

Back to school

Swim-safety gets trial run for 1st graders

THINGS TO DO
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Things to Do

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Get back to class

Are you ready for school to start again? For most schools in Maricopa, that is a fact this month. We caught up with some of the campuses that will be starting the year with new programs, new teachers and even new buildings.

One of those new programs is spotlighted on our cover, a test-case, swim-safety class for first graders, developed through an agreement between Maricopa Unified School District and the City of Maricopa. If it goes well, it may later be offered to more grades and all schools in town.

Also in this issue, see how the City of Maricopa is celebrating the Fourth of July learn and how the VFW can help you properly dispose of your tattered American flag. Though summer is just getting started, long-term forecasters saw a sizzling July coming more than a year ago, and they explain how in these pages.

Did you know the state's transportation department is planning to add another stoplight

on State Route 347? Maricopa drivers may not be thrilled about that, but there is good news. The midtown overpass could be primarily completed by mid-July, and the city is preparing to celebrate.

This issue also offers news nuggets on economic development, a column from Mayor Christian Price explaining why businesses do and don't come to town, a one-year perspective from MUSD Superintendent Tracey Lopeman and tips for seniors to prevent falling in their own homes.

Those and many more stories are part of our cracking July issue.

Happy reading.



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Raquel Hendrickson

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History



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At the station

Believed to have been taken between 1900 and 1920, this photo of a train at the pumping station with the iconic water tower nearby is so typical of Maricopa at that time it served as a postcard. For 40 years, Maricopa was a junction for the Southern Pacific Railroad where passengers bound for Phoenix could catch the Doodlebug into town. Just like the train, they could stop for a little refreshment in Maricopa before continuing on their journey. The east-west tracks now belong to Union Pacific, and the northbound spur was torn up.

July 2019History photo **Page 6**Box Canyon shooting range **Page 18**Maricopa Sales Tax **Page 24**Sizzling forecast **Page 28**Swim-safety for first graders **Page 48**

**Maricopa veterans
have a new way to
come together for
community service.**

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Raquel Hendrickson

New home permits **Page 52**Senior Corner **Page 55**Library exhibit **Page 59**

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DAVID DURST
A pilot since 1988 and cockpit simulator designer, he is from Long Beach, California, and has visited every state.



HARRIET PHELPS, PSY.D.
She has been a master gardener in two states and retired as a psychologist in Davenport, Iowa.



JOAN KOCZOR
From Lockport,
Illinois, she received
the Community
Service Award in
June at the Pinal
County Resource
Roundup.

Photo by Victor Moreno

Lifecycle of a city: Why a business may or may not locate in Maricopa

By Mayor Christian Price

A contingent from Maricopa, which included City staff and me, participated in the International Conference of Shopping Centers (ICSC) in Las Vegas. This particular show is a veritable “who’s who” of developers, financiers, site selectors, place makers, retailers, hoteliers and so much more. More than 35,000 attendees congregate in one place looking to make connections, build relationships, get to know new areas and land sites, and start the lengthy process of making deals to potentially pull new “stuff” out of the ground.

Each market or land site within a city, county or state has a long list of challenges to overcome, long before development can ever be considered. The way a developer or business perceives a given market has to fit into their “proprietary formula for success” that is specific to their industry, market conditions, economic and consumer trends, political certainty, financial opportunity, availability to capital and so on.

Almost all businesses have and use these formulas to calculate the amount of risk they are willing to take when considering a multi-million-dollar investment into the market. Some company formulas, in my opinion, are more open to trying something new, but many are not.

Economies change, CEOs and boards of directors change. Risk tolerances and policies change. Markets change. Progress with “shovel-ready sites” changes.

Site challenges change with infrastructure improvements and other growth-related issues. Population and rooftops matter immensely to these folks.

Thus, as we continue to meet and speak with a variety of businesses, many of which you have shared with me on Facebook that



you’d like to see come to Maricopa, and even more that you haven’t, we are wading our way through and trying to address these various challenges that are made evident from our very first encounter.

Just 16 years old, we are a young city. We are not an already-built and established city. We rely on our partners and developers, with whom we have been fostering relationships for years, who understand the market and are interested in working with us to get new businesses into their soon-to-be-developed buildings.

With materials and labor costs rising as much as 40 percent in the past year alone, this carefully choreographed dance between land developers, building contractors and business owners is getting trickier and trickier.

During our time at ICSC we had a very direct discussion with one of our partners, a developer who is actively working with us to attract new businesses and pull buildings and businesses our community desires out of the ground. We expressed our community’s wants and desires; he is willing to work with us but explained that getting to where we

“With materials and labor costs rising as much as 40 percent in the past year alone, this carefully choreographed dance between land developers, building contractors and business owners is getting trickier and trickier.”

want to be is a process — that we have to build slowly and deliberately, that each new business allows us to attract other businesses. Such is the lifecycle of a growing city.

When a business locates to a new area and is successful, it creates development momentum. Their success also sends a ripple effect through the system that the development community takes note of. This drives their interest in a city to further investigate and ultimately participate in the marketplace.

We are very hopeful this next phase of development for Maricopa will see some of these new businesses we are all looking for. Our city staff and others are working alongside developers and property owners on this vision for our city.

With so many moving parts that must align perfectly for things to come out of the ground, development can certainly be challenging, but definitely not impossible. And in my book, the City of Maricopa is most definitely worth the effort.

Christian Price is the mayor of Maricopa and president of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns.

Read the full content of this column at InMaricopa.com.

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Q&A with Tracey Lopeman

Superintendent reviews growth, change, surprises of first year

How would you describe your first full year at MUSD?

I've been able to meet so many great kids and great families along the way and really enjoy the benefits of a close relationship with city partners and business partners. So, it's just been a wonderful experience.

How did that come about, being able to grow those relationships with the city, for instance?

Well, we started off by having a large stakeholder meeting where we articulated the Maricopa Why. And we invited the mayor, the city manager. We had police representation there. That was in August of last year. They took us up on the invitation, and we were able to identify all the dreams we have in common for the kids of Maricopa. When you have those kinds of commonalities, it's a pretty good start.

What were some of the district's successes during the past year?

It's a pretty long list. For starters, we have a new website. It's a much more effective representation of who we are to the rest of the world. We are launching a preschool in July. From the day I started, we had to begin planning for growth at the high school. Of course, that's a multi-year project. We have been rewarded from the School Facilities Board \$23 million to begin that project. We're proposing a 5-percent raise [in salaries], and we believe our board is going to definitely approve that when they adopt the budget, so we have been able to effectively allocate our resources to get the money back in the classroom, keep the money in the classroom.

Is there a certain tactic you expect the district to take if it goes for a bond when you just had the voters approve an override?

We're committed to communicating the value of education, not only to the individual student or the individual family but the value of an educated population here in Maricopa. What it brings in terms of wealth to the community. If a child has a high school diploma, they have a certain expectancy for income, and how that is so exponentially increased once they



Kyle Norby

See the full video interview at InMaricopa.com

have a college diploma. The more educated our city is, the more tax revenue there is, the less crime there is, it's a more attractive place to live. We don't want to just sell a bond. We want to promote the idea of making Maricopa a destination city. Part of that is doing our part as a district to educate our children.

While this was your first year as superintendent, there were also changes among the administrative staff. How did that work, with you bringing them up to speed while also still learning the ropes yourself?

I'll go back again to what we articulated in our strategic plan. We have some very clearly articulated vision and mission statements, and that produced some very powerful goals and strategies. It minimizes the time you have to get people on board because we already did that. We already spent a tremendous amount of time and energy and dedication to articulating what we want for this community. We identified blocks and obstacles, so that already captured any resistance we might face, any obstacles along the way. So, we're prepared to link arms, not only as professionals but with our parents, with our students, with our elected officials, with our business partners, with our faith-based partners. We've got the path already laid for us.

What was your biggest surprise of the last year?

Probably just how many great kids I met. I've had a couple of surprises, actually. I thought I

TRACEY LOPEMAN, ED.D

Age: 52

Hometown: Henderson, Nevada

Residence: Phoenix

Education: Northern Arizona University, Ed.D. at Arizona State University

Previous work: Alhambra Elementary District teacher, principal and assistant superintendent

was going to be stuck in my office all the time. My admin assistant and I made plans to get me out into the schools. I was surprised at the welcome. I was surprised at the warmth.

Where would you put the level of transparency now compared to when you first came in?

Transparency is a priority for us. We have applied that concept and that philosophy across all departments and throughout all levels. We want to be open and communicative with our parents and with all the constituents in Maricopa. In terms of our communication, part of that is just being available. The website is better, as we mentioned, but we also made sure we had a human answering the phone. We had one of our stellar, superstar Maricopa Unified office people picking up the phone every time someone called. That's the first part of transparency, saying, "We're here to listen."

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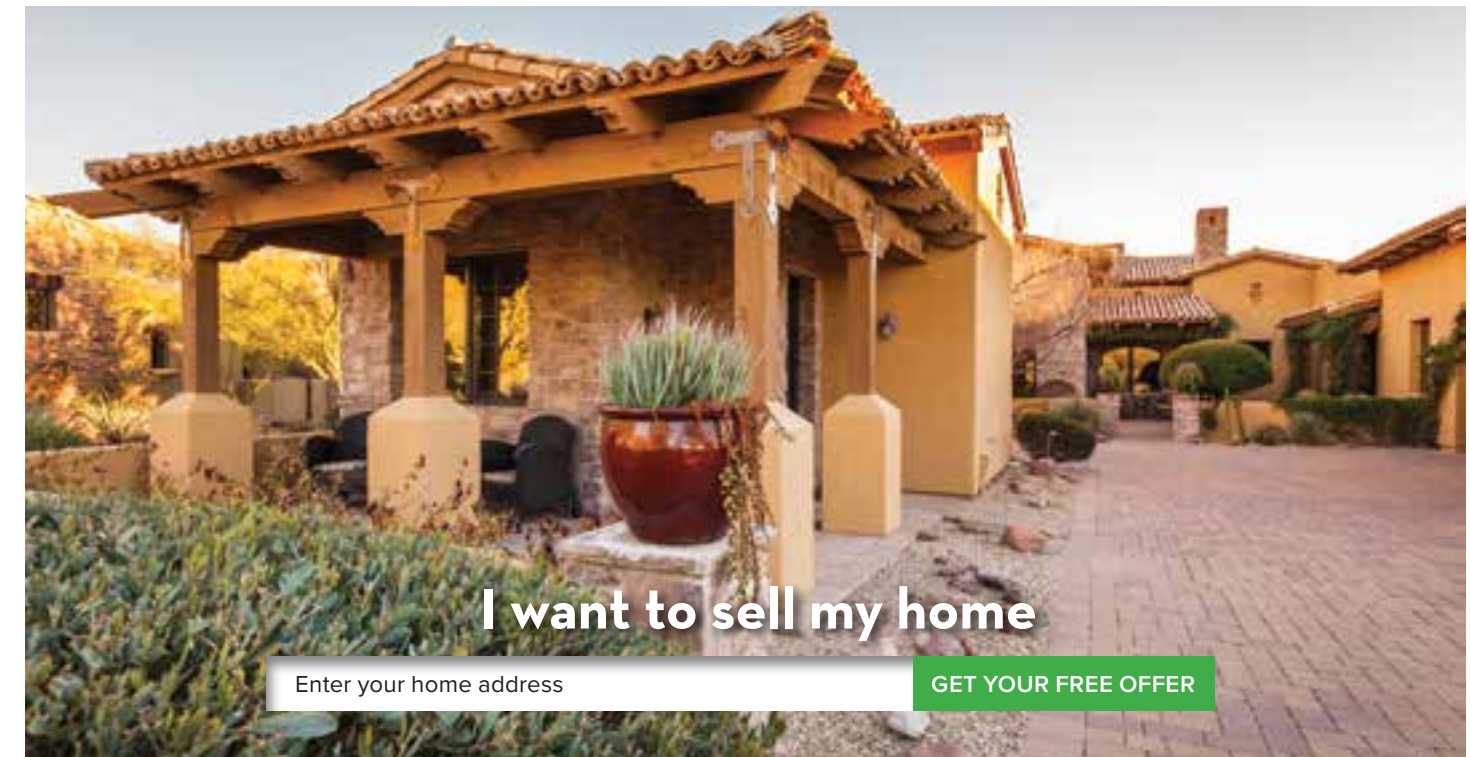
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ADOT planning controversial stoplight on SR 347

By Raquel Hendrickson

While many Maricopa commuters have fantasies about the spotlight on State Route 347 at Riggs Road going away and becoming an overpass, the state looks set to create another stoplight on SR 347.

A project in the works would put traffic lights at the intersection of Old Maricopa Road, which is about halfway between the Riggs Road intersection and the Interstate 10 exchange. It is in Maricopa County within the Gila River Indian Community. In fact, Old Maricopa Road is an access to Wild Horse Pass Casino and other GRIC properties.

