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June 2019

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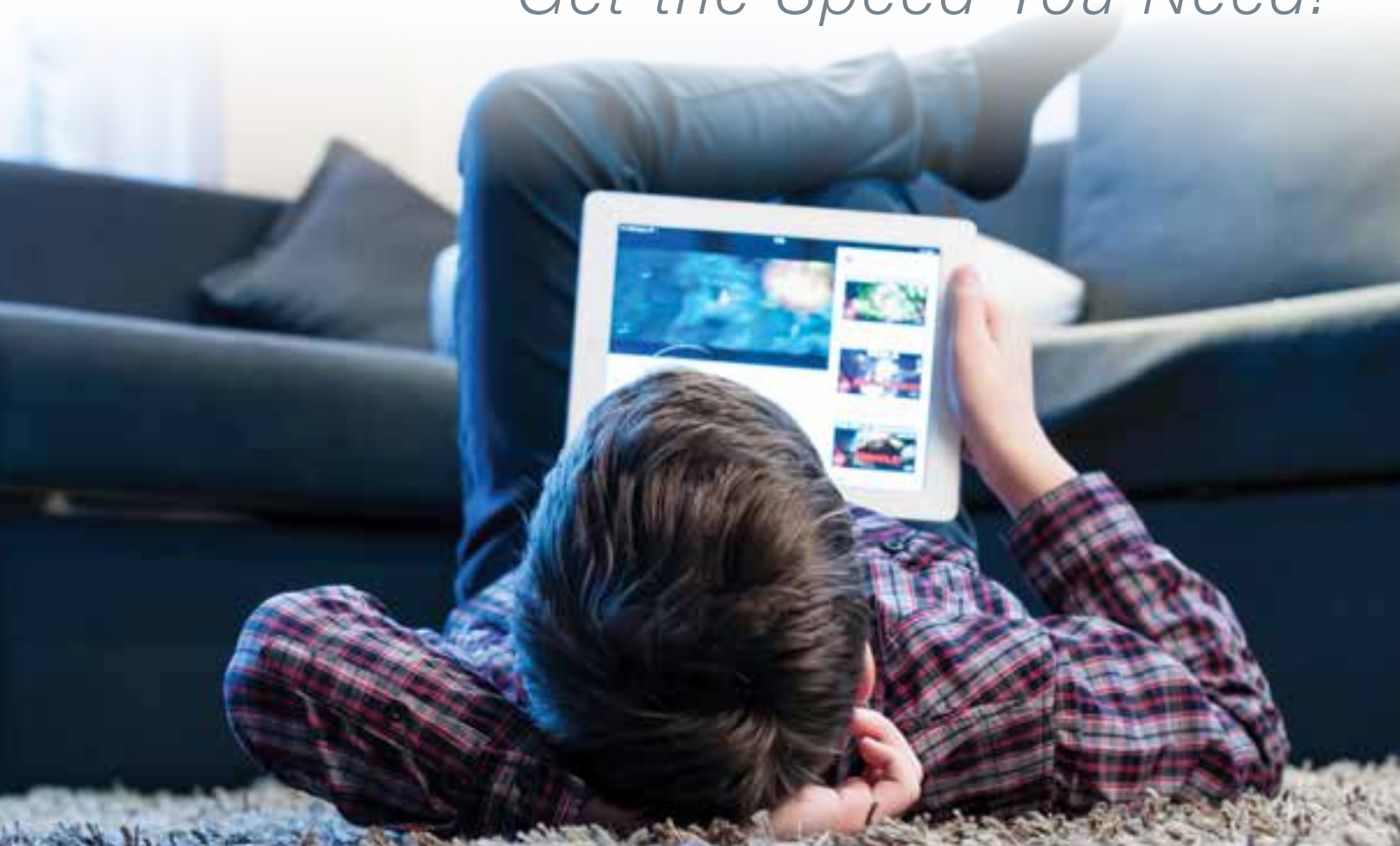


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On the go



We're approaching the mid-year mark, and that means some endings (school contracts, fiscal years) and some beginnings (vacations, new construction). While the increasing heat will slow down some activities in Maricopa, other matters are just getting started.

This issue also has an overview of some of Maricopa's most important upcoming capital improvement projects, which will affect the floodplain, transportation and economic development – not to mention the library.

The courthouse in Maricopa is often buzzing with activity, particularly on Fridays for "Open Court" when anyone can come in to take care of a citation that is in front of Judge Lyle Riggs. For this issue, we spent a day in the court to paint a picture of how cases are handled on the local level.

Summer is coming, which is when cacti really show off in the Sonoran Desert. Meet Mike Headrick, who has made cactus plants and their skeletons part of his exterior and, yes, interior design at "the cactus house."

Learn how a Boy Scout troop earned 102 merit badges in three months. Catch up with Coyote Joe's dream of starting a music scene in Maricopa. Find out what businesses are making moves in town.

Those and other stories are in this edition of InMaricopa. Happy reading.

Raquel Hendrickson

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History

Family Reminiscences

Milton P. Smith Sr. bought five sections of land (3,200 acres) in Pinal County in 1943 with the intention of growing cotton. The property was 10 miles south of Maricopa and 10 miles west of Stanfield. After he died in a plane crash in 1951 and the land was divided among heirs, his son Milton P. "Bud" Smith Jr. worked most of the property. The young couple first lived in a small house on the farm before building a large home that would eventually include a swimming pool and tennis courts. When cotton was hand-picked, they hired many workers, mostly braceros from Mexico, and set up a full camp with a grocery store during picking season. Oldest son Le Smith, his daughter Suzi and two of his younger brothers Gary and Mike talked to the Maricopa Historical Society May 6 about growing up farming and ranching in the area (only Le is still a farmer). They also talked about their mother's life as an artist. Vada Le Smith was regionally renowned for her works, which ended up in many private collections. She even held etiquette classes to teach the local hard-working women how to be ladies. **See the video at InMaricopa.com.**



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Contributors



KYLE NORBY
He had stints as a lifeguard and an activities coordinator before becoming InMaricopa's videographer and sometime photographer.



TRUDY FULLER
An opera singer and professor at Furnam University, she is now a master gardener helping Maricopans with planting questions.



CHANDLER CHANG
A 2019 graduate from Maricopa High School, he is now heading to ASU to study mathematics and chemical engineering.

ON THE COVER: Mike Headrick of Rancho El Dorado toys with his collection of cactus plants, which can be found inside and outside his home..
Photo by Raquel Hendrickson



Bruce Jones

FAMILY

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Q&A with State Representative Bret Roberts

How was your first legislative session?

I really enjoy being up at the Capitol representing District 11. Being vice chair of one and sitting on three other committees is a lot of work, but it does have its rewards. You get much more exposure to the issues you have come through your committees.

What have you learned that will help you in year two?

There was the obvious learning curve. The first few weeks to a month was a blur. Back-to-back, 30-minute meetings with individuals wanting to meet with you to discuss issues on bills. Learning who all the staff is and how they can help you. If you're not in committee or on the floor, you're in a meeting. The more committees you're on, the more individuals want to meet with you. Which is great, you get to learn about so many issues. Next year, none of the day-to-day will be a surprise. Work can also be done in the interim to get a head start on any bills I may want to run.


How do you see the "Wayfair bill" HB2702 impacting Maricopa?

HB2702, or Wayfair, has to do with taxes being collected on products that are purchased online out of state. This would bring parity and fairness to any brick-and-mortar business that is currently collecting sales tax on products sold. Any time a product is purchased out of state online by an individual located in Arizona, that out-of-state vendor would have to collect sales tax and send it back to Arizona; just like our businesses are doing for those states. Forty other states have done this already, which means our businesses are currently at a disadvantage, meaning our businesses are collecting taxes for out-of-state vendors and sending taxes back to those states. Once we get this in place, those states will have to do the same for Arizona.

You were emotional during testimony about suicide prevention training for schools during this session. Share your thoughts on why that bill was important?



Submitted

Yes, this was an emotional bill for many, including myself. This was also a great example of a bill that had tremendous bipartisan support. In my opinion this bill is important for many reasons but what stood out the most in my opinion [is that] today with social media, it's a very different time than when most likely you or I went to school. Bullying is a much different animal today. Something could happen with a student and in mere moments it could be spread to pretty much the entire student body. This can lead to tremendous pressure on kids. The required training in the bill will help all school staff, not just teachers, to recognize signs that a student may be in distress, whether it be from an issue at school, home or anywhere for that matter and know how to act on that to prevent these tragic losses of life. 

“Bullying is a much different animal today. Something could happen with a student and in mere moments it could be spread to pretty much the entire student body.”

REP. BRET ROBERTS

Age: 46
Hometown: Bowling Green, Ohio
Community of residence: Maricopa
Previous occupations: Detention officer, mortgage banker, constable
Committees: Regulatory Affairs (vice-chairman), Appropriations, Commerce, Judiciary
Primary sponsorship: HB2521, which adds properly trained/certified constables to the list of peace officers who may be allowed to carry a firearm; HB2675, which validates unambiguous contract provisions negotiated by parties represented by attorneys.

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A day in the life of Maricopa courts

By Jim Headley

The courthouse in Maricopa is off the beaten path.

The average citizen may not realize the city has both a municipal and a criminal justice court in the community, yet the court performs needed duties each day. Sitting on the bench of both courts is the Honorable Lyle D. Riggs.

Riggs could be called the most polite judge in the West. He goes out of his way to make sure those accused of a crime understand what they're facing, how to navigate the system and to always show up to court when required.

Unlike Pinal County Superior Court, there is no docket available when you come to municipal court.

Mondays, the court tackles arraignments, with the criminal cases being heard by the judge and clerks handling most of the traffic offenses.

Tuesdays begin with pre-trial hearings in municipal court, which also gives defendants the opportunity to talk with a prosecutor and maybe work out an agreement early in the process.

Wednesdays, pretrial conferences for the justice court take place. There are typically 50 or more municipal pretrial hearings and 25 to 30 justice court pre-trials each week at the Maricopa courthouse.

Arraignments also take place on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

Thursdays are set aside for contested hearings, small claims and eviction hearings. Riggs said there are six to eight evictions a week in Maricopa. Jury and bench trials take place Thursday afternoons and Fridays when needed.

Friday is one of the most interesting days in the Maricopa courtroom as open court takes place from 8 to 10 a.m. Open court is a time when defendants who are a little off track talk to Judge Riggs and fix what they have done wrong.

Maybe they missed a payment on a settlement agreement. Maybe they missed a court date and have a warrant issued for their arrest. Riggs sets aside Friday mornings in his calendar to give people a chance to make right. He said 30 to 40 people usually come through court on Friday mornings, and anything can happen.



Kyle Norby

Going in front of Judge Lyle Riggs in justice court or municipal court can be daunting, but it can get people out from under warrants and debts.



Jim Headley

Open Court May 3, 2019

(Only first names of the defendants used for privacy.)

8 a.m. – The doors to the Western Pinal Justice Court open. There are about 20 people waiting in line. Everyone entering the building goes through a security checkpoint and metal detector run by the security guard, Lorenzo Villa. People have until 10 a.m. to check in for open court.

8:12 a.m. – Open court starts as Judge Lyle Riggs enters the courtroom.

8:14 a.m. – Riggs explains to attendees how court works and calls the first case of the day. Brian is selected as the first “contestant.” “It’s kind of like a game show,” Riggs jokes.

Brian has a traffic ticket for failure to stop, but he failed to appear for a court date in March, and his driving privileges were suspended. He owes \$288 in fines and must complete traffic survival school. He asked the court for a payment plan, as he’s starting a new job on Monday and needs his driver’s license reinstated. He promises to make a payment today and get his license restarted. Riggs orders him to pay \$80 today and \$80 a month starting June 1.

8:20 a.m. – Johnathan missed his deadline to complete court-ordered community service. The agreement is between him and the prosecutor and not the court, so Riggs tells him to talk to the prosecutor. He must be back in court at a later date.

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Jim Headley

8:21 a.m. – Lane was to be in court April 30 for an arraignment, and he missed it. He tells Riggs he was in police custody at that time. He is rescheduled to appear in court June 11.

8:23 a.m. – Damian also was supposed to be in court April 30 and failed to appear. She apologizes and says she failed to plan for the appearance. Riggs lets her reschedule to appear on June 11. “I’ll accept this excuse one time,” Riggs says.

8:26 a.m. – Shannon is called next with two cases pending. She says she tried to pay on her fine and was told the payment plan was terminated. She says she could pay \$150 today and pay off one of the fines by June 1 at a balance of \$82. Then she will pay \$50 a month on the other fine. “I want something that works,” Riggs says.

8:33 a.m. – Diego was to be in court April 22 and failed to appear. He says he was out of town, but he wants to go to driving school to clear up his tickets. “It’s a good thing you came in today; you were about to get suspended,” Riggs tells him. He has until June 10 to complete driving school.

8:35 a.m. – Ruben was facing a traffic complaint and failed to appear in court on March 25. He owes fines of \$668 and currently has suspended driving privileges. He decides to file a written motion for

forgiveness on missing his court date and will remain suspended until the issue is resolved. Riggs gives him instructions on how to file the motion.

8:40 a.m. – Maria was wanted on a warrant because she wasn’t making payments to the court. Her last payment was in August until today. She is ordered pay the fine in full, and Riggs cancels the warrant. She also must go through substance abuse counseling by Aug. 2, and she remains on probation. She owes \$571 in fines and promised to pay \$50 a month.

8:45 a.m. – Christine says she got a letter in the mail that she hasn’t been paying her fines and she wants to reinstate her payments to the court. She also asks for her driving privileges to be reinstated. She promises to pay \$100 today and \$67 by June 1. Then she is ordered to pay \$50 a month. She owes more than \$1,000.

8:52 a.m. – Rhonda was last in court in July 2017. Riggs says the court has only received one payment from her and a warrant was issued. Her last payment was in February. She promises to pay \$50 today and \$50 a month starting June 1. Riggs cancels the warrant.

8:56 a.m. – Steven said he was ordered to do a day in jail and wants to reschedule the date. “This happens. We will get this rescheduled,” Riggs says. Steven will go to jail on May 17.

