitness floor, child-watch and community room, group exercise classes, indoor track, and basketball court with activities like pickle ball and After School Fit-Club, and an amazing aquatics center. From Tots to Seniors, there's something for everyone.

Reserved and Advanced Group Fitness Programming

We are excited to offer this next level of fitness instruction and service to our schedule. Certain formats you can reserve a spot in a class, or you can take an advanced version for additional instruction of your favorite format and instructor, without having to sign up for personal training. Currently we have Zumba Tone, Pound, Piyo, Pilates, TRX, Group Training, Power Yoga, Road Warrior (Indoor Cycle), and Kick Boxing offered in a Reserved or Advanced formats. For more information contact Copper Sky Service Desk.





After School Fit Club

After School Fit Club is a four-week program designed to meet the physical education needs of children ages 5-12 years old by focusing on building physical fitness, enhancing skill development, and most importantly having fun while doing it. Our curriculum focuses on age appropriate activities, sports and games. The program utilizes the Copper Sky gym and fitness floor. This program is designed to improve aerobic capacity, body composition, muscle strength, endurance and flexibility. After School Fit Club is led by a Certified Copper Sky Fitness Instructor. Registration is required, with new sessions starting monthly. After School Fit Club takes place on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

SENIOR FITNESS

We have a variety of safe, exciting and fun senior fitness classes. Popular formats include Silver Sneakers, Senior Strength and Stretching, and Senior Strength and Cycling.



PICKLEBALL CORNER

Copper Sky is Pickleball HQ for Maricopa and with our indoor courts you can play all year. Included with memberships.



Summer Camp

Our day camp staff is excited to share our new level of service! Camps are now full day (half day options also available), Monday through Friday. Full day camp participants will have the opportunity to engage in fun activities in a positive environment, field trips, and guest speakers. Participants will need to pack a lunch each day. Half day camps are offered for morning or afternoon sessions, Monday through Friday.

Camp registration will be divided into the six individual weeks it will be offered. Register only for the weeks you want to attend!

Meet Marisela

The City of Maricopa is very fortunate to have a staff member like Marisela. Marisela first joined the City of Maricopa's Recreation Division through the high school internship program. During this time, she worked on the fitness floor cleaning equipment and promoting events. Marisela's dedication to the job and work ethic landed her a position beyond the internship. Marisela has worked in fitness, aquatics, enrichment, and youth programs. Currently, Marisela leads Tiny Tot and Copper Sky Kids. She has developed a great rapport with parents and children look forward to seeing her. Marisela is a great asset to the City of Maricopa!



Keep a look out for new activities coming this Spring!

Spring Break Camp

Join us for the first all day City of Maricopa Spring Break Camp, with fun positive recreational activities and a field trip to Ultra Star! Location to be determined. Camp will run Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tiny Tot Luau

Get out your grass skirts! Tiny Tot Luau will be coming to Copper Sky Multigenerational Center on May 18. Get ready to limbo, kick your flip-flops, and get crafty! Ages 3-5

For more information, contact Heather Lozano at Heather.Lozano@maricopa-az.gov or 520-316-4603.

Copper Sky Annual Members Save on Programs



Itty Bitty Open

The City of Maricopa was excited to host its first Itty Bitty Open on January 12. The Junior Golf Association of Arizona (JGAA) provided this free event for youth ages 3-5. During this event, youth were introduced to basic golf skills and participated in a non-competitive tournament. Each golfer received a set of plastic golf clubs, balls, bag, and a visor. Families joined us for a morning of golfing fun and memories! At our first event 35 kids attended.



Copper Sky Kids

Copper Sky Kids is a kindergarten preparedness designed for the City's youngest members, youth ages 3-5. Through this program, participants are introduced to letters, names, numbers, and shapes. They will get to conduct science experiments and get messy with art. Classes are offered two sessions per week for two weeks. There are morning and afternoon sessions available.

Great improvement in my daughter's writing, and overall learning. Love this program. - CARMEN ROCHLIN



All Access Homebound Delivery Service

The All Access Homebound Delivery Program was created through a grant by the Ak-Chin Indian Community. This program enables disabled and the elderly to receive books from the library without leaving their own home.

The service is free, and the volunteers will bring new materials to the residents and pick up the old materials every two weeks.

Joetta Whitley is one customer with the Homebound Delivery Program, who was so delighted with her services and selections that she called to say, "Thanks," adding "This program has turned my whole world around." She stated, "I'd love to be a cheerleader for the program if I could!"

All of the volunteers have gone through training with the Maricopa Police Department to analyze the environment around them and ensure they stay safe when entering another person's home. The volunteers also travel in pairs to assist the at-home customers.

With the Homebound Delivery Program, you no longer need to feel there is no one to bring you library materials, or feel you cannot access the library. We will be bringing the library to you!

Royal Tea Party

Calling all royalty! Join us on Saturday, May 4, 2019, from 1-3 p.m. for a Royal Tea Party! Dress up in your most royal clothes and meet some very special princesses. The princesses will read stories why we enjoy enchanted treats. There will be plenty of opportunities for pictures with the princesses! We hope you can join us.

4
May



SUMMER READING PROGRAM: A UNIVERSE OF STORIES

The Summer Reading Program will once again be coming to the Maricopa Public Library! The program runs from May 19-July 13, 2019. This year's theme is "A Universe of Stories." Babies, toddlers, preschoolers, children and teens are all invited to participate. The program is designed to meet all reading levels and capabilities so that everyone can work at their own pace.

There are three categories to choose from. Each child can choose how many minutes to read over the summer. For the first level, the goal is to read 400 minutes by the end of the summer. At the next level, you must read 800 minutes by the end of the summer. For the third level, participants must read 1,200 minutes by the end of the summer to complete their goal.

Register online at <https://Maricopa.AZSummerReading.org>.

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You can also submit an essay to be reviewed or graded, within 12 hours, take practice quizzes, and even prep for the ACT/SAT tests for the state of Arizona. Gain an early edge on the grades above you while in grade school, and additionally, prep for the AP exams.

Tutor.com can be accessed from home via the website, enabling families to get the help they need at the time most convenient for them. You won't need the expensive cost of hiring a private tutor, or worry about your child not getting the help they need. It's all available now, and all through your Maricopa Public Library.

Drop-in Sports

Copper Sky will be offering various drop-in sports throughout the year!

- Basketball
- Pickleball
- Volleyball
- and so much more!



ESports

We are excited to be launching new esports leagues and hosting tournaments!

ESports is one of the fastest activities in the nation and we are excited to bring it to the city of Maricopa at an affordable price. We will have two locations: Library and Copper Sky.



Flag Football Winter 2019 Season Recap

Thank you to all the volunteers, coaches, and participants for another great fun filled season! Over 600 youth on 40 teams were coached by 80 volunteers this season.



Register
now for
summer
sports:
Basketball
& Volleyball



SUMMER GIRLS
VOLLEYBALL

Early
Registration
March 18-
April 21

Regular
Registration
April 22-
May 4



SUMMER
YOUTH
BASKETBALL

Early
Registration
March 18-
April 21

Regular
Registration
April 22-
May 4



Hey! Who's that coach?

That's coach Chad Hansen!

Coach Chad has been coaching for the Maricopa Parks & Recreation for the past six years. He's coached his sons' (Noah 10, Carson 8) flag football, basketball and soccer teams every season. That's a total of 26 teams. Coach Chad also has a great following of players from sport to sport as he grooms these fine young athletes for the next level of competition be it in a recreation or club environment. Coach Chad has a good feel for the sports he coaches, the tireless hours he spends on the fields with his teams do not go unnoticed.

Coach Chad's 6-7 division and 8-9 division Flag Football teams won the 2018 inaugural Maricopa Parks & Recreation's End of the Season Tournament.

Coach Chad has also been coaching for the local Little League organization the past four years and for the Cal Ripken baseball league the past two years on his "off time." Does he really have any "off time?"

Copper
Sky Annual
Members
Save on Sports
Registration



23
March

Salsa Fest

The 15th annual Salsa Festival will be at Copper Sky Regional Park on Saturday, March 23, 2-8 p.m.

There is no fee to attend this event but there is a \$5 fee for parking and \$5 for children age 3 and over to enjoy the Little Pepper Zone and minimal charges for other activities. Free shuttles will also be provided to attend this event at various elementary schools here in Maricopa.

Festival guests will enjoy kids' games and activities in the Little Pepper Zone. Salsa chefs will have the opportunity to showcase their skills in the highly competitive salsa competition and compete for cash prizes. There will also be food, spirits, and entertainment by local entertainers.

Salsa chefs will have the opportunity to compete for a \$1,000 cash prize, and attendees can vote for their favorite salsa contestants.