“We had zero control over this,” Mayor Christian Price said, anticipating blowback from Maricopa drivers.

Brandon Nguyen, an environmental planner with Arizona Department of Transportation, sent out a letter to stakeholders describing the scope of the project. A three-way traffic light would allow traffic coming off Old Maricopa Road to turn left. Currently, those drivers can only turn right.

“These improvements are needed to minimize traffic delays and to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes at the intersection,” Nguyen wrote.

In recent years, wrong-way drivers or impatient drivers have caused fatal collisions at that intersection. Price said he understood the safety concerns because there have been four incidents that triggered a warrant for a traffic signal there.

During special events at Wild Horse Pass, temporary traffic lights at that intersection are already used at a cost of about \$18,000 for GRIC. New lights would function the same way but on a permanent basis. Nguyen pointed out that because the work would be entirely within an existing right of way, no easements would need to be acquired.

The City of Maricopa has been pushing ADOT and Maricopa County to get on board with Pinal County’s idea of widening SR 347 in both directions from Maricopa to I-10. What impact a new traffic light may have on those designs is not clear. But it is apparent the opinion of the City of Maricopa had little bearing on the decision.



“These improvements are needed to minimize traffic delays and to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes at the intersection.”

–Brandon Nguyen, ADOT



“The City has no official statement, as that project is a collaboration between ADOT and the Gila River Indian Community, and we have not been part of the planning of the project,” spokesman Adam Wolfe said.

Though having no authority in the decision-making, Price said he did speak to planners to ask for concessions.

“When I found out about this, I knew we couldn’t stop it from happening, but I could go and voice my concerns,” Price said. “I asked them, ‘Can it be a light that is fluid? Can it be red only when someone is coming out of an event?’”

His idea would have the lights only stop traffic on SR 347 during events. The rest of the time, the intersection would function just as it does now, with SR 347 traffic not stopping and no left turn allowed off Old Maricopa Road.

The project is planned to start May 2020, with construction lasting six months. ADOT is seeking feedback from stakeholders on the project through July 6.

The transition of the intersection into a traffic signal will include the “obliteration” of current roadway markings, installation of traffic poles, conduit and controller cabinet, restriping, removal of “No Left Turn” signs and installation of new, larger “Do Not Enter” and “Wrong Way” signs “to meet current design standards.”

Nguyen anticipates single-lane closures on SR 347 and lane shifts on Old Maricopa Road during the construction of the intersection. There may even be a short, full closure of the road when pole mast arms are put in place.

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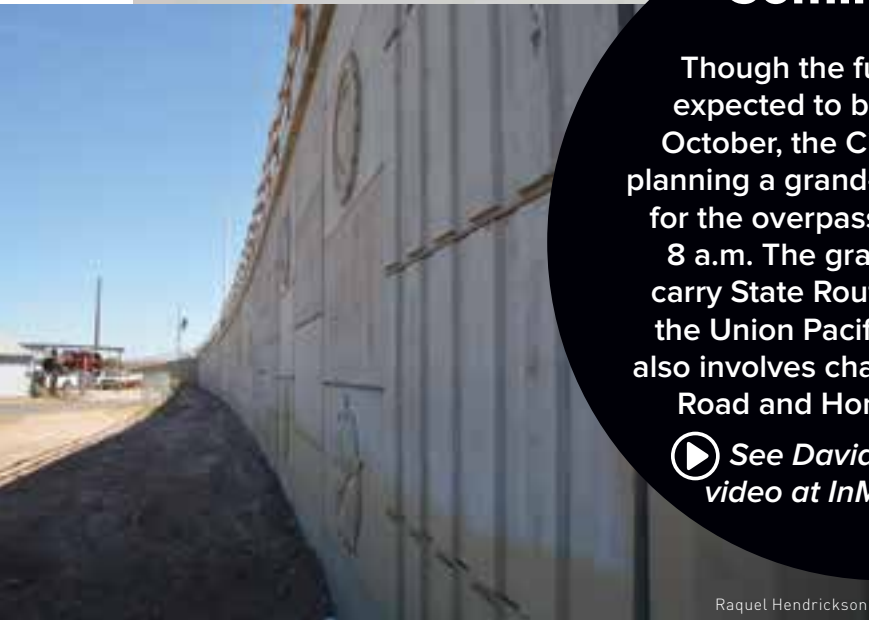


Raquel Hendrickson

Coming soon

Though the full project is not expected to be complete until October, the City of Maricopa is planning a grand-opening ceremony for the overpass bridge July 13 at 8 a.m. The grade separation to carry State Route 347 traffic over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks also involves changes to Honeycutt Road and Honeycutt Avenue.

▶ See *David Durst's* drone video at InMaricopa.com.



Raquel Hendrickson



Kyle Norby



David Durst



Raquel Hendrickson



Raquel Hendrickson



David Durst



Raquel Hendrickson

Feds seek to develop shooting range in Pinal County planned range

By Raquel Hendrickson



the making, the plan incorporates feedback from residents, who wanted only light management if any at all.

Areas were marked for hiking, horseback riding, camping and other outdoor recreation along with shooting. BLM was an important part of the creation of the proposed park.

The shooting range pilot project put forth by BLM this year, with cooperation from Arizona Game & Fish Department, proposes a “semi-developed site” with parking improvements, portable toilets and target structures. As stated in the proposal, “future development could include shade structures, permanent restrooms, overnight camping area, picnic tables and ‘projectile zone.’”

Kent and his advisory commission are hoping to evaluate the proposal and “how that impacts our future plan.”

“It’s unclear as to what level of management it will have,” he said.

The proposal may fold into the Palo Verde plan and enhance it, or it may ignore it or even conflict with it.

BLM sought public feedback on the scoping project through the month of June

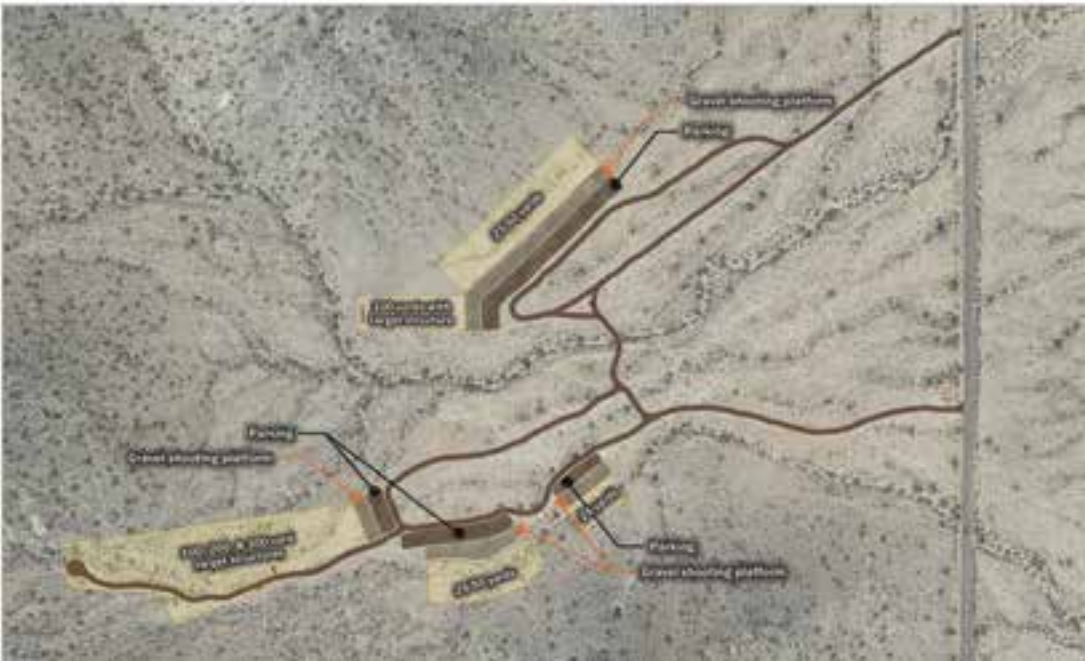
Four areas in Pinal and Maricopa counties are being scoped out by the federal government as possible sites for a recreational shooting sports pilot project. One is Box Canyon, which is already an informal shooting range on Hidden Valley Road and part of a proposed regional park.

Its status is causing a little confusion.

The new proposal, introduced by the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, makes no mention of Pinal County Open Space & Trails and its intent to create Palo Verde Regional Park through Hidden Valley. That plan includes further developing the existing shooting range.

Kent Taylor, director of Open Space & Trails, was not given notice about the BLM plan until it was announced for public feedback. He is waiting to hear if his county department can be a “cooperating agency.”

The master plan for Palo Verde Regional Park, which is in its 2016 version, shows parkland running between State Route 238 to the north and Interstate 8 the south and between Hidden Valley Road to the east and the county line to the west. Several years in



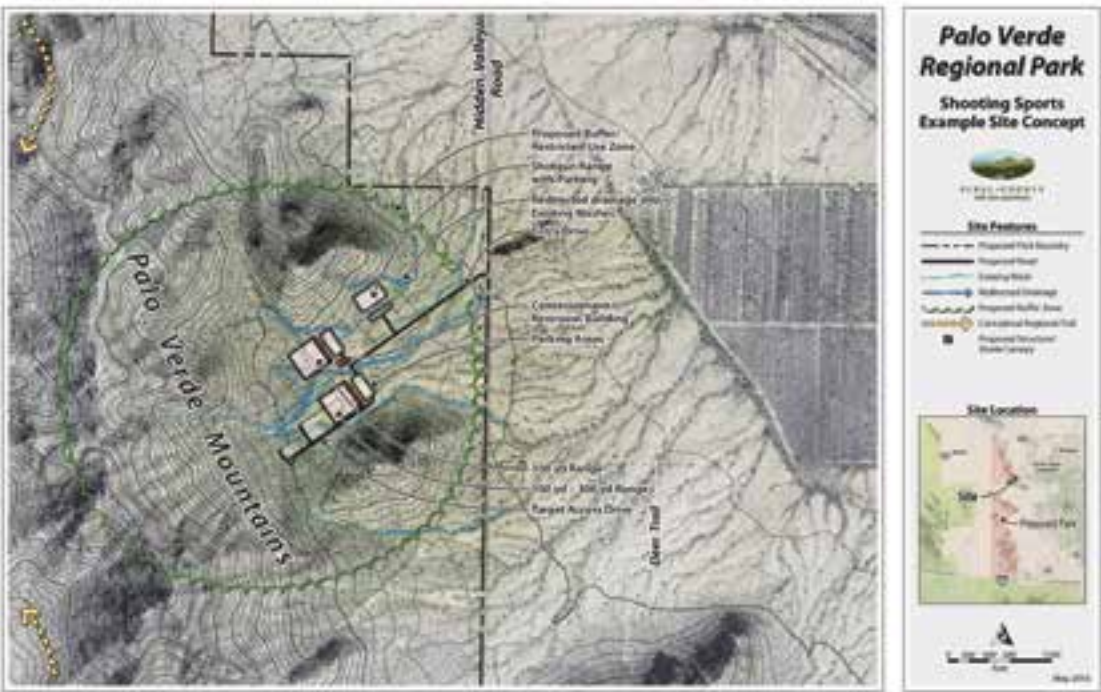
This map drawing shows concepts of a shooting range in Box Canyon as proposed by Bureau of Land Management’s pilot program.

and held public meetings in Buckeye and Phoenix.

“We’re excited to learn from this pilot program to identify ways that we can provide greater recreational shooting opportunities while ensuring that other activities and public uses can continue to the greatest degree possible,” said Casey Hammond, principal deputy assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management, exercising the authority of the BLM director.

According to BLM Phoenix District Manager Leon Thomas, the pilot program offers a framework for enhanced access to public lands for recreational shooting.

“We are seeking public input as we prepare an environmental assessment of the proposal,” he said.



The three other areas proposed for the pilot project are in Maricopa County — Saddleback Mountain, Church Camp Road and Narramore Road.

This map drawing shows concepts of a shooting range in Box Canyon as proposed by Open Space & Trails’ Palo Verde Regional Park master plan.

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Chris Pablo

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino General Manager Robert Livingston announced Caesars Award of Excellence winners at the Ak-Chin property. All but one are Maricopa residents.

April Stovall received the leadership award in Facilities & Surveillance. Called the "expansion champion," she was the liaison between the construction company and internal stakeholders. "She works tirelessly to keep the construction company on track and hold them to the quality she knows Harrah's Ak-Chin deserves."

Also receiving the leadership award was **Gwendolyn Perrin** in Housekeeping. Livingston said she inspires her team to perform at a high level, maintaining productivity and quality standards. "She makes it routine to visit her team members often as they clean rooms, always lending a hand, rewarding hard work and documenting concerns."

Chris Pablo in Warehouse received the award for superior internal service. He started as a Harrah's Development System associate before interning in the warehouse. "When his team is in need of help, he steps up to the plate."