8:59 a.m. – Robert is called next. Riggs asks him to take his hat off as he approaches the bench, and he is sworn in. He is requesting an order of protection against harassment, but the court has to first prove there is a series of harassment. He keeps getting harassing calls and texts from a man as well as harassing posts on his business website, he says. The protection order is granted.

9:07 a.m. – Nicole requests a protection order. A woman threatened to beat her up in one text and said she wouldn’t stop until she does in a second text. The protection order is granted.

9:13 a.m. – Juan says he was about to have a warrant issued because he hasn’t been making payments. Riggs stops the warrant before it is issued. He tells Riggs he wants to establish a payment plan and get his license reinstated. Riggs orders him to pay \$273 today and \$200 a month starting June 1 on a balance of \$1,000.

9:18 a.m. – Diane was wanted on a warrant as she failed to appear in court for a July 2017 arraignment. She lives in California and will be arraigned later in the day.

9:19 a.m. – Alexander failed to appear in court on Monday. “I forgot,” he says. “Well, that’s an honest answer,” Riggs replies. His court date is rescheduled.

9:21 a.m. – Lewis has four pending cases and he owes fines in each case. He asks to be put back on a payment plan and promises to pay \$377 today and then \$120 a month.

9:27 a.m. – Victoria failed to appear in court Jan. 14. She is to be arraigned later in the day.

9:28 a.m. – Francisco failed to appear for a court hearing on Wednesday and told Riggs he couldn’t get off work. “You have to get here; otherwise I make the arrangements and my arrangements aren’t very pleasant,” Riggs says. He is rescheduled to appear in court.

9:32 a.m. – Hannah has two cases pending, speeding and failure to appear in court on Jan 16. By default judgment, she owes \$290 in fines on the speeding charge and her driver’s license is suspended. She is also charged with failure to have proof of insurance and she failed to appear in court on this charge on March 4. She owes \$1,043 in fines on this charge by default judgement and is suspended an additional 90 days. She will file a written motion by May 17 for forgiveness in missing the dates in court.

9:37 a.m. – Joseph asks the court for an order of home detention, so he can get an ankle bracelet. A clerk will help him at the window.

9:40 a.m. – Diana says her driver’s license

was suspended. She works in Chandler and is having financial issues. She wants a work driving permit and changes to her payment plan. She also missed a traffic hearing. Riggs tells her to make a payment and the court will release a hold they have on her license. She promises to pay \$35 today and \$30 a month.

9:44 a.m. – Darrin has two warrants against him and has pending fines, but he was not making payments. He promises to pay \$60 today and \$60 per month.


9:48 a.m. – Janela tells the court she missed a \$200 payment yesterday because she wasn’t in the area and she lost her wallet. Riggs says she has until May 15 to start a \$100 monthly payment.

9:50 a.m. – Diane and Victoria, two cases from earlier in the day, are arraigned. Both are criminal arraignments. Riggs explains the rules of arraignment to the two defendants at the same time. Diane was charged Dec. 15, 2016 with driving while suspended. She is also charged with failure to appear. Riggs sets a pretrial conference in the case for June 5. She owes \$327 in fines for the failure to appear charge and she agrees to pay \$163 today and the rest by June 1.

10:02 a.m. – Victoria is arraigned for driving while suspended on Nov. 16, 2018. The matter is set for a pretrial conference on June 11. On another charge, a plan is set up for a payment of \$100 on Monday and monthly payments starting June 15.

10:05 a.m. – Caleb apparently had a disagreement with one of the court staff in the lobby before entering open court. It is something Riggs describes as “not very pleasant.” Riggs says Caleb called a clerk a name. Riggs suggests he apologize to the clerk on the way out of the building. Riggs says when you yell at a member of his staff you are also yelling at him. Caleb tells Riggs he finished driving school. Riggs dismisses a no-proof-of-insurance charge against him and says he was then done with the court and doesn’t need to come back.

10:16 a.m. – William is sworn in by Riggs. He asks the court for a protection order, which was granted by the court as evidence of harassment was established.

10:24 a.m. – Open Court finishes. Riggs says it was a light day and 27 cases were heard in just two hours and 12 minutes. 



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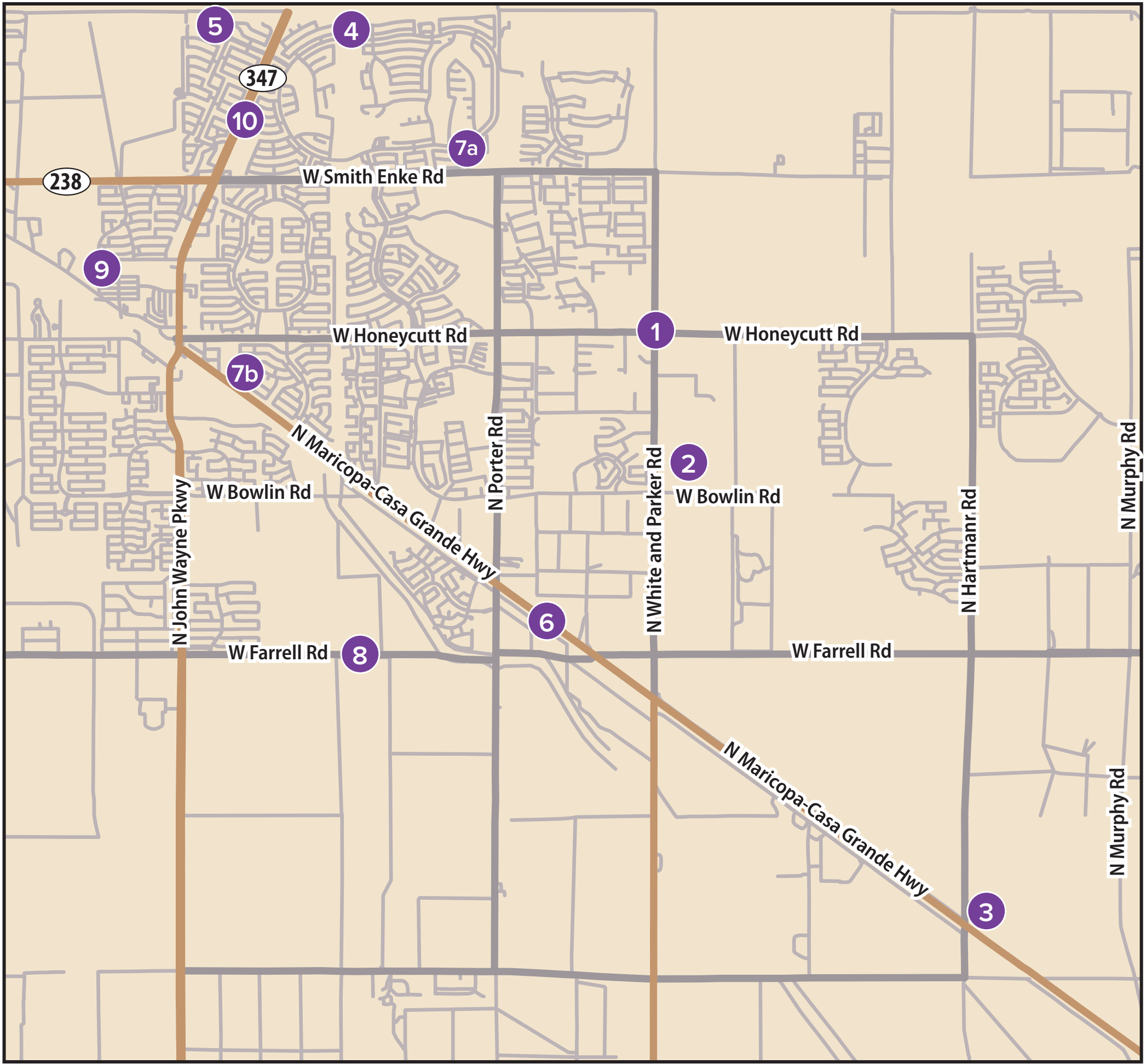
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Projects

Maricopa’s Big Plans

The City of Maricopa included more than 50 potential capital improvement projects in its 2020-24 fiscal planning, some with higher priority than others. City Manager Rick Horst unveiled the tentative budget in May, showing it is filled with \$33.95 million in capital projects. Many of those have been on the city’s “wish list” for years. Here are just 10 of the projects.

- 1
- The only project marked “critical” is the placement of a traffic signal at the intersection of Honeycutt Road at White and Parker Road in fiscal year 2020. That junction is currently a four-way stop, with one four-lane road squeezing down to two lanes in the process. Funded with impact fees. **Cost \$322,273**
- 2
- The construction of a new library south of City Hall is in FY2020, funded by current bond from 2008. It would share the City Hall parking lot and have additional access from the south funded with impact fees. **Cost \$10.8 million**
- 3
- Santa Cruz Wash flood control is considered the single most important project for the development of Maricopa. Planned for FY2020, it intends to reroute floodwaters from the Santa Cruz to the Santa Rosa Wash, removing 3,000 acres from the floodplain established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and funded by General Government CIP. **Cost \$913,330**
- 4
- An emergency flood-warning system on Rancho El Dorado Parkway’s two wash crossings is planned for FY2020. It would include water level sensors and message boards, funded with Highway User Revenue Funds. Related to that is an FY2021 and FY2022 project to elevate the north crossing near Pima Butte Elementary, funded by county road tax.



Cost of warning system \$55,000; cost of elevated crossing \$905,000

- 5
- A study for a State Route 347 truck bypass to SR 238 is in FY2020. It will look at the possibility of building a road off SR 347 north of Cobblestone Farms to run west and then south to SR 238 to remove several heavy trucks from the SR 347/Smith-Enke Road intersection. The study would be funded by Direct Industrial Fund. **Cost \$50,000**
- 6
- Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway improvements in FY2020 would widen the roadway to four lanes from Porter Road to White and Parker Road and create turn lanes at the White and Parker intersection. Funded by county road tax. **Cost \$4.997 million**
- 7
- Repurposing the existing library (FY2021) and the veterans center (FY2022) comes in the wake of building a new library. Plans are to make the current library on Smith-Enke Road into a shared-purpose senior center and veterans center. The current veterans center on MCG Highway would become a museum for Maricopa Historical Society. Both projects are funded by General Government CIP. **Cost of library renovation \$30,000; cost of vet center renovation \$100,000**
- 8
- Beginning construction on the East-West Corridor, an important element of the Pinal Regional Transportation Authority, includes improving Farrell Road from SR 347 to Porter Road and a five-lane bridge on Porter Road across the Santa Rosa Wash, funded by Direct Industrial Fund in FY2020, FY2021, FY2022 and FY2023. **Cost \$21.6 million**
- 9
- The installation of a 20,000-square-foot shell building in the Estrella Gin Business Park is in FY2020. The property was purchased and the roadway completed in hopes of luring industry. The new building is expected to spur development and would be funded by HURF. **Cost \$1.1 million**
- 10
- Adding lanes to SR 347 from the south junction of Cobblestone Farms Drive to the north city limits is in FY2020 and FY2022. The plan is to add a third northbound lane from South Cobblestone to Lakeview Drive and then add a northbound acceleration lane off Lakeview Drive onto SR 347. Funded by HURF. **Cost \$3 million**



ADOT says condemnation in the works for NAPA

The Arizona Department of Transportation has begun condemnation proceedings to take possession of the Maricopa NAPA site.

Tena Dugan, owner of NAPA Auto Parts and Mel’s Auto Repair, located on the corner of State Route 347 and the Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, said she remains unsure where she might move her business. She does not own the building.

Due to the construction of the State Route 347 overpass looming on the store’s east side, ADOT acknowledged they are attempting to condemn the property.

“We have converted from what was a partial taking of the NAPA site,” Herrmann said. “Originally, the plan was (to take) a small area on the east side of the NAPA site. We are now in condemnation proceedings to take the entire property.”

He said it remains unknown what ADOT might do with the property

Native brand ACONAV to walk Tony Awards red carpet

Loren Aragon, who founded the Native American fashion-design portion of ACONAV in Maricopa with his wife Valentina, will see one of his creations on the red carpet at the 73rd annual Tony Awards in New York City June 9.

He is an alumnus of Arizona State University, and fans from his alma mater connected him with Colleen Jennings-Roggensack, ASU vice president for Cultural Affairs and executive director of ASU Gammage. She is also Arizona’s only voter to the 2019 Tony Awards and chose an ACONAV dress for the big night.

“I was excited to hear that Colleen requested me to design a custom gown for her red-carpet experience,” said Aragon, who was named Phoenix Fashion Week Couture Designer of the Year in 2017 and was commissioned by Walt Disney World for a dress in an Epcot Center display.

“His work is bold, innovative and evokes the global empowerment of women,” Jennings-Roggensack said. “It will be deeply moving to wear Loren’s work, which is dedicated to share, educate and connect the artistry of Acoma ways of life.”

 Aconav.com

What’s new in business development

La Quinta received a development review permit for its plans to build a hotel at Copper Sky as the City works to commercialize the property west of the park. As part of the project, the City decreased the amount of land it agreed to sell to Maricopa Auberge LLC near the southeast corner of John Wayne Parkway and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard by almost 5,000 square feet. The purchase price was \$411,970, or about \$5 per square foot.

Sacate Pellet Mill, 38743 W. Cowtown Road, received commercial permits for five new buildings. One is 1,584 square feet, another 3,479 square feet, a metal building to cover the boiler and air compressor is 616 square feet, and a metal hay canopy is 9,860 square feet. The fifth building is a 4,230-square-foot hay office. Sacate was also approved for a modular sales office.

A new church to be built at 19275 N. Gunsmoke Road received a commercial permit. Schifferer Built LLC is the contractor for what will be **Mount Moriah Community AME Church**. It is planned as a 2,096-square-foot building valued at \$317,000. The project received a grading and drainage permit, too.

SimonMed was approved to make changes to Suite B in the new Signal Healthcare building at 44555 W. Edison Road in anticipation of a 4,539-square-foot office space for diagnostics. The City approved a comprehensive sign plan for Edison Place, 44500 W. Edison Road, including three illuminated wall signs for SimonMed.

