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September 2019

BUSINESS

Roadwork a
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THINGS TO DO

Here come
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new library

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

High schools aim for competition



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CAESARS REWARDS

When September comes, action heats up

September is no longer slow and oh so mellow, as the songs suggest; not in Arizona. In fact, with a sizzling summer winding down, activities are just getting wound up in Maricopa.

Chief among them are high school sports, which are rich and varied in the fall. Football, volleyball, swimming, cross country, soccer and golf are helping kids stay fit, learn teamwork and set goals. See how some of the teams are shaping up in these pages.

You'll notice an increase in activities on our calendar and our Things to Do section, always a sign of approaching autumn weather. Catch up on who's coming to town and what events you can jump into.

Also getting into gear is the political action committee campaigning to get Maricopa Unified School District a second high school. With a bond election coming in November, the days are growing short for community outreach.

Business growth continues to heat up in Maricopa. Find out what commercial developments are in the pipeline and how the increase in businesses has already impacted revenue. On the other hand, learn why the continuing construction of the overpass projects has not been so great for mid-town businesses.

This issue includes a chat with Pinal County Attorney Kent Volkmer, a heads-up about the 2020 Census, tips for seniors and a bit of bragging on high schoolers

who had remarkable summer vacations.

Also, check out the latest issue of PLAY. Happy reading,



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History



Kyle Norby

Then & now

Some parts of Maricopa have not changed much in 60 years as evidenced by before-and-after photographs. The first photo was taken in the 1950s on what was then (and will be again soon) Maricopa Road looking south across the railroad tracks. On the left is a Union station, and on the right is the Business Barn (which was evidently blue before it was red) and Honeycutt Shopping Center. The second photo is the same scene today, with the business barn blue again on the right, while on the left the old gas station is now a retail center. The road no longer takes motor vehicles across the tracks.

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The City of Maricopa expects to break ground this winter on a new library.

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Contributors



KYLE NORBY
The multimedia specialist grew up in Maricopa and returned after a stint in Las Vegas.



BERNADETTE RUSSONIELLO
An award-winning teacher at Maricopa High School, she has been known to perform in community theater.



MURRAY SIEGEL
A former college instructor and lifelong proponent of math education, he has lived in Maricopa 12 years.

ON THE COVER: Maricopa High School sophomore Victor Moreno Jr. practices the butterfly ahead of the swimming season.
Photo by Victor Moreno



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Reading Room

Bigger, better library accelerated in city planning

By Raquel Hendrickson

The idea of a new library has floated under the radar for years, sometimes spoken of wistfully and often completely unknown by newcomers.

“When I first interviewed here six years ago, that’s when I first learned that the library expansion had already been approved by voters,” Library Manager Erik Surber said. “That weighed heavily in my decision to come here. It was something I really wanted to be part of.”

With re-imagined financing in place over the next two fiscal years, the new, 27,000-square-foot library is deep in the design stage. Groundbreaking is expected this winter followed by around 10 months of construction. The cost to the City is around \$11 million.

Its funding comes from Highway User Revenue Funds (for an access road), development impact fees and capital

If all goes according to plan, Maricopa Public Library is about to enter its final year in its current location. The new site is between City Hall and the corner of White & Parker and Bowlin roads, where the City plans to build a 27,000-square-foot facility. Library Manager Erik Surber (right) says that will triple the current size.



Raquel Hendrickson

improvement project funds. It is budgeted for \$3.8 million this fiscal year and \$7 million in FY21.

Maricopa voters approved a \$65 million bond for a secondary property tax to build recreation and library facilities. The City spent \$52 million of that, resulting in the development of Copper Sky.

Back in 2006, planners had been expecting to build a 60,000-square-foot facility costing over \$15 million. That all collapsed with the Great Recession. Instead, the City built an 8,000-square-foot building for about \$2 million, knowing it instantly would be too small for the population.

The industry standard is one square foot per resident. Maricopa’s population is now

over 50,000. According to Mayor Christian Price, the library has issued 53,000 library cards during its existence.

The Plan

From a bird’s eye view, the proposed building looks something like an X south of City Hall near the northeast corner of White & Parker Road and Bowlin Road.

Surber is part of a team of city staff who have been meeting with the architect for months.

“In the early designs, one was a big, square building and the next one was a big, square building,” he said. “The third one was the shape that it is. And we said, ‘Yeah, this is a better shape. Why didn’t you lead with that?’

So, it’s not a big, square, boring building, but it also isn’t wasteful. Everything, the shape and everything in it, has a purpose.”

Surber said in the X design, the points help shelter the entrances from the sun and elements.

The building will be about three times as large as the current library, with room to expand another 25,000 square feet.

“You tear down a wall, you put up a new entry point and you’ve created another wing,” Price said. “It’s a fascinating concept.”

“The floor plan is pretty set at this point,” Surber said. “We were meeting with the architect for months, and we did have an open house where we got public input. The details now will be more like what materials we use, where to place electrical ports.”

There will be outdoor programming at the north entrance, which is shaded from the sun. The space will allow for a stage area and room for people to mill about or have lunch.

There will also be an entrance on the south end, but the main entrance will be on the east side.

“The thing that I hear back a lot is, ‘Do you have space for meeting rooms? Do you have space for study rooms?’” Surber said. “The answer is yes. I’m very pleased with the amount of rooms that we’ve got. That really does talk about how libraries are used.”

There will be a dedicated children’s story area, a teen area, a crafts room for all ages, a 2,000-square-foot conference room that can be divided into two rooms. That is where large programming such as the special-guest entertainers for the summer reading program will likely be.

“We always try to squash the notion that the library is just a warehouse for books,” Surber said. “Libraries used to be designed that way. Fortunately, we’ve come a long way since then, and now we are designing libraries to fulfill the role of community meeting space.”

There are smaller conference rooms and three study rooms in the plan. An acoustics study will also inform the final design.

Surber said the additional space will allow the library to have more programs and make current programs more convenient for patrons, especially youth coming in after school.

The current library has about 50,000 items. “A lot” of that collection is on overflow shelves or in storage. The new library is expected to have space for 90,000 items. Surber said there also may be gallery space for local art.

The Funds

Price said Maricopa voters approved the bond that paid for parks, recreation and libraries

Capital Improvement Funding

	FY’20	FY’21	FY’22
New Library Construction			
<i>Impact fees</i>	\$3,280,221		
<i>HURF</i>	\$500,000		
<i>CIP</i>	\$50,309	\$7,000,000	
Current Library remodel (CIP)		\$30,000	
Veterans center remodel (CIP)			\$100,000
TOTAL	\$3,830,530	\$7,30,000	\$100,000

Source: City of Maricopa

because they were willing to sacrifice for the things they wanted.

In August, he walked a gathering of Maricopa Republicans through the process of setting aside funds after Copper Sky was built.

“When you do that, it leaves you a certain amount of money you can get to,” he said. “The problem is, you’re taking it out on credit. You can’t spend this other portion until you spend this part down. So, we’ve been paying this back for the last five years. We actually just refinanced this bond that will save you all a million dollars on repayment of that bond.”

Price said the City went back to the drawing board to look at financing a new library sooner rather than later. They looked at a combination of development impact fees (DIF), which are earmarked specifically, and the capital improvement projects (CIP) funds.

“With our capital improvement fund, we had all these big projects 10 years out, 15 years out, five years out, and there was all this money allocated to these different places,” he said. “It’s important to save for big things, but that’s 15 years out. I got needs now.”

He compared the CIP fund to a trust with monies that can be moved around. He said the City decided to accelerate the library.

“We’re not spending the tax dollars that

we don’t have to,” Price said. “We’re spending the dollars we already have in the budget by re-organizing, finding efficiencies and making things better. At the same time, from a planning standpoint, [we know] that growth is going to continue, so we have something that satisfies those needs now and will also satisfy them in the future without having to spend gobs and gobs of money because we didn’t plan for growth and expansion.”


The mayor said it was about doing the most you can with what you have.

And Then Some

Surber said he’s happy about the domino effect that is expected when the library moves out, dividing the current space into the Maricopa Veterans Center and the city’s first senior center.

“A great benefit of us moving is that the City can repurpose this building to have a dedicated space for veterans, dedicated space for seniors, and the central area, which could be used by different community groups,” he said.

The City then plans to remodel the current veterans center on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway into a museum for the Maricopa Historical Society.

Surber said Maricopa will go from a space-poor community to space-rich. 



Submitted

School PAC starts campaign for bond

Story and photos by Raquel Hendrickson

A political action committee for a school bond to fund a second high school in Maricopa Unified School District has a short time to educate voters.

Many of the PAC members, acting as private individuals, are also on the governing board or are employed by the district. In its first meeting Aug. 1, the PAC laid out a plan as the Nov. 5 election approaches. That includes creating social media accounts under the name “Yes for Maricopa Schools.” https://www.facebook.com/YesforMaricopaSchools/?ref=br_rs

The board is asking voters for a \$68 million bond. With Maricopa High School more than 600 students over capacity, MUSD is seeking funds for an additional high school and for capital projects for aging buildings, like replacing heating/cooling units and roofs.

As the board debated the amount to ask in a bond, Superintendent Tracey Lopeman said a second high school alone will cost around \$67-\$75 million. The district received \$26 million for construction plus funding for land from the state’s School Facilities Board. Under questioning from board member Patti Coutr , she said a \$68 million high school would be a small but comprehensive school that might serve 2,600 students but without some of the programs of the current high school.

The PAC was created to campaign for the bond. “We are up. We are ready to accept checks,” said Paul Ulin of Primary Consultants, hired to manage the process.



Members of the Yes for Maricopa Schools Political Action Committee, including (from left) Jim Irving, Paul Ulin, Mishell Terry and Ben Owens, strategize the campaign for a bond for a second high school and maintenance costs.

“Outside of this room and about three other people, no one else knows there’s an election going on,” Ulin told the PAC. “It’s really after Labor Day that the campaign kicks off.”

Pro and con statements for the voter pamphlet had to be submitted in August. Ballots go out to military and overseas registered voters Sept. 21.

With a tight timeline to get the word out, Ulin explained what board members and employees are and are not allowed to do regarding letters of support and campaigning.

Jim Irving, volunteer coordinator at MUSD, said every election the district has covered the dos and don’ts of campaigning

with PTOs and site councils. Mishell Terry, MUSD communications coordinator, said the same information had been given to all employees.

That included whether teachers can campaign for the bond election at community events or even school sports events like a football game.

“We’re not there in our official capacity; we’re there to watch a football game,” Maricopa High School Vice Principal Heidi Vratil said.

“At community events, and football games are great example, if you are a teacher and your school or another school are there, and you’re not there in the capacity of being a teacher, you’re there to watch the kids play, your kid

play, and support the school; you are allowed to electioneer. And it should be outside that fence. In that case we don’t need to rent space,” Ulin said.

At events on school grounds not classified as “community events,” the PAC can get insurance and rent space to electioneer.

“What you can do is hand out information,” Irving said. “What we’ve always done, not using teachers, is just remind people of when the election is.”

He said the challenge in an off-year election is getting people to come out and vote.

Early ballots are mailed Oct. 9.

If this year’s bond passes but there is still not enough money for major capital expenditures like rooftops, HVAC and safety measures, the district may ask for a capital override or another bond. Board President AnnaMarie Knorr said she could see the day in the next five to six years when the district will need another middle school or another elementary school.

RESIDENTS SPEAK OUT

Dikta Reid The long overdue override was for staff and teachers. Bonds are for buildings, books and buses. Educating voters is the key, too many uninformed citizens go to the polls!

Gary Miller An overcrowded HS will indeed effect learning. If having strong schools and an overall strong district can have a positive effect on home prices, then I’m for the bond. My mind is on my money and money is on my mind after paying 378k for a home that dropped 70% in value. To be a destination city, we must have strong schools that are sustainable over time, are innovative and will improve the learning process.

Merry Grace What happens if there is no approval for a new high school? This district serves the majority of our student population including Ak Chin, special ed, ELL, homeless, gifted, etc. Neighborhoods are growing with still more new

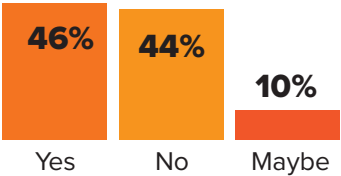
homes being built which means more students. You cannot grow your community without growing your schools.

Kassie Walsh Something needs to be decided, and quickly. The school is overcrowded and it’s only getting worse as more and more houses go up. And with the prospect of an apartment complex, a solution is needed sooner rather than later. It’s not safe to crowd that many people into a small school and argue over a \$10 million difference. Besides, I’m sure a school closer to the other side of town might alleviate the bus problem that occurs every single school year

Joshua Babb I have been in budget committee meetings and all they want to do is to find ways to spend more not how to spend smarter. This is one voter who is going to vote no to any bond this time around. They also are not

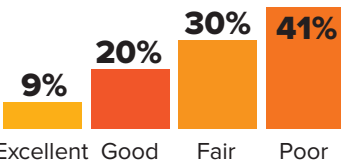
POLLS

Should Maricopa Unified School District seek a bond to help fund a second high school?