Christopher Walker in Facilities was also awarded for superior internal service. He enjoys problem-solving and is often heard humming or singing 1980s music under his breath once a task is completed. "Chris remains calm under pressure and handles himself in a professional manner, regardless of the situation."

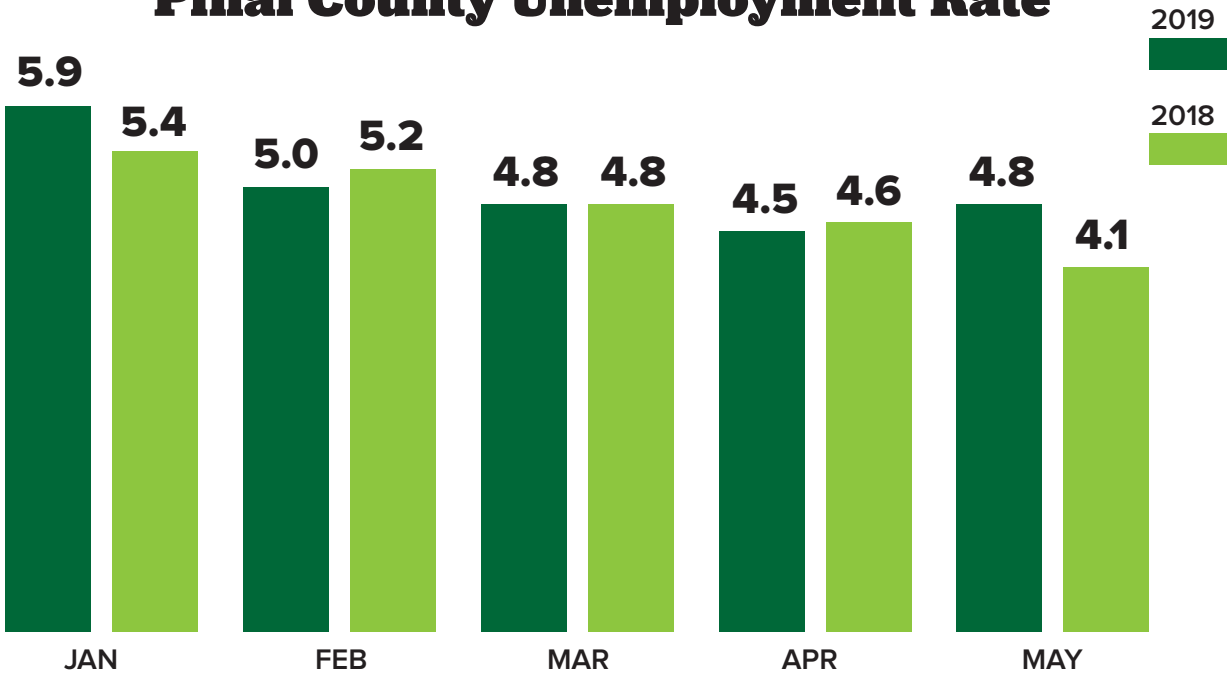
Brian Pape in Facilities received the award for innovation. You can see many of his "masterpieces" throughout the casino such as the cactus and chips display on the promenade, the new slots cabinets on the gaming floor and the new slot machines counter in front of live Keno. "He is able to create, build, recycle and develop at about half the cost if not less than what it would cost to actually purchase."

Christi Montes in Executive received the award for community service. She volunteered almost 200 hours in 2017 and then volunteered 607 hours in 2018. "Some of the organizations Christi helps had some wonderful words to say about her. One said, 'I look forward to working with her each event. I wish I had 20 more like her.'"

Linda Hunter in the Gift Shop won the award in the suggest category. Her ability to recommend add-ons at the register, complimentary items on the floor and perfect gift items contributed to both increased service scores and sales up 12.6 percent over prior year. "You will not find an employee more passionate about the products and services that we offer."

Mario Cardenas of Chandler received the award for superior guest service. He created, fostered and evolved many relationships with VIP guests. "Mario is always going above and beyond to help our guests; he has been known to drive tickets to customers on his way home."

Pinal County Unemployment Rate



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Getting toKNOW

NATHAN GUILFORD
LIQUIDATE AZ

Maricopan since: 2017

Hometown: Detroit, Michigan

Resides in: The Villages

Occupation: Auctioneer – Liquidate AZ

Family: Wife Shelly, children Isabella, 13, and Luke, 10

Pets: Dogs Roxy and Dexter — 1 fish

Pet peeve: Common sense

Like most about Maricopa: Small-town feel with location close to major city

Like least about Maricopa: 347 — I am sure everyone states this

FAVORITE

Food: Pizza – Papa Murphy's

Restaurant: Gyro Grill in Maricopa

Website: LiquidateAZ.com

Quote: Do what is right regardless of what others are doing.

Words to live by: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

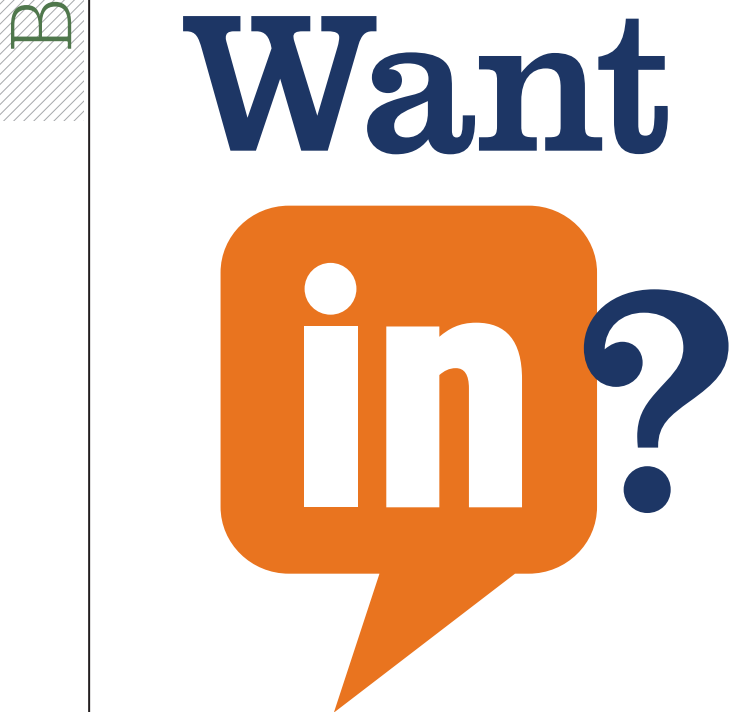
Learn more about Nathan at InMaricopa.com/Getting-To-Know

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Jiffy Lube brings jobs, added services to city

By Jim Headley

When Jiffy Lube opened its doors this year, it brought eight jobs to Maricopa.

“This location was ideal due to population growth and the need for our services,” company spokesperson Jodi Stiles said. “This Jiffy Lube is a multicare location, which allows them to perform all the normal maintenance in addition to mechanical repairs, with the exception of transmission and engine replacement.”

Stiles said the Maricopa shop, which is 2,900 square feet, also offers tires.

The new location’s eight employees include manager Patrick Hance.

“He has been with us over nine years and comes with great experience. He is also a resident of Maricopa and takes great pride in assisting guests to help maintain their vehicles in his community,” said Stiles.

Maricopa’s Jiffy Lube location is on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, just west of Walmart.

“Our goal is to provide a service for our guests at a fair and honest price as we help them maintain their vehicles,” she said.

Jiffy Lube has been in Arizona 27 years and has 52 locations in the state. 

JIFFY LUBE

Where: 42100 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Phone: 520-635-6257

Website: JiffyLube.com/locations/az/Maricopa/3842



Kyle Norby

LOCAL EATERIES GET CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

The 20 establishments inspected by Pinal County Environmental Health Department in the Maricopa area from May 16 through June 15 all received excellent marks.



EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Circle K (Honeycutt Road)
- Circle K Made to Go (Honeycutt Road)
- Circle K (south)
- Denny’s
- Dickey’s Barbecue Pit
- Domino’s Pizza (twice)
- Good 2 Go Store
- Helen’s Kitchen
- Honeycutt Coffee
- IHOP
- JB Farmer’s Convenience Store
- KFC/Long John Silver’s
- Li’s Garden
- Maricopa Shell - Dairy Queen
- Native Grill and Wings
- Raceway Bar & Grill
- Rob’s Convenience
- Sunrise Cafe
- Sunrise Preschool
- Walgreens

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

None

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

What’s new in business development

Native Grill & Wings, 21164 N. John Wayne Parkway, finally reopened June 17 after a January fire caused kitchen damage. It received a commercial alteration permit June 11 to replace ceiling grids and passed a health inspection a day earlier.

Circle K opened its latest convenience store and fueling station at 41433 W. Honeycutt Road on May 24.

La Quinta closed on a purchase of a parcel at Copper Sky. City Manager Rick Horst said groundbreaking for the hotel may take place in August or September.

Continuing its new business construction at 38743 W. Cowtown Road, **Sacate Pellet Mill** is putting in a 19,520-square-foot warehouse to go with five other buildings prepped for the site.

F.O.R. Maricopa food bank received the OK to modify the electrical plumbing in the old blue barn at 19428 N. John Wayne Parkway. The food bank is also improving the parking lot.

Fairbank’s Contracting and Development received a grading and drainage permit for work on a 5,500-square-foot retail development at 41940 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy. in Maricopa Power Center/The Wells. Just under 3,000 square feet is ostensibly for a **Pacific Dental Services** office. The property is owned by Maricopa Covenant Group, which purchased the lot last November.

The site of a proposed **AAMCO** at 20215 N. John Wayne Parkway received a permit for a hydrant flow test.



Across the street, **Dutch Bros** put up its signs, which were approved in March, and started spreading asphalt ahead of its pending opening at 20168 N. John Wayne Parkway.

DR Horton is establishing a sales office at 36227 W. Picasso St. in Tortosa. **LGI Homes** received permission to put up model-home signs at 37627 W. La Paz St. in Rancho Mirage. **K Hovnanian Homes** received a temporary-use permit for a model-home complex at 17819 N. Miller Way in Maricopa Meadows.

Global Water received permission to use the right of way to excavate and install a water line from its yard across Smith-Enke Road to the lake at Province.

Both **McDonald’s** restaurants, on John Wayne Parkway and on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, were granted a sign permit to change out their menu boards.

Legacy Traditional Charter School received permits for a fire sprinkler and fire alarm as part of its expansion at 17760 N. Regent Drive. It is adding 3,760 square feet of classroom space to an existing building in a project valued at \$564,000.

Sequoia Pathways Academy, 19265 N. Porter Road, got approval from the City to do some interior demolition to contain a mold problem. The project involved 200 square feet.

The Pet Club at 21145 N. John Wayne Parkway also was allowed to do some demolition courtesy of Williams Construction.

Oasis Oral & Facial Surgery, 21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, and **Edison Place**, 44564 W. Edison Road, received sign permits.



Maricopa Sales Tax Collectons



Source: Arizona Department of Revenue

Veterans, others lend helping hand after tragedy

By Raquel Hendrickson



Raquel Hendrickson

Veterans and friends of Alex Beckley gathered to work at his home June 15, two weeks after his death.

When Alex Beckley was killed in a single-vehicle crash on State Route 347 on May 31, he left behind a hole in the hearts of those who loved him.

Brenda Severs, also injured in the incident, was left to pull together the pieces. Uncertain what to do with the home they shared in The Lakes subdivision, she also saw a problem that added to her burden

Alex had left behind a large hole in the backyard.

Severs said they had been planning to put in a pond as Alex settled into his new job at Compass Airlines, where he worked as a storage and material clerk under Bryan Moore. The freshly minted commander of American Legion Post 133, Moore rallied his fellow veterans and area businesses to lend a hand and get the yard back in shape.

Wildcat Landscaping of Maricopa donated the landscaping rock. Plants were donated by Leaf & Feather south of Maricopa. Pots and potting soil were donated by Home Depot in Chandler.

Moore put the word out to the American Legion and posted on the Maricopa Veterans Facebook page seeking volunteers, and more than a dozen veterans along with Compass employees and Rent-A-Vet showed up to shovel and rake.

Maricopa Veterans is a closed group on Facebook that was founded in 2018 with the intent of helping others, and it has grown to about 340 members.

"We're really expanding. We're really growing and we're trying to do a lot of things," Moore said.

They have helped an older veteran pack up and move to Washington. They have helped shape up the front yard of a Maricopa dad battling cancer. They have helped others move furniture.

The group's motto is Semper Simul (Always Family). It is veterans helping veterans and the

community at large. The group's description states, "We are committed to continuing the spirit of service that was engrained in us from our time in the service." Members must affirm

they are veterans by answering membership questions before they are allowed into the group.

"When we have a veteran that's in need, we jump in," Moore said. "And that extends to their family. Alex is no longer with us, so now we're going to try to take care of his family. That's what we're doing."