TOT OLYMPICS

We are excited to host our first Tot Olympics! Ready, stretch, register! Registration now open! Calling all future Olympians! Participants will compete in six individual events and one team event. Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each age group. Every participant will receive a T-shirt.



6
April

Color Run

This vibrant, memorable, family event is really a great chance to participate in a new and different event that involves running and walking with a slight twist! As you make your way through the course you will go through "Color Stations" where you will be greeted by our amazing well-trained "Color Throwers" who will make sure you get all the color you need to stay motivated to complete the course. The rewards are a cool Copa Color Head Band and you will be able start to the New Year with the coolest pictures to share with your friends and family of you having fun and being fit at the same time!



9
March

Disk Golf

Check out our championship level disk-golf course! Nearly 200 players from all over the United States came to Maricopa over the weekend for the Maricopa Disk Golf Open. Thank you to Maricopa Ace Hardware for this fun family activity.



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InMaricopa started with an idea, grew with the city



By Jim Headley

Not long after the incorporation of the City of Maricopa, Scott Bartle launched InMaricopa.com as a hyperlocal, online news source for the growing community. It was 2004, and the community was wrapped up in a predicted housing boom.

This year, InMaricopa celebrates its 15th anniversary.

Bartle said his father Jeff was part of the team that developed what was then called Southern Dunes Golf Club.

“That’s how I got introduced to the town of Maricopa,” Bartle said. “They had incredible projections for growth.”

In 2000 he started his own business, Outside the Box Marketing, “so I was looking for an opportunity to take advantage of the growth.”

There were two monthly newspapers in the small town of Maricopa, then just over 4,000 people.

“They didn’t serve the community like I thought they could have. I knew we could compete in that arena. I had a background in advertising and sponsorship, and I liked to write. I felt like I could do it, so we started an online newspaper,” Bartle said.

Launching a news site

The online news website launched in 2004 and quickly took off.

He said the original concept was to follow the online news site with a weekly printed publication but “it was very evident very early the digital product really made the print product almost unnecessary.”

The news website was a real-time news center for the quickly growing town. News was rather old by the time it was printed onto a page. In many ways, the digital and print products would compete with themselves.

Instead, the company started 85239, a magazine-style format in 2006. In 2009, the company launched a monthly print newspaper to complement its quarterly magazine and



InMaricopa 2019 staff (from left) Kyle Norby, Michelle Sorensen, Jim Headley, Scott Bartle, Vincent Manfredi, Trisha Paige and Raquel Hendrickson.

daily online news coverage.

In 2016, the print publications were consolidated into a monthly magazine. The New Resident Guide and the Health Guide were launched a year later.

“It made sense,” he said. “It worked almost immediately in a large part because Maricopa was growing so fast and everyone

was from someplace else.

They needed a place to call home. They needed a place where they could meet their neighbors, find a landscaper or painter, etc. We had an online chat forum as a component of our website that was immensely popular.

Imagine everyone on Facebook but on our forum. It was a great vehicle to get to know each other. It was a good complement to the news we were producing.”

One of the early partners the new media company had was the recently created Orbitel Communications. Residents in the growing city had Internet access thanks to Orbitel.

“I remember meeting the founder of

Orbitel, Rick Anderson, who is a terrific guy,” Bartle said. “He was very supportive. Harrah’s Ak-Chin was an early adopter as well. It was those folks who came over early — it’s because of them that 15 years later we are still able to provide these services to Maricopa.”

Changing names

Originally the publication was called 85239.com, which was the Maricopa ZIP code. It made sense at the time. The problem was the U.S. Postal Service started adding and eventually changing the ZIP codes for the town that was quickly becoming a city.

“The community was only 3,000-4,000 people at the time,” Bartle recalled. “It would have been generations before they would have expanded ZIP Codes.”

Just a few years after starting the company, the Postal Service split the city into two codes down John Wayne Parkway, using 85239 and 85238. Then all the 852 codes were transferred from Pinal to Maricopa County. Maricopa



became 85138 and 85139.

“OK, I better take my brand out of the hands of the U.S. Postal Service,” Bartle said. “That’s when we came up with InMaricopa.”

The decision on the new name was established by an advisory board with “some great friends and really smart business people,” according to Bartle.

There were a lot of odds against InMaricopa working, like a general downturn in news publications along with an economic recession that plunged the growing city of Maricopa into the national spotlight for economic failure. Newspapers were failing across the nation as housing prices fell like a rock.

“It has been a bit of a rollercoaster,” Bartle said. “We, as Maricopa, were the poster child of the boom and of the bust. Thanks to our advertisers, supporters and our hard-working staff, we have been able to ride through it.”

Bartle said today InMaricopa is in a very good spot, “and we have 15 years of mistakes under our belt, so we are in a great position for the future.”

New team member

In the earliest days of InMaricopa, the staff was just Bartle.

“I was involved in everything from the web development to content production to advertising sales,” he said.

A few months into the new project in the summer of 2004, Bartle said Joyce Hollis, his friend’s mother, was moving to Maricopa. She was a retired teacher from Lake Havasu. She became the first member of Bartle’s team.

“She wrote for us and she became an editor. She is an amazing woman and was a great first addition to the team. Everything grew from there,” he said.

Hollis worked as a photographer, reporter and editor as a private contractor. The company didn’t even have an office at the time.

“It was Scott and myself,” Hollis said. “There was no brick-and-mortar building. There were 5,000 people here when I moved here in June of 2004. That was the week that Bashas’ opened, which was a red-letter day.”

Hollis said, at the time, Maricopa didn’t have a police or fire department. “I covered city hall, school board and the Pinal County Sheriff. We had a fire board,” she said. “We had lots and lots of meetings and it was just me. And every single day there was something because it was such a small community,” Hollis said.

Her first story was a car wreck at the entrance to the Rancho El Dorado subdivision where she lived.



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History of InMaricopa

"I pulled out my camera and I was taking a picture of the wreck. The sheriff's deputy, who I later knew, said, 'Lady why are you hanging out your window taking pictures of this wreck?' We had no stoplights, not one in town," she said.

She said Bartle, inMaricopa's founder, was great to work with.

"He always been a great boss," she said. "He is kind of like another son. He and my son, I believe, conspired to get me into this in the beginning. He is very fair, and he's always been great to me. When you're a newcomer in a new town and you have to cover all these events, pretty soon you know almost everybody in town. What a great way to become part of the community."

Surviving boom-and-bust

Bartle said Maricopa has been a bit of a surprise. First the expected growth of the town into a city didn't happen as planned.

"The city had these pie-in-the-sky projections," he said. "It was probably growing too fast for a community with the little infrastructure and expertise we had in city government at the time."

The hyper-growth of Maricopa came to a screeching halt when the mortgage crisis happened in 2008.

City streets were littered with for-sale and for-rent signs as thousands of properties were reacquired by banks.

"Maricopa was on the front page of the New York Times talking about the real estate bust. There were some dark times for Maricopa. But it weathered the storm," Bartle said.

One of the factors instrumental in the city turning the corner came from the Great White North.

"The Canadians had such an impact on buying property and moving here, at least for part of the year," he said.

Bartle said he sees growing infrastructure as a leading economic development indicator.

He said much of the success of InMaricopa is due to the city it serves.

"Maricopa is a unique community. We have to make sure we are producing well-respected and high-integrity content that is of interest to people. They have to know where to turn to get factual information," he said.



Celebrating
15
Years
Since 2004

A new partner

Bartle added a partner to the ownership in January 2017, when Vincent Manfredi joined the team.

"Vince is a terrific partner. He's really good with people and smart," Bartle said. "Some of his strengths are my weaknesses and vice versa; we complement each other well. He's made a big difference, not just in the company but in the community. There are few who share his extraordinary commitment to serving our community, and he is the perfect person to captain the InMaricopa ship for the next 15 years."

Manfredi said InMaricopa is an "extremely hyper-local company that is engrained in the community." He said one of the main goals of the company is to be involved in the community.

"When I first moved to Maricopa, InMaricopa (85239 at the time) provided us a lot of information about the community," said Manfredi. "We read the newspaper, magazine and website. I am proud to be part of a company that provides that much information to new and existing residents."

Manfredi said the resilience of the community and InMaricopa is a testament to the needs the community and the publication have for each other.

"We were able, as a company, to get past the recession because we are such a local company," said Manfredi. "It is a company that people rely on for information. Our readership didn't go down. We've had advertisers that have been with InMaricopa for the 15 years that we have been here."

Manfredi added InMaricopa is continuing to evolve every day.

He said the reasons he became a partner in the company are Bartle and his solid belief system.