Apex Motor Club, 22408 N. Ralston Road, opened the first phase of its track to its membership with a ribbon-cutting April 26. It continues construction on the lot, with plans for a clubhouse and garage condo.

The construction of **Heritage Academy** continues rapidly at 41004 W. Lucerian Lane in Glennwilde. It received commercial permits for a 13,525-square-foot gymnasium valued at \$2.1 million and was approved for fire sprinklers in both its buildings.

Honeycutt Coffee reopened under new ownership May 15 after being closed since February. Tanya and Dave Powers have purchased the business at 44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 107, selling coffee, smoothies, sandwiches, muffin tops and pastries.

Hope Women’s Center, 45978 W. McDavid Road, has a zoning permit and is working to renovate a house into a center for its services to women and children.

Pacific Dental Services received approval to make improvement at 41940 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy. near Walmart.

Global Water specialist appointed to PCWAA

Jake Lenderking, director of water resources for Global Water Resources since March 2018, was appointed to the board of the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority in May.

PCWAA supports the development water planning and management in the Pinal Active Management Area. The Pinal AMA includes portions of Pinal, Maricopa and Pima counties in Central Arizona.

“This important appointment reflects

Jake’s senior leadership experience with water resource management in Arizona,” said Global Water Resources President and CEO Ron Fleming. “This includes his roles at the Arizona Department of Water Resources, as well as at some of the largest municipal and private water utilities in the state. We believe his work in Pinal County — an area critical to our state’s economic development goals and which could benefit from augmentation — makes him an ideal addition to the PCWAA board.”



Jake Lenderking

Before joining Global Water, Lenderking’s experience included being a water resource manager for the largest investor-owned water utility in Arizona and a water resource specialist for the City of Phoenix. He began his career at the Arizona Department of Water Resources.



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Refrigerator problems tag Silver Spur during health inspection

All but one eatery inspected by Pinal County health inspectors April 16-May 15 received excellent marks. The **Silver Spur Grill** at The Duke at Rancho El Dorado, however, had some cold-holding and other problems to fix.

By law, refrigerated food must be held no warmer than 41 degrees F. The inspector found one refrigerator at 59 degrees and another at 50 degrees. A refrigerator was also leaking condensation. Some food items were found with expired date marks and may have been incorrectly dated. Several items were discarded. The person in charge was instructed to repair equipment, review date requirements and make a hand-washing sink more accessible.

EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Barro’s Pizza
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Cilantro’s Mexican Cocina
- CVS Pharmacy
- Firehouse Subs
- Freddy’s Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
- Good Donuts
- Good to Go Store
- Gyro Grill
- Little Caesar’s Pizza
- McDonald’s, Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway
- The New HQ
- Papa John’s Pizza
- Pizza Hut
- Plaza Bonita
- QuikTrip
- QuikTrip — Kitchen
- Rosati’s Pizza
- Say Sushi
- Sunrise Preschool
- Walmart — Deli

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- The Duke at Rancho El Dorado

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

Ace Hardware wins Chamber's top award

By Jim Headley

Maricopa Ace Hardware was honored as the Large Business of the Year by the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce April 27.

Owner Mike Richey said he is honored his business was chosen again for this prestigious award.

“This is the third time that we’ve been honored by the Chamber of Commerce for the Business of the Year,” Richey said. “It is the second time that we were honored as the Waz Business of the Year.”

The Waz is presented in memory of Bill Wasowicz, a Realtor in Maricopa.

“He was very active in the community, the Chamber of Commerce and in his church. His wife, Patty Wasowicz, is still a Realtor and operates the Wizards of Waz agency. Bill passed away and there was a push to honor Waz in some way,” Richey said.

Richey said the chamber decided to choose large and small businesses of the year from among its membership, with the Waz as the large business award.

“Having known Bill and having known his activity and community involvement, this means even more to us,” Richey said.

“Receiving an award for this is great because of our view on customer service, our view on community involvement and that is



Jim Headley

our big focus on things. It is a big thrill to win the Waz award from the Chamber of Commerce.”

“It is an honor,” said William Gonzales, assistant manager. “I am glad to represent Maricopa Ace and the community here. We focus on the community. We focus on the people and the other small businesses. We support them also. We try to shop local ourselves.”

Maricopa Ace Hardware is again the Waz Award winner from the Chamber of Commerce's Community Awards, spotlighted for service.

Gonzales said while the award is important, it is the recognition their company received for all the hard work that is welcomed.

“It is what we do for the community and what the community does for us. We work as a team. It just shows that we have the right people in the right place in the store. Customer service is our number one priority,” Gonzales said.

Gonzales has worked at Ace for the past five years. That dedication to customer service isn’t just inside the walls of Ace Hardware, he said; it’s also outside in the community every day.

“Maricopa has supported Maricopa Ace Hardware, Jacquie and myself in amazing ways,” Richey said. “This is part of the reason why we give back. The store mantra is to be part of the community — it is one of our core values to be involved in the community. It is a responsibility we have as a local business and something we take seriously.”



Jim Headley



WORKING ON WATER SOLUTIONS FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

News headlines in Arizona have had a steady stream of water related topics in recent months. Global Water is a water resource company, and we’ve been working since our inception for the inevitability of water shortages in the desert. Global Water has water availability and the water rights that will allow development in the City of Maricopa to continue for the foreseeable future. However, as a region, challenges still exist. Here’s how we are working on water solutions for generations to come:



Recycled Water - Global Water continues to be at the forefront of recycled water. In 2018, we recycled nearly 1 billion gallons of water in the City of Maricopa, preserving water for future generations. That’s enough water to fill the Rose Bowl Stadium 11 times. Investing in our recycled water systems now, will delay the need to import much more expensive water in the future.



Regional Planning, Bureau of Reclamation Basin Study - Global Water led a regional effort to obtain a \$1.36 million dollar grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a three-year study of water resources in Pinal County. The study is now underway and is focusing on water supply and demand and future water solutions in Pinal County.



Technology - Our philosophy is that customers should have real-time data to manage their account and allow them to be active participants in water conservation. Global Water customers can check their hourly consumption, receive high consumption alerts, and leak alerts on the customer portal. This also helps to lower your bills. Proactively manage your water consumption, payments, and notifications at gwresources.gwfathom.com.



Michelle Cruz

Jim Headley

New yoga studio seeks to restore calm

By Jim Headley

Compassionate Nature Studios opened May 6 in the Stage Stop Marketplace, 44301 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

The new yoga studio is in a fully remodeled space and very “zen,” according to owner Michelle Cruz.

“This is a brand-new business,” Cruz said. “The response so far has been really good.”

The studio opened May 6. Cruz said the new space has a strong feeling of relaxation. She has been a practicing Yoga Nidra instructor less than one year.

“We have another instructor, and she does a huge variety of classes,” Cruz said. “She’s been doing this for years. We bring a little of what I teach and a little of what she teaches into the whole experience.”

The other instructor is Chamica Dennis, who has been a yoga instructor for the past two years and she specializes in Hatha unity-based yoga.

“I absolutely adore the studio,” said Dennis. “It is a great place for women to come. It is a great place for everyone, but we are focusing on women. It’s mostly about relaxing and relaxation.”

Dennis said the new studio came out beautifully with calm and relaxing colors.

“There will be a lot of workshops in the future,” she said. “I do reiki as well and some therapies. There will be some stress related workshops. There are a lot of different things that will be coming up. The new workshops will be centered on healing and meditation.”

She added that smoking cessation

workshops might also be offered if there is a need for them.

Compassionate Nature Studios offers classes in Yoga Nidra, Yoga 101, restorative yoga, Hatha flow, meditation and aroma therapy, Vinyasa flow and Shakti Vinyasa flow.

Yoga Nidra is deep sleep meditation, potentially helping with many challenges like insomnia, anxiety, depression, PTSD, fatigue, fibromyalgia, chronic pain, trauma, addictions and stress.

Classes are offered as early as 7 a.m. and as late as 7:30 p.m. in the day.

The studio has a “drop-in rate,” but there is also an opening special of eight classes for \$49.

“We want people to come in and see what yoga style works best for them,” Cruz said. “I wanted a business that caters more towards women, so they have a safe and tranquil spot to come and just let go. This space is created to invest in yourself and take that time to slow down. You can’t give back to others if you are depleted. In the midst of chaos you need a little more calm.”

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1. Maricopa Fire/Medical Department put out a brush fire, reportedly started by juveniles on an empty lot near the corner of Honeycutt and Murphy roads May 15.

Jim Headley

2. Former Mayor Kelly Anderson (left) and Mayor Christian Price took a tour of the overpass bridge May 15. *Jim Headley*

3. With construction already underway, the City broke ground for pickleball courts at Copper Sky: (from left) Councilmember Marvin Brown, Vice Mayor Henry Wade, pickleball ambassador Rocky Myers, Mayor Christian Price, Councilmember Nancy Smith and Community Services Director Nathan Ulyot. *Jim Headley*

4. The Yellow Bird Dancers and the Red Mountain Performers were part of Native American Family Night at Maricopa Unified School District May 9. *Jim Headley*

5. Larry the Cable Guy entertained at the Pinal 40 Gala and Dinner May 4 in the Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino. *Jim Headley*

6. Mother and son Melodee and Patrick Breazeale Jr. received their master's degrees together at Grand Canyon University April 26. *Submitted*

7. Maricopa Police Department was out en force to investigate alleged drug activity at an Alterra home May 1. *Jim Headley*

8. Residents turned out to look at proposed plans for a new public library April 23 at City Hall. *Jim Headley*

9. Carlos Alvarado was introduced as the new principal of Desert Wind Middle School. He was the vice principal at Marcos de Niza and has been a resident of Maricopa since 2010. *Raquel Hendrickson*



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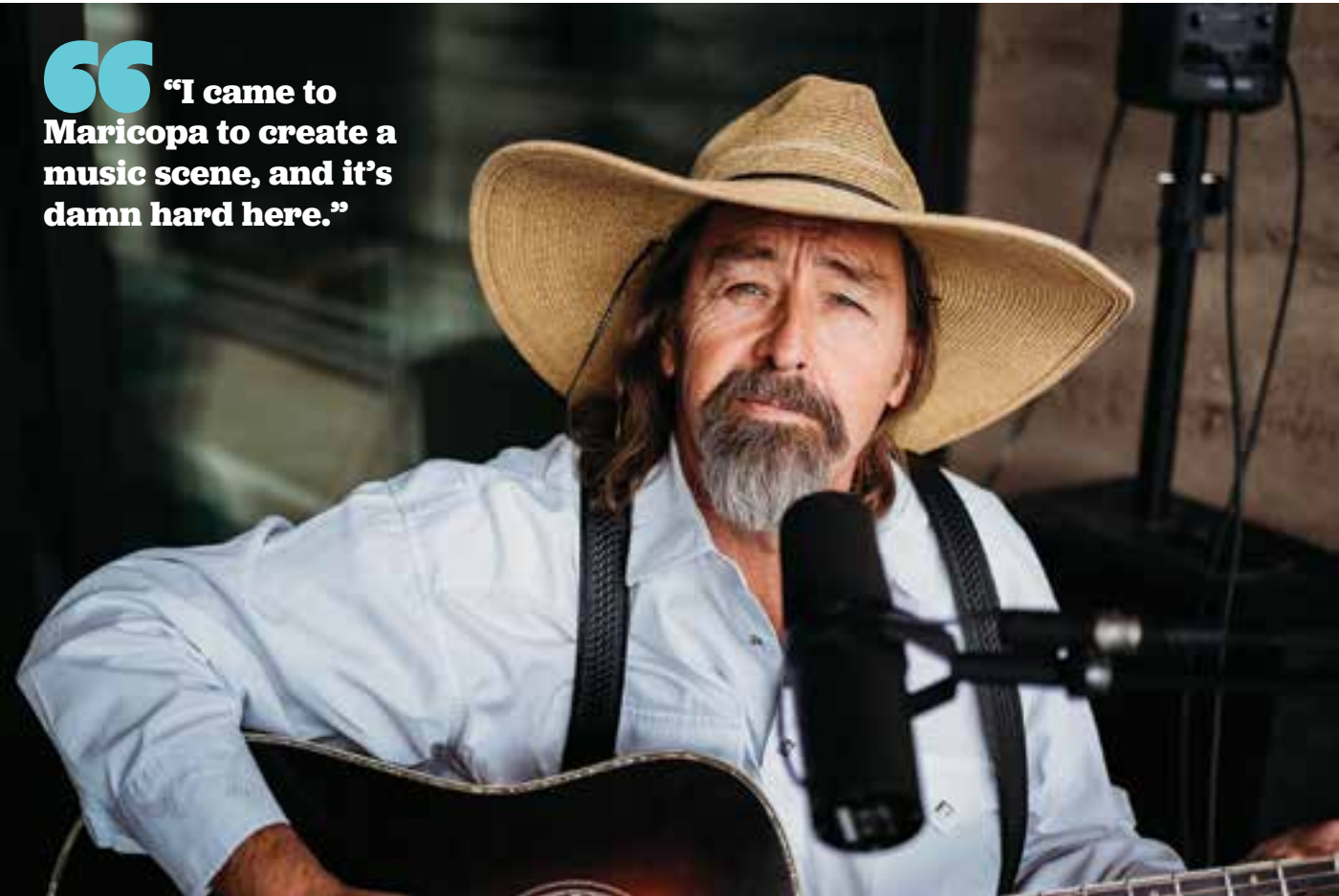


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Musician



Erin Ashley

“I came to Maricopa to create a music scene, and it’s damn hard here.”

Coyote Joe tries to kick-start Maricopa music scene

By Jim Headley

Coyote Joe began playing music when he was 7. Today he’s one of the busiest musicians in the Valley. Blame his wife. Joe Daigneault said he met his wife Cathy at 12 and knew she was the one for him. “I’m the first boy that ever kissed her,” Coyote Joe said. “We got married at 21. I said, ‘Kathy, I’m going to work really hard for five years and pay the house off. As soon as I get the house paid off, I’m going to go and be a fulltime musician.’ I paid the house off when I was 57.”