Facebook.com/groups/MaricopaVeterans

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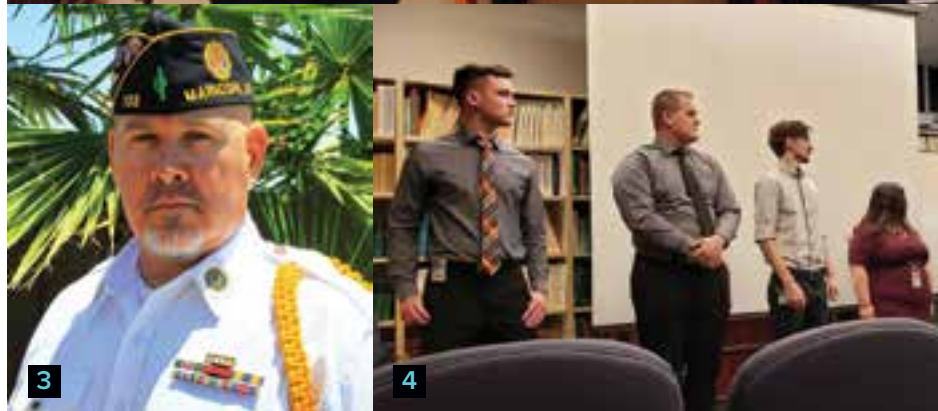
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1. Mount Moriah Community AME Church members, elected officials and builders broke ground June 1 for a new building on Gunsmoke Road. *Raquel Hendrickson*

2. Mark Kelly, an ex-astronaut campaigning for U.S. Senate, dropped in on the Blue Star Mothers of Maricopa June 19. *Raquel Hendrickson*

3. Navy veteran Bryan Moore was named the commander of American Legion Post 133. *Jim Headley*

4. Arid Land and Agriculture Research Center student data team of Jared Gale, Jacob Long, Samantha Nicholls, David Koltz, Devin Lindsey, Alex Manning and David Moller presented highlights of their high-throughput phenotyping (HTP) project at the USDA's Agriculture Research Center in Maricopa. *Submitted*

5. Police Chief Steve Stahl talks to a Senior Lunch and Learn about crime prevention and traffic. *Raquel Hendrickson*

6. Jeanette Jones leads Dance for Ta-Tas, a breast-cancer-awareness group, at Juneteenth in Pacana Park June 15. *Raquel Hendrickson*

VFW gains new receptacle to dispose of American flags

By Raquel Hendrickson

As part of its Memorial Day ceremonies, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12043 dedicated a flag receptacle in which people can properly dispose of the Stars and Stripes.

The VFW had been using boxes to encourage people to turn in their worn flags, but Mike Kemery said people kept throwing trash in them. Vet Dave Hixon started looking for donations, and his company, Can Do Home Repair Inc., donated the red, white and blue, metal container.

It is bolted down in front of the Maricopa Veterans Center.

"We thought, 'Wow, that old building never looked so good,'" said Kemery, who is now judge advocate with the VFW Department of Arizona.

U.S. flags can be deposited in the receptacle at any time. Veterans will collect the flags and dispose of them according to flag etiquette, which is to burn them.

Per the VFW:

1. The flag should be folded in its customary manner.
2. It is important that the fire be fairly large and of sufficient intensity to

ensure complete burning of the flag.

3. Place the flag on the fire.
4. The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection.
5. After the flag is completely consumed, the fire should then be safely extinguished, and the ashes buried.
6. Please make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes or ordinances.

Since the new box has been installed, the number of flags being brought to the center has increased.

"When we move to our new building, that's coming with us," Kemery said, referring to the veterans' future center at what is now the city library.

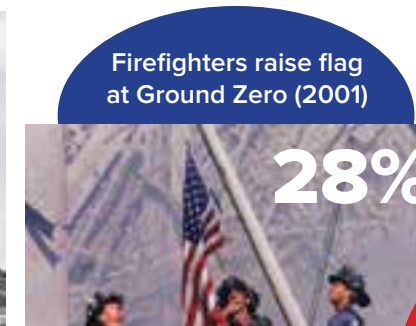
The U.S. flag was established by the Flag Act, passed by the Second Continental Congress in 1777. It established the 13 stripes and the blue field bearing 13 stars. Subsequent flag acts dealt with changing numbers over time. Text in the Flag Act of 1818 established the tradition of adding a star to the flag on the next July 4 after a new state joined the union. [In](#)



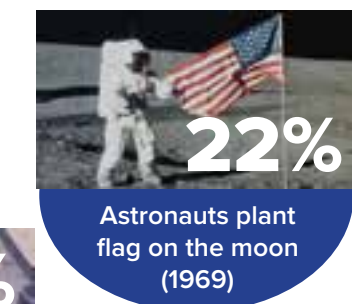
InMaricopa asked readers: What is your favorite "flag moment"?



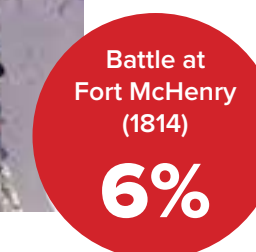
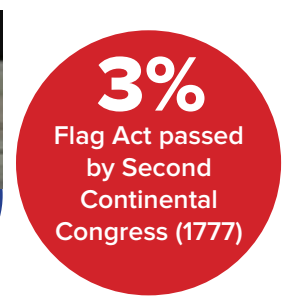
Marines raise flag at Iwo Jima (1945)



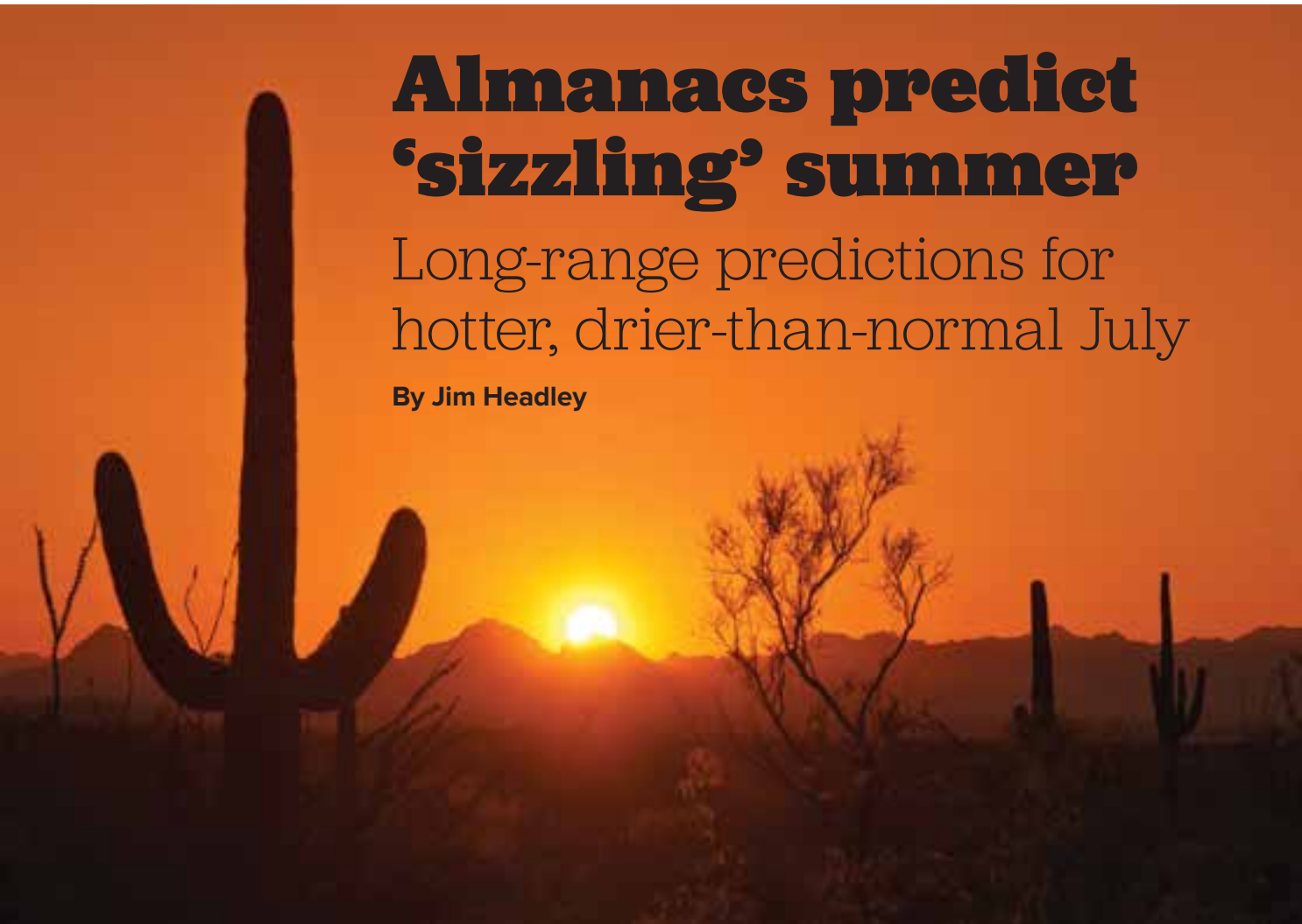
Firefighters raise flag at Ground Zero (2001)



Astronauts plant flag on the moon (1969)



Source: InMaricopa.com June 10-16. Votes: 1,042



Almanacs predict ‘sizzling’ summer

Long-range predictions for hotter, drier-than-normal July

By Jim Headley

Peter Geiger, editor of *Farmers’ Almanac*, said it will be hot in Arizona this July. While that really doesn’t come as a surprise, Geiger said it will be downright “sizzling” across the Southwest. “I don’t get to talk to very many people in Arizona,” Geiger said. “I will not disappoint you this summer — we use the word ‘sizzling’ and with average precipitation.”

A competing publication with an even longer history, *The Old Farmer’s Almanac* also is specifically predicting the month of July will be hotter and drier than normal in the Valley of the Sun. Janice Stillman, editor of *The Old Farmer’s Almanac*, said the company researched and developed a weather forecast in February 2018 that indicated this July will be slightly hotter than normal and with below-normal rainfall. The forecast is produced by Michael Steinberg. “They are also predicting the monsoon for later in summer, probably more into September and October,” Stillman said. “We have also made a similar prediction for above-normal rainfall in September and October.” Geiger said *Farmers’ Almanac*, established

in 1818, predicts the weather for three-day segments throughout the year. “We do talk about monsoon showers July 4 through the 7th for parts of Arizona,” Geiger said. “We talk about more monsoon storms in Arizona from July 24 to 27. I don’t know if that’s unusual. On average, you will get four rainy days throughout the month of July and you get about an inch of rain.” Spring in Arizona was “cooler than normal,” which is exactly what *Farmer’s Almanac* predicted in its 2019 edition. Stillman said it’s encouraging when *The Old Farmer’s Almanac*, established in 1792, comes out with a forecast more than a year in advance that matches the much later National Weather Service forecasts. “It’s our long-range philosophy and the technology that is applied,” she said.

“We talk about more monsoon storms in Arizona from July 24 to 27. I don’t know if that’s unusual. On average, you will get four rainy days throughout the month of July and you get about an inch of rain.”

—Peter Geiger

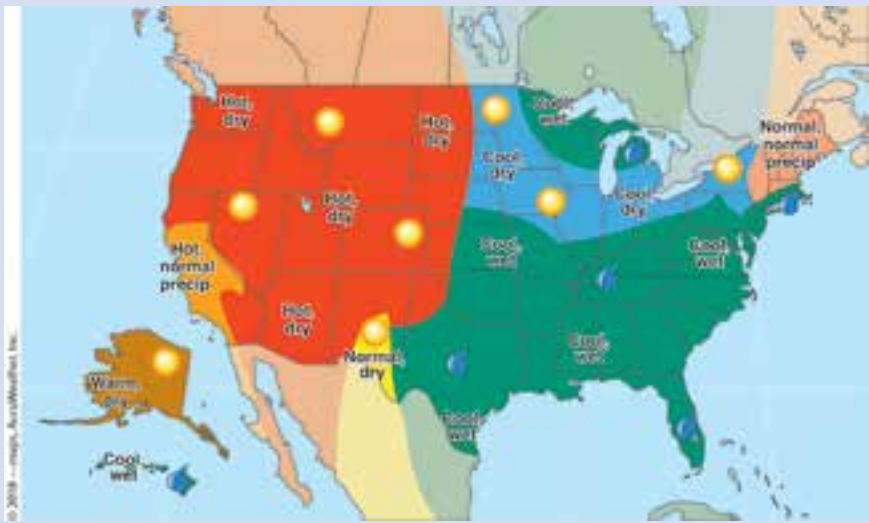


How do *Farmers’ Almanac* and *The Old Farmer’s Almanac* make such long-range predictions with accuracy?