"Scott is a different type of a person. He gives 100 percent to what he is doing," Manfredi said. "He is a guy that has integrity. When it comes to even the smallest thing, you know you can trust and rely on him to do the right thing. You don't find that a lot in the world today. When he gives his word, he follows through. He's a guy who holds people accountable, works hard and he loves the community."

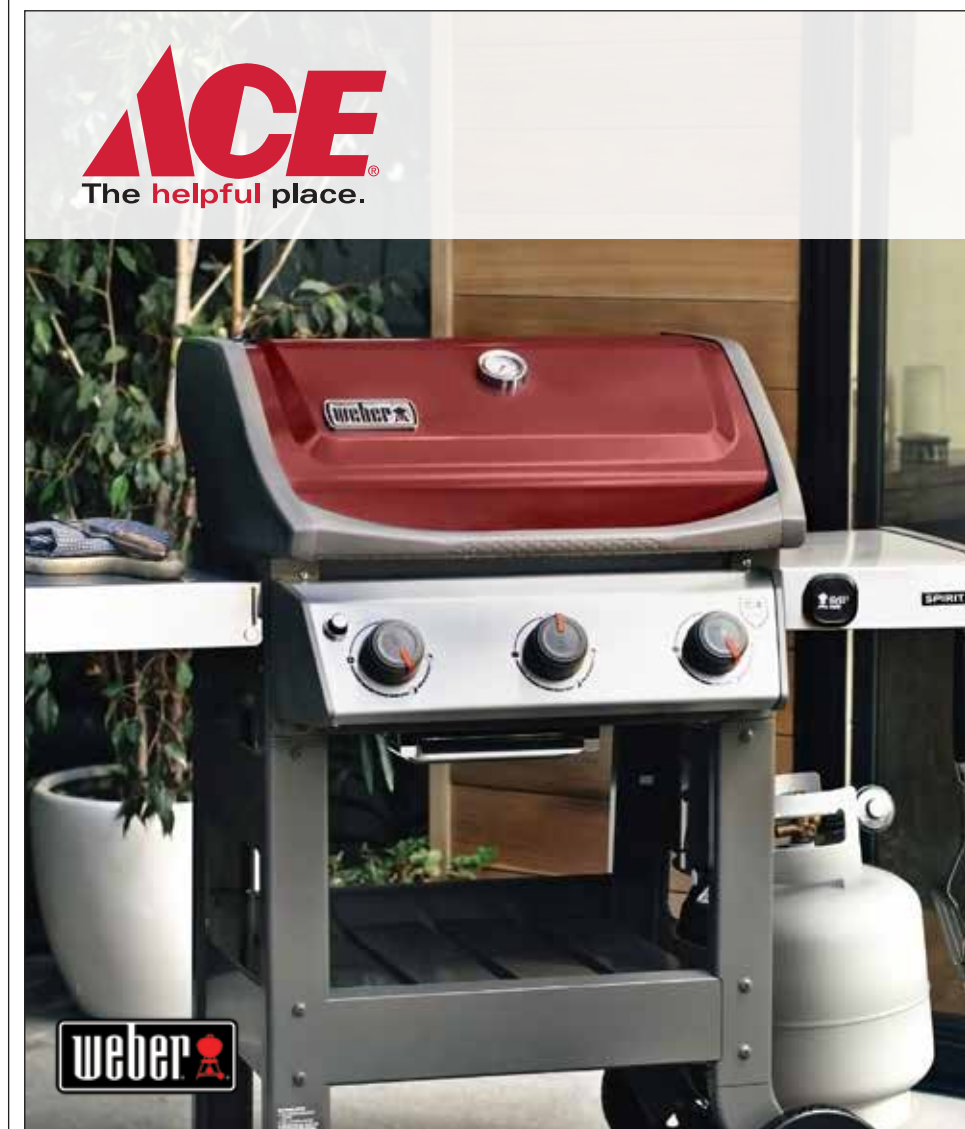
Manfredi said InMaricopa has experienced a great amount of growth and he expects that growth to continue.

Bartle said he has no idea what the future might bring for InMaricopa.

"I really defer to our readers and our advertisers to identify what the future looks like. We are just a conduit to serve the community — both the business community and the general citizenry. We are small enough and nimble enough that we can make changes to our business model as necessary to fill the voids that exist," he said.

In looking back at his beginnings 15 years ago, Bartle said, "my mom reminds me of when she and one of her teacher-friends helped populate the website before we launched. They were inputting business information in the directory. Looking back at those days, I realize the things we had to do to get things done — which was everything. We had no resources. We started a company with no funding per se. I am proud of the work that everybody has put into this."

Bartle added, "InMaricopa will forever be my baby. I'll always do whatever I can do to ensure it is successful and going in the right direction."



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SCOTT BARTLE
 Publisher

With InMaricopa since: 2004
Community of Residence: Currently Scottsdale; formerly (2004-2016) Rancho El Dorado, The Villages and Heritage District
Family: Wife Colleen; kids Neil (6), John (4), Kate (8 months); dogs Indy (14), Dixie (8)
Education: Indiana University
Professional Experience: Marketing, sales, event management, sponsorship consulting, association management
Most Memorable Job: Super Bowl XXX
Maricopa Volunteerism: Served as president of Maricopa USD governing board, chaired Parks, Recreation & Libraries Committee, graduated from Maricopa Citizens Leadership Academy, volunteered at Our Lady of Grace church
Hobbies: Travel, Hiking, IU Basketball, accompanying my wife to national parks
Favorite Musician or Group: Straight No Chaser
Favorite Athlete: AJ Guyton
Little-known Fact: I'm a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.



VINCENT MANFREDI
 Advertising and Marketing

With InMaricopa since: 2017
Community of Residence: Meadows
Family: Wife Tina; kids Bianca (20) Daisy (17) and Amelia (15)
Education: Bachelors in Business Admin & Social Sciences
Professional Experience: Training, management, retail and much more
Most Memorable Job: My first job at 14 unloading trucks for \$3.35 an hour.
Maricopa Volunteerism: Maricopa Unified School District Volunteer the of Year 2016/2017, Pinal County Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Member (alt), Arizona League of Cities and Towns Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Works Committee Member, Maricopa Advocate Program Platinum Member, Zoning Code Rewrite Task Force Member, Maricopa Motorcycle Riders Founder, Maricopa Pantry Volunteer, Maricopa Community Theatre Sponsor, Maricopa Historical Society Member & Volunteer, Maricopa Babe Ruth League Volunteer, Board of Adjustment Board member, MUSD20 Override Committee chairman, Maricopa Little League Volunteer & Sponsor, Maricopa High School Baseball Boosters Sponsor, Maricopa High School Football Boosters Sponsor & Volunteer, Maricopa High School Softball Boosters Sponsor & Volunteer, Central Arizona Governments (CAG) Regional Council Member
Hobbies: volunteerism, riding my motorcycle
Favorite Musician or Group: Frank Sinatra
Favorite Athlete: Derek Jeter
Little-known Fact: I did not go to college until I was in my 30s and did it full-time while working two jobs.



MICHELLE SORENSEN
 Client Loyalty Coordinator

With InMaricopa since: 2015
Community of Residence: Desert Cedars
Family: Husband Chris; kids Chrystal, Charles, Christopher
Education: Court Reporting
Professional Experience: Marketing, Sales, Legal Assistant/Paralegal, Credit/Collection Manager, Map Profile Coordinator
Most Memorable Job: Attorney General legal assistant/paralegal
Maricopa Volunteerism: All 25 years of volunteering was in Washington State
Hobbies: Travel, sewing, music,
Favorite Musician or Group: Fleetwood Mac
Favorite Athlete: N/A
Little-known Fact: I'm a member of Phi Theta Kappa and played soccer in my 30s and 40s for WSASA.