Kathy told Joe to become a fulltime musician and live up to his end of their deal. “If you want to have health insurance and a new car every four or five years, maybe go on a vacation now and then and fix the air conditioning unit when it breaks, you better have a different career than music,” Joe said. He said playing music in Arizona allows him to make some good pocket money. “The average guy, who’s a weekend warrior in Arizona, goes home, if he’s lucky, with \$80 a night,” he said. “I do a little better than that,

but I play a lot. This time of year, I play all the time. Sometimes, I’m playing because I want to play. Sometimes, I’m playing because I want the money.” Instead of Daigneault, he’d rather just be called Coyote Joe, on and off stage. It gives him an identity as he tries to rally Maricopa musicians to gather and mentor each other. “I think I’m doing who I am,” Coyote Joe said. “I came to Maricopa to create a music scene, and it’s damn hard here. The Raceway Bar and Grill has been great, and I play there

often. I also play at A Latte Vino in Casa Grande. It is our job for every musician in this town to get to know each other. What this town is missing is some of those more soulful things. We need some cool little coffee shops and a little wine bar.” While best known for his five seasons as host and writer for ABC15’s Emmy Award-winning television cooking series, “The Sonoran Grill,” Coyote Joe has also made over 400 appearances on ABC15’s “Sonoran Living” and authored an impressive catalogue of southwestern cookbooks. He also sculpts and writes poetry. Coyote Joe said he’s been “serious about playing” for several years now. He spent almost two years learning one specific guitar-picking technique and “getting it right.” It is a hybrid method with strumming and a finger pick at the same time.



Bruce Jones

“I try to get my music down first, then I think of a melody and then I think about lyrics,” he said. “I’m thinking about the drums and I’m thinking about the baseline. Then there’s a melodic line over the top. At the same time, I’m thinking about the kick and the snare.” What this all boils down to is Coyote Joe’s unique sound on stage. Professional musician J.C. Scott is one of Coyote Joe’s friends and they often play music together. Scott said he first met Coyote Joe about 10 years ago. “His nickname is actually Mad Coyote Joe,” Scott said. “When we first met him, he was delivering bread and food to people. He is a musician who is very entertaining. His selection of songs — he’s the only musician I know that plays a plethora of TV tunes. He has a very eclectic group of songs, and he has a broad range.”

Coyote Joe developed his style inside a group of peer/mentor musicians in the Valley. He works a lot with Blade Wilson of Blade Wilson and the Mixups and Tim Brady with T-Bone and the Bastards. “For me, what has been the valuable part of learning has been this peer/mentor relationship,” he said. “When you first start playing with somebody and I say, ‘you’re not getting your pitches,’ what most people hear is ... you’re a bad person and you don’t deserve to be an artist. I need a group of people that will dispassionately analyze my music with a critical eye and understand how to deliver that information in a way that I’ll understand.” Scott said Coyote Joe is well known in Cave Creek, where he is “one of the crew” among a group of musicians. Coyote Joe plays around the area including at Raceway Bar & Grill, The Havoc at Harold’s and Buffalo Chip Saloon in Cave Creek, and hosts A Cuppa Joe, every Saturday morning at Janey’s in Cave Creek, The Tavern at Tarbell’s, JJ Madison’s in Mesa and many more locations.

bit.ly/MadCoyoteJoe

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Tell us your story

By Raquel Hendrickson
Editor

Have you heard something or seen something that all Maricopans should know about?

Tell us your story.

We are a small but busy newsroom, and news tips from the community are an important part of our news-gathering resources. We invite and encourage readers to send information to News@InMaricopa.com so we can help keep residents apprised of situations and issues.


If you witness a dangerous situation, contact us so we can gather the facts from the proper authorities. If you hear concerning rumors, let us know and we will check out

their veracity. Have you learned about an important project that could impact Maricopa? Drop us a line. We also welcome photos and video legally and safely obtained.

We always want to hear the good news, too. We would love to know about happenings in your neighborhoods, on your streets, in your schools and in your clubs. If your child's sports team is doing great, feel free to send us game scores and photos/videos, also at News@InMaricopa.com.

If you have an interesting event coming up, add it to our calendar at InMaricopa.com/Calendar. If you have an opinion on a relevant issue, we accept Letters to the Editor up to 600 words in length. If you are particularly knowledgeable about an interesting topic, reach out to us about writing a column.

If you have taken a local photo or video you are especially proud of, we would love to share it with our thousands of readers. Great photos by community members are often printed in InMaricopa magazine.

In a nutshell, if you see something, say something. It's a community effort to be informed. 



Renee Grier 1961-2019

Reneé Dawn Grier, 57, of Santa Rosa Springs subdivision, passed away after a short illness May 16 in Casa Grande. She was born Dec. 13, 1961, the daughter of Carl and Georgia Moore.

Reneé was an amazing mother and wife who was taken entirely too soon. She will be fiercely missed by her husband, kids, grandkids and everyone else who loved and adored her.

She earned a bachelor's degree in communications and media studies from Washington State University. She was a regional manager at MARCOA Publishing before joining InMaricopa in sales.

"Reneé taught me a lot in just a short time," said Vincent Manfredi, InMaricopa's sales director. "I will miss her drive and dedication to InMaricopa."

"Reneé loved contributing to others," Publisher Scott Bartle said. "She was a professional who got a lot of joy from helping her clients achieve their goals. Reneé always had a smile to share and story to tell."

"I only knew Reneé for a short time, but I will never forget her," said sales professional Trisha Paige. "She had a larger-than-life personality that shined so bright it made everyone around her stop and take notice. She seemed to always live her life without

fear, without hesitation and without holding anything back. I am grateful for having had the chance to know her."

"Reneé was not only a co-worker and a friend but a former neighbor," said Michelle

Sorensen, client loyalty coordinator. "Anyone who met her knew she did not mince her words. You knew where she stood on any given subject; which is why Reneé was unique. Reneé was also a patriot and flew the U.S. flag every day at her home. She stood for freedom. I'm thankful I was given the opportunity to know her."



Renee Grier



She is survived by her husband Alan Grier, daughter Jessica and her husband Justin, son Zack and his wife AnneMarie, mother Georgia and her husband Jerry, brother Mike and his wife Kate, four grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded by her father Carl Moore. Interment will be in Spokane, Washington.

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Gallery



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1. Sequoia Pathway's varsity softball team won the Canyon Athletic Association state championship. *Raquel Hendrickson*
2. Maricopa High School junior Douglas Moulton (as Lazar Wolf in Fiddler on the Roof) was nominated for best supporting actor in the Arizona High School Musical Theatre Awards. *Raquel Hendrickson*
3. Lorenzo Ochoa Garcia's black-and-white photography was on display at the Maricopa Unified School District Art Walk April 30.
4. Senior Logan Taylor, running the hurdles with 20 stitches in his leg, won gold for MHS at the Arizona Interscholastic Association's Division II track & field championships April 4. *Raquel Hendrickson*
5. Christina Surber was a real Belle at the library's first Royal Tea Party May 6. *Jim Headley*
6. Junior high and high school musicians from Maricopa Unified School District put on the annual Music-a-Thon, a five-hour event May 4. *Kyle Norby*
7. The year-end vocal concert was performed by the middle school and high school choruses of MUSD April 30. *Raquel Hendrickson*
8. Chalk drawings were part of the Art for the Heart community art event hosted by graphics students from MHS May 4. *Raquel Hendrickson*
9. Mahonri Santos, graduating senior at MHS, received a citizenship award from Daughters of the American Revolution of Casa Grande Valley. With him are (from left) MUSD Board President AnnaMarie Knorr, board member Patti Coutre, Barbara Schultz of DAR, MUSD board member Torri Anderson and Superintendent Tracey Lopeman. *Raquel Hendrickson*
10. MHS senior Tylen Coleman won gold at state in the discus throw with an effort 20 feet longer than his previous best for a school record. He also medaled in the shot put. *Raquel Hendrickson*
11. Kayla Boich, an MHS senior, qualified for the state finals in the high jump. *Raquel Hendrickson*
12. Members of the MHS Air Force Junior ROTC come in from the sun during a hot field day of showing off their strengths. *Raquel Hendrickson*



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Scouts rack up 102 merit badges in 3 months

By Jim Headley

In just three months, 26 of the 31 members of Maricopa Boy Scout Troop 945 earned 102 merit badges.

This incredible feat bolsters the troop's merit badge count to 460 among the 31 active Scouts. The troop currently has two Scouts with the rank of Eagle, and seven more are on the track to obtaining their Eagle.

The leading merit-badge holder in the troop is Eagle Jonathan Pulver with 42, followed by Star Scout Jonathan Wright with 36, all accumulated in two years. Boston Mooney, a Life rank, is next in the troop with 31 and Eagle Nicholas Mooney, Life Jarom Hoopes and Star Grant Pulver each have 28.

In their May 1 court of honor, seven new Scouts joined the troop and a total of 15 Scouts earned rank advancements.

"This last three months, we kind of got everything rejuvenated in our troop," said Tyler Wright, troop committee chair. "I just got put into the position in January. I went out to the older boys to see what I could do to get them to finish their Eagle."

Scoutmaster Tom Bogle said many of his Scouts didn't realize just how close they were to making Eagle.

What it took was someone to go through the troop's records and make sure all the merit badges were properly recorded to each Scout. They found and corrected 21 merit badges that scouts earned but never received.

"We showed the boys, 'This is all the work you have left. Are you willing to put in the work?' We were hoping to get four or five more boys to get excited and say yes," Bogle said.

What really makes the troop work so well, he said, is having so many people who are engaged with the community willing to help members of the troop earn merit badges and rank promotions.

"We love the Eagle project because this is the part where we get to see the Scout grow," Wright said.

Five of the troop's Scouts are expected to obtain their Eagles over the next two months. Less than 5 percent of Scouts obtain the rank of Eagle.

Troop 945 meets every Wednesday but often there will be extra meetings on other days, especially to work on merit badges.



Submitted



Submitted

"Whenever the leaders are available, we're putting together opportunities for the boys to learn new skills. We invite them. We're doing Scouting two or three times a week, sometimes four," Wright said.

The troop, first chartered in 2007, is sponsored by the Pacana Park board but also gets strong support from the Maricopa Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Troop 945 was first chartered on Dec. 28, 2007, and its first scoutmaster was Andre St. Gelais.

Top: Scouts hike to South Mountain Park. Maricopa kids inside Lava Tube Caves near Flagstaff.

Above: Boy Scout Troop 945 hosted a court of honor May 1 honoring 15 rank advancements.

Getting toKNOW

ROBERT FELIX
OWNER
FELIX APPLIANCE REPAIR



Maricopa since: 2012
Family: Wife Maria, children RJ (6 years old) and twins Arianny and Angel (2 years old)

Hobbies: Spending time with family

Pet peeve: Stubbing my toe

Dream vacation: Rome

Like most about Maricopa: Feeling of real community and "small but growing town"

FAVORITE ...

Charity: Maricopa Pantry

Movie: The Incredibles

Musician: Carlos Santana

Team: Diamondbacks

Food: Stuffed Sopapillas

Drink: Modelo Especial

Getaway: Rocky Point (Puerto Peñasco)

Quote: "Do what you do so well, that when people see you do it, they want to see you do it again, and will bring others to see you do it." *Walt Disney*

Words to live by: Honesty builds trust

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

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**Local News • Coupons • Calendar
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- 1 Officials release names of 2 in fatal crash
- 2 Native Grill opening remains unknown
- 3 Hotel, I-11 on city council agenda
- 4 Traffic stop leads to drug arrest
- 5 Brush fire burns field near Tortosa
- 6 City officials take a hike on overpass
- 7 Honeycutt Coffee preps for re-opening
- 8 2-year-old found at bottom of pool revived
- 9 Prosecutors say no grounds for appeal in Sinkevitch conviction
- 10 Class of 2019 earns millions in scholarships

**Text "InMaricopa"
to 31996**

for local news and info

City of Maricopa Programs & Activities

PLAY

Maricopa
Summer 2019

PROVIDING LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR YOU









For full program offerings go to PlayMaricopa.com

GREAT AMERICAN 4th
Details on Page 8a

Summer Swim Lessons!
Register now! *Page 3a*

- **ESports League coming soon!** *Page 7a*
- **Labor Day Luau!** *Page 8a*
- **5th Quarters!** *Page 8a*

All day Summer Camps.
Limited spots available! *Page 5a*

COPPER SKY MULTIGENERATIONAL CENTER		
Household Type	20% Annual income no more than...	40% Annual income no more than...
	\$36,420	\$24,280
	\$49,380	\$32,920
	\$62,340	\$41,560
	\$75,300	\$50,200
	\$88,260	\$57,840
	\$101,220	\$67,480
	\$114,180	\$76,120
	\$127,140	\$84,760

Scale shown are household size examples. Scale exist for all household sizes.

Discount Program

The new Copper Sky Membership Discount Program makes our annual memberships more affordable! To qualify, please contact the Copper Sky Service Desk for more information, or contact our membership coordinator at Daniel.Main@maricopa-az.gov.

The info-graphic below shows what income vs. number of family members would determine either a 20% or 40% discount on Copper Sky Annual Memberships.

"Because of this program I was able to sign my family up and have money left over for summer! Thank you, City of Maricopa, for creating this program!" – JENNY



@COMCSRC

Senior Lunch and Learns
Join us every third Friday of the month for **free educational sessions**. Lunch provided is \$5. New topics each month, classes fill up quick! *More senior programming coming soon ...*

Drop-in sports
Adult Drop-in Sports now available!
Soccer – M, 7-9 p. m.
Basketball – T & Th, 7-9 p. m.
Free for CS Members!

Game night
This free event is on the last Friday of each month from January through October, 6:30-9 p.m. (doors open at 6:15 p.m.). All ages welcome! Learn fun new games and meet new people!

Benefits Reminder

CS Annual Members receive:

- 20% off all programming in Play Maricopa
- Free parking and fun zone passes for special events
- Access to offsite programming
- 10 free Buddy Passes
- New Senior Programming
- Free Drop-in sports programs
- Priority registrations

Exciting new Membership Benefit! Referral Program for Annual Members and Month-to-Month Members: Refer a friend to a Month-to-Month or an Annual Membership and get a free month added to your Copper Sky Membership.