“It is done using a mathematical formula that was developed in the early 1800s by our first editor, David Young,” Peter Geiger said of the *Farmer’s Almanac*. “It is applied to sunspot activity, point of positions of the Earth and the effect the moon has on the Earth. Sunspot activity is critically important. We are told that we are maybe 75 to 85 percent accurate,” he said. Over at *The Old Farmer’s Almanac*, it’s similar. “We use three scientific disciplines,” Janice Stillman said, “which include solar sun activity, the sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the sun that occur in cycles of 11 years on average. We are in the midst of one of the quietest cycles in more than 100 years. There is almost no solar activity. We also use climatology, which is the study of prevailing conditions over long periods of time, decades and even centuries. We also take into consideration greenhouse gasses and carbon influence in the atmosphere.” The strange thing is, Stillman said, we should be experiencing a severe

cooling period with slow sunspot activity. Instead, with global climate change occurring, things are still heating up when they should be cooling down. “You don’t know until you get through it. I know the global temperatures are rising but it’s not the same all over the globe all of the time. We do believe that solar cycles have something to do with the warming oceans and the jet stream being influenced by the meltdown in the artic,” she said. Geiger said because *Farmers’ Almanac’s* forecasts are based on statistical data, climate

change is not considered a factor when forecasts are made. The planet’s climate changes on a regular basis anyway, he said. “Are we shooting to be totally hot and never cool again? I don’t know,” Geiger said. “Climate change is not as factorable as is sunspot activity and planet position — that stuff you can measure. Climate change is always happening. You really have to look back hundreds of thousands of years to see what’s happened to the climate on the planet.” **Almanac.com, FarmersAlmanac.com**





1. Families enjoyed nighttime swimming in Copper Sky's annual Dive-In Movie screening June 15. *Raquel Hendrickson*

2. Nara Lesperance, 10, took first place in the Drive, Chip & Putt competition in her age category at Lone Tree Golf Club.

3. Brooke Allen, Isabella Ebner and Makayla Thacker dance at Maricopa Performing Arts Center June 1 during a recital for DSPA Gems. *Raquel Hendrickson*

4. Maricopa High School students were onstage at ASU Gammage May 25 to perform for High School Musical Awards night. *Raquel Hendrickson*

5. Eliza Santiago participated in summer volleyball camp at Maricopa High School.
Kyle Norby

6. Maricopa All Stars won the state title in Cal Ripkin Machine Pitch state tourney.
Submitted

7. Kids enjoyed the inflatable water slide during a hot Juneteenth celebration at Pacana Park. *Raquel Hendrickson*



WHY CHOOSE MUSD?

Maricopa families will find our city's best and most exciting choices for their children's education in Maricopa Unified School District. From pre-school through high school, MUSD captures the connected values of a small town with the dynamic academic, social, and extracurricular experiences of a destination city. Here are just a few highlights that make us stand out in Maricopa:



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– Dr. Tracey Lopeman, Superintendent

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“A” SCHOOLS

Two schools in our district worked tirelessly over the past year to achieve one of the highest honors in the state. Pima Butte and Butterfield Elementary Schools earned “A” ratings from the Arizona Department of Education, and our others schools are on their way!

COMPETITIVE PROGRAMMING

Preschool Opportunities

- Certified Teachers
- Research-Based Curriculum
- Locations at Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Elementary Schools
- Full-Day Programming
- Wrap-Around Child Care 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Elementary Schools

- Character Education
- Leadership Development
- STEAM Activities

Middle Schools

- STEAM Initiatives
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A learning environment that blends traditional instruction and self-paced project-based learning steeped in rigor and relevance. Students put their problem solving, forward thinking, and creative skills to the test by collaborating in projects to solve real-world issues.

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- AP Capstone Diploma Program
- College Prep/Central Arizona College
- Online High School Expansion
- Career and Technical Education
 - Culinary
 - Auto Tech
 - AFJROTC

SO MUCH MORE...

- Before and After-School Programs
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 - Athletics
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 - Clubs

“A+” SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

Pima Butte Elementary School earned an A+ distinction from the National Educational Foundation! The award showcases excellence in teaching, learning, climate, community building, and leadership.

\$8M IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Hard work. Self-discipline. No shortcuts. Maricopa High School's 2019 graduating class earned more than \$8M in college and military scholarships. This is a testament to the endless possibilities and world-class education children receive in MUSD.

IMPORTANT DATES

Meet The Teacher

- **All Elementary Schools:**
July 17th – 6 PM
- **All Middle Schools:**
July 16th – 6 PM

High School Student Check In/Registration

Maricopa High School Student Check-In/Registration will take place July 8–11 from 12-4 PM, and again, from 5-7 PM daily. Registration dates will be assigned by the student's last name:

- **July 8** Last Names: A – D
- **July 9** Last Names: E – K
- **July 10** Last Names: L – Ra
- **July 11** Last Names: Re – Z
- **July 12** Walk-Ins 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

School starts July 22nd





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Maricopa Elementary School

18150 N. Alterra Parkway | (520) 568-5160

Pima Butte Elementary School

42202 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway | (520) 568-7150

Saddleback Elementary School

18600 N. Porter Road | (520) 568-6110

Santa Cruz Elementary School

19845 N. Costa Del Sol Blvd. | (520) 568-5170

Santa Rosa Elementary School

21400 N. Santa Rosa Drive | (520) 568-6150

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Desert Wind Middle School

35565 W. Honeycutt Road | 520-568-7110

Maricopa Wells Middle School

45725 W. Honeycutt Ave. | 520-568-7100

HIGH SCHOOL

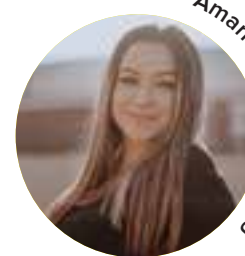
Maricopa High School

45012 W. Honeycutt Ave. | (520) 568-8100

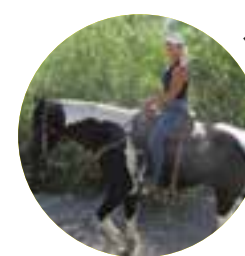


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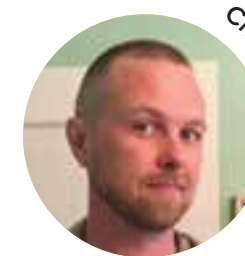
Facebook.com/InMaricopa's "Top Fans"



Amanda Jenelle Hofeling



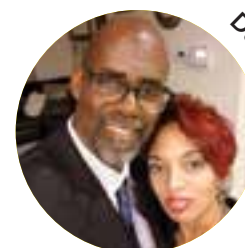
Bobbie Johnson



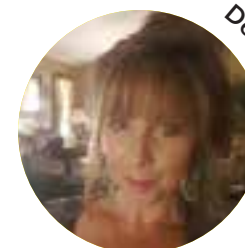
Christopher Brennan



Dan J Borman



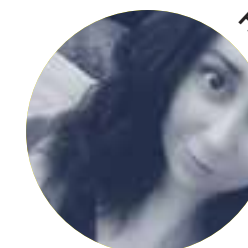
David Anderson



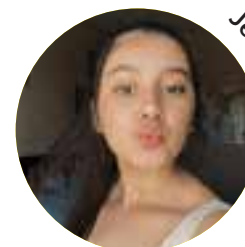
Debbie Bell-Pulford



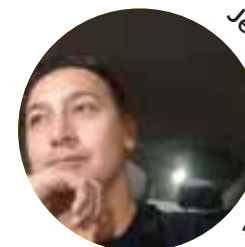
Dika Reid



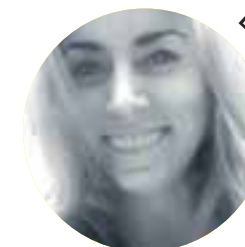
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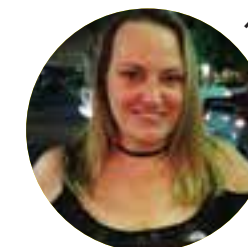
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'Best Dad' called a role model for his kids

Story and photos by Raquel Hendrickson



Best Dad in Maricopa winner Michael Sabo with wife Jheyummy, daughter Belana, son Kenny and Ace owner Mike Richey.

A resident of Maricopa since 2006, Michael Sabo was named Best Dad in Maricopa through an online poll at InMaricopa. The contest was sponsored by Ace Hardware to celebrate Father's Day.

"It's amazing," Sabo said. "Very amazing." Sabo, a business analyst with two children, was nominated three times, and his wife Jheyummy reached out to every relative and friend she had across the country to urge them to vote. At stake was a Traeger grill with wood pellets, grill cover and Slot Dog.

"All of my co-workers were like, 'You owe us a barbecue,'" Jheyummy said.

Sabo said they wanted to grill up some carne asada for Father's Day. He was one of 40 nominees who drew a combined 10,962 votes.

In nominating her husband, Jheyummy used many terms: "Supportive, determined, loyal, honest, role model, considerate, involved, grateful, strong family values, patient, easy-going."

She said family has always been his top priority.

"His love and care for our wonderful children is unmeasurable," she said. "I'm blessed to call him my husband and best friend."

Tanya Dye also called him "an amazing man" in a separate nomination. "He has a way of conquering the mountains in life to obtain a master's degree in finance, to teach his children the most important lesson is to never give up."

The runner-up for Best Dad was local business owner Bo Johnson.

"He's really good with the kids; it's all about the kids all the time," said wife Michelle.

Her nomination included a photo of her husband covering his daughter's dance outfit with rhinestones.

"Most know him for Yogurt Jungle, but our kids know him as daddy and that title is even more rewarding for him," she said.

"I was surprised at first, because we got so many votes right off the bat," he said.

The second-place prize from Ace was a 240-piece Craftsman socket set and a 100-piece ratcheting screwdriver and bit set.

"Honestly, I'll probably use this more than I would the grill," Johnson said.



Best Dad Runner-Up Bo Johnson with wife Michelle, daughter Tessa, son Avery and Ace owner Mike Richey.

OTHER NOMINEES

Antonio Arguijo

"He went on a journey of fostering a total of 36 foster kids and ended with giving seven of them his last name!"

David Arvizu

"He is not any regular dad; he is the best daddy ever."

Cody Boyd

"Of all the many great accomplishments he has achieved being an incredible father is the most rewarding."

Jay Brown

"He works full-time, is finishing up with his master's degree, and always comes home ready to hang out with us and help our mom with whatever needs to be done."

Jade Campbell

"Not only does he work multiple jobs, endless days and nights, he NEVER misses a sports game or school event."

Sergio Cardenas

"I vote for Sergio Cardenas as father of the year 2019."

Edwin Castro

"He is everything to our family, always putting all of our needs before his own."

Douglas Croxford

"He is amazing because he teaches us how to tie knots and go repelling, fold laundry and to never leave a job, no matter how hard, until it's done."

Scott Dillman

"He supports a daughter that is a rodeo girl working extra-long hard hours to make sure she is able to continue her dream in barrel racing."

Brian French

"The best dad is the one who showed his fatherly love to the children through foster care at the time when he couldn't have his own."

Jason Fried

"He took on a self-employment venture when we moved back to Maricopa two years ago. It was risky but pays off because he is there for our kids when I work my 12-hour shifts."

Serjio Gomez Jr.

"Serjio works out in the field to support his family and on his extra time he is a coach to his kids."

Ruben Gonzales

"He plays with me and my brother, he helps me with my homework, he dances with me and lifts me like Mufasa does with Simba."

Alexander Greenlee

"He busts his butt to provide for us and is everything a dad should be for our 5-year-old daughter."

Glen Hale

"I've watched him give when he was exhausted, love when he was treated wrong and fight for a future for young men and women, when they didn't see one for themselves."

Jeff Hanley

"He has helped me not just care for my own son but raised me and my siblings as well."

Matthew Harvey

"Even though he is currently deployed, he is always there for them; phone calls, letters, texts, and videos help to make it feel like Dad isn't so far away."

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Calvin Jordan

"We are a blended family of seven children total, my husband is simple an amazing father who grew up with not much to providing his whole heart and soul to all seven of these kids and making sure they will all have a successful future."

Reno King

"I feel like Reno King should be honored as best father not only that he is a wonderful father but a single father who is raising his kids alone with no help."

Brandon Kreckler

"He is always lending out a helping hand and picking people up when they feel like they have reached the bottom."

Bryan Kremer

He is a first-time daddy and works very hard at his daily job to provide for our family and any extra time he has he is helping out at our family business here in town."

Nickolas Lamont

"No matter what he doesn't complain and does what he needs to do to provide and make a great life for us all."

Chris Leon:

"He has made it his life mission to be the best dad he can, and is blowing it out of the water."

Jesse Lopez

"Everything was put on hold when we had our accident, but he spent every minute with the kids in the hospital and did not want to leave them if he could help it."

Chris Marshall

"He always finds time to teach, pray and play everything from sports, nurf guns, bowling, serves those in need."