RAQUEL HENDRICKSON
 Editor

With InMaricopa since: 2014
Community of Residence: Rancho El Dorado
Family: Parents, six siblings
Education: Temple University, Brigham Young University
Professional Experience: Sports editor, general reporter, business reporter, arts

& entertainment editor, education reporter, government reporter, associate editor, editor
Most Memorable Job: Helping retired GE engineers put together a book on their experiences with the Cold War-era Corona reconnaissance program after it was declassified.
Hobbies: Writing, art, theater, sports, history, following the ponies
Favorite Musician or Group: Roger Miller
Favorite Athlete: Jim Thorpe
Little-known Fact: Member of several World War I organizations



JIM HEADLEY
 Reporter/Photographer

With InMaricopa since: December 2018
Community of Residence: Tortosa
Family: Son, Alex 32
Education: High School
Professional Experience: photographer, journalist, editor, publisher, business owner, web design, photographic historian
Most Memorable Job: Writing photographic instructions for International Space Station
Hobbies: Photography, Camera Collecting, playing my Jaw Harp
Favorite Musician or Group: Del McCoury
Favorite Athlete: Muhammad Ali
Little-known Fact: I've been a guest on shows on CNN and Fox News, including the Nancy Grace Show and Geraldo Rivera



TRISHA PAIGE
 Sales Professional

With InMaricopa since: 2018
Community of Residence: Alterra
Family: Husband: Kevin; My mother: Aggie; Children: Cameron (22), Brett (20), Wyatt (9), my niece Payge (15) and my nephew Orion (10) Dog: Sully (2) Cat: Sammy (8)
Education: Certificate in Computerized Office and Accounting; Certificate of Real Estate: Arizona School of Business and Real Estate
Professional Experience: Customer Service, Real Estate, Sales
Most Memorable Job: I worked in my hometown's library.
Maricopa Volunteerism: Co-Lead for the Relay For Life of Maricopa; Lead for our upcoming TOPS Club Chapter in Maricopa.
Hobbies: Reading, writing, singing and binging Netflix
Favorite Musician or Group: Changes all the time, right now Whitney Houston
Favorite Athlete: I don't really follow sports but if I have to choose something I would say the Detroit Lions (no specific player)
Little-known Fact: I have always wanted to be a professional singer



KYLE ANTHONY NORBY
 Multimedia Specialist

With InMaricopa since: 2018
Community of Residence: Maricopa, Cobblestone Farms. Lived in Maricopa since 2006
Family: Wife: Hannah. No kids, Our cat Charlie (3 years old)
Education: Central Arizona College and College of Southern Nevada. Will receive Associates of Arts during 2019-2020 school year
Professional Experience: Photography, video editing and production, videography and graphic design
Most Memorable Job: Working at Wyndham timeshare in Las Vegas
Maricopa Volunteerism: Participate as a fundraiser, graphic designer and photographer for Maricopa Relay for Life. Also used to work with the PTO at Leading Edge academy
Hobbies: Video games, family game nights, going to the movies, making videos, travelling with my wife
Favorite Musician or Group: The Red Hot Chili Peppers
Favorite Athlete: None
Little-known Fact: I want to try stand-up comedy



15 years ago: First year's highlights published at 85239.com



Andrew Cole benefits raise \$20,000+ March 15, 2004

Friends, family and neighbors of Andy Cole came out in droves to support two events raising funds to help defray the local man's medical expenses. Andy, 61, is a 52-year resident of Maricopa and currently battling cancer. More than 300 people attended the barn dance, which featured silent and live auction items, live music by Jim Monk and his "Almost Country Band" and tunes "spun" by DJ Eddie Rodriguez.

Update: Mr. Cole passed away Sept. 10, 2010.

Votes are in for Maricopa's first elected city council May 19, 2004

For the first time in its young history, the City of Maricopa has a City Council elected by the people. Six of the 12 candidates will join Kelly Anderson, elected in the Primary, on the Council for two or four-year terms. Stephen Baker, the leading vote-getter, and Phyllis Von Fleckinger will be the only rookies joining the Council. Kelly Anderson, Will Dunn, Edward Farrell, Kelly Haddad and Brent Murphree are returning veterans, having served on the interim City Council appointed upon the City's incorporation Oct. 15, 2003.

Update: The new council elected Kelly Anderson mayor June 1, 2004.



Bashas' preview quite a party July 13, 2004

Bashas' opened its doors for business today to the delight of thousands. The pre-Grand Opening celebration (official opening is July 14) filled the parking lot and store aisles alike.

Update: Bashas' became the city's first "supermarket," its presence giving Native New Yorker confidence to also open a restaurant a year later.



City to acquire Library's assets Aug. 4, 2004

It will soon be official! The Maricopa Community Library will become the Maricopa City Library. Following the Aug.3 unanimous vote of the Maricopa City Council, an agreement, by which the City accepts the donation of the library, its operations, and related assets, will become effective on Sept.1, 2004.

Update: A new library on Smith-Enke Road opened in 2009. The former Maricopa Community Library is now the Maricopa Veterans Center.

Clockwise from top: Mayor Kelly Anderson (left) welcomes Bashas' CEO Eddie Basha at the new store opening; Interior of the public library, now the Maricopa Veterans Center; the first elected Maricopa City Council (from left) Will Dunn, Kelly Anderson, Edward Farrell, Kelly Haddad, Stephen Baker, Brent Murphree and Phyllis Von Fleckinger being sworn in by Judge Scott Sulley.

Maricopa 'Booming' Aug. 14, 2004

Destination Maricopa met for the third time on Friday, August 13, 2004, at the First Baptist Church with approximately 25 interested citizens in attendance. "Everyone knows Maricopa is booming," said Councilman Will Dunn. "In 2000 we had 1,048 residents and today there are about 7,000. With approximately 230 building permits per month, that's roughly 1,000 new residents each month."

Update: By the next census in 2010, Maricopa's population was 43,482.

Proposed park negotiations to begin Oct. 6, 2004

Maricopa may soon have its first community park. The Maricopa City Council, meeting in regular session on Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2004, granted permission for negotiations to begin with Element Homes, agent and developer of Glennwilde Community. Element Homes is willing to build a public park at Porter Road, north of Bowlin Road and south of Honeycutt Avenue.

Update: Pacana Park opened in 2006 as Maricopa's first community park.

Ground broken for Maricopa's second elementary school Oct. 8, 2004

As dirt flew into the air from the shovels of Maricopa School Board directors, Maricopa Elementary School's Student Council officers and other dignitaries, ground was officially broken for the second new elementary school to be built in Maricopa on the north side of Rancho El Dorado Parkway.

Update: After the opening of Pima Butte, MUSD created four more elementary schools.

PGA, British Open champ John Daly coming to Maricopa Dec. 14, 2004

World-famous professional golfer John Daly is bringing his game to Maricopa this week. On Friday, Dec. 17, the PGA Tour Pro will be appearing — and playing — at Southern Dunes Golf Club.

Update: In 2010, Ak-Chin Indian Community acquired the golf course, renaming it Ak-Chin Southern Dunes.

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15 years of pros and cons

Tonya Thompson, business owner, resident since 1976

“As owner of the Water and Ice store, located in the Bashas’ shopping center, I am happy to be celebrating our 15th year in business in this great community. I am a hometown girl, since 1976, and proud to be a graduate of Maricopa High School. During the past 15 years, Water and Ice has weathered a roller-coaster of circumstances as have many of the local businesses in the area. Each hardship, each success has taught me something. I credit the loyalty of my beloved customers and staff with seeing us through these challenges. It’s been incredible watching Maricopa grow and prosper. My customers are like family to me. Thank you, Maricopa for 15 wonderful years of serving you.”



Vanessa Bueras, city clerk, resident since 2004

“Everything, the people, the growth, the retail that’s come here, the different homes — it has been really exciting to see it grow from 4,000 people when I moved here to now at nearly 55,000 people. It’s been exciting being here and being part of the city and the community. It has been such a nice tight-knit community and I just love it here.

“[State Route] 347 hasn’t been widened but I wasn’t expecting that when I moved here. When I moved here I knew what I was getting into. I knew the cows were here. I didn’t complain about anything. This is where I wanted to live. I didn’t expect it to boom. Now I love it.”



Kelly Anderson, former mayor and former ADOT chairman, resident since 1957

“I think we did good planning. We were able to take over from the county in 2003 and, with the help of developers, we built Pacana Park and we moved on to Copper Sky. A lot is coming to fruition as well as the overpass. There are a lot of good things and there’s a lot of good things ahead of us.

“I think everyone will complain about the traffic but in my travels throughout the state when I was on the ADOT board — there’s traffic everywhere. I’m still working personally on an overpass at Riggs (on 347). I really think that would help traffic.”



Rusty Akres, pastor, resident since 2004

“I like the grocery stores and the changes in shopping. I like the entertainment amenities like UltraStar, recreation and things. There’s not a lot I don’t like, maybe the high price of my water bill. My water bill is higher than my power bill.”



Shannon Hull, teacher, resident since 2004

“As far as the community is concerned, all of the housing developments are wonderful! People moving here from all over the country and all over the world is making Maricopa so culturally diverse that is becoming a more fun place to live. With the addition of things like Copper Sky and UltraStar it is giving people in Maricopa a lot more to do than to just head up into the Valley.

“Steve and I moved to Maricopa because we wanted that small-town feel. We wanted a place where we could live and work, and we wanted a home for a very long time. We bought our house with the intention of living here forever.