Source: InMaricopa.com Total votes: 261

How would you rate the Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board?



Source: InMaricopa.com Total votes: 218



taking into account the additional charter schools coming into the area for the high school kids that will take stress off the high school. Additionally, the state has given MUSD land and 20 something million to start the project. Before

I consider any additional money I want a detailed outline of dollar by dollar where they intend on spending it.

Duane Vick I’ve advocated against overrides in the past because they didn’t yield any concrete data as to their purpose. I supported the last one because it was very specific about how the funds will be used. We need a second high school. Overcrowding leads to kids getting less education. The back row moves even further back. A second high school will move them toward the front of the class instead.

Dan J. Borman Come on Maricopa. For once don’t vote yourself another tax increase.

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Census 2020: Do you count?

By Raquel Hendrickson

Maricopa is gearing up for next year's decennial U.S. Census. Data from Census Bureau has become so important some cities, including Maricopa, funded special counts in off-years to try to prove their population. Population can help a company decide whether to invest in a community and it can decide if it's time for a new congressional district.

There are changes to the way the census will be taken in 2020, and the City has formed a Complete Count Committee to educate the public and encourage them to participate. For instance, households will receive an "invitation" to complete the census survey online.

"Part of the encouragement," said Dale Wiebusch, the City's director of Intergovernmental Affairs, "is that the data is driven both by the monetary factor and political representation."

Wiebusch heads the committee, which meets monthly to talk about strategy. He invited 50 participants, with up to 14 participating, and a handful attending any given meeting. The committee, he said, is comprised of people who can reach diverse groups, especially those who could be missed because of language barriers or lack of technology.

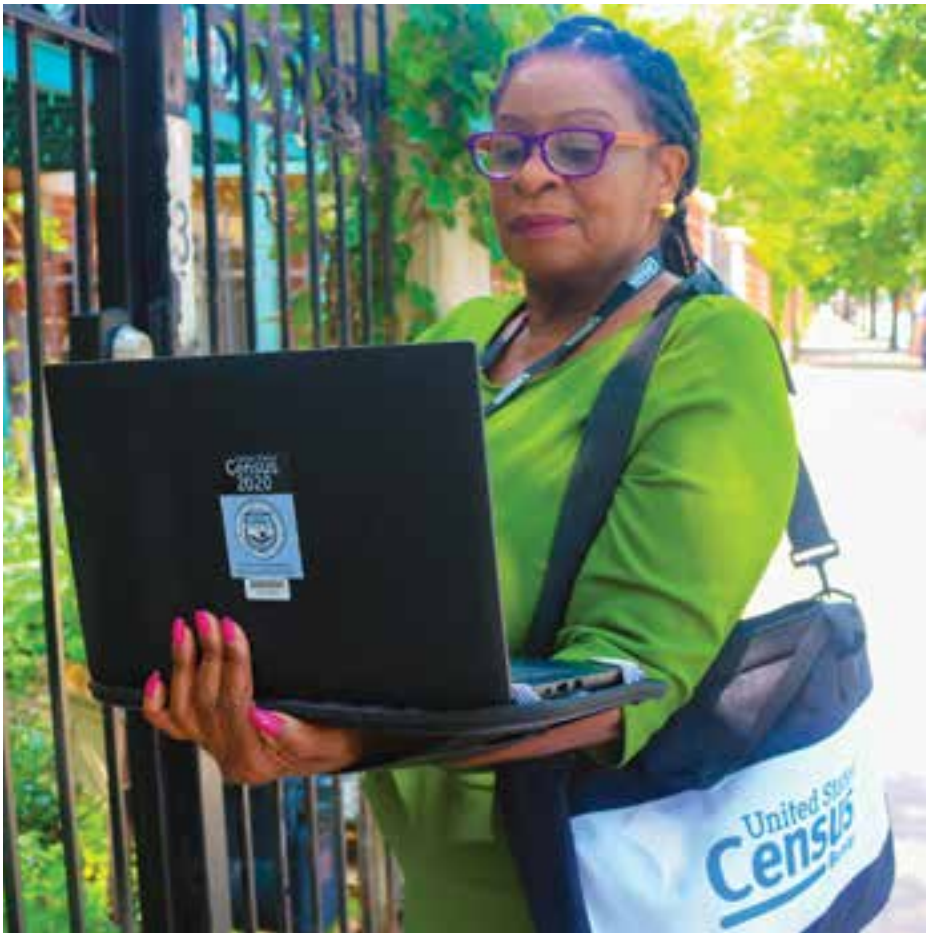
In the recent census campaigns, the city saw where portions of the population did not comply, including areas of the Heritage District. That is where committee members can step in to better explain the process and necessity of the census.

He said the census count would impact federal and state funding.

"There are 50 or more federal programs that rely on census data for disbursement of funds," he said, adding that figure could be \$3,000 per person.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 95 percent of households will receive census invitation by mail. Almost 5 percent will have their census invitation dropped off at their home. Less than 1 percent will be counted by a census taker.

"We do this in very remote areas like parts of northern Maine, remote Alaska and in select American Indian areas that ask to be counted in person," the Bureau explained



Submitted

66 There are 50 or more federal programs that rely on census data for disbursement of funds."

— Dale Wiebusch, director of intergovernmental affairs



in unattributed documents. The department is based in Maryland and directed by Steven Dillingham.

Wiebusch said he would like to see the City have library computers dedicated to the census for those who do not have the Internet at home. The main census activity will take place in March and April, with reminders and other wrap-up activities into June.

Census invitations will begin going out in the mail in mid-March. If the household has not responded, a reminder letter will go out,

and a reminder postcard, then a reminder letter and a paper questionnaire and then an in-person follow-up.

The project goes in stages, with Maricopa due to start its portion April 1.

"I find it hilarious we would do it on April Fool's Day," Wiebusch said.

Unlike a special census, the decennial census will count everyone who declares their main residence to be Maricopa, even if they live here only six months out of the year and even if they are not citizens.

Wiebusch emphasizes there is no "citizenship question" on the 2020 U.S. Census.

"I know a lot people think that's about those without documentation," he said, "but we have Canadians and we have a lot of other 'snowbirds' who live here a lot of the year."

The City of Maricopa is working with Maricopa Association of Governments and Riester, a Phoenix-based advertising firm, to help with preparations for the census and outreach. ☐



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Business developments, in brief

Domino's Pizza currently at 20046 N. John Wayne Parkway, is moving to the former Peñascos location, 20024 N. John Wayne Parkway in The Shops at Maricopa Village. The pizza store received a commercial tenant improvement permit after getting approval to do some demolition work in the new place.

Heritage Academy received a permit for a fire sprinkler system and fire alarm in its A building and a commercial permit for the 16,101-square-foot academic building. It also convinced the city council to allow a name change of its street. Formerly on Lucera Lane, the new charter school is now on Heroes Way in Glennwilde.

Richmond-American Homes started a grading and drainage permit for its driveway extensions at 44307 W. Palo Nuez St. in Palo Brea to accommodate a three-car entry.

Meritage Homes is converting a garage into a sales office at 19769 N. MacNeil Court in Homestead North. Meritage also received a standard plan review for lots in Province.

K. Hovnanian Homes was allowed a temporary construction trailer at 46172 W. Mountain View Road in Maricopa Meadows.



Heritage Academy

Sacate Pellet Mill received a commercial permit for a pre-engineered metal building at 38743 W. Cowtown Road. The new business also received a permit for its fire sprinkler in its hay office.

Apex Motor Club was allowed to place a \$35,000 pre-manufactured building on its property at 22408 N. Ralston Road through a factory-built commercial permit. The building is 2,500 square feet.

Sequoia Pathway Academy, 19265 N. Porter Road, used a commercial alteration permit to restore a modular bathroom after work on a mold problem.

The **Jamie Brisbin Agency** of State Farm moved into office space in Bradley Butz's building at 19395 N. John Wayne Parkway, received a new tenant final inspection July 24.

In putting in an electric vehicle charging station, **Volkswagen** received a commercial foundation-only permit as "at risk" at 17169 N. Murphy Road.

Hope Women's Center, 45978 W. McDavid Road, received a commercial tenant improvement permit for work contracted by Habitat for Humanity of Central Arizona.

Simon Med Imaging received a permit for a fire alarm in its new office at 44555 W. Edison Road, Suite B.



Stonegate in development review

Maricopa City Council approved an amendment to the original Planned Area Development for Stonegate Center, 42200 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy., Aug. 6. A day later, it received a development review permit.

The new proposal is a self-storage facility on about four acres in the southwest corner of Stonegate Road and Alan Stephens Parkway. A change to the PAD is necessary to allow personal storage, outdoor vehicle storage and living quarters for an onsite manager. The proposed Omni Storage would have five buildings up to two stories high as well as outdoor storage for vehicles and RVs.

It is the first phase of the reimagined commercial development. Other elements of the master plan are in early planning stages.

Sonoran Creek retail center previewed

Plans for a retail center went before the Heritage District Citizen Advisory Committee and the Planning & Zoning Committee in August. The property on almost eight acres is planned for more than 61,000 square feet of commercial space, according to Andrew Call, director of development management for Thompson Thrift.

The property is on the southwest corner of John Wayne Parkway and Edison Road. Businesses already operating in the vicinity include Culver's and Dutch Bros.

The paperwork presented included 30,000 square feet for an unnamed specialty grocery.

Planner Ben Cereceres said the City is "not yet aware of who tenants will be." Call said Thompson Thrift is not ready to announce the names. Call also said the number of tenant units has not yet been determined.

Rudy Lopez, Planning & Zoning manager, said the property would be on Maricopa Domestic Water Improvement District for water and Global Water for sewer. According to the landscape plan, the existing landscaping of the basin that runs along Edison Road will remain.

While no timeline has been set for the project, Thompson Thrift is pushing to get started by the end of the year.

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HEALTH INSPECTIONS

30 OF 31 EATERIES SCORE EXCELLENT IN INSPECTIONS

Pinal County food inspectors looked at 31 Maricopa establishments, including several schools, from July 18 through Aug. 18 and gave all but one a clean bill of health. Cilantro's received a "Satisfactory" mark after the discovery of a walk-in cooler not keeping food at the required maximum 41 degrees. Menudo that was found at 60 degrees was discarded.

EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Brooklyn Boys Italian Restaurant
- Burger King
- Butterfield Elementary
- Children's Learning Adventure
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Culver's
- Desert Wind Middle School
- The Duke at Rancho El Dorado
- Dutch Bros
- Firehouse Subs
- Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
- Leading Edge Academy
- Li's Garden
- Maricopa Head Start
- Maricopa High School
- Maricopa High School — Concessions
- Maricopa High School — Culinary Arts
- Maricopa Wells Middle School
- McDonald's (John Wayne Parkway)
- Native Grill and Wings
- The New HQ
- Pima Butte Elementary
- Raceway Bar & Grill
- Rosati's Pizza
- Saddleback Elementary
- Santa Cruz Elementary
- Santa Rosa Elementary
- Sunrise Café
- Sunrise Preschool
- Wingstop

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- Cilantro's Mexican Cocina

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

Central Arizona College celebrates 50 years

By Angela Askey
Executive Director Public Relations and Marketing

Central Arizona College opened its doors in the fall of 1969 near the base of Signal Peak Mountain in Coolidge, AZ and for 50 years, has been serving and educating the diverse communities of Pinal County by providing accessible, educational, economic, cultural, and personal growth opportunities for those of all ages.

Over the years, CAC has expanded to five campuses and three centers located strategically throughout Pinal County.

During the 1972-73 academic year, the

state board for community colleges approved preliminary construction plans for the Arizona College of Technology, now known as the Aravaipa Campus.

Ten years later, CAC began offering classes in Apache Junction, using portables at Apache Junction High School until they moved classes to the Grand Hotel in 1985. In the summer of 1987, the Superstition Mountain Campus opened at its current location.

When voters of Pinal County authorized the college to expand educational opportunities and accessibility throughout the county by approving a nearly \$99 million general obligation bond, the College began building two new campuses.

The CAC Maricopa Campus opened for business on January 2, 2013 and one year later, in January 2014 the San Tan Campus opened for business.

More than 18,800 individuals have received a degree or certificate from CAC since the first graduation ceremony was held in May of 1970.

As part of CAC's 50th Anniversary celebration, the Maricopa Campus (17945 N. Regent Dr.) will host a Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 5-9 p.m.



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Overpass construction impact on businesses continues

By Kyle Norby

To say the overpass construction has been complicated for Maricopa citizens and businesses alike would be an understatement.

The overpass had been a distant dream in many Maricopans' minds until the project finally broke ground in late 2017. Numerous local businesses have been affected by the construction, with high-traffic routes being cut off.

In the early stages of the project, Honeycutt Road was the first long-term road closure, significantly affecting customer traffic for the Maricopa Business Center until the overpass opened in July.

"There were some days that were so slow that I thought I made a mistake," said Honeycutt Coffee owner Tanya Powers, who purchased the business during the road closures. "Now there has been a lot more foot traffic, and business has been a lot better."