Joeristy Medel

"His love is unconditional and selfless; a person who makes his family a PRIORITY and making our life easier."

Jeremy Merz

He is always involved whether it be wearing silly shirts to make our kids happy, teaching them new things, coaching their sports teams, volunteering at school, or simply being there whenever they need him."

Lance Montierth

"He is a crawl-on-the-floor-and-play-with-his-son dad, a cuddle-and-rock-to-sleep dad, a change-a-poo-poo-diaper-even-if-mom-is-nearby dad."

Paul Pence

"He not only stepped up to raise three stepkids from babies to awesome grown adults but also took foster parenting classes to be able to adopt his only granddaughter and be the best granddad ever."

Chris Rampersad

"He spends every waking moment on his family to give us the best opportunities possible. He works two jobs 17 hours a day!"

Harvey Soliz

"As a father he has always been there to support me and teach me a lot growing up."

David Taylor

"He will never give up on living, on mine nor my brothers' dreams or on any of the kids of this great town."

Bernie Truckner

"He is the rock of our family, the steadfast center that my sons and I reach for when we need an anchor in our storm."

Brian Tysick

"My dad has never given up on any of his 8 kids, 10 people total in household, worked several jobs all day and night, still only maybe 2-3 hours of sleep."

Tim Walsh

"He is dedicated to his family, his community, volunteering in church when he can, and to helping others."

Jonathan Williams

"Jonathan did not have a dad growing up but he looks to our Heavenly Father for guidance and strength!"

Anthony Willoughby

"Even after working a full-time job all day he never hesitates to volunteer for our children when they are in sports and need a coach."

John Wiltberger

"He's the fixer and the best snuggler and the best dad we could ask for"

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Parenting in world of ‘Stranger Things’

By Priscilla Behnke

This July is the third season of “Stranger Things.” The show is intriguing and not just for the Lovecraftian and Dungeons & Dragons-inspired, other-dimensional monsters terrorizing the residents of Hawkins. It also has resonating themes of friendship, sacrifice, fighting for a cause bigger than yourself and the true grit of parenting.

In season one, a group of young friends find themselves worried about their missing pal, Will, as does his single mother, Joyce. The show meticulously makes a point through flashbacks and small moments to show

Joyce knows Will. She had taken the time to find and talk with him even when he would withdraw. She noticed when something was wrong, right down to the missing birthmark on a fake body. It was her persistence coupled with a strong support system that saves Will.

His friends are key players, but they don’t do it without adults. Chief Hopper rescues the young heroes and in the end it’s when the kids align with Hopper and Joyce that they are successful. If left to navigate the danger alone, they would have lost.

Our world doesn’t have Lovecraftian monsters, but there are real dangers lurking, ready to destroy our kids — addiction, loneliness, bullying, trafficking, lack of purpose. As parents we need to be vigilant, set boundaries and make decisions that are best for our kids, not decisions that are most convenient for us.

This theme is echoed in season two. Conflict arises when the kids separate from the adults and keep them in the dark about their new “pet.” Will tries to stand his ground against a creature alone. Joyce’s vigilance saves the day. The mother with few

resources takes advantage of those she has. She won’t take no for answer, and when Will tries to shut her out, she looks at his video tapes, drawings, anything with clues.

Again, the kids find they need adults to fight the danger. Joyce again rescues Will as she tries to make the environment inhospitable for the monster. He cries to manipulate her so she will quit. She does what’s right for her son, not what is easy for them, and continues to make the hard choice, which saves her son. She’s aware of the realities of the danger her kids face, and she refuses to let them face them alone.

If our kids fall to what preys on them, we need to be ready for the long hard fight, and as a community we should be ready to stand with those parents. Above all we shouldn’t be leaving our kids to fight this world’s monsters alone.

BeAwesomeYouth.life

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



Priscilla Behnke



Murray Siegel

Prepare youngsters for challenging math

By Murray Siegel

In June, Central Arizona College held math bootcamps on its campuses to help students prepare for college algebra, a required course for many liberal arts degrees and for students majoring in the social sciences.

For those students who wish to pursue careers in medicine, engineering, analytics, computer graphics and technology, being successful in college algebra is not enough. These programs require one or more semesters of calculus. Most current efforts to enhance student success in calculus are focused on the high school, but this is a serious error. It is the elementary school where the most productive efforts can be made to build a mathematical foundation.

Right here in Maricopa, an effective program has seemingly gone unnoticed. During the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years, I taught an advanced fifth-grade math class at Butterfield Elementary School, and I will once again be teaching this class during the new school year. Why fifth grade? These students are old enough to have the cognitive development to learn faster and deeper. It just makes sense to place the best-performing students in a class where they can expand their knowledge and learn to accept challenges.

I recently contacted parents of some former Butterfield advanced math students to obtain their feedback. Here are some of their comments:

- “My daughter is more self-confident when she works on math assignments, and I have noticed that she uses more logic when she does her homework.”
- “She uses the confidence and problem-solving techniques that were learned in fifth grade.”
- “Our son has excelled in math because of the advanced program. At first, we were unsure if our son would take to advanced concepts two years ahead of ‘traditional’ math scheduling. He is already starting eighth-grade math with a quarter of his seventh-grade school year left. It’s great that Maricopa Unified School District has these opportunities available to students!”
- My daughter struggled, but with the encouragement of her teacher she stuck with it, didn’t surrender, didn’t coast through the year, and because of it I know she is much stronger.
- One parent reported her child stating, “I remember so much of what was taught, so I am doing really well in seventh-grade math even as a sixth-grade student.”

Why is this program not in every MUSD elementary school? There are teachers in each school who could easily be trained to teach this class, and a wealth of materials are available to assist those teachers.

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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“When researching schools for my children, Pathway seemed to have a more individualized teaching system that I felt would best help my children succeed. When my husband was deployed overseas this past school year, Pathway teachers & administrators did not hesitate to step in & be a part of our support system.” – Gina Wrenn

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New programs, staff to greet students

By Raquel Hendrickson

If it's July, school must be about to start. That means a lot of changes, new faces, new programs and high expectations. Maricopa Unified School District and some charters start July 22. Here is a glimpse at what's new at some of the campuses.

MARICOPA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Butterfield Elementary School
43800 W. Honeycutt Road
School hours: 8:35 a.m.-3:35 p.m.
(1:35 p.m. early release Wednesdays)
New teachers: 4

Butterfield comes into the new school year as an A-rated school, which is a new status for that campus. Now, Principal Janel Hildick has her school exploring the possibilities of becoming an A+ School of Excellence.

"We are also working to implement project-based learning, starting in kindergarten all the way up through fifth grade, that is aligned to the Arizona standards in all content areas," she said.

While the Copa Kids program is leaving for the Santa Rosa campus, Butterfield will be one of two schools piloting a swimming-safety program with the City of Maricopa (see related story). The school will also have a new staff lounge with furniture donated by Desert Financial.

Besides four new teachers, students will also meet a new nurse in the health office.



Desert Wind Middle School
35565 W. Honeycutt Road
School hours: 9:10 a.m.-4:05 p.m.
(2:10 p.m. early release Wednesdays)
New teachers: 15

DWMS will have many new faces in the halls, not the least of which is Principal Carlos Alvarado. The school is working to elevate its

testing scores after receiving a C rating from the state.

"I'm an every-student person," he said. "We're really going to make sure the kids really do their work. It's going to be for their own good."

One of the staff's goals is to have more students ready to take Algebra II when they enter high school and to reach "the optimal level of student achievement." The school is in the second year of implementing some curricula like Pearson Math and StudySync, and staff wants to explore other education opportunities like online CTE courses.

Alvarado is still catching up with staffing as some posts were vacated and new positions were created with money from the voter-approved budget override. He's also hoping to add a couple of classified positions.

"It's an awesome staff," said Alvarado, who was previously at Marcos de Niza. "They are very dedicated professionals."



Maricopa Elementary School
18150 N. Alterra Parkway
School hours: 8:10 a.m.-3:10 p.m.
(1:10 p.m. early release Wednesdays)
New teachers: 5

MES begins its first full year as a Leader in Me Lighthouse School, a designation it worked years to achieve. It aligns PBIS with the Leader in Me process and will continue to focus on the eight habits of highly effective people.

New programs include the swimming-safety program for first graders that is a partnership with Copper Sky and sponsored by Global Water. There will also be calming corners, a benefit from a grant awarded through Ak-Chin's State-Shared Revenue Program (Prop 202) to Maricopa Police Department.

"The grant will provide a high level of service from crisis intervention and support in the education system for victims of crime and children with adverse experiences in Maricopa," Principal Jennifer Robinson said. "This opportunity will provide training



to elementary school staff at Maricopa Elementary on mindfulness and trauma-informed classrooms through a professor at ASU School of Social Work."

Boosted by improved academic achievement and AzMerit growth, MES missed an A rating by just half a point last year. Staff will continue to implement Pearson Math and Wonders reading curriculum. Robinson said MES's "wildly important goals" include having 80 percent of its students proficient in reading and math and 95 percent present and on time for school.

Besides five new certified teachers, the campus will have four new paraprofessionals and new part-time receptionist.

Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
School hours: 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
New teachers: 30

The district's growth and use of override funds may be most visible to the community at MHS. It has 12 new teaching positions, plus 18 new hires to replace exiting staff, and will have more than 100 certified teachers.

Eight portable buildings will accommodate 16 classrooms as an interim measure for the over-capacity campus as the district plans a second high school.

Principal Brian Winter said there will be options for classes before and after the regular daily schedule. Students who want to take an early-morning class will have a "0-hour" option at 6:30 a.m. For a credit-recovery option, they can attend eighth hour at 2:30 p.m.

New classes are varied. The AP Capstone Diploma courses start with AP Seminar. Mandarin (foreign language) and lifetime fitness (PE) have also been added. The dance program will have an additional teacher, so the course may be offered as 0-hour or eighth hour. There are now added electives in English — creative writing and advanced journalism.

Winter said there has been a lot to be proud of during the past year among students and teachers. "I'm very proud of Chandler Chang being named a Flinn Scholar. I'm proud of the selflessness of our students as exemplified by Jake Marr and Mathew Sabetta's video earlier in the year. I'm proud of the three newly named National Board Certified Teachers at MHS. I'm proud of the work our students are doing inside and outside of the classrooms."

He said the goal is to raise the academic bar to prepare them for their after-graduation life.

"Our culture is growing, our staff and students are challenged, and greatness is happening at MHS," Winter said.

Maricopa Wells Middle School
45725 W. Honeycutt Ave.
School hours: 9:10 a.m.-4:10 p.m.
(2:10 p.m. early release Wednesdays)
New teachers: 5

MWMS is using several tools to improve behavior and socialization. That includes the Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategy program that came to the district last year, the Panther Ambassador program and Assets of the Week.

"Academics are always the focus," Principal



Thad Miller said, “but we want our students to use the positive assets to continue to be a respectful community member of Maricopa Wells and the community they live in.”

The Panther Ambassador program sponsored by Treva Jenkins teaches leadership skills. Assets helps build character and behavioral expectations. PBIS sets school-wide expectations to encourage positive decisions.

Last year, the school saw its 20+1 blended-learning program continue to shine, winning the state Future City competition again and going to Washington, D.C.

The school earned a C from the state last fall, but Miller sees opportunity ahead. “The state has updated our middle school history and science standards, so our teachers will be adjusting the curriculum to fit those standards in 2019-2020,” he said. “We have some strong, experienced teachers in those areas here at Wells, so they will do a great job with that.”

Miller is upbeat about his entire staff and even more so about the kids. “Our overall purpose is our students, and I love the students at Maricopa Wells,” he said. “They truly are a great group of kids, and their success and accomplishments are what this is all about. I know 2019-2020 is going to be a great year.”



Pima Butte Elementary School
 42202 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway
 School hours: 8:35 a.m.-3:35 p.m.
 (1:35 p.m. early release Wednesdays)
 New teachers: 1

The first MUSD school to receive an A rating, Pima Butte excelled again last year and

achieved the status of A+ School of Excellence, a first for the campus, and it is good for the next three years.

“We want to continue on the path that we’ve been on of high expectations academically, behaviorally, socially,” Principal Randy Lazar said. “We want to continue getting as much parent support in all the activities we conduct throughout the year and at PTO functions.”

The district’s Gifted program will operate from the PBES campus this year through the leadership of Zoe Redfern. There will be a new library aide, and the academic coach position will now be an interventionist to meet the requirements of a Title 1 grant.

New to campus will be calming corner kits, including a bin to relieve stress. They were purchased by the counseling department and allow students time for reflection and to “get back on track,” Lazar said. Their use will be based on teacher discretion.

Most faces on campus will be very familiar. With the exception of one newcomer, all other teachers are returning, with many in place for the last decade or so. Lazar said that consistency is one of the reasons for the school’s success.