CW Leap New program

CW Leap offers kids the opportunity to enjoy both group and individual activities in a fun, safe environment. Kids will enjoy all kinds of play while they learn new skills, build strong friendships, and grow their own self confidence! We will have a daily schedule of activities that kids can participate in, and we'll make it easy to join in on the fun whenever kids sign in.



Employee Spotlight
Daniel Main

This year we are excited to have a new team member, Daniel Main, as our membership coordinator at Copper Sky. With Daniel's customer service back ground and leadership expertise, we feel we will be able to meet and eventually exceed the customer's demand for better service at Copper Sky.

Q What is your job specialty and how long have you been doing it?

My job background is all based in hospitality and customer service. For the past 10 years, I have held several positions, all customer-service related, working for Caesar's Entertainment.

Q Why did you want to work at Copper Sky?

I truly enjoy building relationships with my guests and assisting them in any way to make sure they have the best possible experience. It is a background and passion I bring with me to my position here at Copper Sky Multi-Generational Center. I was born and raised right here in the city of Maricopa. Growing up here, I wanted to become more involved in the place I have called home most of my life. Copper Sky is that opportunity to get involved.

Q What do you do for recreation or fun?

For recreation and fun, I love to spend time with my wife of five years, Sarah, going to support the D-Backs and Coyotes. I enjoy competing in obstacle course 5Ks and hiking.

Q What is your favorite book?

My favorite books include "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Lord of the Rings" and "The Fountainhead."

Q What is your favorite thing about this community?

I was born here and grew up in what was then a very small, rural town. I have watched it grow from the two-lane highway blip on the map to the growing and vibrant community it is today. I appreciate the history of where we have come from, and I'm excited to see where we are going. Maricopa is my home.

NEW HOURS

SUMMER

May 25-July 21

Aquatics desk open all times all pools are open

Mon-Fri
5-8 a.m.
(Lap swim only)
Noon-8:30 p.m.
(ALL POOLS ARE OPEN)

Saturday
8-10:30 a.m.
(Lap swim only)
11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
(ALL POOLS ARE OPEN)

Sunday
11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
(ALL POOLS ARE OPEN)

BACK TO SCHOOL July 22-Sept. 2

Mon-Fri
5am-6:30am
(Lap swim only)
9:30am-2pm
(Comp Pool & splash Pad Only)
4pm-8:30pm
(Comp Pool & splash Pad Only)

Saturday
Aquatics desk open on weekends only
8 a.m.-noon
(Comp Pool only)
Noon-7:30 p.m.
(ALL POOLS ARE OPEN)

Sunday
11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
(ALL POOLS ARE OPEN)

Aquatics Entry Open

Starting May 25 the Aquatics Hall is open for Copper Sky Pool Entry.



Swim Lessons

Can't match your schedule to ours? We have private, by-appointment-only lessons!

This summer let our certified swim instructors teach your child to learn water safety, proper swim technique, and have fun in a safe environment.

Our swim instructors are certified through Starfish Aquatics Institute and have a passion for swim instruction and water safety.



Pool pass prices
Copper Sky
Pool Pass Prices

Adult Resident \$4
Youth Resident \$2
Student Resident \$2
Senior Resident \$4

Included in all Copper Sky Memberships!



"5 THINGS TO REMEMBER"

- ☀ WATCH YOUR KIDS
- ☀ AGE CHANGE (12+)
- ☀ WATER AND SUNSCREEN
- ☀ SWIM ASSESSMENT
- ☀ HAVE FUN!

MESSAGE TO PARENTS

- 1) Please be actively watching your children at all times.
- 2) Your child must be at least 12 years old to be at the pool by themselves.
- 3) Bring lots of water and sunscreen.
- 4) Get your child's water assessment so they can hit the diving board.
- 5) Have fun!



Global Water program

Global Water Resources is supporting a brand new water safety partnership between Copper Sky and MUSD.

The partnership will provide funding for free lessons to MUSD students as a part of school and afterschool programming. The goal is to ensure each student is assessed and if necessary receives free water safety lessons prior to completing third grade. The program will begin in the fall of 2019 in partnership with Butterfield and Maricopa Elementary. This is just the beginning as we hope to add more schools in the spring of 2020 and the entire district by spring 2021.

The funding comes as a part of \$55,000 commitment made by Global Water to support this and other programs in our community. We are ecstatic to bring this potentially lifesaving program to our city with the help of Global Water Resources. Special Thanks to Ron Fleming, Jon Corwin, Beth Huerta and the rest of the Global Water Team!

Aquafit

This summer try our instructor-led Aquafit classes in the Copper Sky Pool! Meet new people of all ages!



Employee Spotlight
James Schultz

We added a new face to the Copper Sky Leadership Team, James Schultz, who is the Copper Sky aquatics coordinator. With his background in aquatics programming and logistics, he plans on bringing new training, efficiencies and programs to the Copper Sky Aquatics Program.

Q What is your job specialty and how long have you been doing it?

Job title: Recreation Coordinator-Aquatics. I started working in Parks and Recreation in 2001 in Prescott, Arizona. In 2005 I moved to Oregon and started working for Shute Parks Aquatic and Recreation Center, and I have worked in aquatics ever since then

Q Why did you want to work at Copper Sky?

Maricopa is an up and coming city and has amazing park systems

Q What do you do for recreation or fun?

Run, bike and take my dogs razer scootering

Q What is your favorite book?

"Wheedle on the Needle" by Stephen Cosgrove

Q What is your favorite thing about this community?

There are lots of activities to do in Maricopa

Camp Splash

Join in on some water fun during this supervised swim program held at the Copper Sky Aquatics Center. Campers will stay active and cool while enjoying a variety of water games and group free play throughout the program.



FALL BREAK CAMP COPA

This Fall Break try out our all day camps!

Copper Tots

Copper Tots provides our community's littlest learners with an opportunity to learn, share and grow with their peers. The class curriculum will focus on kindergarten preparedness in a nurturing environment. Copper Tots is perfect for families that do not need full-day care. While the children stay and learn, you can run errands, catch a movie or enjoy an invigorating workout.



Camp Copa All Day Summer Camp

Join our new City of Maricopa all day Recreational Summer Camp! Mornings will consist of games, arts & crafts and fitness. In the afternoon, we have some special surprises for your children, this includes guest speakers, taking field trips to Copper Sky Pool, visiting our local UltraStar Multi-tainment Center, in town trips, and more! School is out! Are you ready?

First all-day camp starts in May, so register soon!

CS Annual Members save \$22 a week



Tiny Tots

Our Tiny Tot Sports is a fun-filled four-week program, open to all skill levels and abilities. This class is designed to teach your little one the basic concepts of soccer, T-ball, football, basketball and much more.

Reminder

All Library programs participants must sign up in person at the City of Maricopa Library

Want more information on library programs?



@City of Maricopa Public Library

Coding Boot Camp

Mondays and Tuesdays — May 28—July 16 at 3 p.m., kids ages 8-13 learn basic to intermediate computer coding techniques. Get started on your path to success this summer! Registration recommended.



Dungeons and Dragons Adventurer's League

Alternating Saturdays — 2-5 p.m.

Novice or experienced gamers 14 and up are invited to play drop-in D&D campaigns through Wizards of the Coast's official Adventurer's League format. Sessions run June 1, June 15, June 29, July 13 and July 27. Dungeon Mastering opportunities exist for

interested individuals.

Bright Start: Kinder Prep

Wednesdays — 11 a.m.

Feel confident having your young one be ready for kindergarten. An engaging parent-child series hitting key skills your preschooler needs to be successful in school. Session runs from June 5 through July 17 Registration required.



Summer Reading Program: A Universe of Stories

The Summer Reading Program will once again be coming to the Maricopa Public Library! The program runs 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 Maricopa.AZSummerReading.org.

We also have fun, exciting programs happening all summer long at the library such as magicians, animal shows and even a juggler will be visiting the library! Check them out! As always, all of this is FREE at the library.

ESports

Our newest recreation sports league, Esports (Electronic Sports), has Maricopa Gamers in mind! Play the most popular titles in an organized league. Coming this summer!



Sports Prep Camp

Our Sports Prep Camp will be a comprehensive weeklong program designed to emphasize all the physical attributes that are important to student athletes, and will be performed in a positive team-building atmosphere.



Soccer Spring 2019 Season Recap

We had another amazing soccer season! Thank you to all the coaches, volunteers, and participants for supporting our programs. Over 700 players on 57 teams who were coached by over 100 volunteers this season.



Maricopa United S.C.

This year Maricopa United partnered with our coaches to bring some new coaching techniques to help develop the players.



YOUTH FALL SOCCER

Early Registration
June 17-
July 21

Regular
Registration
July 22-
Aug. 4

Practices begin
Sept. 3

Games
Sept. 21-
Nov. 2



ADULT FALL SOFTBALL

Early Registration
(\$450)
July 1-21

Regular
Registration
(\$475)
July 29-
Aug. 4

Co-ed Friday
night games
Aug. 16-
Oct. 18

Men's Monday
night games
July 29-
Aug. 4

ADULT MEN'S FALL BASKETBALL

Registration (\$350)
June 24-
July 28

Season
Aug. 8-Oct. 3



Employee Spotlight Brooke Aizzi

The increasing demand to expand our team sports programs and tournaments has allowed us to add a new member to our Team Sports Programs, Brooke Aizzi. Brooke has vast experience in team sports, tournaments, and a passion for recreation. With her on the team we plan on expanding the existing leagues and bringing new sports leagues to the City of Maricopa.

Q What is your favorite thing about City of Maricopa?

I honestly love Copper Sky. I bring my bicycle here sometimes and I go on bike rides.

Q Why did you want to work for the City of Maricopa?

I love sports and events so this was the perfect position for me. The city is growing, and there are lots of opportunities here and room to grow. I think it is important for the sports program to keep growing and offering more opportunities for community members. I am excited to help the city accomplish that.

Q What do you do for recreation or fun?

I love hiking. One of the reasons I moved to Arizona. I also play volleyball on weekends, work out and enjoy riding bikes.

CS Annual Members
receive 20% off all
programming in Play
Maricopa

GREAT AMERICAN 4th

Great American 4th

Some new attractions and activities this year:

- Large inflatable water slides (adults & children) open at 5 p.m.
- VIP Pool Party starts at 5 p.m.
- DJ & stage performances
- Fun family games to play during the event
- Impressive fireworks display to celebrate our Independence Day.

Great American Tailgate!

Area opens at 1 p.m. located at the Copper Sky parking lot. We will have a reserved area for you to hang out with your friends and family to enjoy some food and drinks before the fireworks show! To sign up you are required to buy a Tailgate Ticket at Copper Sky in advance, which includes a free alcohol permit. Tailgate location must stay within a designated area, but feel free to walk around and enjoy the event. For more information and to purchase your ticket, please contact Becky Spires at becky.spires@maricopa-az.gov or call 520-316-4600

Large 40' Water Slide!

At Copper Sky Park

Labor Day Weekend Luau

What a great way to close the summer out with a Hawaiian-themed Labor Day Luau. Join us at Copper Sky Pool for some BBQ, island music and fun contests for the whole family.

Event is Saturday, Aug. 31, from noon to 6 p.m.

For more information contact James Schultz at James.Schultz@maricopa-az.gov



@COMCSRC



COMING THIS FALL

5th Quarters



5th Quarters are a new teen event for the City of Maricopa! After every Friday Night MHS home game for basketball and football, Copper Sky will open from 9 p.m. to midnight for food, music, esports, contests and more. Proceeds to support local high school extra-curricular programs. The 5th Quarters are made possible with the support of our partners at Global Water Resources.

Who's the Best Dad in Maricopa?

Now through June 12, nominate your father for Best Dad in Maricopa by emailing a photo AND a paragraph or video explaining why he's the best to News@InMaricopa.com.

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

The winners receive prize packages from Maricopa Ace Hardware, which is in its ninth year of sponsoring Best Dad in Maricopa.

Vote for your favorite dad at InMaricopa.com/Contests

Grand Prize includes **Traeger Pro Series 34 Bronze Wood Pellet Grill**, Grill Cover, one bag Traeger Reserve Blend Wood Pellet and Slot Dog. *Retail Value: \$1,099.97*

Second Place includes **Craftsman 240-piece Metric and SAE Socket Set and Ace 100-piece Ratcheting Screwdriver and Bit Set**. *Retail Value: \$281.98*

1st Place



Voting deadline **June 13**

2nd Place



Winners notified **June 14**

Winners announced **June 16**

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- Susan M., Heritage Parent


Hard-working veteran named ‘Best Mom’

Story and photos by Raquel Hendrickson



Adrian Basil, with 2-year old son Devon, was voted Best Mom in Maricopa for 2019 and received prizes from community businesses. Devon is the youngest of four children.

patient and caring; that’s what makes her a good mother. She keeps our family happy on top of everything and shows everyone she meets unconditional love.” Bolden received a bouquet, a tumbler, a \$50 Fry’s gift card and a family portrait photoshoot with photographer Victor Moreno.

The third-place winner was Kelsey Mitchell, the mother of four in a blended family, who has done it alone for seven months while husband Brian completed basic training for the Air National Guard. She was nominated by friend Shauna Perez: “Kelsey volunteers countless hours at the kids’ schools, leads worship at church, and runs a family boutique online. All of this while managing the demands of motherhood.” Mitchell received a bouquet, a tumbler and a \$50 Fry’s gift card. 



Eva Bolden placed second in voting for Best Mom in Maricopa.

With 26 Maricopa mothers nominated by their family and friends and more than 2,000 votes cast at InMaricopa.com, Best Mom in Maricopa 2019 went to Adrian Basil, just in time for Mother’s Day.

The single mother of four children spanning more than 20 years, she is an equipment mechanic/technician and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

“I was shocked, actually,” Basil said. “It was nice just being nominated. I didn’t expect to win.”

Friend Kimber Shelton nominated her for the online contest.