With the overpass open to traffic, old John Wayne Parkway's intersecting roads have been torn up from Hathaway Avenue to Edwards Avenue to develop new routes eliminating vehicular crossing of the railroad tracks. Aside from the inconvenience for local businesses and customers, many owners are claiming they received no warning from the city or ADOT their businesses would be at a dead end.

"I think it could have been handled differently," said Redemption Tattoo owner



Nick Sanchez owns a tattoo business in the Blue Barn, which sits directly south of the railroad tracks and is now on a cul-de-sac instead of a crossing.



Kyle Norby

Nick Sanchez. "It took the whole curb appeal away from a business. I still don't understand the cul-de-sac thing."

ADOT spokesman Steve Elliott said the road plan was developed in collaboration with the railroad and approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission to improve safety.

"A key part of the safety benefit comes from eliminating the at-grade crossing next to the overpass while maintaining access to businesses," he said

The plan is to re-open the old John Wayne Parkway north of the tracks (now called Maricopa Road) for a direct route under the overpass to Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway. South of the tracks, the road will be a cul-de-sac at Edwards Avenue in front of A-1 Pawn and the Blue Barn.

Mayor Christian Price has said State Route 347 is owned by ADOT and the matter is out of the city's hands. Early 3D concept videos created by ADOT in 2017 visualize these routes and plans for SR 347, reinforcing the change wasn't the city's choice at that point.

Jim Shoaf, who runs local food bank Maricopa Pantry, addressed the cul-de-sac issue at a city council meeting in July.

"I think it's a shame that the powers-that-be can actually command the city to do what I think is not in the best interest of the city," Shoaf said. "I think it's going to hurt small businesses in that area."



Hear from more business owners in our 'Overpass Impact' video at InMaricopa.com.

Raquel Hendrickson

15% rise in sales-tax collections

According to the Arizona Department of Revenue, Maricopa businesses collected \$15.2 million in "transaction privilege tax" during the fiscal year that ended June 30. Figuring in funds being paid in arrears by the state, it is still a 15 percent increase over last year.



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MUSD NEWS

BOND ELECTION

VOTE
November
5

In November voters living within Maricopa Unified School District School boundaries will decide a proposed \$68 million dollar bond.

1 WHAT IS A BOND ELECTION?

With voter approval, public school districts may issue bonds (which are purchased by investors) to fund capital projects that have a useful life longer than five years. Examples include building new schools, building improvements (HVAC, roof, and lighting), school buses or equipment, to name a few. Bonds are repaid over a set period of time.

2 WHY IS THE BOND ELECTION BEING HELD?

Due to the years of budget reductions from the state and limits on funding from the School Facilities Board, the Maricopa Unified School District (MUSD) Governing Board called for a \$68 million special bond election on November 5 based on the recommendations of the MUSD Capital Planning Committee. The MUSD Capital Planning Committee met throughout the year and was comprised of a variety of stakeholders including city leaders, faith leaders, business partners, district and school personnel, parents, and community members. Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year was nearly 7,300 students. The District is experiencing significant growth, and a demographic study predicts student enrollment will reach between 11,000 and 13,000 students over the next 8 years. The District's only high school is



to existing facilities, furniture, equipment, books, school buses and other district vehicles

4 HOW HAS THE DISTRICT PAID FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS, PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTION/MAJOR RENOVATIONS, FURNITURE, AND FIXTURES IN THE PAST?

Historically, the district received capital funding and facility funding based on state formulas. Since 2009, the state has not adhered to its funding formula and began to significantly reduce or eliminate state funding. Over the last ten years, the district has weathered nearly \$19.1 million in cuts to capital funding, and the projected FY20 budget only funds approximately 70% of the statutory allocation allotted for capital items.

3 HOW ARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FUNDED?

Money from state and federal governments, property taxes, and grants all fund public schools. Under state law, the district may spend the revenue in two ways:

- Maintenance and operations funds are used for day-to-day expenditures like salaries, employee benefits, supplies, utilities, maintenance, and transportation.
- Capital funds are used to build and equip schools. Typical capital expenditures include new construction as well as improvements

5 SCHOOL FACILITIES BOARD FUNDING

The district will receive approximately \$26 million to support land acquisition and construction of an additional high school. This will cover approximately 1/3 of the cost to build an additional high school that meets the needs of the growing community.

6 HOW WILL THE MONEY BE SPENT?

The \$68 million bond proceeds would fund:

- Construction and land acquisition for an additional high school
- Repair and replacement of systems and infrastructure like HVAC, roofing, and weatherization of aging buildings and facilities
- Additional school buses to transport students
- Facility enhancements to increase security and promote safety

7 HOW WILL THE COMMUNITY KNOW THE DISTRICT IS USING FUNDS AS PROMISED?

The District is committed to demonstrating good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. A committee comprised of district representatives and community stakeholders will be established to provide oversight and regular updates to the community.

8 HOW MUCH WILL THE BOND COST THE AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL TAXPAYER?

The estimated average annual tax rate for the proposed bond authorization is \$1.22 per \$100 of net assessed valuation used for secondary property tax purposes. If



voters approve the bond, the estimated additional cost to a homeowner based on a home with an value of \$100,000 is \$121.84 annually, or \$10.15 per month. (\$200K Assessed value = \$243.68/year or 20.30/month)

**Please note that should the number of households grow as predicted, the impact could be significantly less because there will be more households to carry the tax burden.*

9 WHAT IS MARICOPA DISTRICT'S HISTORY OF BOND ELECTIONS?

The last time the district held a bond election was in 2006; it has been 13 years since the district's last bond election.

10 WHEN WILL THE BOND QUESTION BE ON THE BALLOT?

The bond question will appear on the November 5, 2019, ballot.

11 IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

- Last day to register to vote is October 7, 2019
- Early ballots will be mailed to voters on October 9, 2019
- Pinal County Elections suggests mail-in ballots be mailed by October 29, 2019 to ensure arrival before election day
- Last day to drop off ballot is November 5, 2019
- Election day polling sites can be found at: www.pinalcountyaz.gov/elections/Pages/WhereDoIVote.aspx

MARICOPA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Is growing! Demographic research predicts student enrollment will increase between 4,100 and 5,800 students over the next 8 years
- Serves nearly 7,500 students in preschool -12th grade
- Employs more than 700 full-time and 100 part-time employees
- Spans nearly 160 square miles
- Encompasses more than 1 million square feet of building space
- Transports more than 3,000 students, 800K miles, on 48 buses each year
- Offers award-winning academic, performing arts, and athletic programs
- Provides a variety of innovative programming including Full-Day Preschool, Blended Learning, Honors, AP, Dual Credit, and Career and Technical Education opportunities
- Includes two "A" schools, and an A+ School of Excellence
- Led the state in National Board Certified Teachers in 2018





ELECCIÓN DE BONOS

Vota el
5
de Noviembre

En noviembre los electores viviendo dentro de los límites del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Maricopa decidirán sobre la proposición de un bono financiero de \$68 millones.

1 ¿QUÉ ES UNA ELECCIÓN DE LOS BONOS FINANCIEROS?

Con aprobación de los electores, los distritos escolares públicos pueden emitir bonos financieros (los cuales son comprados por inversionistas) para financiar proyectos de capital que tienen una vida útil de más de cinco años. Los ejemplos incluyen el construir nuevas escuelas, mejoramientos de los edificios (HVAC, techos, e iluminación), autobuses escolares o equipo, entre otros. Los bonos financieros son reembolsados durante un periodo de tiempo fijo.

2 ¿POR QUÉ SE ESTÁ LLEVANDO A CABO UNA ELECCIÓN DE LOS BONOS FINANCIEROS?

Debido a los años de reducciones del presupuesto por parte del estado y límites en financiación por parte de la Junta Escolar de Instalaciones, la Junta Administrativa del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Maricopa (MUSD) convocó una elección especial de los bonos financieros de \$68 millones con fecha del 5 de noviembre basado en las recomendaciones del Comité de Planeamiento de Capital de MUSD. El Comité de Planeamiento de Capital de MUSD se reunió durante el año y fue compuesto de una variedad de accionistas incluyendo líderes de la ciudad, líderes religiosos, socios de negocio, personal del distrito y las escuelas, padres, y miembros de la comunidad. La matriculación para el año escolar 2018-2019 fue de casi 7,300 estudiantes. El Distrito está experimentando crecimiento significativo,



y un estudio demográfico predice que la matriculación estudiantil llegará entre 11,000 y 13,000 estudiantes durante los próximos 8 años. La única escuela secundaria del Distrito está sobre capacidad por aproximadamente 500 estudiantes. Las instalaciones adecuadas son necesarias para el éxito académico de nuestros estudiantes. Una escuela secundaria adicional satisfará las necesidades de la comunidad creciente.

3 ¿CÓMO SE FINANCIAN LAS ESCUELAS PÚBLICAS?

Dinero de los gobiernos estatal y federal, los impuestos sobre la propiedad, y las otorgaciones financian las escuelas públicas. Bajo ley estatal, el distrito puede gastar el ingreso en dos maneras:

- Fondos de mantenimiento y operaciones son usados para gastos de día a día como salarios, beneficios para los empleados, suministros, servicios públicos, mantenimiento y transportación.
- Fondos de capital son usados para construir y equipar escuelas. Gastos

de capital típicos incluyen nueva construcción igual a mejoramientos de instalaciones existentes, muebles, equipo, libros, autobuses escolares y otros vehículos para el distrito.

4 ¿CÓMO HA PAGADO EL DISTRITO EN EL PASADO LOS MEJORAMIENTOS DE INSTALACIONES, MANTENIMIENTO DE EDIFICIOS PREVENTIVO, CONSTRUCCIÓN/ RENOVACIONES MAYORES, MUEBLES, Y ELEMENTOS FIJOS?

Históricamente, el distrito recibía financiación de capital y financiación de instalaciones basado en formulas del estado. Desde 2009, el estado no ha adherido a su fórmula de financiación y empezó a reducir significativamente o eliminar financiamiento estatal. Durante los últimos diez años, el distrito ha soportado cortes de financiación de capital de casi \$19.1 millones, y el presupuesto proyectado para el Año Económico 2020 solo financia aproximadamente 70% de la asignación estatutaria asignada para artículos de capital.

5 FINANCIACIÓN DE LA JUNTA DE INSTALACIONES ESCOLARES

El distrito recibirá aproximadamente \$26 millones de dólares para apoyar adquisición de terrenos y construcción para una escuela secundaria adicional. Esto cubrirá aproximadamente 1/3 del costo para construir una escuela secundaria adicional que satisface las necesidades de la comunidad creciente.

6 ¿CÓMO SE GASTARÁ EL DINERO?

Las ganancias del bono financiero de \$68 millones financiarían:

- Construcción y adquisición de terreno para una escuela secundaria adicional
- Reparar y reemplazar los sistemas e infraestructura como HVAC, techos, e impermeabilización de edificios e instalaciones viejos
- Autobuses adicionales para transportar estudiantes
- Mejoras de instalaciones para aumentar protección y promover seguridad

7 ¿CÓMO SABRÁ LA COMUNIDAD QUE EL DISTRITO ESTÁ USANDO FONDOS COMO PROMETIDO?

El Distrito está comprometido a demostrar buena administración del dinero del contribuyente. Un comité compuesto de representantes del distrito y accionistas de la comunidad será establecido para proveer supervisión y comunicar actualizaciones regulares a la comunidad.

8 ¿CUÁNTO SERÁ EL COSTO DEL BONO FINANCIERO PARA UN CONTRIBUYENTE CON UNA RESIDENCIA PROMEDIO?

Se estima que el promedio de la tasa de impuestos anual para la autorización del bono financiero propuesto es \$1.22 por \$100 de valor tasado neto usado para los



propósitos de los impuestos secundarios sobre la propiedad. Si los votantes aprueban el bono, el costo estimado adicional al dueño de propiedad basado en una residencia con un valor de \$100,000 es \$121.84 anualmente, o \$10.15 por mes (\$200K Valor tasado = \$243.68/año o 20.30/mes).

**Favor de notar que si el número de residencias crecen según la predicción, el impacto puede ser significativamente menos porque habrá más residencias para llevar la carga del impuesto.*

9 ¿CUÁL ES LA HISTORIA DE LAS ELECCIONES DE LOS BONOS FINANCIEROS EN EL DISTRITO DE MARICOPA?

La última vez que el distrito llevó a cabo una elección de los bonos financieros fue en 2006; han pasado 13 años desde la última elección de los bonos financieros del distrito.

10 ¿CUÁNDO ESTARÁ EN LA BOLETA LA CUESTIÓN DEL BONO FINANCIERO?

La cuestión del bono financiero aparecerá en la boleta del 5 de noviembre de 2019.