Santa Cruz Elementary School
 19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.
 School hours: 8:35 a.m.-3:35 p.m.
 (1:35 a.m. early release Wednesdays)
 New teachers: 4

Benefiting from override funds, SCES is booming and now has 21 classroom teachers, a preschool and district special needs classrooms. That has caused the school to move back into space that was previously vacant or occupied by senior citizen programs.

“We are growing rapidly and as such we’ve added more classes,” Principal Loraine Conley said.

The school was less than 2 points from an A letter grade last year, and Conley said that continues to be the staff goal.

“We are excited about using the newly board-adopted English Language Arts

program for the second year,” she said. “We are expecting great gains in student achievement as a result of consistent use this school year.”

The preschool for ages 3-4 will accept up to 17 students taught by a certified teacher and an aid. It is a paid program with registration through the district office.

Santa Cruz drew community notice as a salsa winner for the second year in a row at the Salsa Festival this year.



Santa Rosa Elementary School
 21400 N. Santa Rosa Drive
 School hours: 8:35 a.m.-3:35 p.m.
 (1:35 p.m. early release Wednesdays)
 New teachers: 3

The SRES campus is buzzing as it prepares to host the district’s full-day preschool program. That brings two of the school’s three new teachers, who will be supported by two new paraprofessionals. SRES will also be the new site for the Copa Kids before- and after-school program.

Last year, Santa Rosa was less than a point from achieving an A rating. It was a year in which it introduced the new language arts curriculum Wonders, the PBIS program and the community program Watch D.O.G.S., which had 86 volunteers providing positive male role models.

“This year we are looking to continue to implement our current curriculum in both language arts and math,” Principal Eva Safranek said. “Research shows that it takes three to five years to fully implement a new program, so we have some more work to do.”

Safranek said staff will be adding depth to PBIS with calming corners and trauma-informed practices. Kagan Structures will continue to be used to improve cooperation and engagement.

“To support evidence-based writing, we will be training our staff in Write from the Beginning Response to Text process,” Safranek said. “We have several teachers that have gone through the training this past year and are ready to share with all of our teachers.”



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(M-Th) and 8 a.m.-noon (F)

6th-8th Grade — 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

(M-Th) and 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (F)

New teachers: 5

LEAM, which starts school Aug. 5, is adding two classes this school year in fourth and eighth grade, bringing the school to capacity. The school is constructing an additional building for eight classrooms, including two for special education and four for online high school classes.

Along with five new teachers, the school will have a new assistant principal, Amy Sundeen, who was previously principal at Legacy Traditional School.

A reading garden is also new this year,



offering space to grow fruits and vegetables as well as a space for students to read. The writing curriculum “Step Up to Writing” may also be part of the new school year. LEAM added a Diversity Committee and a Peer Mediation elective for middle school. The school will also receive a school safety grant through Maricopa Police Department.

The school, which was B-rated last year, continues to build its Character Counts program at the elementary level and Positivity Project for middle school. Staff has daily drawings for good character and monthly assemblies for awards.

They hope to build on last year’s successes. Two LEAM students, Saili Fuiava and Abigail Panter, received Citizenship Awards from the American Legion Auxiliary, and Nia Lewis was named CAA Female Wrestler of the Year.

Sequoia Pathway Academy Elementary School

19265 N. Porter Road

School hours: 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

New teachers: 6

Pathway, starting school July 22, now has an Enrichment/Intervention block built into the fourth- through sixth-grade classes.

“This is going to allow for the teachers to support the individual student at their learning levels,” Principal Rachael Lay said.

She said the school is also re-introducing Thinking Maps, first implemented eight years ago, and updating the staff on the curriculum.

Besides six new teachers, the students will get to know new Assistant Principal Taylor Stanton from ASU Prep. Lay said staff will continue to work to increase the number of students passing AzMerit, helped by the approval of new Title 1 positions.

“Not all of AzMerit scores have been released,” she said, “but the proudest moment was when we learned that we had 25 percent of our third graders score Highly Proficient, and that was up from 7 percent the previous year.”

NOTE: Some Maricopa schools did not respond by deadline, including Saddleback Elementary, Legacy Traditional School and Sequoia Pathway Academy’s middle/high school.



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Left: Copper Sky lifeguard Rebecca Montes plays with Emilia Perez at the Aquatics Center.

Right: Emilia is one of the incoming first graders participating in a swim-safety course, a project between MUSD and the City of Maricopa.



"It's to keep them safe, and its also a win-win because it gets the kids more involved in the city and the community," Hildick said.

Funding comes from a Global Water Resources sponsorship.

If the water-safety course works as it is intended and earns parental support during the coming semester, Ullyot said the goal is to expand the program to second and third grades and then have it in each of the district's schools by 2021.

Data from the American Academy of Pediatrics indicate children as young as 1 year old may be at a lower risk of drowning if they have had some formal swimming instruction. But AAP cautions parents that swim programs do not "drown proof" a child of any age.

During the pilot course, the program will be run as a series of field trips. If successful, it may be worked into the curriculum as a physical education course.

"I thought it was a great idea," said Butterfield Principal Janel Hildick. "There are so many pools here."

She said swimming safety is particularly poignant for Butterfield because a previous student died in a canal. The four-week course is not mandatory, and parents must sign a permission slip.

On the first day of the program, the first graders will be assessed in small groups.

Those who show they are sufficiently adept at swimming will be taken to one area for a series of activities while their classmates prepare for swimming lessons.

Michelle Perez is enrolling her daughter Emilia. "I'm going to have her join the swim program because I think water safety and water awareness is very important," she said, "especially early on so they can be prepared for any type of emergency or any type of scenario that they may be in when it comes to water."

Hildick said the aim is to have the course completed before the district's fall break, which starts the last day of September.

Swim lessons become part of school day

By Raquel Hendrickson

Some kids are water dogs. Others never get over their fear of the water, never learning to swim well enough to save themselves.

This school year, Maricopa Unified School District has agreed to be part of pilot program at Copper Sky Aquatic Center to teach young children to swim. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, participation in formal

swim lessons can reduce the likelihood of a childhood drowning death by 88 percent.

"There are studies that say if you don't learn to swim by third grade, you never will learn to swim," said Nathan Ullyot, City of Maricopa Community Services director, who approached the school district with the idea. The initial program will be for first graders.

About 100 students each from Butterfield

Elementary and Maricopa Elementary will be bused to Copper Sky to have lessons with the staff. The schools were chosen because they are the closest campuses to the facility, Ullyot said.

He went to MUSD this year and presented the idea to the administration. Superintendent Tracey Lopeman expressed her support of the concept and got the ball rolling.

Victor Moreno



"Before we came to Heritage, my kids were struggling with grades. We've seen a huge improvement in confidence and academics. My son did not want to leave his friends and come to Heritage, but since he has been there for five months, he says he's so glad he came and he has more friends than he ever had at his other school. The staff have been extremely helpful and supportive and have helped our kids in so many ways. We love Heritage."
- Susan M., Heritage Parent



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The birds and bees of backyard gardening



By Harriet Phelps

This topic is probably not one that your mother discussed with you. In Arizona, the sunrises and sunsets are the best time to watch the birds and the bees. It is very relaxing. They are pollinators.

Pollinators are important to our environment and are essential for fruit and vegetable production. Pollinators in general are in decline,

which impacts food production. Gardeners can conserve bees and habitat for birds by planting flowers and trees that attract and provide nesting habitat and protection from harmful pesticides.



Harriet Phelps

What you need to know

Every fifth bite, or one-third, of our food in the United States depends on pollination.

The honeybee is one of more

than 20,000 distinct bee species and can visit 50 to 1,000 flowers. The number of hives in the United States has decreased about 50 percent from 6 million in the 1940s to about 2.5 million today. — USDA.gov

There are 300 species of hummingbird and they are found only in the Western Hemisphere. The Anna hummingbird stays year-round in the northern Sonoran Desert. — National Park Service

What you can do

There is a bee/bird-plant relationship that provide the habitat and feeding of pollinators. Whether you are a pot-container gardener on your patio or a full-fledged vegetable gardener, it all matters. Use NPS.gov or Pollinator.org/guides using your ZIP code for a list.

Hummingbirds require nectar from plants and protein from insects caught in flight. They drink up to two times their body weight per day. Boiling a mixture of one cup sugar to four cups water until the sugar dissolves is all that is necessary. It does not require the red coloring. Keep your red feeder clean and replace the water not used weekly. This mixture also attracts the bees that want a drink of water.



Create a pollinator habitat with bee-friendly plants and a water source.

Support local beekeepers by buying honey from them or at farmers markets. They are resources for bee problems, too. If bees become a problem, swarm or build a large hive that you would like removed, call a beekeeper. Do not remove the bees yourself. Always be prepared for bee sting or pollen allergy and seek medical advice.

MG Office 520-374-6263
 macmastergardener@gmail.com
 NPS.gov, Pollinator.org/guides, NCRS.
 USDA.gov/WPS

Harriet Phelps is a retired psychologist, a member of the Pinal County Master Gardeners Maricopa for six years and was a Master Gardener in Rock Island County, Illinois for seven years.

Maricopa homes with pools sell faster than those without

By Dayv Morgan

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

But many people are hesitant to add one, thinking the cost is too great, and the return on investment will be too small when it's time to sell. In Maricopa, however, neither seems to be accurate.

In some parts of the Valley, pools are very common. Over the last month in Chandler, for example, almost 50 percent of the homes sold had a pool. Therefore, most appraisers will say a pool only adds about \$10,000 of value to a home.

But in the Maricopa market during the past month, 48 of the 196 closed homes had pools (24.4 percent), and the retail price of these homes is \$25,000 or more above the same floorplan without a pool.

Currently the number of properties with pools is growing, meaning many of the pools are new. In the first five months of this year, the city issued 88 permits for residential pools.

If you are hoping to have a pool in time to beat the summer heat, get started now. The whole process could take up to eight weeks — two to three weeks for permitting and five to six weeks for construction.

So, what does it cost to keep cool?

A basic 80-foot perimeter pebble-tec pool, with a maximum depth of 5 feet, should cost about \$25,000, depending on the access to the yard. This means in most cases you will get at least a 100 percent return on your investment.

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



overall return for the pool investment will decline.

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

In the last month, Maricopa homes without pools took an average of 81 days to sell, while homes with a backyard pool sold a month faster, in only 53 days.

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

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**MOST
EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD**

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

**LEAST
EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD**
1. 42358 W. Sunland Drive, Rancho El Dorado

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa from May 16 through June 15 was a 16-year-old home that had only one owner. It sold for \$5,000 under its asking price and quickly was offered for rent. Two of the three bedrooms are carpeted while the rest of the house has wood and tile flooring.

Sold: May 29
Purchase price: \$167,000
Square footage: 1,281
Price per square foot: \$130.37
Days on market: 19
Builder: Unknown
Year built: 2003
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2

Community: Rancho El Dorado
Features: Near golf course, new bathroom and kitchen fixtures, kitchen appliances, pantry
Listing agent: Casey Edward Clay, EXIT Realty Expanded Vision
Selling agent: Bryan C. Adams, The Maricopa Real Estate Company

- 2. 19365 N. Miller Way, Maricopa Meadows \$172,000
- 3. 19393 N. Sandalwood Drive, Glennville \$175,000
- 4. 46028 W. Starlight Drive, Maricopa Meadows \$179,000
- 5. 46059 W. Holly Drive, Maricopa Meadows \$180,000

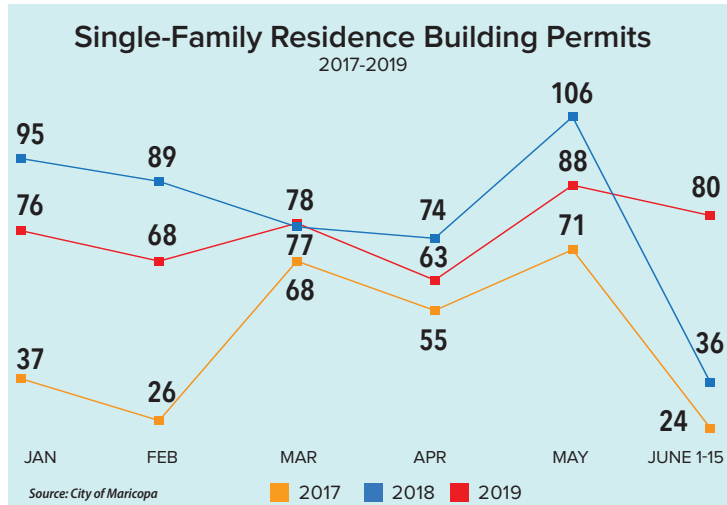
1. 41673 W. Harvest Moon Drive, Province

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa from May 16 through June 15 was a lakefront property in Province with a 3-year-old house. Its selling price was almost 4 percent lower than its listing price of \$400,000 last year and was \$20,000 below its original list price. It was on the market nearly nine months.