“As for changes that I don’t like, I can’t think of any; we love this town! People are wonderful, MPD is terrific, schools are wonderful and keep improving ... Maricopa is an amazing place to live and work!”



MARICOPA TIMELINE

- 1858

Overland Mail Company establishes route through Maricopa Wells
- 1863

Arizona made a territory
- 1879

Maricopa Wells supply post moves to Maricopaville as Southern Pacific establishes a route
- 1886

Maricopaville moves to Maricopa Junction
- 1887

Maricopaville-to-Phoenix Branch Line (M&P) goes into operation, and Maricopa Junction moves east to present-day Maricopa
- 1888

Maricopa Post Office opens
- 1912

Reservation land established south of Maricopa Junction
- 1920

Maricopa population counted as 381
- 1930

Census shows population shrinking to 143 though electrical power becomes available
- 1935

M&P Branch Line closes, abandoned by Southern Pacific
- 1949

Anderson-Palmisano Farms established in Maricopa
- 1954

Headquarters opens
- 1958

John Wayne purchases 4,000 acres south of Maricopa
- 1958

Maricopa Flood Control District forms
- 1958

Rotary Club opens swimming pool
- 1959

Maricopa High School opens
- 1961

Ak-Chin Indian Community established
- 1978

Maricopa Fire District established
- 1994

Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino opens
- 1995

State Route 347 completed
- 2000

Population counted as 1,040
- 2003

City of Maricopa incorporated
- 2004

InMaricopa launched as online news source
- 2004

Bashas’ becomes first supermarket
- 2004

Global Water Resources acquires Santa Cruz Water Company
- 2006

Central Arizona College opens education center
- 2006

InMaricopa magazine launched
- 2006

Pacana Park opens
- 2007

F.O.R. Maricopa established
- 2008

New York Times calls Maricopa’s real estate bust “The Boomtown Mirage”
- 2010

Population counted as 43,482
- 2013

New city hall completed
- 2014

Copper Sky completed
- 2018

Work begins on grade separation at Union Pacific Railroad tracks
- 2018

Population estimated over 51,000

Top 5 covers

As voted on by online readers at InMaricopa.com



Summer/Fall 2011



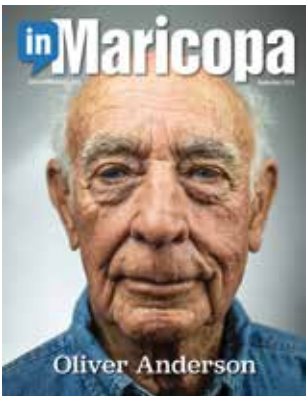
March 2017



August 2017



July 2018



September 2018

Celebrating
15
Years

2004 Gallery



Part of Stagecoach Days in 2004 included a golf tourney. That's CPA Jim Chaston teeing off at The Duke at Rancho El Dorado.



High winds kicked up lots of dust, a recurring obstacle in Maricopa, during Stagecoach Days 2004.



With Martin McDonald and Rick Buss looking on, Mayor Kelly Anderson and Garry Wilmeth sign an agreement for the new city to take over the library.

The former St. Francis de Sales mission overflowed its pews in 2004 before becoming Our Lady of Grace. It was still a decade away from building its new church.



For years, Maricopa was served only by mom-and-pop stores, so the the arrival of Bashas' was a big deal in 2004.



Sheriff Roger Vanderpool explains to Gov. Janet Napolitano, Supervisor Sandie Smith, State Rep. Cheryl Chase and Supervisor Jimmie Kerr how the Narcotics Task Force seized almost 3,000 pounds of marijuana in August 2004.

Celebrating
15
Years



InMaricopa came to be as 85239.com in 2004 and promptly adopted a highway.



2004 also brought about Maricopa Day at Bank One Ballpark during an Arizona Diamondbacks game. A year later, the stadium's name was changed to Chase Field.

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Business news around town

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place March 18 at **East Valley Cardiology**, 20924 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite D4-B (next to Dickey’s BBQ). The event commences at 9 a.m. with networking and refreshments, followed by the ceremony at approximately 9:15 a.m.

Native Grill & Wings remains closed while restoration work continues after a January fire. It is expected to re-open in April. Gift certificates of \$5 and \$10 that expired in February will be honored for 30 days after the re-opening.

Maricopa City Manager Rick Horst floated the idea of building a “**a starter hospital** and associated health services” in Maricopa during a Top Ten Strategic Objectives PowerPoint presentation for city council members during their annual strategic plan retreat Feb. 7. Horst said it was just an idea for council members to consider and to determine if they wish to work toward that goal.

Walmart is implementing a parking area for online pickup, requiring permits for exterior and interior remodeling for the parking canopy.

Apex Motor Sports applied for a permit to build a commercial shade structure for parked cars at its construction site at 22408 N. Ralston Road.

Red River Cattle Company received a conditional use permit for work at Sacate Pellet Mill, 38743 W. Cowtown Road.

At Signal Healthcare’s new building at 44555 W. Edison Road, **Heartland Dental** received a permit for interior construction.

A hair-styling salon received a commercial tenant improvement permit for 2,000 square feet of space at a building owned by Pinal County at 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road.

Circle K received a permit to work in the right-of-way during construction on its lot at 41433 W. Honeycutt Road. Lanes were temporarily blocked on Porter Road and Honeycutt.

Maricopa Shell continued improvement by getting a permit for two LED illuminated canopy signs and wall signs valued at \$19,300. East Valley Cardiology and Brakes Plus, 44510 W. Edison Road, also received sign permits.

Ace 9th in national fundraising for children's hospitals

Maricopa Ace Hardware ranked ninth among Ace stores in the country for funds raised for Children’s Miracle Network hospitals last year. In February, the retailer was celebrated for raising \$27,442 for Phoenix Children’s Hospital.

PCH nominated Maricopa Ace for Ace Retailer of the Year, which added another \$5,000 to the total. Ace corporate then added another \$10,000 for the top 10 finish. Susan O’Donnell, senior development office, accepted the total donation of \$42,442 for the hospital from Maricopa Ace owner Mike Richey.

Over the last 27 years, Ace Hardware retailers, their team members as well as Ace Hardware corporate have raised more than \$100 million for local Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.



Eatery battles raw chicken in health inspections

All but one of 27 establishments inspected by Pinal County Environmental Health received excellent marks from Jan. 16-Feb. 15.

The inspector had a review with the person in charge at Li’s Garden after finding violations in the handling of raw chicken at the restaurant. According to the observations in the report, raw chicken breasts were being processed with bowls of chicken sitting on top of bags of rice, chicken juices and chicken pieces were leaking on the floor where staff was walking through, chicken was stored on a metal counter next to a towel dispenser that had chicken juices on it, chicken wings were in a sink where raw vegetables were being process, and chicken juices were dripping onto raw chicken in bowls sitting on top of plastic containers of uncooked rice. Staff was also told to clean out food debris inside and outside refrigeration equipment. Based on immediate action by the restaurant, it was given a rating of “satisfactory.”

- EXCELLENT** [No violations found]
- Aliberto’s Mariopa
 - Bashas’
 - Bashas’ — AFC Sushi
 - Bashas’ — Bakery
 - Basha’ - Deli
 - Bashas’ — Starbucks
 - Brooklyn Boys Italian Restaurant
 - Central Arizona College — Café
 - Central Arizona College — Culinary
 - Chipotle Mexican Grill
 - Cilantro’s Mexican Cocina
 - Denny’s
 - Firehouse Subs
 - Fry’s Marketplace
 - Fry’s Marketplace — Deli
 - Fry’s Marketplace — Starbucks
 - Fry’s Marketplace — Sushi
 - Honeycutt Coffee
 - Jack in the Box
 - Plaza Bonita
 - Raceway Bar & Grill
 - Say Sushi
 - Sunrise Café
 - Sunrise Preschool
 - True Grit Tavern
 - WingStop

- SATISFACTORY** [Violations corrected during inspection]
- Li’s Garden

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

Business Registry

Joining the City of Maricopa’s Business Registry from Jan. 16 to Feb. 15 at Maricopa-az.gov/web/Business-Registry:

- A Better Look USA, Advanced Wellness, Adworks Local, Almentia Academy, Anytime Fitness, Art & Sip, AZ-Ry’s Landscaping & Yard Maintenance
- B’s Treats, Beem Biologics, Blue Star Mothers of Maricopa, Bo Knows Auto LLC, Breez Casuals — Lula
- Caretta Home, Cemex Construction Materials South, Chani KuehnI Massage Therapy, Cilantro’s Mexican Cocina, Cleaning Duo Services, Climbing Caterpillars, Combat Veterans Apparel, Copa Force One
- Dad’s Garage Doors and Openers, Dazzling Diamonds, Desert Canyon Properties, Desert Flower Soap, Destination Travel Group, Dignity Health Medical Group Family Medicine, Dutchman Home Inspections
- El Hefe Dog’s
- Far Horizons Travel LLC, Freedom Fitness & Yoga, The Frosted Cactus
- Get Up and Move Kid’s Fitness, Girl Scouts — Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, Good Therapy Medical Massage, Great Escape Maricopa
- H&R Block, Hands of Silk, Hella Graphicz & Printing, Hula Handyman
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- Jen’s Soft Peanut Brittle, Joie de Vivre Consulting, Journey UMF, JPMorgan Chase Bank
- Keller Williams — Advantage Home Team, Kooline Plumbing, Kwik Pain Free
- La Vida by Gregory, Lace & Lumber, Letters to Soldiers Club, Local Small Business Coach LLC, Lockridge and Associates
- Maricopa Animal Hospital, Maricopa Community Theatre, Maricopa Renovations, Maricopa Smiles Dentistry and Orthodontics, Maricopa Solar Screens and Home Power Washing, Maricopa Veterans Care Center, Maricopa Water & Ice, Maricopa Wellness Center, Massage Me, McLaughlin Air Conditioning and Heating Service, Mead Painting
- Panda Express, Poppa Eddie’s
- Que Syrah Hand-Decorated Bottles & Crafts
- Reddi Residential Moving Solutions
- Safety by Karrisra, Sentimental Sawdust, Seven Million Wonders Photography, Simply Yours, Smiley Dental, The Smokers Edge, Sonic Drive-In, Sonora Spine Care, Starbucks Coffee, Sun Palms Painting, Sunlife Center for Women, Sunrise Preschool, SV Gourmet Kitchen
- Take Two Creations
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Ryan Englin, CEO of Core Matters, will partner with InMaricopa to present a 90-minute seminar on finding the right employees for your team.

“We’ll explore how you can use a simple process to make your company stand out and attract the best people,” Englin said. “If you’re ready to see more profit from your business and want to spend less time putting out the fires caused by poor performers, you can’t afford to miss this event.”

The event is March 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Englin is a strategic marketing consultant and recruitment marketing expert.

“InMaricopa’s success is directly aligned with our clients’ success,” said Vincent Manfredi, InMaricopa’s director of advertising. “Recruiting, hiring and retaining the right people is an Achilles heel for most businesses, and we our eager to tackle this subject as the first in a series of seminars designed to contribute to our annual partners.”

Seating is limited. Contact Michelle at 520-568-0040 ext. 5 or CLC@InMaricopa.com for availability, details and RSVP. 



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Senior Corner

Stirring the pot for a senior-focused center

By Al Brandenburg

Maricopa Multi Cultural Consortium (MMCC) provides educational programs important to senior needs and is working toward providing venues where seniors can gather and receive services.

MMCC exists to fill gaps in the City's vision, plans and actions and to stir the pot to make things move in directions that are important to Maricopans in general. We are successful when our pot-stirring is effective, when those gaps get filled.

In recent times, MMCC has been asking the City:

- To staff a person to coordinate the landing of national, state and regional senior services in our city so seniors don't have to go to Casa Grande or Florence. The good news is City Manager Rick Horst and Community Services Director Nathan Ulyot have hired a senior-focused staff member, Brandelyn Baumhefner, to work on this issue.
 - For an increased focus on seniors at Copper Sky, especially when Copper Sky's resources are underutilized during hours when commuters are out of town and when many parents are helping their kids with homework. Ulyot has a bunch of new concepts at the idea stage.
 - For some sort of senior center or a set of variously focused senior centers, perhaps a combination of physical and virtual/online centers, opportunistically using existing resources because of low levels of available funding. Horst, City Councilmember Nancy Smith, Age-Friendly Committee Chair Joan Koczor and County Supervisor Anthony Smith have responded at their levels and we have some excellent ideas in the pipeline, including a possible path to augment Copper Sky's possible senior fitness center with a senior social center (with hot meals and social activities) in a city building currently being used for other things.
- MMCC's original goal was to create a community center with multi-focused, multi-generation, multi-cultural resources for people to come together to have a wide variety of events that are larger than somebody's living room, more open than someone's church, and lower cost than some commercial establishment.
- Within the context of an eventual community center goal, MMCC down-focused its first project focusing on the group's first and highest priority — seniors and Maricopa's growth-killing embarrassment of being one of the only cities in Arizona without a senior center. 📞



Al Brandenburg

MMCC will host a free briefing on "The Dangers of Long-Term Opioid Usage by Seniors," March 22 at 2-4 p.m., at the Copper Sky Police Substation Community Conference Room. Presented by the Pinal-Gila Council for Seniors, it will cover both consequences and alternatives and will be appropriate for both seniors and caregivers. Light refreshments will be available.

Ted Yocum, MMCC President
Bob Marsh, MMCC Treasurer
Al Brandenburg, MMCC Secretary
📧 ABranden80@gmail.com

Wellbeing

Get rid of habits that adversely affect your wellbeing

By Joan Koczor

Habits, scientists say, emerge because the brain is constantly looking for ways to save effort. The brain will try to make almost any routine into a habit because habits allow our minds to ramp down; an effort-saving instinct.

Merriam Dictionary defines habit as an acquired mode of behavior that has become nearly or completely involuntary.

Charles Duhigg in his book "The Power of Habit" explains once a habit is established your brain can take a backseat in the decision making. You instinctively do a task without much thought or conscious decision. You will continue to, unless you make the deliberate decision to fight back against the habit.

As we go through life we create habits that are normal to our everyday routine. These habits can be good or bad for our health or not impact our health at all.

Daily Health Lifestyles lists 12 habits we may do every day and should make an effort to avoid as soon as possible. A sampling:

Slouching while walking. Slouching is a habit that, for some, has become a way of life. The way we walk illustrates the mood we are in or how we are feeling. Walking with the back straight and the chest out means we are feeling excited or eager for what is ahead. Slouching may signal depression or not feeling motivated.

Letting others get the best of you. It is all-too common to worry about what others think about you and try their hardest to impress the ones that make an impression on a lot of people.

Procrastination. When you put things off until a later date you begin to subconsciously worry about not getting the task completed on time. Your sleep could be affected. And it could lead to the task becoming more difficult to complete because you have thought about this one task for so long you become anxious and stressed.

Multi-tasking. An increasing number of people multitask and often complete the work of three people at the same time. We are not allowing ourselves and our brains the small breaks necessary throughout the day.

Talking solely through text and social media. This has become a habit that should/must be avoided. There is nothing wrong with using text messaging or social media as means of contact; the problem comes when this is your only method of communication. Talking face to face with people allows us to become more intimate and allows the conversation to be more meaningful.

Habits are here to stay, never truly disappearing. But, they can be overcome by learning new routines and practicing them over and over again. 📞

Information from "Power of Habits and Daily Health Lifestyles" by Charles Duhigg.

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



Joan Koczor

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10 Things you can do for your mental health

Submitted by **Tyrae Word** (Behavioral Health Consultant at Sun Life Family Health Center)

Spring symbolizes new life or new beginnings for many. As we enter the season of “new” we should take the opportunity to put ourselves first and strike a balance in our lives. As anything, it is often easier said than done, as there are endless demands placed on our time. Yet, to be able to meet these demands or take care of others, we must also take care of ourselves. Mental health is as important as physical health. While we often associate taking caring of ourselves with eating healthy and working out, we forget that it also means keeping our mind healthy.

Here are 10 things we can do for our mental health.

1 Value yourself: Treat yourself with kindness and respect, and avoid self-criticism. Make time for your hobbies and favorite projects, or broaden your horizons. Do a daily crossword puzzle, plant a garden, take dance lessons, learn to play an instrument or become fluent in another language.

2 Take care of your body: Taking care of yourself physically can improve your mental health. Be sure to:

- Eat nutritious meals
- Drink plenty of water
- Exercise, which helps decrease depression and anxiety and improve moods
- Get enough sleep.

3 Surround yourself with good people: People with strong family or social connections are generally healthier than those who lack a support network. Make plans with supportive family members and friends, or seek out activities where you can meet new people, such as a club, class or support group.

4 Give yourself: Volunteer your time and energy to help someone else. You'll feel good about doing something tangible to help someone in need — and it's a great way to meet new people.



5 Learn how to deal with stress: Like it or not, stress is a part of life. Practice good coping skills: Exercise, take a nature walk, play with your pet or try journal writing as a stress reducer. Also, remember to smile and see the humor in life. Research shows that laughter can boost your immune system, ease pain, relax your body and reduce stress.