11 INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE DE LA ELECCIÓN

- El último día para registrarse para votar es el 7 de octubre de 2019
- Boletas de la votación temprana serán enviadas a los votantes el 9 de octubre de 2019
- Elecciones del Condado de Pinal sugiere que las boletas por correo sean enviadas por correo para el 29 de octubre de 2019 para asegurar su llegada antes del día de elección
- El último día para entregar su boleta es el 5 de noviembre de 2019
- Se puede encontrar los sitios de votación para el día de elección en:
- www.pinalcountyz.gov/elections/Pages/WhereDoIVote.aspx

DISTRITO ESCOLAR UNIFICADO DE MARICOPA

- ¡Está creciendo! Investigación demográfica predice que la matriculación estudiantil aumentará entre 4,100 y 5,800 estudiantes durante los próximos 8 años
- Sirve casi 7,500 estudiantes en preescolar – grado 12
- Emplea a más de 700 empleados de tiempo completo y 100 empleados de tiempo parcial
- Extiende casi 160 millas cuadradas
- Abarca más de 1 millón de pies cuadrados de espacio de edificio
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- Lideró en el estado con mas nuevos Maestros Certificados por la Junta Nacional en 2018



1



2



3



4



5

1. Capt. Matthew Harvey, with his wife Lindsay and two children, received a community “welcome home” in Tortosa after being posted in the Middle East since last fall. *Kyle Norby*
2. Vice Mayor Henry Wade and Mayor Christian Price helped owner Tonya Thompson scoop ice cream during the 15th anniversary celebration of Water and Ice. *Kyle Norby*
3. City staff (from left) accountant Jacque Martinez, purchasing manager Kathleen Shipman, senior accountant Valeriya Sattler and Financial Services Manager Angele Ozoemelam accept a certificate of recognition for budget preparation from the Government Financial Officers Association. *Raquel Hendrickson*
4. Residents gathered at Copper Sky for a vigil for the victims of 250 mass shootings in the United States this year. *Kyle Norby*
5. NBC analyst and former PGA Tour golfer Notah Begay III (right) gives Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel some pointers during a free clinic at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes. *Raquel Hendrickson*

‘We will do better’ Police chief apologizes to community for school mishap



A major mistake by the Maricopa Police Department in July earned a live apology from the police chief. “We messed up,” he announced at his monthly Coffee with the Chief, which is carried on the department’s Facebook page and generally involves information on current events and safety tips for the community.

It was a *mea culpa* from a department that does not like to air its inner workings.

Maricopa Unified School District allowed MPD to carry out training exercises on the Butterfield Elementary campus during the summer break. The July 3 training involved a K-9 searching for narcotics, but one small packet was inadvertently left behind in a room, an error that was not discovered until after school started.

“It’s our fault,” Chief Steve Stahl said. “This is on us.”

Superintendent Tracey Lopeman notified parents of the situation July 25 after the school had to go into “shelter-in-place” mode while police searched the premises. She said the district would re-evaluate its agreement with MPD.

As Lopeman and Stahl both said the relationship was important, MPD was re-evaluating, too.

“From a department standpoint, we are going to evaluate our policies and procedures to make sure that they are up to standards with other agencies that have K-9 programs,” MPD spokesman Ricardo Alvarado said.

Though Stahl apologized to Lopeman personally, he said he needed to apologize to her, the staff, students, parents and community publicly because of the potential of what could have happened.

It turned out a teacher had discovered the packet, wrapped and reportedly looking like an old sandwich, on July 15 and threw it out.

“We have higher expectations of ourselves and have taken measures to correct the issue,” Stahl said.

He said if any good came out of the situation it was that no children were ever in any danger because the school was out during the time between the training and the discovery of the narcotics.

“I can tell you this; the officer involved in this scenario has children, has children that attend MUSD schools, and is extremely remorseful for what occurred and has taken full responsibility,” Stahl said. “And we will press on from here.”

He expressed regret that parents experienced added apprehension and stress over the incident. “For that, we apologize, and we will do better.”



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Q&A with County Attorney Kent Volkmer

By Raquel Hendrickson

Kent Volkmer, a Republican, was elected Pinal County Attorney in 2016 after several years in private practice. He sat down with InMaricopa to talk about some of the issues his office is tackling.

What is a day in the life of the county attorney?

“A lot of meetings, as opposed to being in the courtroom every day. I would say any given day, probably three or four different meetings with various entities, various agencies. Typically, Monday is my most consistent day getting kind of caught up on stuff that happened on the weekend. On every Monday afternoon for about two hours, I meet with my chief of criminal, my chief deputy, my chief of staff as well as my head of civil, and we talk about kind of issues that are upcoming issues and preparing for what’s going on.”

A giant chunk of the county budget (63 percent) goes to law enforcement, courts and prosecutions. What are your office’s top costs? “Personnel. Ninety percent is just people.”

What are your opportunities for keeping costs down?

“There are some. Oh, yes, we absolutely do have grants. We have the JAG Byrne grant [Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant], which is federal prosecution grant. We have a number of other grants that come forward. Actually, in this current budget cycle here, I was able to request, and our Board of Supervisors gave me, a grant coordinator, so we’re actually going to have a dedicated person in our office that’s looking at those costs to see if there are any grants available.”

If recreational marijuana were legalized in the state, how would that impact your office?

“At the felony level, it would not have nearly the full impact. I have not had the opportunity to review all of the proposal, but I do know that they limit the amount of personal possession to one ounce, which I do like. Two and a half ounces is about a hundred joints. To say that’s personal possession has always kind of struck



Kyle Norby

Pinal County Attorney Kent Volkmer talks about his philosophy of criminal prosecution and the challenges of the office he holds.

KENT VOLKMER

Hometown: Galion, Ohio

Residence: Casa Grande

Age: 37

Family: Wife Kristy, three children

Education: MBA in finance University of Akron (Ohio); doctor of law University of Akron School of Law

Previous experience: General practice at Cooper & Rueter, co-founder of Wallace, Volkmer & Weagant


typically on those murder cases, those real high-end cases, all of those pleas are normally staffed. That means the attorney assigned has reviewed it along with their supervisor and then usually my chief deputy and myself and the team look at those and figure out what an appropriate resolution is.”

In the violent cases, would it mean the state feels there’s a vulnerability in the case more than the cost?

“It’s not a vulnerability in the case; it’s typically a vulnerability to the community. The law gives us the ability to put people away for a really long time. The issue is if someone has a violent propensity and they commit this offense, the law says, ‘Well, presumptive sentence, for example, is 10.5 years.’ And we say, ‘We’re going to give you 3.5 years.’ My concern is if that person gets out in 3.5 years and then commits another violent offense, how do I look that victim in the face and say, ‘Yeah, I know the law told me this is what I was supposed to do, but it was really expensive, so I put finances above your safety.’”

What have you accomplished so far?

I think my greatest accomplishment is, I believe, that my office is looking at each case as an individual case. We’re not looking at it as

numbers. We’re not looking at it as paperwork, but these are humans that we’re trying to make an individualized decision on, to do what’s best not only for that person but for the community as a whole. That’s a mindset. It really is, because it’s easy to say, ‘No, no, this is what we’re going to do, and we can just run through these cases very quickly.’ It takes more time, it takes more willpower, it takes more emotional investment to look at an individual case and say, ‘Yeah, I know that these are both burglaries, but we need to treat these different because of the impact on the community, because of the impact on the victim, because the actual sort of criminal mindset that’s involved.’ I think my office is doing an exceptional job of carrying out that mission. 

For the full interview, as Volkmer talks more about changes in how his office charges crimes, sentencing, challenges facing the County Attorney’s Office and what he wants to see happen during the rest of his term, see InMaricopa.com.

Diversion Program:

“About 2.5 percent of our felony cases are diverted and a bunch of our misdemeanor cases.”

Charging Crimes:

“What I discovered is my office was making these decisions often without the input of law enforcement, without the input of the people who are on the ground interacting with these people.”

Greatest Challenge:

“We are not mob rule. So, there is this delicate balance of trying to figure out what is really the thing that we should be doing for our community.”



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Know your Maricopa history in this year’s Speaker Series

By Raquel Hendrickson

To understand Arizona history, you have to learn about Italian explorer Eusebio Kino. A Jesuit priest, Father Kino traveled around much of 17th century Arizona, including the area that is now Maricopa, as well as California and Sonora. While he was establishing dozens of Catholic missions, he was often the first non-Native through some areas to provide descriptions of the land and people.

Author Barbara Jarquay returns to the Maricopa Historical Society to talk about Father Kino and his legacy, one of eight historians who will participate in the new 2019-20 Speaker Series. Other speakers’ topics range from POW camps in Pinal County to Maricopa’s archaeology and answer the big question: Why is Maricopa not in Mexico? The historical society’s vice president, Denny Hoeh, said the lineup may be even better than last year’s. The year will also include a new fundraising

dinner loaded with historical snippets, “Tales & Treasures.” Local archaeologist Aaron Wright is scheduled to start things off at the Oct. 7 meeting. The focus of his studies has been the Great Bend of the Gila River and what he calls its “very impressive array” of archaeological sites. For the historical society, he will talk about the basics of Maricopa’s archaeology. Hoeh said Wright’s award-winning work has disputed long-held beliefs about the source of some of the petroglyphs in southern

IF YOU GO

What: Maricopa Historical Society Speaker Series
When: First Saturdays, October-April, 5:30 p.m.
Where: Maricopa Public Library
How much: Free
Info: MHS50.com

Arizona, bringing the Patayan into the discussion. “He’s probably one of the national experts on the Patayan,” Hoeh said. Nov. 4, Doug Whitbeck and Michael Daehler are scheduled to talk about the natural history of Sonoran Desert National Monument.

“People don’t know the Sonoran Desert is one of the most diverse areas on the planet,” Hoeh said. Dec. 2, author Doug Hocking returns to talk about his new book coming out in October, “Terror on the Santa Fe Trail” about an Apache battle in the 1800s. Jaquay brings her new research in to Father Kino to the Jan. 6 meeting. Also a geographer, she last spoke to the society about the history of Arizona sheepherding. For Arizona, the Gadsden purchase of 1854 defined its current borders and placed what is now the city of Maricopa (not to mention Tucson and Yuma) into the United States. At the Feb. 3 meeting, historian Dan Judkins will explain how and why the crucial purchase came about. March 2, Gerald T. Ahnert will discuss the Overland Mail Company that left its mark on Maricopa. He worked on a bill now in Congress waiting to be approved to designate the Butterfield Trails as a national historic trail. A native New Yorker, he has had his work featured in True West magazine. “No Butterfield stage was ever held up by outlaws, and no one on his stages was ever killed during the company’s service on the Southern Overland Trail,” he wrote.



Kyle Norby

Denny Hoeh shares a peek at the written works of some of the participants in the upcoming Maricopa Historical Society Speaker Series.

“He’s not a young man, but he is so adventuresome,” Hoeh said. April 6, archivist Steve Hoza will wrap up the series with a talk about World War II prisoner-of-war camps in Pinal County. Hoeh said he even went to Germany to interview some of the former POWs and was a contributor to the History Channel’s “The Great Escapes of World War II.” This year, Maricopa Historical Society will forego its traditional golf-tournament fundraiser and instead launch a new event. “Tales & Treasures” is scheduled for Oct. 26, a catered dinner at Leading Edge Academy that will dish up plenty of folklore and antiques. The event is 3-6 p.m. and is \$40 for members and \$45 for nonmembers. Hoeh said the plan is to have local historians make the rounds during the meal, stopping at each table to share area history or at least the truth behind some tall tales. Funds raised go to the programs and projects of the society.

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Oct. 19

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City Hall

HALL

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HOW TO GET A JOB

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and get a free T-shirt!

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(520) 428-7750 or PBehnke@BeAwesomeYouth.life.

Getting
toKNOW

JUSTIN GREER
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY
SONORAN LIVING



Maricopan since: 2018; and 2011-2014

Hometown: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Family: Wife of 13 years, Rebecca; kids Carrie 10, Brigitte 7, Timothy 4, Holland 20 months

Pets: Mini Schnauzer named Stevie

Hobbies: College basketball referee

Like most about Maricopa: Small-town feel with great opportunity for growth

FAVORITE ...

Charity: Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness

Getaway: Montego Bay, Jamaica

Website: Justin-Greer.KW.com

Quote: "Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny" —Frank Outlaw

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

City of Maricopa Programs & Activities

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Fall 2019

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Drop-in Sports

Drop-in Sports are a great way to stay in shape and have fun!

Soccer - M & Th, 7-9 p. m.

Basketball - T & Th, 7-9 p. m.

Volleyball - W, 7-9 p. m.

\$5 Non-Members & FREE
for CS Members
Ages 16+



**Merry Copa
Holiday Festival!**

Friday Night Event!

Details on Page 8

New Copper Sky Extended Hours!

Starting Tuesday, September 3, 2019

Monday - Friday 5 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.



**GWR Swim
Program**

Details on
Page 6 & 8











**Fall Break
Camp**

Details on Page 3

"The Copper Sky Annual Membership really has helped our family not just stay active, but we are able to afford to do all the activities we want also!"
— JOSE S.