“She is such a strong woman and an absolutely loving and amazing mother who does anything and everything she can for her children,” Shelton said.

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Basil had already started a family when she followed her dream of joining the Air Force.

“I always wanted to, but I started out so young having kids that I wasn’t able to because I had them,” she said. “And then my brother helped take care of them. I was out here, and he was out here, so I was able to go to basic training.”

The military provided training that has landed her a career working on aerospace systems. Her oldest son, who is 23, still lives in Maricopa with friends. Her 21-year-old daughter recently moved to Florida. Still at

home are a 14-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son.

“One of her children recently began battling some serious health issues that have led to hospital stays and continued treatment,” Shelton said. “This, of course, has taken such a toll on Adrian as a mother seeing her child struggle and wanting to do all she can to meet every need and get the best care possible. Even with help from loved ones, I can’t even imagine how difficult it must be to see your child struggle in such a way all the while trying to maintain daily needs and a stable and healthy environment for the rest of the family.”

As the first-place winner, Basil received a bouquet, a tumbler, a \$50 Fry’s gift card, Gucci sunglasses from Maricopa Eye Care and a “Hot Lap” on the track at Apex Motor Club.

The second-place winner was Eva Bolden, who is raising seven kids. She was nominated by fiancé Isaiah Jernigan: “She does it all — work, cook, clean, shop. She is



Kelsey Mitchell took third place from among 26 nominees for Best Mom in Maricopa.

OTHER NOMINEES

Wendy Buchberger
“We’ve lived in Maricopa for 12 years and in that time, she’s spent half of her life at the ball fields rooting on her boys.”

Jacquie Burns
“She not only has 3 kids of her own, but also 3 grandchildren that she’s always willing to take care of.”

Lorraine Comer
“She is a single mom of five children and she always puts us first.”

Rachael Duguay
“She is an amazing mom to her precious 5 children and wife to husband Zach, giving unconditional love to all.”

Jennifer Endres-Serrao
“She is always present for her kids, helps her husband run their business and is fighting breast cancer.”

Dee Estrada
“Her favorite places to enjoy ‘family time’ are any local businesses in Maricopa.”

Grace Gomez
“She was born and raised here in Maricopa, she is my best friend, my super hero, my leader and I am very, very honored to call her my mother.”

Angelika Hollis
“She is a great cook, cleans, and teaches the teenagers how to drive.”

Shannon Kleinjans
“My mom is so well-known throughout the community, that it’s become a pain to go to the grocery store with her, because she’ll talk to everybody.”

Katie Leon
“Not only is she beautiful, loving, and compassionate, she has a passion to be a great mom.”

Ola Faye Lewis
“She is 80 years young and still does everything a mother can and will do for not only her children but everyone else’s.”

Veronica Montez
“She’s loving, compassionate, a wonderful mother, daughter and wife.”

Heather Nabors
“She is always willing to help anyone out, despite her jam-packed schedule.”

Janet Peters-Kohly
“She’s always there for her daughters to lend a listening ear, help prepare dinner and plan fun activities with the kids.”

Jenna Rascon
“She wakes up every day in the best spirits thanking God for our wonderful life and family and gives it her all.”

Bethany Raue
“Despite caring for our 4 kids and pregnant

with our 5th, she always ensures everyone else’s needs are met before her own.”

Jessica Reynolds
“As a mother of four she always balanced nurturing independent children and setting a perfect example, all while we felt all the love and support possible.”

Debbie Soliz
“She has always made a way to provide and care for me.”

Sarah Gray Soria
“She is a stay-at-home mom of five kids and has taken in her niece and nephew full-time.”

Pam Tysick
“My mom is the greatest, strongest, most amazing mother/woman in the world.”

Iveth Villalobos
“She has a full-time job and still managed to take care of our son and have dinner on the table.”

Mireya Villalobos
“She is self-motivated, strong character and lives life positively even when life is hard!”



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Central Arizona College

Teen drinking vigilance can't stop with graduation

By Brandi Homan

Now that graduation is over and summer is here, don't forget to talk to your kids about the risks of underage drinking. Teens who drink before the age of 15 are five times more likely to have alcohol problems in adulthood, including a higher risk of addiction. While it's hyped up in culture, the good news is you have a strong influence over the choices they make, even now. For many, drinking is social because it can lead the individual to feel less inhibited. Others drink just because others do and it's just easier to do what everyone else is doing.

Despite a teen's reasons for drinking, the fact remains they are at risk when they consume alcohol. Actions have consequences and the consequences of alcohol abuse include motor impairment, confusion, memory problems, concentration problems, and excessive drinking leads to poisoning. Teens are also more likely to be polysubstance users. Your teen might feel invincible since they graduated high school, but they aren't. And we parents aren't here to just let our kids become another statistic. So here are some important facts to discuss with your teens as they go into the next chapter in their life. Drinking before you turn 21 is illegal. You can be cited by the police and arrested for underage drinking. Drunk driving kills about 4,000 teens each year. Do not ride with friends who have been drinking. If someone who has been drinking offers you a ride, say, "No, thank you." They might say they are fine to drive and pressure you to ride. Give them

an excuse like, "I want to stay at the party a bit longer" or "I already told another friend I would ride with him." The best solution is for them not to drive at all. Your brain is developing until your early 20s. Drinking during this time may damage your brain. Teens who drink alcohol have more memory impairment than those who do not drink. Using alcohol may put you at higher risk for dropping out of high school and even college. Your child has worked too hard for this. Encourage them to continue to make positive, healthy choices. We've taught our kids to stand up for what's right, even if it means standing alone. Their life and future are more important than a drink. [BeAwesomeYouth.life](#) Brandi Homan is the co-founder of Be Awesome Youth Coalition. Be Awesome helps develop confident, connected and successful youth.



Brandi Homan

State needs better tool than AzMERIT

By Murray Siegel

In a March 1 Your Turn column in the Arizona Republic, Mike McClellan, a retired Mesa high school English teacher, used a football analogy to point out the weaknesses of the AzMERIT test. A team is facing a big game. The players are apathetic when the coach gives his pre-game pep talk. Their play during the game reflects their lack of concern, and the team is severely beaten by their rival. After the loss, the players have no accountability, but the coach is fired. McClellan furthermore asks about the value of the coach reviewing game film from the loss if the only information provided by the film is the final score? The point made by Mr. McClellan is students are not accountable for their performance on the AzMERIT, only the school and the teacher are graded. So, why should a student care about preparing for the test? Furthermore, he indicates the school's letter grade is more about the socio-economic level of the families of the students rather than a proper assessment of the school or its teachers.



Murray Siegel

A test used to evaluate schools and faculty does not provide meaningful feedback so that school can address the needs of students who underperformed, and a student's score provides no consequence for that student. There must be a better means of testing. The Arizona Department of Education and state Legislature should consider using a criterion referenced test (CRT) to replace AzMERIT. A list of specific criteria is provided for each grade and subject tested, allowing schools to ensure their curriculum covers what is being tested. Students take the appropriate grade-level CRT at various points in their elementary and middle grades education. At some point, generally tenth grade, a CRT is taken, which determines if a student receives a high school diploma. A 10th grader who fails CRT can re-take the test each year through twelfth grade. Once the student passes, the testing is complete. If a student continues to fail the test through 12th grade, that student receives a certificate of attendance, in lieu of a diploma, once he or she has completed twelfth grade. CRT is aligned with the curriculum, and every teacher knows what must be taught. The students are aware of the consequences of failing the test and schools receive feedback since each CRT tests specific criteria. I believe those who agree this is a much better way to assess educational growth must call their state representatives and urge them to consider the value of using a CRT.

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

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Scholarships

Maricopa grad earns full-ride Fry Scholarship

By Bernadette Russoniello

Maricopa High School seniors received honors and recognition for academic, athletic and private scholarships totaling more than \$8 million at the May 7 Senior Honors Night. Autumn Fausz, like many other 2019 graduates, earned a full-ride, university scholarship.

Fausz graduated as an AFJROTC cadet and leader. She has been a JROTC cadet since her freshman year, following in the footsteps of her father and brother. She will attend Northern Arizona University pursuing a major in criminology/forensic science with a minor in forestry. Her career goals involve working as a Game and Fish Warden or a national park ranger, “anything where I’m out in the woods.” Fausz grew up in wooded areas of North Carolina and fell in love with the forest.



Bernadette Russoniello

Fausz moved to Maricopa mid-sophomore year to be closer to extended family after losing her father Wayne Fausz in a car accident. U.S. Army Command Sgt. Major Wayne Fausz led the Wolf Pack battalion of the 82nd Airborne. The Fausz family was involved in a head-on collision caused by a sleeping driver. Her father passed away in flight to the hospital; Autumn and her brother were also critically injured in the crash.

The Marine Gunnery Sgt. John David Fry Scholarship provides post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to children and surviving spouses of service members who died in the line of duty or while on active duty after Sept.10, 2001. Autumn learned of the scholarship through her mother and applied early this fall. The scholarship covers the full cost of attendance at any U.S. university. Autumn selected NAU.

Fausz was also recognized at the AFJROTC Awards Ceremony for the Bri Barnes Community Service Scholarship

presented by Jim and Alice Shoaf of the Maricopa Pantry. The award honors the AFJROTC cadet who made the biggest impact and commitment to community service. Autumn was selected because she leads the Community Service team for AFJROTC and led the community-wide canned food drive for the Maricopa Pantry. Additionally, Autumn frequently volunteers at Feed My Starving Children to pack food boxes for children in need.

Although Fausz and her family have been through a lot over the past nine years, she attests “we are definitely stronger from the experience.” She expresses gratitude to her parents, Natasha Faust and Gary Hysop, for the support and love they provide, for always pushing her to do her best. “Although no one can replace my dad, I never imagined someone could fill that role in my life, to be a father figure.”

Fausz is ready for adulthood, ready to move forward, and looking forward to her life at Northern Arizona University.

Congratulations, graduates!



Candice Antone



Jarred Antone



Mariah Carlyle



Jalen Garcia



Darrian Justin



Hunter Louis



Isaiah Narcia



Mario Ortega



Steve Peters



Lexie Ruelas



Alexandria Sanchez



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Maricopa High School



The Maricopa High School Class of 2019 graduated in ceremonies May 23 at Ram Stadium, with more than 400 crossing the stage. Speakers included Superintendent Tracey Lopeman, salutatorian Alexis Jackson and valedictorian Chandler Chang (see page 42). The class earned more than \$8 million in scholarships. See more photos at InMaricopa.com. Photos by Jim Headley and Victor Moreno



Sequoia Pathway Academy



Sequoia Pathway Academy graduated 59 seniors in a ceremony May 22 in the school gym. Speakers included Vice Mayor Henry Wade, valedictorian Britney Garcia-Coyolt and salutatorian Nina Sarappo. See more photos at InMaricopa.com.

Photos by Jim Headley



Middle Schools



Eighth graders from Desert Wind and Maricopa Wells middle schools had separate promotion ceremonies this year, each on the football field at Maricopa High School, May 21 and May 22, respectively. See more photos at InMaricopa.com.

Photos by Kyle Norby (above) and Victor Moreno

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Valedictorian: You are not defined by your grades

Maricopa High School graduate Chandler Chang delivered this valedictorian address to the Class of 2019 during graduation May 23. A Flinn Scholarship recipient, he has lived in Maricopa 14 years.

By Chandler Chang

Hello, Class of 2019. It is my absolute honor to be speaking here tonight to such a talented group of individuals.

My name is Chandler Chang, but if you only know me from the media, then you might know me as Chandler “Change.” I’ve even received college letters with the same error. Yes, that’s a typo, please don’t make it again.

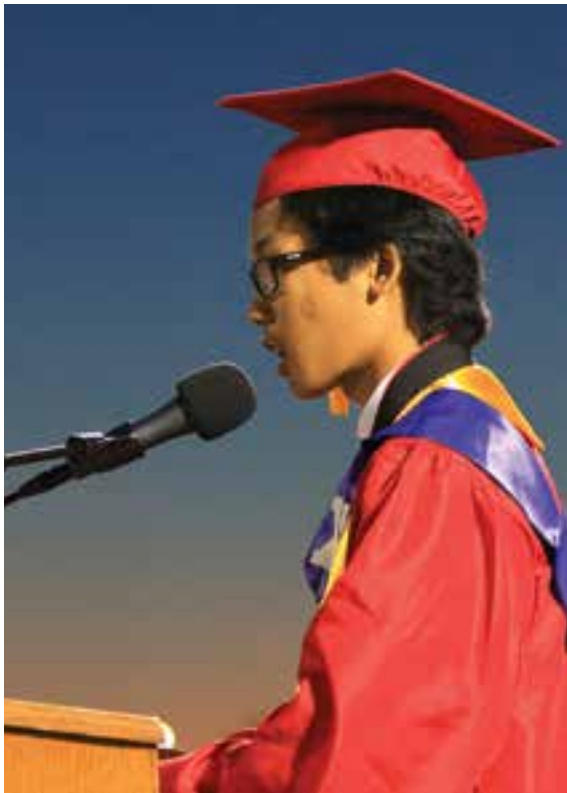
Before I go any further, I would like to thank everyone whose support made tonight possible. I would personally like to thank my family, friends and teachers for inspiring me to achieve the success I have found myself in today. On behalf of the class of 2019, I would like to thank all parents, teachers, staff, administration, school board members. Your support has empowered us to become the determined young men and women we are now. I’m sure it wasn’t easy putting up with us for four years, or if you’re the parents, a mild seventeen to eighteen years.

Preparing this speech has been a harrowing task. Just a few weeks ago I had no idea what I wanted to say, so I looked to my fellow Flinn Scholars for advice. Actually, allow me to rephrase that. I was desperate for ideas because my speech had to be submitted the next day, so I spammed our group chat. Anyways, here’s what they had to say. Keep in mind these are supposedly the brightest minds in the state.

“Just say ‘peace out y’all’ and sit down.” Too late for that. Someone suggested to “spill everyone’s tea.” I’ve been informed that it means to reveal everyone’s secrets. And lastly, “chug a bottle of apple cider and shout ‘Feel the Burn 2020!’” I’m not even going to pretend like I considered that one.