6 Quiet your mind: Try meditating. Relaxation exercises and prayer can your state of mind outlook on life. In fact, research shows that meditation may help you feel calm and enhance the effects of therapy.

7 Set realistic goals: Decide what you want to achieve academically, professionally and personally, and write down the steps you need to realize your goals. Aim high, but be realistic and don't over-schedule. You'll enjoy a tremendous sense of accomplishment and self-worth as you progress toward your goal.

8 Break up the monotony: Although our routines make us more efficient and enhance our feelings of security and safety, a little change of pace can perk up a tedious schedule. Alter your jogging route, plan a road-trip, take a walk in a different park, hang some new pictures or try a new restaurant.

9 Avoid alcohol: Keep alcohol use to a minimum. Sometimes people use alcohol to “self-medicate” but in reality, alcohol can only aggravate problems.

10 Get help when you need it: Seeking help is a sign of strength — not a weakness. And it is important to remember that treatment is effective. People who get appropriate care can recover from mental illness and addiction and lead full, rewarding lives.

Putting all or some of these tips into place can improve your overall health. It can take as little as a minute to help improve both mental and physical health by using simple strategies. Too often our minds are traveling at the speed of light bouncing from thought to thought, many of which are stressful. Taking a full deep breath or focused breath can help relieve tension and lead to physical relaxation. All we have to do is start. 

Reference: <https://www.uhs.umich.edu/tenthings>



Sponsored Content



**MARCH
9-10**

**Rocky Dunne is among the artists
on the Studio Crawl.**

Raquel Hendrickson

10 artists to share talents in Studio Crawl

Maricopa Arts Council will present its fifth Artists Studio Crawl March 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and March 10 from noon to 4 p.m.

The Studio Crawl is a drive-yourself fun day at the varying artists' studios in Maricopa. MAC will have five artists at one stop on the map, like a mini Art Festival.

This free event has been popular with residents and an inspiration for the artists to share their most creative moments, the tools they use and works in progress.

"Maricopa is full of creative folks, so many incredible talents, showing their work to all of us and in doing so may possibly move others to get inspired," said Susan Cameron, one of the artists on the crawl. "Enjoy the day with the family and see some amazing pieces of artwork."



Featured artists

Rocky Dunne, fused-glass artist
Herman Neuberger, artist and sculpture
Tiffany Yazzie, Navajo weaver
Lilly Schuette, poured paint artist
Brad Kammeyer, oil painting artist
Allene Dugan, acrylic and mixed media
Nelda Mullins, wire wrap jewelry and designs
Susan Cameron, pastels and acrylic painter
Cynthia Portray, weaver and artist
Diane Hebert, bead-maker

Maps to the studios and the corresponding artist will be available at Honeycutt Coffee, the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce and Maricopa Public Library.

Things to Do

MARCH

2

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

Spring Plant Sale

8 a.m.-1 p.m., Maricopa Agricultural Center
37860 W. Smith-Enke Road

Sun Life Chocolate

Fun Run/Walk
8 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

"Mary Poppins Jr."

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

Great Southwest Radio

Who Done It Show
3 p.m., Central Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive
Maricopa, AZ United States + Google Map

Against Abuse Seeds of Change Gala

6-11 p.m., Province Town Hall
20942 Province Parkway

4

Historical Society: "The National Monument Next Door"
5:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Football: Brandon

Harris Attack Clinic
6:30 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

5

Sequoia Pathway Varsity Baseball vs. Heritage-Mesa
4 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

MHS Beach Volleyball vs. Chandler
4 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

MHS Varsity Baseball v. Notre Dame
4 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

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

7-10

The Wall That Heals Display
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Dave White Park,
2121 N. Thornton Road,
Casa Grande

7

MHS Varsity Softball v. Willow Canyon
3:45 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

8

MHS Beach Volleyball v. Campo Verde
4 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

9

Tortosa Community Garage Sale
7 a.m.-1 p.m., various locations

Artists Studio Crawl

10 a.m.-2 p.m., various locations

10

Artists Studio Crawl
Noon-4 p.m., various locations

11

MHS Girls' Tennis v. Cibola
3 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MHS Varsity Softball vs. Paradise Valley
3:45 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**MARCH
7-10**

The Wall That Heals makes first visit to Pinal County

The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, is coming to Pinal County for the first time in March.

It will be on display March 7-10 at Dave White Park, 2121 N. Thornton Road, Casa Grande.

HOHP — Honoring/Hiring/Helping Our Heroes of Pinal County — has worked with the communities of Maricopa, Eloy, Casa Grande, Coolidge, Florence and San Tan Valley as well as all veterans organizations from around the county to bring the wall to Dave White Park in Casa Grande.

"Last year in the summer, I saw that the Wall That Heals was in Oro Valley," said Kim Vandenberg of HOHP's Eagles Landing Veteran Center. "I have seen the real wall three times in D.C., so I headed over there to see it. It was just as moving as the real wall to me."

She picked up brochures and sent in an application to have a future wall visit come to Pinal County. It was chosen out of 135 applications, the site was vetted, she had to take photos of the park and be interviewed twice.

Organizers had to raise \$10,000 to pay for the exhibit and a little extra for other expenses like porta-potties. The City of Maricopa became an Elite Sponsor by donating \$1,000.

This year, the wall's first stop will be in San Antonio, Texas, and then it will come to Casa Grande. March 5, the wall will receive a full escort from Eloy to Dave White Park. March 6, organizers will spend putting up the display, which will include an education center and the Eagle One mobile veterans center.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the wall will be open 24 hours a day. The two south parking lots at the park will be set aside for those coming to see the wall.

"It's once in a lifetime," Vandenberg said. "A lot of people can't fly to D.C. There was one veteran who said, 'The wall's coming a long way to see me, so I'm going to go see it.' I hope everyone will come and honor all the guys and women who died. There are still so many who didn't come home or are still missing in action."

Thursday and Friday, school groups will be coming to see the wall. Friday at 7 p.m. there will be a candlelight vigil with bagpipes. Saturday at 10 a.m., there will be a remembrance ceremony, including the reading of the 37 Pinal County service members who died, and a pinning of any Vietnam War-era veterans.

Sunday at 2 p.m. will be the closing ceremony. The exhibit will close at 3 p.m.

 [Facebook.com/TWTHPINAL/](https://www.facebook.com/TWTHPINAL/)

Motorcycle Escort March 5th Eloy to Casa Grande



ON DISPLAY:
**March 7th to
March 10th**
Dave White Park
2121 N. Thornton Road
Casa Grande AZ

- Open 24 hours
- Open to the Public
- FREE Admission
- Remembrance Ceremony
March 9th 10AM
- Closing Ceremony
March 10th 2PM
- Exhibit Closes Sunday
March 10th at 3PM

For information about
The Wall That Heals
visit www.hohp4heros.org or
email hohp4heroes@gmail.com



Herman Zelig Neuberger

Judith Lang Zaimont

Creative Mind series to spotlight music, visual art

Next up for the “Inside the Creative Mind” lecture series are multimedia artist Herman Zelig Neuberger and composer Judith Lang Zaimont.

Presented by the Maricopa Arts Council, the free event is set for March 16 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at Copper Sky. Zaimont and Neuberger will discuss the skillset in the behind-the-scene process they have developed over time to complete the inspiration and make it real.

The session will offer insights gleaned by experience and examples of works, all to answer the constant questions: “How in the world did the artist do that?”

Zaimont will focus on the art and skill of orchestration. A prize-winning composer since the age of 12, she has seen her music commissioned and performed around the world by many orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Switzerland’s Camerata Bern, Janacek Philharmonic and Berlin Radio Orchestra. It includes music in every medium (including six symphonies and orchestral tone poems).

She is a Guggenheim Fellow, grantee of the Aaron Copland Award and from both National Endowments, arts commissions in five states, twice an international Gold Medal winner, plus many other honors. Author of five books, she was professor of music at universities on the East Coast and the University of Minnesota, heading the composition program there before moving to Arizona in 2005.

Neuberger will focus on the two forms where he has concentrated. Over a 58-year career centered in architecture and art, his media have varied, but finally settled into extremely detailed pencil drawings, naming his style “Thru Windows of Time.”

In 2007 he chose to enlarge his “pallet” to a very different and unique form of copper wire sculpting.

The event is free and open to the public. A reception follows.

 JudithZaimont.com, ThruWindowsOfTime.com.