Copper Sky Annual Member Benefits

- 20% off all PLAY activities
- Free Parking and Fun Zone Activities at city special events
- Access to offsite programming
- 10 Free Buddy Passes
- Drop-in Sports
- Group Fitness Classes
- Senior Programming
- Referral Program

Household Type	20% Annual Income not more than...	40% Annual Income not more than...
	\$36,420	\$24,280
	\$49,380	\$32,920
	\$62,340	\$41,560
	\$75,300	\$50,200
	\$88,260	\$57,840
	\$101,220	\$67,480
	\$114,180	\$76,120
	\$127,140	\$84,760

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

With hundreds of people enrolled, the Copper Sky Discount Program has made it even more affordable for the community to stay healthy. Ask the Copper Sky front desk staff how you can save money!



@COMCSRC



Employee
Spotlight
**Alicia
Ryles**

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

I am the Recreation Service Specialist. I have had the pleasure of serving our community since Copper Sky opened almost six amazing years ago.

Q Why did you want to work at Copper Sky?

I wanted to work for Copper Sky before it was even built. I saw the potential and knew what a staple it would be for our community and wanted to be a part of the daily operations. Not to mention I LOVE people, so in my opinion this was a perfect fit.

Q What do you do for recreation or fun?

In my free time I love to play cornhole, swim, car karaoke, host game nights with friends, and travel with my husband and children.

Q What is your favorite book?

One of my all-time favorites is "The Diary of Anne Frank."

Q What is your favorite thing about this community?

I would have to say my favorite thing about our community is that I can go ANYWHERE in the city and know someone. It's a very warm and comforting feeling.



Employee
Spotlight
**Terri
Cross**

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

My background is all based on customer service, education and recreation. For the past 19 years, I have held positions as a specialist for City of Surprise, librarian for Desert Oasis Elementary, special education teacher for Cenpatico, and youth and education manager for the Salvation Army Kroc Center.

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

Maricopa is an up-and-coming city that I wanted to be part of. It is my background and passion that I bring to my position here at the City of Maricopa. I truly enjoy programming for the youth and teens. Camps and enrichment programs are my strength.

Q What do you do for recreation or fun?

For recreation and fun, I enjoy spending time with my husband Keith (of 29 years), our dogs Blackie, a white lab, and Destiny, a boxer. We enjoy bowling, going to sporting events and the movies.

Q What is your favorite book?

My favorite books include "The Great Gatsby" and "Great Expectations."

Q What is your favorite thing about this community?

The potential this community has for youth and teen programs. Maricopa is a growing community that I'm truly excited to be part of!

**COPA
TOTS**

NEW TOT PROGRAMS



Early Learning

Provides our littlist community members with the opportunity to learn, share and grow with their peers while focusing on kindergarten preparedness.



Little Cookers

Kids ages 5-12 will learn to make cooking fun, easy and delicious.



Sports

Teach your little ones the basics of soccer, t-ball, football, basketball and many more popular sports!



Youth Programs

This new team program is possible thanks to Global Water!



Fall Break Camp

All Day Fall Break Camp
7 a.m.-7 p.m. Limited Spots Available.
Week One, Sept. 30 – Oct. 4;
Week Two, Oct. 7 – Oct. 11

- Field trips
- Guest speakers
- Fun activities
- Educational crafts



Be the voice of the youth community and sign up for Youth Council! Application packets are available at Copper Sky.

Extended Hours

Starting Tuesday,
September 3, 2019
Monday - Friday 5 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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



Team Sports

Thank you, Heritage Academy, our first league sponsor for 2019 Summer Basketball League!

Fitness Copper Sky

Family Fitness

If you want to make fitness a family thing, we have amazing fitness classes for the entire family, including After School Fit Club, Commit, Family Boot Camp, Family Kick Boxing, Youth Yoga, Youth Bootcamp and Generation Pound.



Reserved & Advanced Classes

Take your training to the next level with our Advanced & Reserved Group Fitness Classes, including Group Personal Training, Pilates, Pound, Road Warrior and Stroops!



Adult Sand Volleyball

Fall Co-Ed. Adult Volleyball - 4 weeks of league play with single elimination tournament at end of season. Games will be played on Thursday evenings at Copper Sky Recreation Center Sand Volleyball Courts. Registration is from August 5th - September 6th. Season begins September 26th to November 7th with the end of the season tournament on November 14th.

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL / YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL WINTER SESSION

EARLY REGISTRATION
Sept. 16 - Oct. 20

REGULAR REGISTRATION
Oct. 21 - Nov. 2

PRACTICES BEGIN
Dec. 9

FLAG F. GAMES
Jan. 11 - Feb. 29

VOLLEYBALL GAMES
Jan. 18 - Feb. 29

ADULT SOFTBALL WINTER 5 WEEK SESSION

REGISTRATION (\$350)
Sept. 30 - Oct. 27

MEN'S MONDAY NIGHT GAMES BEGIN
Nov. 4 - Dec. 16

COED FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES BEGIN
Nov. 8 - Dec. 20

ADULT SOFTBALL 2020 WINTER SESSION

EARLY REGISTRATION (\$450.00)
Dec. 2 - Dec. 28

REGULAR REGISTRATION (\$475.00)
Dec. 29 - Jan. 5

MEN'S MONDAY NIGHT GAMES BEGIN
Jan. 13 - Mar. 9

COED FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES BEGIN
Jan. 17 - Mar. 6



Employee Spotlight Jodi Cox

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

My job at Copper Sky is a specialty instructor. I have been a specialty instructor for just shy of five years.

Q Why did you want to work for Copper Sky?

I wanted to work at Copper Sky because I enjoy giving back to our community through health and fitness.

Q What do you do for recreation or fun?

I spend my spare time camping, cooking and paddle boarding with my family.

Q What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is "Girl, Stop Apologizing" by Rachel Hollis.

Q What is your favorite thing about your community?

My favorite thing about our community is that we are such a great vision of past, present and future. Looking out the windows of the Copper Sky fitness studios is a great example. We can see the fields, train, our beautiful park where we raise our kids, and even the growth of the city around us.

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



Employee Spotlight Melissa Turner

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

My job specialty is customer service. I have worked in a retail environment for 25 years and have held various positions throughout the arts and crafts field. I also teach Crafty Creations (for adults) class and the Mad Art Lab (craft class for kids 8-12 years old). Both are on the first Thursday of the month.

Q Why did you want to work for the Library?

The reason I wanted to work for the library is the fact that I love to interact with people. I like to help people whether it's on the computers or helping them find a book. Working at the library is my dream job.

Q What do you do for recreation or fun?

For recreation or fun, I like to read, bake, swim and do crafts with my daughter. As a family we like to watch baseball and on occasion attend a Diamondbacks game.

Q What is your favorite book?

It's hard to pick a favorite book since I do read a lot. If I had to choose, it would be "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" by J.K. Rowling.

Q What is your favorite thing about this community?

I have lived in Maricopa since 2007. My husband and I moved here from Chandler and we love the small-town feel, but we are still close enough to the city to do activities.

Summer Reading Highlight

We are so impressed with the 1,238 kids who participated in the Summer Reading Program this year. These kids read a total of 607,161 minutes which is the equivalent of 422 days — that is more than a whole year of reading! Thank you, sponsors!



Crafty Creations This program meets the first Thursday of every month at 11 a.m. when we create one-of-a-kind craft. All are welcome.



Mad Art Lab Kids experiment with technology and art to create fantastic creations of their own. From photography to painting, there is something for everyone. First and Third Thursdays of each month 5-6:30 p.m.



Color Me Calm We invite adults to relax and unleash their creativity in this weekly program. Adults enjoy coloring too! All materials are provided. Thursdays at 9 a.m.



Crafts for Teens This program will meet the second, third, and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 5 p.m. Teens are invited to make one-of-a-kind craft. Novice to experienced teens are welcome to attend.

GWR Swim Program



City of Maricopa partnered with Global Water to launch the first community water safety and swim lessons program with MUSD.
Details on Page 8



Swim Lessons

The fall is a great time of year to take swim lessons and learn water safety from our certified staff at Copper Sky.

FALL POOL HOURS

Sept. 3 – Nov. 2

Monday-Friday
5-6:30 a.m.
(Lap swim only)

10:30-2 p.m.
(Comp Pool & Splash Pad)

5:30-8:30 p.m.
(Comp Pool & Splash Pad)
*starting Nov. 3
(Comp Pool & Splash Pad)
will open at 4 p.m.

Saturday
7:30-11 a.m.
(Lap swim only)

11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
(Comp Pool & Splash Pad)

Sunday
11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
(Comp Pool & Splash Pad)

*The Splash Pad will be
turned on by request
during the Fall and
Winter season.*



Lunch and Learns

Join us the third Friday each month for our lunch-and-learn sessions. Lunch is \$5.00. Beginning at 11 a.m.



Senior Expo

Fifth annual Senior Info/Expo will be held Jan. 25, 2020, at Copper Sky Recreation Complex, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Senior Info/Expo will feature a variety of exhibitor tables offering a wide range of services and resources to seniors and caregivers as well as workshops.



Coffee and Doughnuts

Every Tuesday, from 1-4 p.m. join us at Copper Sky Room A for Coffee and Doughnuts. Come socialize, make new friends, play games and enjoy an afternoon snack. FREE

Medicare 101

Join us for refreshments and a learning session presented by Kimberly Ashley with Allwell in Medicare 101 Thursday, Sept. 5! Copper Sky Room A from 1-3 p.m. Register online today as seating is limited.



New Senior Trips

Join us for day trips this fall to Sedona and many more places closer to home like the Farm at South Mountain. Check our activity page for dates, times and registration information.

AquaFit

Our AquaFit programs are a great way to get in shape and enjoy the water. Come join us this fall!



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



Merry Copa

Join us for another great holiday tradition: 2019 Merry Copa Holiday Festival Copper Sky Park — Friday, Dec. 6, 6 p.m.

Some exciting attractions at 2019 Merry Copa Holiday Festival before the traditional tree lighting and epic fireworks display:

- Fruitcake-eating contest
- Hay rides
- Holiday carolers
- Hot-air balloon glow display
- Ice rink (synthetic ice)
- Improved snow sled hill
- Ornament decorating
- Much more!

Double the snow!

6 December

GWR Swim Program

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

The partnership has provided funding for free lessons to MUSD students as a part of school and after-school programming. The goal is to ensure each student is assessed and if necessary, receives free water-safety lessons prior to completing third grade. This program has started with great success with over 100 children participating.

Funding comes as a part of a \$55,000 commitment made by Global Water to support this and other programs in our community. We are ecstatic to bring this potentially lifesaving program to our City with the help of Global Water Resources.

Special thanks to Ron Fleming, Jon Corwin, Beth Huerta and the rest of the Global Water Team!



5th Quarters

New teen program designed to give Youth a cool place to hang out after home football games.

- Activities
- Dancing
- Entertainment
- Food
- Fun

Another great program funded by Global Water.



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4

1. Maricopa High School swimmers started practice in August at Copper Sky Aquatics Center. *Victor Moreno*
2. MHS and Central Arizona College students and community members turned out for the opening of CAC Connects in the high school. *Raquel Hendrickson*
3. MHS Boosters hosted its first MHS Rams Experience as a fun-and-games fundraiser for the football program. *Victor Moreno*
4. Nara Lesperance won the sub-regional of Drive, Chip & Putt in Tucson to earn a spot in the regional in California. *Submitted*
5. MHS football players heard from coaches and officials ahead of opening their year with a home scrimmage against Notre Dame. *Victor Moreno*
6. Family, friends and school staff set off to the tees in the annual MHS Football Golf Tournament, this year at The Duke at Rancho El Dorado. *Raquel Hendrickson*



5



6

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- Purchase additional buses to transport students
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What a way to spend a summer vacation

By Bernadette Russoniello

Summer is usually the time for students (and teachers) to take a much-deserved break from work and studies. Families frequently travel; reunions and family barbecues dominate the schedule. For these Maricopa High School students, academic experiences and application-based learning dominated the short summer break.

FREYA ABRAHAM Senior
Program: TGen BioScience Leadership Academy*
Location: TGen Institute, Phoenix
Length: Two weeks, business work days
Size: 20 students
Focus: Broaden understanding of bioscience field and connections to the medical community, patients and medical data/research
Highlight: Shadowing researchers and laboratory directors; bioscience



Bernadette Russoniello
** Freya also participated in the Future Health Leaders of Arizona and Arizona Girls State*

incubation lab for biomedical entrepreneurs; visiting PhoneixNAP, host of supercomputers for the area
Insight: Inspiring experience at the Center for Rare Childhood Disorders, learning first-hand the power and impact of genetic sequencing to identify rare conditions and helping patients/doctors get immediate help and support
Achievements: Awarded Outstanding Student, class-elected speaker

AIREN FORTUNATO Junior
Program: Future Health Leaders of Arizona
Location: Arizona State University's downtown campus
Length: 1 week, overnight stay in dormitories
Size: 40 students
Focus: Learning about health careers, experiential activities, college admissions,

sports medicine and food science
Highlight: Touring facilities including SimLabs
Insight: There are so many career fields within medicine; be open to options. There's plenty of time. You don't need to have it all worked out at this moment.

MADYSON HAMPSON Senior
Program: Project Puente
Location: University of Arizona Agricultural Center, Maricopa Center
Length: Eight weeks, business work days
Size: 25 students
Focus: Evaluating data from the EPA for pesticide usage
Highlight: Real work, lab-based research, earning three college credits and a small stipend; working side-by-side with scientists and researchers
Insight: There's so much more to agriculture than tractors and farms.