So, I’m back at square one, and when I reflected on our high school experience and the struggles we have all shared, I found the message I need you all to hear. High school has emphasized the importance of your grades, about presenting colleges this nice three-course meal of grades, test scores and, if they like dessert, extracurricular activities. Our teachers constantly encourage us to avoid this perspective that your grade is a measure of your success, but societal pressures always seem to prevail. It emphasizes grades so much that we pull all-nighters to study for a test or outright skip school to avoid taking the test. It promotes the idea that your grades are a measure of your worth.

Your high school transcript only tells 10 percent of your story, if that. It doesn’t mention that while you were in school you were working



Jim Headley

two jobs and trying to support your family financially. It doesn’t mention that you have hundreds of volunteer hours at food banks, local churches or rescue shelters. It doesn’t mention that you’re an amazing, kindhearted person with a contagious smile — Dauvian I’m looking at you! Those kinds of things define who you are, your character, not a test score and not a column of letters on a page.

It’s a grim reality that society values that test score and column of letters more than those things. I think the system of awarding scholarships based exclusively on GPA, SAT scores and ACT scores is flawed, but colleges nationwide promote this. Even when such a system tells you otherwise, I urge you all to remember that your grades are not your labels.

I’m valedictorian and I don’t know how to drive, I’m so bad at cooking I’ll burn water, and I wrote this speech at midnight the day after I was supposed to submit it. If grades were an absolute

indicator of success and potential, none of that should be true!

I know this advice might come across as condescending coming from the valedictorian, Flinn Scholar, etc., and I don’t want it to. If you feel that way, that means my message hasn’t reached you yet. At the end of the day, I’m someone who enjoys the company of his friends, someone who wants a well-paid and fulfilling job, but doesn’t have the clearest idea of how to obtain that; someone who wants happiness, someone who gets absolutely stressed out over testing and public events such as tonight. I just happen to do well in a classroom setting, and if you don’t, there’s nothing wrong with that as long as you put forth your best effort.

I’m not here to devalue the concept of grades. If good grades and a college education are what you need to be successful, then absolutely go for it. I encourage you to do so. That being said, that can’t show every amazing quality you have. To those of us who are not college-bound, I’m sure we envy that you have a plan for life that doesn’t involve another four years of this, but now with massive student loan debt. To those of us that are college-bound, take what I said to heart, and remember, C’s get degrees! I mean, you are not defined by your grades.

Congratulations Class of 2019! I wish you all the best in your endeavors. 🎓



Class of 2019

Maricopa High School has added the following graduates inadvertently omitted from the list of seniors in the May edition of InMaricopa:



Hannah Crean



Kevin Minisee



Jonathan Pulver



Deon Robinson

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Ivanka Kim

Backyard permaculture works in Maricopa

By Trudy Fuller

Joe Whittle and his young family have lived in Maricopa four years, bringing with him 12 years of gardening and professional landscaping experience.

He also has completed a permaculture course taught by Geoff Lawton, based on the original permaculture book written by Australian ecologist Bill Mollison. By following these principles, Whittle has created a profusion of edible and medicinal plants along with those plants that are beneficial for wildlife such as hummingbirds, bees and butterflies.

Working with rather than against nature is a permaculture philosophy. Here in the low desert, the U.S. Climate Data lists the average rainfall for Maricopa as 7.87 inches, which poses a challenge of making the most of a very modest rainfall.

Whittle has devised a passive rain water harvesting system to supplement his garden's irrigation system, utilizing rain gutters that channel precipitation onto sunken gravel covered walkways below the soil level of the garden beds. In this way, the moisture seeps into the various root zones.

Companion plantings allow for taller plants to shade the understory plants, allowing the soil to stay moist longer. For example, a mulberry tree shades an artichoke, a sweet acacia provides shade for several types of citrus, and a guava plant receives shade from 10-foot sugar cane stalks.



Trudy Fuller

Permaculture strives to keep the soil covered with moisture-providing plants, including weeds. There is a basic strategy for weeds in this garden. Eventual growth of vegetable crops will shade out weeds. Before they go to seed, weeds are added to the compost pile,

along with seasonal tree leaf drop, providing minerals to the compost.

Moisture-preserving vegetable ground covers, including radishes, turnips and spicy mustard, improve the soil and eventually replace weed growth. Other ground cover found in this garden include sweet alyssum, deep-rooted dichondra clover, marshmallow herb and sweet lavender. Moisture is further saved through different mulches and finely ground wood chips. The moist soil created

from these plantings encourages the earth worm population.

A shade-providing mulberry tree is thriving in this garden due to the extra moisture created from the permaculture strategy. Some shade is needed here in the desert, and this tree's roots, among others in the garden, open up the soil to create air channels needed to promote plant growth.

To learn more about Joe Whittle's garden, visit Whittle Bitty Farms on Facebook.

The next landscape and garden course will be offered at the Maricopa Agricultural Center beginning in late August. To get on the mailing list, write to macmastergardener.com.

Trudy Fuller is a Tortosa resident and a Pinal County master gardener.



Ivanka Kim

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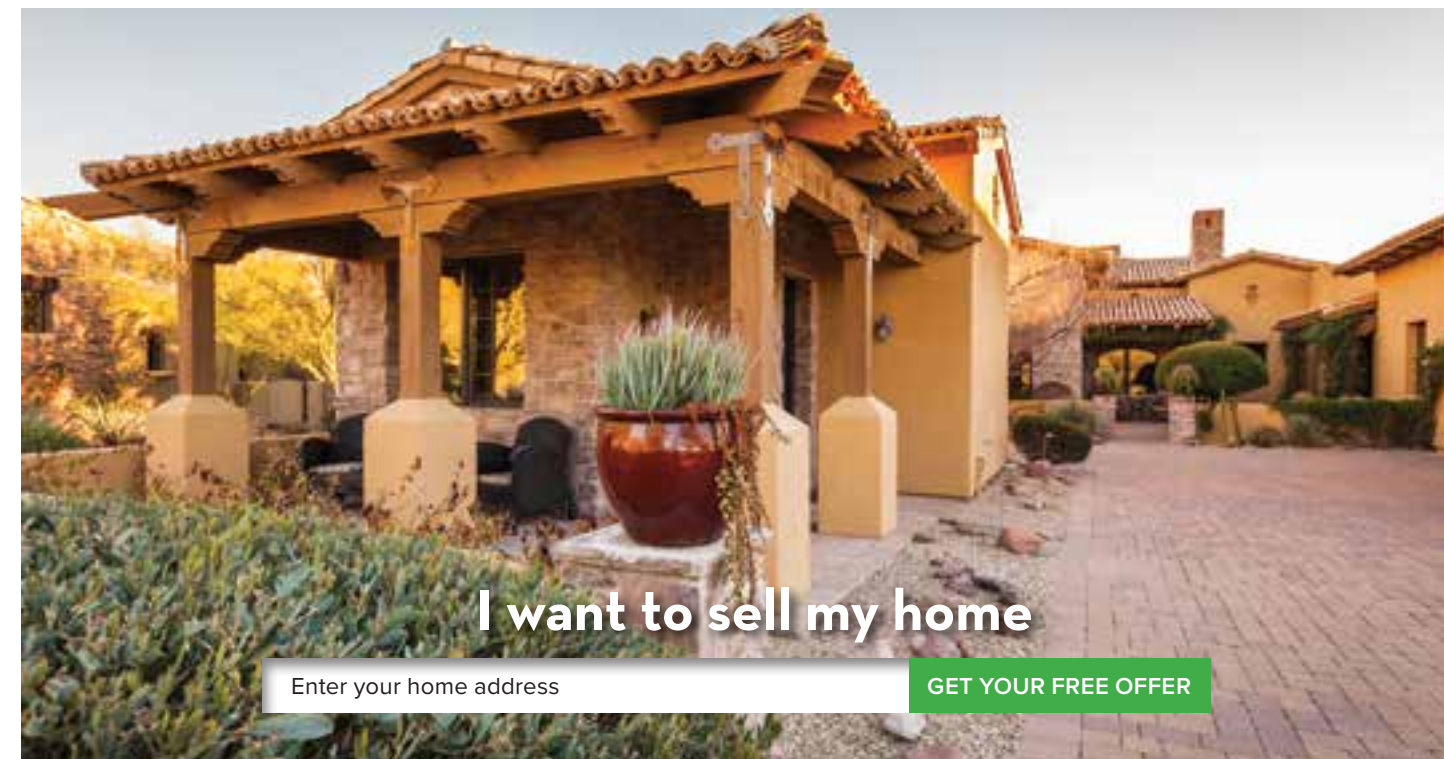
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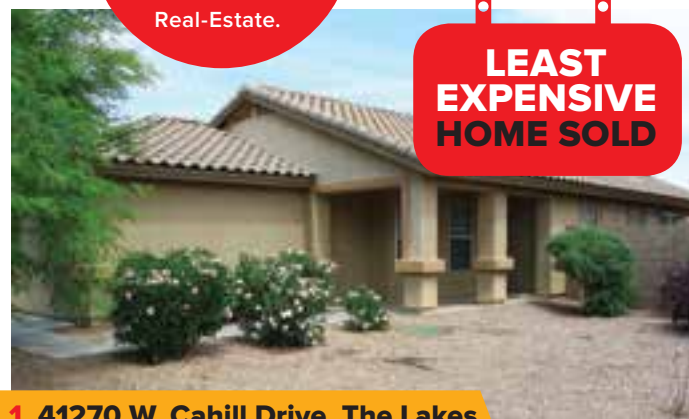

Jim Headley

1. 42264 W. Rummy Road, Province, \$366,000

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa from April 16 to May 15 was a three-bedroom Gardenia model with a casita. The one-owner house, which is 12 years old, had solar panels installed three years ago with a prepaid 20-year lease. It was on the market nearly a year while the original asking price was dropped \$19,500.

Sold: May 1
Purchase price: \$366,000
Square footage: 2,337
Price per square foot: \$156.61
Days on market: 243
Builder: Engle
Year built: 2007
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 3.5
Community: Province

Features: Guest house, gourmet kitchen, two master suites, butler's pantry, custom cabinets in two-car garage, covered patio with built in barbecue
Listing Agent: Kim Gillespie, Cactus Mountain Properties
Selling Agent: Debra K. Johnson, Cactus Mountain Properties



Jim Headley

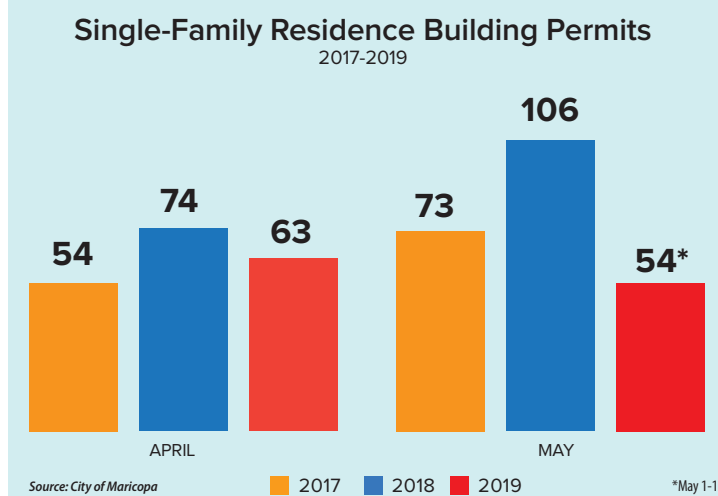
**LEAST
EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD**
1. 41270 W. Cahill Drive, The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado, \$167,000

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa from April 16 to May 15 went for 33 percent more than its last sale in 2007, the year it was built in The Lakes subdivision. It was snapped up in just a month for \$2,900 under its asking price.

Sold: May 14
Purchase price: \$167,000
Square footage: 2,212
Price per square foot: \$137.78
Days on market: 32
Builder: Unknown
Year built: 2007
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2

Community: The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado
Features: Full master suite, large kitchen, cover patio, two-car garage, low-maintenance landscaping
Listing Agent: Dayv Morgan, HomeSmart Success
Selling Agent: Dayv Morgan, HomeSmart Success

2. 19336 N. Ibiza Lane, Tortosa\$170,000
3. 40089 W. Bonneau St., Smith Farms\$170,000
4. 21784 N. Liles Lane, Rancho El Dorado.....\$170,000
5. 20613 N. Ancon Ave., Acacia Crossings.....\$173,000



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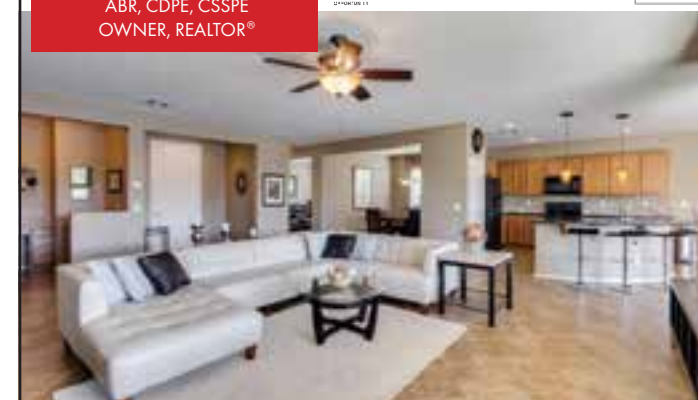
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Cactus as art

Homeowner brings Sonoran Desert inside

Story and photos by Raquel Hendrickson

"He'd always had a quickening of the heart when he crossed into Arizona and beheld the cactus country. This was as the desert should be, this was the desert of the picture books, with the land unrolled to the farthest distant horizon hills, with saguaro standing sentinel in their strange chessboard pattern, towering supinely above the fans of ocotillo and brushy mesquite." — Dorothy B. Hughes

When Michael Headrick purchased saguaro skeletons two years ago, he created a notarized note indicating where and from whom he had acquired them, "just to be sure."

Arizona loves its cactus, especially its saguaro. So much so, there are protections built into state law.