Things to do

MHS Varsity Baseball vs. Independence

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

Football: Brandon Harris Attack Clinic

6:30 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

13

MHS Home Track Meet

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

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

14

Pinal 40 St. Paddy’s Day Party

Noon-6 p.m., McMashers
Sports Bar & Grill
1355 E. Florence Blvd.,
Casa Grande

Bowling for Teachers

5:15 p.m., UltraStar Multi-
tainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road

15

Food Truck Friday

5-8 p.m., Community
of Hope Church
45295 W Honeycutt Ave.

16

Spring Break Extravaganza Car Show

8 a.m.-2 p.m., Millar Airport
53510 W. McDavid Road

Spring Used Book Sale

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

Inside the Creative Mind series

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

18

Football: Brandon Harris Attack Clinic

6:30 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

19

MHS Boys’ Tennis vs. Skyline

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

20

MHS Boys’ Tennis vs. Westwood

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

21

Zonta Club of Maricopa

5:30 p.m., Honeycutt Coffee
44400 W. Honeycutt
Road, Suite 109

22

“The Dangers of Long-Term Opioid Usage by Seniors”

2 p.m., Copper Sky
Police Substation
17985 N. Greythorne Drive

MHS Varsity Baseball vs. Campo Verde

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

23

Salsa Festival

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

25

Football: Brandon Harris Attack Clinic

6:30 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

26

MHS Varsity Softball vs. Campo Verde

3:45 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.



Book-lovers turn out every spring for the Friends of the Library Used Book Sale.

Friends of the Library host book sale

Friends of the Maricopa Public Library are hosting the annual Spring Used Book Sale in the parking lot.

March 16 there will be a large variety of books for all ages, DVDs, CDs, audio books, large-print books, box sets and more. Proceeds help Friends, a nonprofit organization, support the library’s free programs.

Buy books by the plastic bag, paper bag or box.

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Mixed \$6

Box of Books:

Hardcover \$10
Paperback \$7
Mixed \$8

DVDs, CDs and audiobooks are 5/\$3 and 10/\$5. A single hardcover is \$1.50, and a paperback is 75 cents.

Also scheduled to be on hand are the Blue Star Mothers of Maricopa, who will be collecting donations for care packages to deployed service members, F.O.R. Maricopa, Maricopa Master Gardeners, Girl Scouts, Pet Social Worker/Tails of Hope with furry friends, and Library Initiative for Teens (LIFT).

The Beignet and Coffee Shack will also be available with refreshments.

IF YOU GO

What: Friends
of the Maricopa
Public Library
Used Book Sale
When: March 16,
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Where: Library
parking lot, 41600
W. Smith-Enke Road

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Jim Headley

MARCH
16

Mike Kerr (left) and Col. Chuck Millar are prepared for the annual extravaganza at Millar Airport.

Spring Break Extravaganza Car Show at Millar Airport

By Jim Headley

The 12th annual Spring Break Extravaganza Car Show and Fly-In will take place March 16 at Millar Airfield west of Maricopa at 53510 W. McDavid Road.

The annual event is free for spectators and there is a \$20 fee for car show participants to register in 19 car, truck and bike classes. The event opens at 8 a.m. and ends after trophies are presented, which begins at 1:30 p.m.

The fly-in part of the day is a monthly flight sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association. Twice a year, aviators fly into Millar Field for breakfast with Col. Chuck Millar.

The car show is sponsored by “Big” Mike Kerr and Maricopa Wings and Wheels.

“We have cars, trucks motorcycles, airplanes, helicopters,” Kerr said. “Every year we have a live band. We have a 16-piece swing band coming and they are just awesome.”

The Aviation Veterans of Arizona also has a museum at the airfield and pays for the band to perform.

Kerr said on average about 50 to 60 cars enter the car show annually. “We had about 70 airplanes out here last year. The first year we only had about 10 airplanes. The airplane part of it has gone crazy. We get some pretty cool cars out here. Every year you have some cars that are the same, but you wouldn’t believe some of the stuff that comes out of the woodwork. Some strange and unique vehicles,” he said.

Each of the 19 classes has trophy winners, and there is also a “people’s choice” trophy awarded to the vehicle picked by show attendees.

Other activities include rides in Millar’s military half-track, a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, food and drink and hay rides.

“We try to have activities throughout the day to keep things going,” Millar said. “Just sitting by your car or your airplane — after a while you just get bored.”

Millar said there can also be fly-bys and parachute jumps during the day.

 [Facebook.com/MaricopaWingsAndWheels](https://www.facebook.com/MaricopaWingsAndWheels)

Things to do

27

MHS Girls Tennis vs. Tolleson
3 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MHS Varsity Softball vs. Agua Fria

3:45 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

29

MHS Girls’ Tennis vs. San Luis
3 p.m., Maricopa High School,
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MHS Varsity Baseball vs. Williams Field

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

APRIL 6

Copa Color Run
8 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.

SUNDAYS

Narcotics Anonymous

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

MONDAYS-FRIDAYS

Senior Drop-In

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

MONDAYS

Senior Bowling

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL)

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

TUESDAYS

Celebrate Recovery Coffee & Karaoke

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

WEDNESDAYS

Babytime

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

Harrah’s Club 777 Toastmasters

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

S.M.A.R.T. Kids

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

Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting

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

THURSDAYS

Family Story Time

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

FRIDAYS

Al-Anon Meeting

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



Salsa makers will compete for prize money at the 15th annual Salsa Fest.

MARCH
23

Salsa Festival marks 15th year

Maricopa’s 15th annual Salsa Festival is March 23 from 2 to 8 p.m. at Copper Sky Regional Park.

There will be competitions not only for best salsa but also best tacos. Salsa chefs again compete in mild, hot and unusual categories, with overall top prize earning \$1,000. Category winners receive \$500, and the celebrity judge’s choice earns \$250.

Salsa chefs can enter for \$10 for the first entry and \$5 for additional entries. Salsa booths will be set up throughout the festival grounds.

The taco competition is new this year, and judging will take place inside. Chefs will compete in beef, chicken and pork categories. The overall winner earns \$1,000. Category winners receive \$500. Best booth wins \$100.

Taco chefs can enter for \$200 and \$5 for each additional category. They are encouraged to have a minimum of 500 tacos to sell. According to the rules, they

can sell any taco, taco sample, salsa and guacamole for \$2 each.

Kids can play in the Little Pepper Zone, and adults can enjoy an adult beverage in the beer garden. There will be food vendors and booths for crafters, businesses and organizations.

SCHEDULE

2 p.m. - Salsa turn-in to judges, People’s Choice voting begins

2:20 p.m. - Community Performance

2:40 p.m. - Piñata Bust

3:00 p.m. - Ballet Folklorico de Ajo

3:50 p.m. - Community Performance

4:10 p.m. - Piñata Bust

4:30 p.m. - Cuacualti Folklore Group

5:00 p.m. - Ballet Folklorico Quetzalcoatl

5:50 p.m. - Hot Sauce eating contest

6:30 p.m. - Libre Wrestling

7:30 p.m. - Awards on the Main Stage, Hall of Fame Induction

IF YOU GO

What: Salsa Festival

When: March 23, 2-8 p.m.

When: Copper Sky
Regional Park

How much: Admission
free, salsa-voting kit \$1,
parking \$5 (free shuttle
from Butterfield and Santa
Rosa elementary schools),
Little Pepper Zone \$5
Info: Maricopa-AZ.gov/
web/Salsa-Festival

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**THE
BEAT**

Rob Boyd

Maricopa's entertainment scene picking up

By Tommy Ronca

This month, I interviewed new Community Services Manager Nathan Ulyot and local promoter Rob Boyd about future activities.

Nathan comes to Maricopa with a dynamic and extensive background. He grew up on Christian campgrounds traveling with his family. He worked with many senior and youth centers. Formerly with the Salvation Army, Nathan brings an array of experience with him.

What I like about Nathan is his vision for this community. We spoke about introducing the new Apex Motor Club to the Maricopa public, partnering with them and bringing an annual Mega Car Show and Competition to Copper Sky next year. We also spoke about having the new pickleball area at the park.

I was overwhelmed with his future plans for our Copper Sky facility. I personally welcome Nathan and his family to our fast-growing city.

Rob Boyd is a producer, performer and entertainment promoter. Rob and his wife Lucinda are mostly known here in Maricopa for their wonderful work with their charity The Streets Don't Love You Back.

Now Rob is reaching out as a hip-hop artist with three new albums to be released this year. March 1 Rob's first album, "Back to the Money Bag," will be released. You can find it on many social network outlets like YouTube, Facebook, Amazon and iTunes.

This is really very exciting with Rob being from Maricopa. His recording name will be "RB." All you hip-hop fans please look for his first album. We are all pulling for you, Rob. Good Luck!

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 Committee and can be reached at TheBeat.InMaricopa@gmail.com.



Tommy Ronca

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