BREANNA FITCH Senior
Program: MedStart
Location: University of Arizona
Length: Six weeks, overnight in dormitories
Size: 50 students (400 applicants)
Focus: Learn about medical careers, receive basic first aid, CPR and medical training including suturing
Highlight: Presentations from medical professionals, toured multiple state universities, participated in hospital observations
Insight: Inspired my personal plan and provided direction for college and career
Achievement: Recognized as Most Determined Writer

SAIGE HORSELY Senior
Program: National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine
Location: University of California-Berkeley
Length: Nine days, overnight in dormitories
Size: 100 students
Focus: Exposure to medical careers and fields
Highlight: Speakers, surgical observations, EMT training, wilderness survival
Insight: Reinforced medical career interest, expanded field of work consideration, provided quality contacts and networking
Achievement: Outstanding EMT award

ANGELLO GIANNI HERNANDEZ-DE LA PENA Senior
Program: Summer Academy for Math and Science
Location: Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
Length: Six weeks, overnight in dormitories
Size: 130 students
Focus: College level coursework delivered through summer experience at top-tier university; Computer Science, Calculus I, Game Development and SAT Prep
Highlight: Speakers from the university system, earn college credits at Carnegie Mellon, tips and benefits to college admissions process, free
Insight: Cemented interest in computer science as both a college major and career choice
Achievement: 10 college credits from Carnegie Mellon University

AYLLEEN ALVAREZ Senior
Program: Arizona Girls State
Location: University of Arizona
Length: One week, overnight in dormitories
Size: 300 female students
Focus: Women in politics, government, legislation and policy
Highlight: Speakers; develop a business, city and county; provide leadership, justice and decision-making
Insight: Great experience but reinforced that politics was *not* for me
Achievement: Best Store in County

YASMEEN HANANIA AND DANIELA ROMERO Seniors
Program: WP Carey Fleischer's Scholars Program
Location: Arizona State University
Length: Seven days, overnight in dormitories
Size: 30 students
Focus: Exposure to business and entrepreneurship
Highlight: Met Mort Fleischer (billionaire businessman), innovate an original idea and pitch to investors
Student Insight: Navigating college admissions, scholarship opportunities, applied learning and networking opportunities

Bernadette Russoniello is the Maricopa High School College and Career coordinator.

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Ideas for ‘free’ college education

By Murray Siegel

The cost of a college education has skyrocketed. In-state tuition at ASU for 2005-06 was \$4,407; last year that bill was \$10,822, a 146-percent increase. The explosive increase in college tuition has placed a financial burden on many families. Students borrow money for college, resulting in current college-loan debt exceeding the total American credit card debt. Some politicians have declared that if elected they will provide free education at a public university for all, paid for by the federal government. Some Americans are troubled by this offer, since a reasonable source of funding has not been provided, and there are fears that, given a free education, many students will not exert themselves in the classroom. My August column demonstrated there are two existing methods for obtaining a free college education paid for by the federal government — the GI Bill and ROTC scholarships. The question was asked, “What


about students who are unable or unwilling to serve in the military?” What follows are not final proposals, simply places where the conversation can start. A Federal Work Force (FWF) could be formed where young Americans can provide needed labor in such areas as fire prevention in forests, flood prevention, clearing decaying neighborhoods, transforming vacant urban lots into community parks and serving as teachers’ aides in underfunded school districts. FWF participants would serve a minimum of two years (including training) and a maximum of four years. For each year served the participant will have a year of tuition, fees and required materials paid for at any public university by the federal government. The second proposal would identify college majors that are desperately needed for specific jobs, such as highly qualified math and science teachers, teachers of any subject and grade level in rural or inner-city schools, registered nurses

at rural hospitals, computer scientists willing to work for municipal governments and urban planners. An applicant who signs a contract to enter an approved academic program and who agrees to seek specifically defined employment for four years upon graduation would have all tuition, fees and required materials paid for at any public university that has an approved academic program. Should such a student drop out of school or not obtain approved employment, the contract will be considered violated, and all funds paid by the federal government will be converted into a loan with payments beginning three months after the contract is violated. Failure to make these payments will result in that person being unable to be hired by any federal agency or receive payments from any federal program. Both these programs need to be fleshed out by experts, but this seems to be a worthwhile place to start. What do you think?  See column at [InMaricopa.com](#) or [Facebook.com/InMaricopa](#) to provide your two cents. Murray Siegel, Ph.D., has 44 years of experience teaching mathematics. He is in his fifth year as a volunteer at Butterfield Elementary School.



Murray Siegel



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Solving foot problems helps whole body

Q&A with Dr. C. Jon Beecroft, Maricopa Foot and Ankle

Maricopa Foot and Ankle Center was opened in 2007 and since then, we have taken care of thousands of patients from Maricopa and the surrounding areas. Dr. C. Jon Beecroft, Dr. Alex Stewart, and Dr. Kelvin Crezee have all been part of this amazing team and continue to provide excellent care and make your visit as convenient as possible with in-house X-rays, 3-D CT scans, and Ultrasound Visualization to help diagnose foot and ankle pathologies. Over the years, clients have asked many questions and we thought we would share a little insight.

injuries, arthritis, ingrown nails, fractures, and diabetic complications. We also treat skin problems such as skin cancers, wounds and infections, and warts. We work closely with your primary care physician and other doctors to make sure your overall care is well balanced.

Q Why did you become a podiatrist, and do you like what you do?

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Q What is a podiatrist?

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High schools launch fall sports season

Photos by Victor Moreno



FOOTBALL

MHS plays hard, fast against tough foes

There is no off-season for Maricopa High School football; just out-of-season. That’s where head coach Brandon Harris has tracked improvement in the players coming back from a team that was 5-6 and qualified for state play from the tough 5A San Tan.

“Summer was good for us,” Harris said. “We participated in a lot of 7-on-7 tournaments. It was nice. We came home and won the whole tournament here at Copper Sky.”

Out-of-season he had them working on speed and agility, skills and drills. Some players migrated to track and field to stay in shape.

“Seven-on-7 isn’t football; I say that all the time,” Harris said, “but it gives you an indication of how you match up skill-wise



MHS varsity football coach
Brandon Harris

with other teams in the state. I think we match up really well this year, more so than we did last year. We’ve got weapons everywhere.”

Neill likes the direction the program is headed.

“We’re just getting compliments on how hard we play, in talking with football coaches who maybe didn’t expect the game they got from us,” Athletic Director Jake Neill said. “That’s a credit to the kids and coach Harris and his coaching staff. The consensus is that if a team is going to get a win [against MHS], it’s going to be a tough one.”

The 7-on-7 participation told the most about the growth of senior quarterback Daxton Redfern.

“We realized how good he was when we went down to U of A in Tucson,” Harris said. “He’s grown exponentially. He knows our offense really well.”

In that 7-on-7 tournament, Redfern threw 42 touchdowns in 13 games against one interception. Coming up behind him is



Ram senior Daxton Redfern

sophomore Merhauti Xepera, who is a tight end when not quarterbacking. “He’s a big kid, an athletic kid,” Harris said. “He’s going to be the future.”

Other expected standouts include junior Mister Chavis, Ilijah Johnson, Tylek Mooney, Steven Forrester, Anthony Valenzuela, Hunter Taylor and Bryan Pick, among other Rams who want to make a name for themselves.

“We’ll be fast. We’re always going to be fast here, explosive, resilient, family, very close team this year,” Harris said. “We got into the playoffs. Now the next step is to win some games in the playoffs, which is what I’m used to doing. That’s the goal. We think we have a really good chance of doing that.”

MHS	
Sept. 6.....	7 p.m. vs. Apollo
Sept. 13	7 p.m. vs. South Mountain (Homecoming)
Sept. 20	7 p.m. at Central
Sept. 27.....	7 p.m. at Higley
Oct. 4.....	7 p.m. vs. Campo Verde
Oct. 18	7 p.m. vs. Williams Field (Senior Night)
Oct. 25	7 p.m. at Casteel
Nov. 1.....	7 p.m. at Gilbert



Sequoia Pathway varsity football coach
Donnie Margerum

Sequoia Pathway get new coach for growing program

Sequoia Pathway Academy has a new varsity football coach, but he’s no stranger to football in Maricopa. Donnie Margerum moves across town from MHS’s freshman team.

“This year, with Coach Donnie, it’s creating a new culture,” said Glen Hale, the school’s athletic director. “He came in with a new system. He also has another assistant coach from MHS, Corey Nelson.”



Puma senior Jacob McIntyre

The Pumas grew from eight-man to 11-man football a couple of seasons ago, and this year are joined by more charter school teams in the Open division of the Canyon Athletic Association. In 2018 they finished third with a 4-3 record, but football didn’t end with the season.

“I’ve been saying, just taking it to the next level of play and playing throughout the season instead of just coming in through the season,” Hale said. “Now we’re moving to where it’s year-round and giving our kids opportunities to travel to places and compete against higher competition.”

Returning seniors include Shane Miller, Gavin Buchberger, Jacob McIntyre, Ajani Elliot and Patrick Lisby. The high school team has grown to 35 players.

“We had to go get more helmets and equipment, which is a good thing.”

Sequoia Pathway	
Sept. 6.....	7 p.m. vs. South Pointe
Sept. 19	6:15 p.m. at Canyon State Academy
Sept. 27.....	7 p.m. vs. San Tan Charter
Oct. 4.....	7 p.m. vs ASU Prep
Oct. 11.....	7 p.m. at South Pointe
Oct. 18	7 p.m. at San Tan Charter
Oct. 25	7 p.m. at ASU Prep

VOLLEYBALL

MHS trying to restore self-confidence

The Rams are trying to rebuild a team after a haphazard volleyball season in AIA 5A.

Returning as head coach for MHS varsity is Theresa Abernathy, who is also an instructor at Copper Sky. She is trying to overhaul a team that was 2-20 last season.

“We are completely going to start fresh,” Abernathy said. “We’re building the program from the ground up.”

Expected returning players include juniors Shakira Gillespie, Brooke Smith and Ashley Brown along with senior Tayler Riley-Coleman. But it looks to be a young team.

“They have improved an awful lot,” Abernathy said. “They listen to what I’m saying, and they seem to like each other.”

After the discouragement of 2018, she said they need to restore their self-confidence. She is encouraging more year-round play. In today’s volleyball climate, it is difficult for players who only play during the high school year to compete against those who participate in clubs.



Ram sophomore Shakira Gillepie

“They need to believe they can win and be competitive with every team,” she said. “They need to be a team.”

MHS

Sept. 3.....	6 p.m. at Camelback
Sept. 4.....	6 p.m. vs. Fairfax
Sept. 5.....	6 p.m. vs. Verrado
Sept. 10.....	6 p.m. at Paradise Valley
Sept. 12.....	6 p.m. vs. North Canyon
Sept. 16.....	6 p.m. at Campo Verde
Sept. 17.....	6 p.m. vs. Ironwood
Sept. 24.....	6 p.m. at Williams Field
Sept. 25.....	6 p.m. at Centennial
Sept. 26.....	6 p.m. at Higley
Oct. 1.....	6 p.m. vs. Casteel
Oct. 3.....	6 p.m. vs. Gilbert
Oct. 15.....	6 p.m. vs. Campo Verde
Oct. 17.....	6 p.m. vs. Williams Field
Oct. 22.....	6 p.m. vs. Higley (Senior Night)
Oct. 24.....	6 p.m. at Casteel
Oct. 29.....	6 p.m. at Gilbert

Sequoia Pathway works to improve on remarkable year

Pathway wants to build off a hot year that saw them reach the Final Four in Canyon Athletic Association’s Division II, and has had a strong turnout of players. Varsity coach LaShieka Holley is keeping nine, while there are 16 in junior varsity, and 42 came out for junior high.

“I’m asking all the coaches from varsity to reach down into the elementary level, to reach



Puma senior Lynniece Andrews

down into the middle school level, so we’re not just working on one program; we’re building as a whole,” Hale said. “She’s done a really good job with that. She’s actually the coach of the junior high, too. It’s been good to see how that transition is happening with the girls, and how they’re just growing.”

Puma captains are Lynniece Andrews and Mikayla Gallon, returning from the team that was undefeated in the regular season.

“This summer they went to an ASU camp. That was amazing,” Hale said. “Once again, they competed against AIA schools. Some were state champions, so they got that experience of playing with top-level competition. That’s where we are heading as an athletic program. We want to play people that are better than us so we can get better.”

Sequoia Pathway

Sept. 3.....	6 p.m. at Heritage-Gateway
Sept. 5.....	7 p.m. vs. Imagine-Coolidge
Sept. 11.....	5:30 p.m. at Sequoia Charter
Sept. 12.....	7 p.m. vs. Mission Heights
Sept. 17.....	4 p.m. at Imagine-Coolidge
Sept. 19.....	7 p.m. vs. EVAC
Sept. 24.....	6:30 p.m. at Mission Heights
Sept. 26.....	7 p.m. vs. Heritage-Mesa
Oct. 1.....	4 p.m. at South Ridg.
Oct. 3.....	7 p.m. vs. Desert Heights

SWIMMING

MHS dives into 2nd swimming season

Coming off a rookie season in AIA competition, the MHS swimming team has about 30 returning swimmers and around 45 overall.