Sold: May 16
Purchase price: \$385,000
Square footage: 2,325
Price per square foot: \$165.59
Days on market: 231
Builder: Meritage
Year built: 2016
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5

Community: Province
Features: Upgrades, lots of storage, front courtyard, electric shades, solar panels
Listing agent: Pat Lairson, The Maricopa Real Estate Company
Selling agent: Sheila Steinle, HomeSmart Success

- 2. 43265 W. Bailey Drive, The Villages at Rancho \$362,000
- 3. 21839 N. Greenway Drive, Rancho El Dorado \$360,900
- 4. 40759 W. Bravo Drive, The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado \$350,000
- 5. 20126 N. Snowflake Drive, Province \$325,000


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Seniors at risk from falling

By Joan Koczor

Falls are a real and growing risk to older adults' health and independence and, in some cases, to their very lives. Falls can cause serious injury that can threaten independence and even result in death. A common misconception is falling is a natural part of aging and there is nothing you can do to prevent falling. Despite being labeled "accidents," many falls are preventable and don't have to be a part of aging.

The Healthy Aging Communications Network states, "Unintentional falls were the leading cause of injury-related mortality among Arizona residents 65 years and older.



Joan Koczor

- Accounting for an average of two deaths every day."
- Every 11 seconds, an older adult is treated in an emergency room for a fall; every 19 minutes, an older adult dies from a fall.
 - Falls result in more than 2.8 million injuries treated in emergency departments annually, including over 800,000 hospitalizations and more than 27,000 deaths.
 - In 2015, the total cost of fall injuries was \$50 billion. Medicare and Medicaid shouldered 75 percent of these costs.
 - The financial toll for older adult falls is expected to increase as the population ages and may reach \$67.7 billion by 2020.
- A few safeguards you can implement outside the home:
- Use bright outdoor lighting.
 - Install handrails on both sides of the stairs.
 - Check handrails periodically so see if they are loose or broken.
 - Inside your home:
 - Use night lights.
 - In the bathroom, install grab bars by the

- toilet and shower.
- Use non-skid mats in the tub or shower. Have a light by your bed within easy reach.
 - Have a firm chair that has side arms, which can be used as support while you dress. Avoid walking on wet floors.
 - Remove throw rugs and other things on the floor that can cause you to trip and fall.

Additional proactive measure you can take to prevent falls include:

- Review your medication with your doctor. Some medicines can make you dizzy or cause other side effects that can cause you to fall. Improve your balance and coordination with regular physical activity. Get yearly vision checkups as poor vision can increase your chance of falling.

This is a small sampling of what you can do to prevent falls. 

 ncoa.org/fallprevention
azdhs.gov/phs/healthy.aging

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

The Senior Corner

Transportation resources vital for seniors

By Al Brandenburg

With a new library being built in Maricopa and the existing library becoming a shared senior and veterans center, there will be a need to examine how seniors get back and forth to the facilities.

Finding transportation can be challenging when Mom or Dad or both need help driving to doctor appointments, shopping trips to the grocery, pharmacy and other local errands. It is often difficult for well-meaning but busy families with demanding schedules to find time to transport their elderly parents. Therefore, it is practical, if not essential, to find alternate solutions for transporting seniors who are no longer able to drive themselves.

Identifying and making use of resources


in the community for transportation can enable your parents and elderly loved ones to remain at home and age in place. The availability of adequate transportation enables older persons to live independently in their communities, helps to prevent isolation and the possible need for long-term care placement. Many older people who do not drive must rely on family and friends to provide much of the transportation. But for others, it is necessary to find community resources to provide transportation, as this vital support service may be their only connection to the outside world.

Types of transportation available for the elderly are individual door-to-door service, fixed route with scheduled services (like COMET) or ridesharing with volunteer drivers. A good place to start your search for transportation is your local area Agency on Aging. In Pinal County, the Area Agency on Aging arranges, monitors and supports programs that provide transportation for the elderly.


Sometimes a simple call to your county health or social services department can provide valuable information on local transportation programs. Check with the Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens at 520-836-2758 or the AZ Agency on Aging at 520-426-7721 for more information.



Al Brandenburg

The Maricopa Multi Cultural Consortium has changed its name to the Maricopa Senior Coalition (MSC). This was done to better meet goals to champion and support these kinds of Maricopa senior needs (along with being easier to say, LOL). 


Al Brandenburg is director and secretary of Maricopa Senior Coalition.



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Submitted

Mavericks, Los Lobos team up for casino show

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino will welcome The Mavericks and Los Lobos to The Events Center stage July 5.

The Mavericks' genre-defying music has been connecting with fans the last three decades with hits such as "What a Crying Shame" and "All Night Long." They were Grammy Award winners in 1995 for "Here Comes the Rain."

Though the Mavericks disbanded in the early 2000s, they proved their longevity after reuniting in 2012. They took home the American Music Association's award for Best Duo or Group of the Year in 2015.

With such diverse musical abilities, the band seamlessly blends elements of Tex-Mex, Cuban bolero, R&B, blues, country and rock 'n' roll.

These multi-faceted artists have also translated their musical talents behind the scenes, founding their own record label, Mono Mundo Recordings, in 2016. With their newfound independence, they were able to produce their own album, "Brand New Day," in 2017.

Los Lobos is a Mexican American band with hits such as "La Bamba," "Too Small Heart" and "Son of the Sun." The award-winning band has taken home a Grammy for Best Mexican American/Tejano Music Performance for the album "La Pistola y el Coraz3n," as well as a nomination for Best Americana Album.

Their covers of Ritchie Valens' songs for the film La Bamba became a double-platinum soundtrack and shot the title track to No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1987. In recent years, the band released their album "Gates of Gold," continuing to foster their unique sound with a blend of Tex-Mex, country, folk, blues and traditional Spanish and Mexican music.

IF YOU GO

Who: The Mavericks and Los Lobos
When: July 5; doors open at 7 p.m.; showtime 8 p.m.
Where: The Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino
How much: Starting at \$34.50
Info: Ticket-master.com

Calendar

July

1

UltraStar's Movies Under the Stars
6 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle
16000 N. Maricopa Road

4

Great American 4th
5 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.

5

The Mavericks & Los Lobos
8 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

8-12

Legacy Summer Soccer Camp
8 a.m., Legacy Traditional School
17760 N. Regent Drive

8

UltraStar's Movies Under the Stars
6 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle
16000 N. Maricopa Road

10

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

MUSD Governing Board Meeting

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

11

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

13

Overpass Ribbon-Cutting
8 a.m., State Route 347/
Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway

15

UltraStar's Movies Under the Stars
6 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle
16000 N. Maricopa Road

16

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

17

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

Maricopa Job Fair

10:30 a.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

18

Freshman First Day
7 a.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Zonta Club of Maricopa

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

Meet the Teacher Night

6-7 p.m., all MUSD elementary schools

19

Senior Lunch and Learn
11 a.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Complex
44345 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.

Calendar

22

First Day of School
All MUSD campuses
Legacy Traditional School
Sequoia Pathway Academy

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAYS-FRIDAYS

Kids Summer Movie Series
9 a.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle
16000 N. Maricopa Road

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 Donuts & Coffee
1-4 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center, Room A
45345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. 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

Senior Game Time
9 a.m.- noon, Copper Sky Multigenerational Center, Room A,
45345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Learn to Bowl like a Pro – with a Pro
6 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle
16000 N. Maricopa Road

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

The Answer Is – Game Show
8 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle,
16000 N. Maricopa Road

Jason Robert of Arizona@Work expects more than 50 employers at the Maricopa Job Fair.



Kyle Norby

50 employers invite job-seekers to Maricopa Job Fair

By Kyle Norby

Make sure to bring your resumes and dress for success, because the Maricopa Job Fair is here again. The event will take place on July 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Veterans can enter beginning at 10 a.m.

The workforce agency Arizona@Work Pinal County plans to bring at least 50 employers to this summer's job fair and expects hundreds of job seekers to be in attendance.

"The first Maricopa Job Fair was at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino in 2016," said Jason Robert of Arizona@Work Pinal County. "It came about because most job fairs are in metro areas, like Phoenix or Tucson. There was a definite need for job fairs here in Pinal County."

Although partners with Arizona@Work, Harrah's was not able to host the most recent job fair due to construction on the property. Now that the expansion is complete, the event will be held in the casino's new ballroom.

If you do not feel ready for the Job Fair, Arizona@Work can help with that.

"We have a workshop prep for job fairs, so when you come to a job fair, you feel prepared, you're dressed for success, and you know what to ask the employer when you're going around each table," Robert said.

IF YOU GO

What: Maricopa Job Fair
When: July 17, 10:30 a.m. (veterans enter 10 a.m.)
Where: Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino ballroom, 15406 N. Maricopa Road
Info: LindaMartinez@azdes.gov



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



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

Great American 4th promos tailgating, motocross show

By Raquel Hendrickson

Tailgate cookouts, flying motorbikes, waterslides, fireworks — it's all part of the plan for the Fourth of July.

The City of Maricopa's annual Great American 4th is July 4 at Copper Sky. This year, there will be some additions to the festivities.

That includes the "Great American Tailgate," allowing attendees to grill up food and enjoy their own beer at their vehicles before the traditional fireworks display. At past events, Community Services Director Nathan Ulliyot said, beer-drinkers had been segregated into a beer garden.

"This way, more people can be in our fields just possibly using our facilities," he said.

A \$30 ticket for the tailgating includes a beer-and-wine permit. The tailgating area is the south parking lot by the ballfields. Those with tailgating tickets can show up as early as 1 p.m. to pick their prime parking spot for viewing the fireworks that evening.

The tailgating area is first-come, first-served. Tents, tables, chairs and grills are all allowed in the parking spaces and on the nearby soccer fields. It is a 21-and-over event, and staff will be checking IDs. Tailgate Passes can be pre-purchased online or in person from Becky Squires at the Copper Sky front desk.

At 5 p.m., a VIP Pool Party gets started in the Aquatics Center. Advance tickets are \$15. Copper Sky annual members get five bucks off.



Raquel Hendrickson



Raquel Hendrickson

Electric Blue DJ Eric Chudzik gets revved up at 5 p.m. That is also when kids and adults are invited to enjoy the bounce house waterslides with a \$5 wristband. For annual members, it's free.

Recreation Coordinator Matthew Reiter said there would be a limited number of vendors, and few selling food items. Attendees are encouraged to bring in their own food.

"There won't be a vendors row out there," he said.

That leaves more room for family fun and games, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Vince Morgan of Brigade FMX will put on a freestyle motocross show starting at 7:45 p.m. Reiter said that exhibition will be near the fireworks area on the south side of the park.

The fireworks show gets started at 9 p.m.

Those who are not tailgating can park in other parking lots for \$5. Free parking with a free shuttle to and from the event will again be available at Butterfield Elementary, 43800 W. Honeycutt Road, Santa Rosa Elementary, 21400 N. Santa Rosa Avenue and Maricopa Ace Hardware, 21542 N. John Wayne Parkway.

IF YOU GO

What: Great American 4th
When: July 4, 5-10 p.m.
Where: Copper Sky Regional Park
How much: Free (fees for parking, Tailgate, VIP Pool Party, waterslides)
Info: Facebook.com/COMCSRC



File

Library displays Navajo weavings

Maricopa weaver Tiffany Yazzie will have her art on display at Maricopa Public Library this summer. She weaves in the traditional style of Navajo design and stories through the ages.

Yazzie was born and raised on the Navajo Nation in Northern Arizona. Her mother and grandmothers were her first teachers. Her mother showed her how to dress a loom by first creating a warp, setting up a heddle to separate the warp threads and then weave in the yarn. Her grandmother taught her how to care for the sheep and the goats, then to process their hair into yarn.

Her paternal grandmother, Suzie Yazzie, was renowned for her pictorial rugs and demonstrated daily for tourists, photographers and filmmakers from around the world.

Tiffany Yazzie is inspired by vivid color combination and how they interact with various Navajo weaving styles and techniques. She weaves fibers spun from sheep and goat hair into a vertical standing loom through the warp fibers that she strings by hand. These weavings or textiles take 30 to 200 hours to complete. Her designs are not drawn or sketched out before starting to weave. This for Tiffany is creativity being woven in the moment.

"This collection on display highlights a weaving style called the Eye Dazzler," Yazzie said, "a weaving that stacks shapes in distinct colors leaving no gaps in between them. When gazed upon, the overall textile design dazzles the eyes. Unlike traditional eye dazzlers, I used gaps and shades of brighter colors to highlight the shapes repetitive pattern. This collection took about 300 hours to weave using 2,400 yards of spun wool and mohair."

The display will be at the Maricopa Public library on Smith-Enke Road for three or four months.

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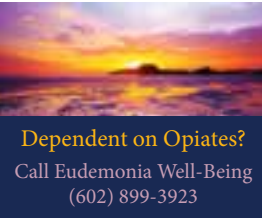
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