Headrick, who has lived in Rancho El Dorado nine years, loves cactus, too, and has made them an integral part of his landscaping — and his interior decorating. People just passing by his property have called it "the cactus house" because of the forest of 15-foot cacti out front. They haven't seen the inside.

Life after Death

Saguaro skeletons and pieces of skeletons are installed in his living room, lighted from within for dramatic effect.

"I like saguaro," Headrick said. "It's extremely hard wood, and it's a big job to clean them up. They've got old dry stuff inside, and you've got to get that stuff out, drill a hole in the bottom so you can run your lights through. I put them in the driveway and I bleach them with Clorox. Then I leave them outside all day long and they turn real white. They look a lot better than they did before."

An aficionado of stained glass, he then had an epiphany.

"I thought, 'Why don't I try to put a stained-glass window in one of these?'" he said. "It came out very nice."

Cactus-as-art started with acquiring the skeletons in the first place. That happened

when Headrick met a Mesa rancher willing to part ways with his saguaro wood.

"Wherever I live, I try to bring that into my house," he said. "When I lived in Hawaii, I decorated with surfboards and things that had to do with the ocean. I couldn't see living in Phoenix and decorating my house with Chicago stuff."

Saguaro skeletons do not come with the legal requirements attached to live cactus. As long as permission is given by the landowner to access the property, whether private or federal, anyone can remove cactus wood. The state's caution is that doing so could disturb habitat and interfere with soil fertility.

Laws of the Living

However, take a live cactus without proper authority and you may meet Scott Schade of the Office of Special Investigations.

It's illegal to harm a saguaro, and moving one requires special paperwork. Schade said when people get in trouble acquiring a saguaro, it's usually something basic. "Transporting it without a permit," he said, is the top infraction.

A tag for a saguaro is \$8. Tags for other protected plants cost \$6. Investigators get called in for suspicious activity like trespassing, when movement tags are not obvious on protected plants being moved or when someone is trying to sell a wild saguaro without documentation. Legal ramifications depend on the "violation gravity factor," according to the Arizona Administrative Code.

"It can be a fine, it can be jail time, it can be a civil penalty," Schade said. "It depends on what's going on."



Michael Headrick's interior design is distinctly western, with cactus wood and southwest art. He makes distinct use of stained glass, some obtained from defunct restaurants, some even set inside the saguaro skeletons.



Landowners hauling a rotted saguaro to the landfill do not need a moving permit, he said.

If you want to raise your own, saguaros grow from seeds, not cuttings, and they grow slowly. A 10-year-old cactus may be less than two inches high, meaning they can be grown indoors for a very long time before needing a transfer.

Desert Décor

Headrick educated himself on the such laws before adding saguaro remains to his décor, which is a collection of western and Native

American art, handmade furnishings, antiques and do-dads. He has given old radios the same treatment as the cactus skeletons, replacing audio panels with stained glass. He even has charred wood from old Maricopa buildings.

“You could sit in here for an hour and not see everything,” he said.

Headrick, 65, came to Maricopa in a roundabout way. He grew up in Chicago and first discovered Arizona when he was 28. He said he lived off dividends from trading options as a silent partner for years. He was living the high life in Arizona, California and Hawaii until his partner was indicted in a

A Chicago native, Headrick is retired in what some of his Rancho El Dorado neighbors call “the cactus house.”

Ponzi scheme, wiping out his income. His whole life downsized. He went back to work and moved

“Maricopa was the only place I could afford to have a pool,” he said. “I sold my house two weeks before the crash for very top dollar, and I bought this house for very bottom dollar.”

He eventually took a job working the ramps at Southwest Airlines, from which he retired three years ago. He has kept up his own art, which informs his style of exterior and interior design.

“It’s very western out back,” Headrick said of a backyard that includes an OK Corral and cholla skeletons.

He estimates he has 20 cacti in the front yard comprised of claret cup, apple cactus, Mexican fence pole and San Pedro cactus, making landscaping and propagation very low maintenance.

“When an arm starts protruding toward the driveway and it’s time to cut it off,” he said, “you just cut it off, lay it on the ground, let it sit for 24 hours, dig a hole about a foot deep, drop it in there, give it a little bit of water and leave it alone.”

He also has a front “hedge” made of 25 elephant ear plants he nurtured for four years before cutting into a hedge shape.



About the Saguaro

The rules regarding saguaro and other protected native plants can be found at Agriculture.AZ.gov. Permits can be obtained at the Phoenix Office of

the Agricultural Department, 1688 W. Adams St., 602-542-3578. Scott Schade can be reached at 520-628-6317 or sschade@azda.gov.

Size: Average 30 feet (largest cactus species in the United States) Longevity: 150-200 years Habitat: Sonoran Desert Blooming period: May and June —Desert Botanical Garden

Prepare for unexpected costs when buying a home

By Dayv Morgan

With the average home in Maricopa at least 10 years old, it is imperative for homebuyers to budget for unexpected home repair costs.

If something fails, the cost and time can be a shock. The water heater may be nearing the end of its life span, the cooling system may have been installed in 2006 or you may not know the condition of your roof underneath the exterior tile. Do you even know how old your plumbing is?

The exterior paint can show signs of fading after only a few years, and your homeowners association may ask you to repaint after you’ve been in your home only a few months.

A home warranty plan is an important part of buying a home. While home insurance can cover you against structural damage and theft, a home warranty can repair or replace systems and appliances that stop working due to normal wear and tear.

A study by Zillow found homeowners spend \$8,000-\$9,000 a year on unexpected home maintenance costs. Studies also found a quarter of Americans have saved less than \$500 for home repairs.

Many homes in Maricopa were built in 2004 or 2006 during the boom. Even if you are dutifully changing your filters and oiling your garage door mechanism, age will catch up with your systems. Appliances have a certain life expectancy.

A good home warranty plan helps off-set these unexpected costs.

What does a home warranty cover?

Plans vary, and it depends how much you want to pay. A basic plan costs \$400-\$500 and covers:

- Oven/Range
- Dishwasher
- Garbage disposal
- Plumbing
- Water heaters
- HVAC
- Electrical systems
- Doorbells



Dayv Morgan

- Inside plumbing
- Ceiling fans

Upgrade options

- Refrigerators
- Washers/Dryers
- Spa/Pool systems
- Garage door openers

What is not typically covered?

- Outdoor items/systems
- Faucet repairs
- Pre-existing conditions
- Code violations
- Improper installation

Typically, when something does break or wear out, you can call your home warranty representative first, and they will send over a repair professional in their network. Some



companies, like America’s Preferred Home Warranty, lets you pick your own repair company. Always examine a home warranty carefully and discuss it with your agent before signing.

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

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Maricopa seniors adapting to Copper Sky space

Photos by jim Headley




The Copa Seniors are moving out of their game space at Santa Cruz Elementary School and into Copper Sky June 12. But they still have questions— such as whether previous schedules will continue and whether the time will be truly dedicated to seniors.

“When we got the school, they said we were an adult group, so anybody who is an adult could come and play,” said Shirley Moenich. “What our status is now, I don’t know.”

She said the Copa Seniors are making a transition from Santa Cruz over to Copper Sky for many of their functions. The group is already meeting every Tuesday afternoon at 1 to play games at Copper Sky.

“Someone is volunteering to supply all of our games, so we’re going to have that in a rolling cart. We will have that available at Copper Sky. Whatever days we end up with, we want to make sure there is someone here from our group that can say hello to new people, get them organized and let them know what we are doing,” Moenich said.

The City plans to eventually convert the current library into a community space for seniors and veterans after a new library is built next to City Hall. 



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Dealing with annoying, maybe illegal robocalls

By Joan Koczor

Robocalls, those prerecorded, unsolicited annoyances that are becoming all-too-frequent in many households, have reached epic proportions. They are the largest source of consumer complaints to the FTC.

In 2018, a record 48 billion robocalls were placed to phones in the United States, according to YouMail, a company that blocks and tracks robocalls. That is 57 percent more robocalls than there were in 2017.



Joan Koczor

Legal or Not

Political parties and candidates, as well as charities, are legally allowed to autodial you with a prerecorded message to your home landline. The same is true of callers whose messages are purely informational: the pharmacy telling you that your prescription

is ready, your child's school to say there's a weather delay, your doctor's office to confirm an appointment.

Payment reminder calls to your landline — for example, when your credit card company robocalls you to alert you that your payment is due — are generally legal without prior consent. Robocalls from debt collection agencies, which are also payment reminders, are legal to landlines and require no previous consent to be called. Moreover, these calls are not covered by the Do Not Call Registry.

Almost all autodialed or prerecorded calls made to your cell phone — charities, political parties to name a few — are illegal unless you have given permission to be contacted this way or a call is for an emergency. If you

get these calls to your cell phone and don't remember giving permission, it's possible that you checked a terms-of-service box or provided a phone number during a sign-up process. Doing either can constitute consent to be called, per FCC regulations.

What can you do?

Many companies, including AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, U.S. Cellular and Verizon, have services that alert you an incoming robocall may be from a scammer or spammer.

Instead of simply being alerted to incoming robocalls, a call-blocking app can intercept robocalls before they reach you. Though some apps don't access your contact lists, some of the free apps do. If you're planning to download a robocall-blocking app, read the app's privacy policy first.

One option available from some phone companies is to automatically reject anonymous calls. If you turn this feature on, all anonymous calls are instantly rejected, preventing the caller from even leaving a message.

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

Did you know that Sun Life Family Health Center is a certified Primary Care Medical Home (PCMH) organization?

By Renee Louzon-Benn

PCMH Your Circle of Care — How to be at the Center

A Primary Care Medical Home is not a house, office, or hospital, but rather an approach to providing you comprehensive and individualized primary care.

Being a PCMH certified organization means we are dedicated to working together as a TEAM to help you, the patient, achieve your best quality of life. You will be a part of a team made up of providers, medical assistants and health specialists that help coordinate your health care. This is your Circle of Care, at which you are the center.



What is your role in the Circle of Care?

Your team experience begins and continues from your first patient visit. Along the way, you will be introduced to members of your Circle of Care, including, your Primary Care Provider (PCP) and medical assistants. This is where you become engaged with your Circle of Care Team.

Engaging you in your treatment plan is the core of PCMH. At Sun Life, we want you to be involved in a variety of ways: we will ask for your input about medical decisions and treatments. We will work with you to develop self-management goals and care plans and will ask you for feedback in the way of patient satisfaction surveys and will provide you with access to resources to support your medical care.

Keep Us Informed

Your Circle of Care will function most effectively as your medical home when you provide us with a complete medical history, including any recent visits to other providers, recent hospitalizations, tests or Emergency Department visits since your last appointment with your health center provider.

Take Care of Yourself

Set health goals that you are comfortable with and make life choices to meet those targets.

Join support groups with people like you and learn how to manage serious illnesses. Ask your care team for more information about available support, education and therapy groups.

Be Safe

Tell your provider about any medicines, supplements and herbal or holistic products you take. Consider different treatment options and compare their risks and benefits.

Speak Up

During your visit to Sun Life Family Health Center, your Circle of Care will treat you and your family as partners in your own care. One important way that you can be involved is to speak up. Ask questions, voice your concerns, and do not be afraid to raise any issues relating to your care and treatment. Do not be afraid to ask your PCP or other Sun Life provider to repeat information or explain something more clearly. If your provider has given you specific instructions, repeat them back, so that both of you know you understand what you need to do to meet your health goals.

Talk to Us

Your healthcare is our priority. To determine where improvements are needed, Sun Life takes part in an online patient feedback survey. You may be asked to complete a patient experience survey after your next visit. We encourage you to give us feedback on how our office works. This is your opportunity to tell us what we did well, and where we could use some improvement.

Patient satisfaction and quality of care are of the utmost importance. We want you to feel at home and well cared for by your health care team and, most importantly, we want to work together with you as a team to meet your healthcare goals.



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Creedence Clearwater Revisited coming to Harrah's Ak-Chin

Creedence Clearwater Revisited, the Creedence Clearwater Revival reunion band, will bring their iconic sound to the Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino on June 15.

The Events Center seats 2,000 people and is part of the casino's multi-million-dollar renovation.

Creedence Clearwater Revisited, founded by Stu Cook and Doug Clifford of Creedence Clearwater Revival, was launched in 1995 to bring Creedence's timeless music back to the fans. These Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famers have been performing live ever since, bringing iconic hits such as "Bad Moon Rising," "Proud Mary" and "Fortunate Son" back to the stage.

Their hits earned them multiple spots on the Billboard Hot 100, as well as on RPM 100 Albums.

Current members Cook, Clifford, Steve Gunner, Kurt Griffey and Dan McGuinness work together to create Creedence's mix of swamp and blues rock. The band has released a new album, reissuing their album "Recollection" with new, live versions of their greatest hits.

IF YOU GO

When: June 15

Doors: 7 p.m.

Show Time: 8 p.m.

Location: The Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino

Tickets: Starting at \$34.50; available at Ticketmaster

Ages: All

Calendar

JUNE CALENDAR

1

Mount Moriah Groundbreaking
9 a.m., Mount Moriah AME Church
19275 N. Gunsmoke Road



Maricopa Talent Show
6 p.m., Maricopa Elementary School
18150 N. Alterra Parkway

4

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

8

Driving Permit Seminar
9 a.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road

Movies Under the Stars
7 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road

Los Lonely Boys and Ozomatli
8 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road



12

Copa City Dems Meeting
6:30 p.m., Copper Sky Police Substation
17985 N. Greythorne Drive

MUSD Governing Board

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

15

Movies Under the Stars "Dive In"
7 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.



Creedence Clearwater Revisited
8 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

18

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

19

Blue Star Mothers of Maricopa
6:30 p.m., Maricopa Veterans Center
44240 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

20

Zonta Club of Maricopa
5:30 p.m., Honeycutt Coffee
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 109



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

Calendar

21

Senior Lunch and Learn
11:25 a.m., Copper Sky Aquatic Center
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

22

Grupo El Regreso
10 p.m., Luxe Lounge at UltraStar Multi-tainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road

26

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

JULY 4

Great American 4th
1 p.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

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

Senior Games
1 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Complex
44345 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.

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

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



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

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