“We lost some to the new high school (Heritage Academy), but we have a lot of freshmen coming back from last year,” coach Laura Logan said.

She said having a year under their belts is allowing her to coach more instead of just teaching the basics of swimming as much as she did in 2018.

“They have a base of knowledge that they can build on,” Logan said. “We had so many kids with no experience whatsoever.”

She expects her team leaders to again be Olivia Byers, now a junior, and Connor Schrader, a sophomore. The four seniors are Jose Perez Barraza, Kian Carroll, Jacob Davis and Eva Zavala. There are a few more boys than girls participating.

The team includes 16 sophomores and 14 freshmen.

A team goal is to get swimmers qualified for state competition and show the more established swim programs “what Maricopa is becoming.”

The Rams compete in AIA Division II.



Ram seniors Kian Carroll and Eva Zavala



The MHS swim team has grown to more than 40 swimmers this season.

Sept. 5.....	4 p.m. at Apache Junction
Sept. 12.....	4 p.m. at Copper Sky
Sept. 24.....	4 p.m. at Saguaro
Oct. 3.....	4 p.m. at Copper Sky
Oct. 10.....	4 p.m. at Copper Sky
Oct. 17.....	4 p.m. at Copper Sky
Oct. 23.....	9:30 a.m. at Apache Junction
Nov. 2-3.....	TBA State Championship

CROSS COUNTRY

MHS finding new motivation

MHS cross country is recuperating from a difficult year that saw flagging motivation on the boys’ team and not even a full team on the girls’ side.

“Right now, we’re definitely rebuilding,” coach Heather Abel said. “I think we’re looking at a better situation than we were last season, where we were real small and didn’t see a lot of commitment from kids who should have been committed. That seems like it’s changing this year.”

She bases those hopes on the initiative she sees runners taking for themselves and their teammates.

Abel considers this year’s leaders to be Giovanni Fentes, Quinton Stapleton and Zanaa Ramirez.

“Quinton’s really dedicating himself this year,” she said. “They live in San Tan Valley now, so he’s commuting like I am every day and



Ram seniors Quinton Stapleton and Zanaa Ramirez

coming to practice every day.”

Ramirez, meanwhile, is a member of the West Coast Striders, a club team based in Maricopa and coached by Corey Nelson. She qualified for the 800-meter run in the Hershey’s Junior Olympics National Championship in Sacramento in July.

Abel sees that level of competition giving Ramirez newfound confidence on the 5K course for cross country. Though literally miles apart, both events take a lot of mental toughness and physical endurance.

To grow the boys’ team, she has been encouraging athletes in other sports to run cross country to stay in shape between their seasons. Wrestlers have been doing just that. Freshman boys are also turning out.

Her goal is to get her runners in good shoes and keep them hydrated and healthy and they come to understand pack strategy while running not just for themselves but for the team.

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“What they’re doing is really hard, and they don’t get a lot of recognition for what they’re doing,” Abel said. “Most people won’t do this because it’s hard.”

Sept. 4.....	4:30 p.m. at Vista Grande
Sept. 7.....	7 a.m. at Chandler Invite
Sept. 14	7 a.m. at Fountain Hills Invitational
Sept. 14	7:30 a.m. at Ojo Rojo Invitational
Sept. 27.....	TBA Nike Desert Twilight
Oct. 12.....	TBA O’Connor Invitational
Oct. 26	TBA Eye of the Tiger Invite
Nov. 8	TBA State Sectionals

BOYS’ SOCCER

Sequoia Pathway wants to bounce back

The Sequoia Pathway boys struggled last fall, posting a 2-8 record. This year, the school took advantage of the opportunity to play more out-of-season soccer to improve.

Coach Juan Garavito is “real excited about this year, being able to work through summer and just being able to work with the kids outside of school,” Hale said. “I’m looking for definitely this year seeing improvement. I think it’s only up from there.”

The team is returning a couple of players from last year’s squad — Anthony Saldana and Tyler Kientzler — and are a little fewer in number. They play home games at Pacana Park.

“We did a summer program,” Hale said. “A major focus of ours is to start early and build that program. It’s always been, ‘Are you honing your craft?’”



Puma senior Tyler Kientzler

Sept. 2.....	5 p.m. vs. Mission Heights Prep
Sept. 5	4:30 p.m. at Mission Heights Prep
Sept. 11.....	6:15 p.m. at BASIS-Chandler
Sept. 23	4 p.m. vs. Heritage-Gateway
Sept. 25	4 p.m. vs. Sequoia Charter
Oct. 1	4 p.m. vs. Canyon State
Oct. 15.....	4:30 p.m. at ASU Prep Polytechnic

BOYS’ GOLF

Division I Yuma

MHS	
Sept. 3.....	2 p.m. at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes
Sept. 10	3:30 p.m. at Arcadia
Sept. 12	3:30 p.m. at Tempe
Sept. 17	3 p.m. at Westwood
Sept. 24	3:30 p.m. at Ocotillo Golf Course
Oct. 1	2 p.m. at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes
Oct. 15	3 p.m. at McCormick Ranch Golf Course

GIRLS’ GOLF

Developmental

MHS	
Sept. 4.....	3 p.m. at Western Skies Golf Club
Sept. 12	3 p.m. at Las Colinas Golf Course
Sept. 16	2 p.m. at Marcos de Niza
Sept. 18	3 p.m. at Granite Falls South Course
Sept. 25	3 p.m. at Apache Junction
Sept. 30	3 p.m. at Apache Creek Golf Course
Oct. 2	2 p.m. at The Duke at Rancho El Dorado
Oct. 4.....	1 p.m. at Girls Golf Developmental Invitational — Encanto 9



Ram Karson Collazo

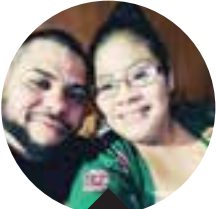
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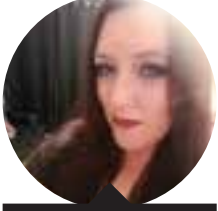
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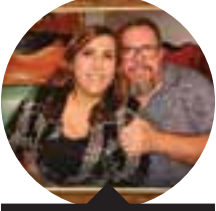
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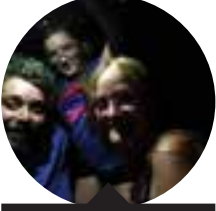
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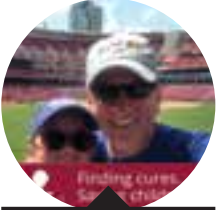
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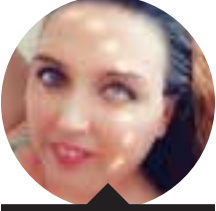
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Celebrating 15 Years

Wildlife thrive in ‘gentle giants of the Sonoran Desert’

By Harriet Phelps

The of the gentle giants of the Sonoran Desert stand in our backyards, along the highways and areas all around us. They are a wonder in our region. Carnegiea gigantea grows in Arizona on the Sonoran Desert or Great Basin Desert and nowhere else in the world.

The name saguaro is from the Spanish meaning large cactus with arms. The white nocturnal blossoms of the saguaro are the Arizona State Wildflower.

Characteristics of the saguaro are its height and width, growing to 30-by-10 feet or more. Foliage and texture are coarse with green pleats, spines and evergreen. The



Harriet Phelps

plant grows in full sun. Birds help the placement of the saguaro by depositing seeds under “nurse” palo verde, ironwood or mesquite trees where they grow until competition for water and nutrients kills off the nurse tree.

The plant is slow growing and is considered adult by 125 years. In 50



Submitted

A woodpecker hangs out among saguaro blossoms, Arizona’s state flower. The saguaro is a common home for woodpeckers, cactus wrens and other fowl.

to 70 years the first branches or arms appear, and, with lower precipitation, it could be 100 years. By 70 years it has reached six and a half feet and produced its first flowering. In 95 to 100 years it reaches 15 to 16 feet.

Saguaros are protected in Arizona under special laws found at Agriculture.AZ.gov. Harming one is illegal; moving one requires a special permit. The plant is a virtual ecological hotel housing cactus wrens (the state bird), Gila woodpecker and other wildlife. It has furnished food and structure to the local tribes for centuries.

The Tohono O’odham hold the plant as an honored relative that sustains them both spiritually and physically. Mythology says one saguaro created one woman, who sank deep into the earth and rose with giant cactus arms. Once a year she dresses up with striking white flowers in her hair and bears crimson fruit called bahidaj in their language.

Before moving to Maricopa, Harriet Phelps was a master gardener in Illinois.



Pros, cons of renting out your home

By Dayv Morgan

Many homeowners in Maricopa have considered keeping their home as a rental property or buying a second home as an investment.

The ideal situation is to own property that more than pays for itself. This will give you extra income when you are retired or between jobs. But even if you just break even, you are building equity as the market increases.

If you have a second home that sits vacant most of the year, you may want to consider leasing it as a vacation rental. Your house would be under the eye of someone with a vested interest in keeping it free of insects, rodents and other invaders and you will quickly know when there has been weather or criminal damage. Check with your HOA to see if there are any restrictions with short-term rentals.

Although becoming a landlord has its advantages, there are some disadvantages that should be weighed carefully.



Dayv Morgan

Each time a tenant moves out there will be cleaning, maintenance and repair costs. A security deposit averages one month’s rent amount. If you have to replace damaged carpet and repaint the interior it will probably cost three to five times that amount, leaving you with a significant shortfall to cover.

Tenants inevitably cause more wear and tear on your property. As the owner, you are also responsible for ongoing repairs, such as the HVAC system. It’s common to see the air filters go unchanged for the entire 12 months of the lease. This puts extra stress on the system and shortens the lifespan, with potential repairs costing thousands of dollars.

Beyond maintenance costs, you must also budget for insurance, legal fees, advertising or leasing fees, accounting, and possibly a property manager. If you are able to manage the property yourself, that will save you some monthly expense, but owners often live far from their rentals and cannot visit the property often enough.

At some point, you will likely have bad renters. They may lie on their application about their employment or the number of occupants. They may ignore stipulations in your contract such as not having pets. They may cause serious damage to your home and walk away. They may cause you headaches or fines with your HOA. They may simply not pay their rent. The eviction process will cost you additional time and money.

Before renting, take your time to figure out the worth of your home and whether renting or selling is in your best, long-term interest. Putting your property into the hands of others can be stressful, but it can also be a great source of supplemental income, and hiring a property manager will help the process to go much smoother.

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

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ACCREDITED BUSINESS

MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD



Kyle Norby

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

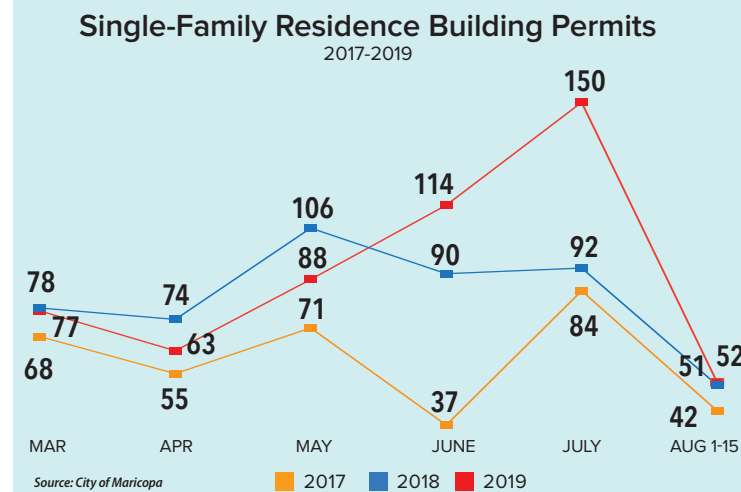
1. 44563 W. Venture Lane, Cobblestone Farms

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa from July 16 through August 15 was a rare basement home with spacious master suite on main floor and a movie theater and two bedrooms on the bottom floor. With TLC needed in the backyard, it sold for \$6,000 under its asking price. Though 14 years old, the home came with new carpet, new paint and a new water heater.

Sold: July 30
Purchase price: \$351,000
Square footage: 3,866
Price per square foot: \$90.79
Days on market: 140
Builder: Fulton
Year built: 2005
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 3
Community: Cobblestone Farms

Features: Basement, gourmet kitchen, stainless steel appliances, split floor plan, main level bedroom with separate exit, three-car garage
Listing agent: George M. Haith, Coldwell Banker
Selling agent: Lori B. Hodgen, AZ Lane Realty

2. 41911 W. Lucera Lane, Glennwilde.....	\$336,500
3. 42336 W. Bravo Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....	\$324,900
4. 42482 W. Almira Drive, Glennwilde.....	\$315,500
5. 41182 W. Robbins Drive, Homestead North.....	\$305,000



Kyle Norby

LEAST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD

1. 36034 W. Marin Ave., Tortosa

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa from July 16 through Aug. 15 is a mission-style, three-bedroom house in Parcel 12 of Tortosa. With some aesthetic work still needed inside and out, its price tag dropped from \$209,900 to \$199,900 before finally settling for a best offer.

Sold: Aug. 9
Purchase price: \$145,000
Square footage: 2,124
Price per square foot: \$68.26
Days on market: 56
Builder: Unknown
Year built: 2007
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2
Community: Tortosa
Features: Full master suite, two-car garage, RV gate, desert landscaping, tile throughout, unique floorplan
Listing agent: Ryan Gerdes, West USA Realty
Selling agent: David E. James, Tru Realty

2. 43682 W. Elm Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....	\$169,900
3. 46025 W. Sheridan Road, Maricopa.....	\$170,000
4. 20358 N. MacNeil St., Homestead North.....	\$175,000
5. 36113 W. Vera Cruz Drive, Tortosa.....	\$175,000

Homebuilding permits at pre-recession rates

By Raquel Hendrickson

The number of single-family residential homebuilding permits approved in July 2019 totaled 150, according to the City of Maricopa Development Services Department.

With D.R. Horton Construction building in Tortosa and Rancho Mirage Estates, Meritage Homes in Homestead South and Province, and Richmond American in Palo Brea, Maricopa has returned to pre-recession levels of home permit requests.

Combined, 10 homebuilders received 150 single-family residential (SFR) permits in July, the highest monthly total since October 2007. The total projects are valued at \$37 million.

DRH accounted for 60 of those homebuilding permits, according to city records. The builder is quickly filling in streets in north and south Tortosa. Richmond,

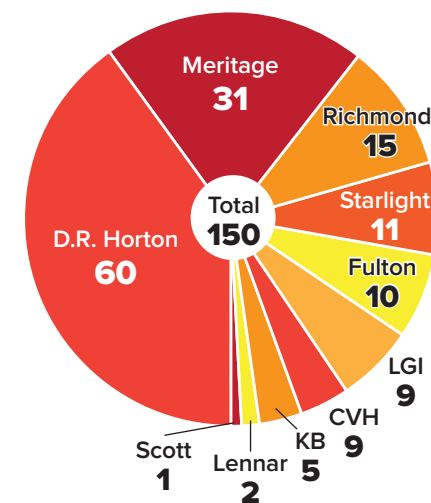
meanwhile, has rebooted the once-stagnant development of Palo Brea, and KB Home has lots in Homestead.

Starlight Homes and Scott Homes are both building in Sorrento. Fulton Homes continues construction in Glennwilde. LGI Homes is in Rancho Mirage, Costa Verde Homes is in Santa Rosa Springs, and Lennar is prepping more lots in Alterra.

According to the City of Maricopa, the July total tops the entire year of 2011, when only 110 homebuilding permits were issued.

"The amount of SFR permits coming in is astonishing," permit technician Isela Hernandez said in a City release. "Maricopa is a great place to live and raise a family, and with all these new homes in development it seems the secret is out."

PERMITS PER HOMEBUILDER July 2019



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Is it time for a geriatrician?

By Joan Koczor

A geriatrician is an expert in the branch of medicine or social science dealing with the health care of elderly people by prevention and treating diseases and disabilities in older adults.

Geriatric physicians are primary-care doctors specially trained in the aging process. They evaluate your past illnesses and your current health condition to provide a healthy-aging plan that may include medical care, counseling and treatment.

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) suggests a geriatrician be consulted when:

- Significant age-related frailty and impairment occur, which is more likely in older people who have multiple diseases, disabilities or mental problems.
- The patient's condition is causing the caregiving team, including family and

friends, to feel significant stress and strain.

You may also be experiencing:

Confusion or memory loss.

- Problems related to the use of multiple medications, including dizziness or falls.
- Balance and walking problems.
- Depression or anxiety.
- Difficulty performing every day activities like bathing, dressing or eating.
- Other age-related ailments.

It may be time to consult your primary-care doctor. He or she may determine if a qualified geriatrician is necessary and can make a referral.

As with any health care professional you may consider choosing for your medical needs, you need to ask specific questions.



Joan Koczor

- What is the doctor's background, including years of experience?
- Are the office hours and policies acceptable?
- Is the doctor covered under your health care plan?
- Do you feel comfortable talking with the doctor?

Good communication is vital to taking care of your health as you age. Make quality, well-informed decisions about your health care. Talk to your family or caregiver about health problems you may be having. Discuss your concerns with your primary-care doctor. By reaching out to medical professionals you can achieve the best possible outcome and independence.

Joan Koczor is a senior advocate and is on the advisory board for Maricopa Seniors, Inc.

Preparing a will is easy, free in Maricopa

By Bob Marsh

According to AARP, more than 60 percent of Americans die without a will. For them, the burden of deciding what to do with their remains, property and personal effects falls on the government. That's probably not always in the best interests of your spouse and family.

For Maricopa seniors, preparing a will is easy and free. For Pinal County residents 60 and older, the Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens (PGCSC) has volunteer legal professionals who can prepare your will and other critical documents at no cost.

PGCSC's qualified legal professionals can help you with:

- Wills determining how you want your

personal property handled.

- Living wills electing what treatment you want when you are terminally ill.
- Power of attorney (medical and mental health) identifying who you want to make your medical decisions if you are incapable of doing so.

On the PGCSC website, you can also learn about what the Arizona Attorney General has published for people to use to prepare their power-of-attorney documents, including forms and explanations that can help you make the right end-of-life decisions for yourself that impact



Bob Marsh

your family.

Most people leave all their property and decision-making responsibilities to their

spouse or partner, and if they are not survived by their spouse or partner, they leave their property to their children or siblings and assign decision-making responsibility to a trusted family member and a backup person. Be sure to discuss your wishes in advance with your spouse and others you want to assign responsibility to.

We contacted PGCSC and went through the whole process this summer. It took just a couple weeks, start to finish, with only an hour or so of our time discussing our decisions and filling out the easy forms they provided. When PGCSC sent us the finished legal documents, we checked them carefully and took them to our insurance agent's office where they notarized each document. Now the whole packet is locked in a safe where it can be accessed by family when we die.

Check out the PGCSC resources and prepare your will.

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PGCSC.org

Bob Marsh is director of the Maricopa Senior Coalition.



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– Stacy Paprocki, 2nd Grade Parent

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Sept
6

Submitted

Stay ‘up all night’ with Great White, Slaughter

Great White and Slaughter will be live at Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino on Sept. 6. Experience two of the quintessential ‘80s rock acts together in one night.

Since 1982, the Great White sound has captivated audiences worldwide with crushing blues-based guitar riffs and swagger that invokes an emotional high. The Grammy-nominated band has sold over 10 million albums worldwide and has had two platinum albums and nine Top 200 Billboard albums throughout its career. In 2012, the band released its twelfth studio album, “Elation.”

Fans will also recognize “Rock Me,” “Mista Bone” and dozens of other hits.

Slaughter’s first album, “Stick It to Ya,” reached double platinum status. Still known as a hair-metal band, Slaughter, which debuted in 1988, had hits with “Up All Night,” “Spend My Life” and “Fly to the Angels.” All three hits reached the Billboard Hot 100 list.

Their single “Real Love” from their second album was certified gold. They had a comeback of sorts in 1999 with “Back to Reality,” an album that has gained popularity over time.

Great White and Slaughter will perform at 8 p.m. in The Events Center.

IF YOU GO

Who: Great White & Slaughter

When: Sept. 6, 8 p.m. (doors open 7 p.m.)

Where: Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino, 15406 N. Maricopa Road

How much: \$34 and up

Info: Ticketmaster.com

OfficialGreatWhite.com
SlaughterUSA.com

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

2

Sequoia Pathway Boys’ Soccer
5 p.m., Pacana Park
19000 N. Porter Road

Registration Opens —
Gingerbread House
Decorating Contest
8 a.m.-6 p.m., City of Maricopa

3

MHS Boys Golf
2 p.m., Ak-Chin Southern Dunes
48456 W. Highway 238

Sequoia Pathway Volleyball
6 p.m., Sequoia
Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road

4

MHS Volleyball
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

5

MHS Volleyball
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MHS Theatre Co. Greatest Hits
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

6

MHS Football
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Sequoia Pathway Football
7 p.m., Pacana Park
19000 N. Porter Road

MHS Theatre Co. Greatest Hits
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Great White & Slaughter
in Concert
8 p.m., Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

7

Extreme Midget Wrestling
8 p.m., UltraStar Multi-
tainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road

12

MHS Swim Meet
4 p.m., Copper Sky
Aquatics Center
44345 W. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

MHS Volleyball
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

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

13

MHS Homecoming vs.
South Mountain
7 p.m. Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

14

Filmmakers Free Workshop
9 a.m.-2 p.m., Central
Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

Copa City Dems Meeting
4 p.m., Copper Sky
Police Substation
17985 N. Greythorn Drive

17

MHS Volleyball vs. Ironwood
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

19

Zonta Club of Maricopa
5:30 p.m., The Villages
Clubhouse
20991 Butterfield Parkway

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

20

Senior Lunch and Learn
11 a.m., Copper Sky
Multi-Purpose A
44345 W. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

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



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



File photo

ArtsFest Maricopa to debut with ‘Music & Movement’

A new, two-part cultural event for Maricopa will take a bow this fall showcasing the works of local professionals and student artists and performers.

ArtsFest Maricopa, organized by the city’s arts organizations, is scheduled to debut at the Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. with the showcase “Music and Movement.”

The main-stage performances feature orchestral music by Maricopa Music Circle and dance by Desert Sun Performing Arts, plus introductions and commentary by actors from Maricopa Community Theatre. The intermission “Intermezzo” lobby performance will be by a small ensemble from a Maricopa school, to be enjoyed as audience members walk about viewing wall-art and sculptures by MHS students and established artists and crafters.

“ArtsFest Maricopa aims to present a core sample of all Maricopa’s artistic riches in fresh, glorious ‘re-introduction’ to our city,” said Judith Zaimont, co-founder of MMC and one of the organizers of the event, “especially so we all can savor together the demonstrated richness of talent in our hometown. New residents will gain first-hand experience of how the city’s cultural prong has grown and flourished over Maricopa’s first 16 incorporated years.”

The evenings have their presentations grouped around two themes: arts without words, and arts with words.

The second part of ArtsFest will be Feb. 1 with the “Song and Story”

IF YOU GO

Who: ArtsFest Maricopa
“Music & Movement”

When: Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. (doors open 6 p.m.)

Where: MHS Performing Arts Center,
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

How much: One night \$18 at the door; two nights \$24 thru Oct. 7 and \$30 afterward

Tickets:
ArtsFestMaricopa.Brown-PaperTickets.com



Submitted

showcase. Main-stage performances will be by Maricopa Chorus and Copa Shorts Film Fest, with introductions and commentary by MCT actors. The intermission lobby performance will be by Poetry Slam performances, and there will be another art walk of local professional and student creations.

Both parts of ArtFest will have food trucks stationed nearby for refreshments throughout the evening. Doors will open at 6 p.m. so audience members can view the visual art displays in the lobby at length.

ArtsFest Maricopa is sponsored by the City of Maricopa Arts Committee and the independent nonprofit Maricopa Arts Council.



Submitted

Lifehouse returns to Maricopa

Last time Lifehouse played Maricopa, it was for a free concert won by the residents for voting themselves to victory in a “Battle of the Burbs” hosted by radio station Mix 96.3 in 2015.

This time, the alternative rock band from Los Angeles will be bringing its energetic sound to The Events Center at Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino. The concert is set for Sept. 20.

Founded in 1999, the band, formerly known as Blyss, has topped charts with multiple hit singles for the better part of 20 years. The group, whose current members are lead vocalist/guitarist Jason Wade, drummer Rick Woolstenhulme (a graduate of Gilbert High School) and bass guitarist Bryce Soderberg, is best known for hits such as “You and Me,” “Hanging by a Moment,” “Sick Cycle Carousel” and “Breathing.”

Since breaking into music in 2000 with their debut album “No Name Face,” Lifehouse has released seven albums – selling more than 15 million around the world. They have also topped out at No. 2 on the Hot 100 with “Hanging by a Moment,” and shared the stage with rock ‘n’ roll icons including the Rolling Stones, Pearl Jam and Matchbox Twenty.

In recent years, Lifehouse has released “Lifehouse: Greatest Hits on Universal Music Enterprises,” a chronological collection of the band’s 18 hit singles and best songs.

 LifehouseMusic.com

IF YOU GO

Who: Lifehouse

When: Sept. 20, 8 p.m.
(doors open at 7 p.m.)

Where: Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino, 15406 N. Maricopa Road

How much: \$34.50 and up

Info: Ticketmaster.com

Calendar

Lifehouse in Concert
8 p.m., Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

21
Kids Day Maricopa
10 a.m.-4 p.m., Maricopa Wells Middle School
45725 W. Honeycutt Ave.

23
Sequoia Pathway Boys’ Soccer
4 p.m., Pacana Park
19000 N. Porter Road

25
Sequoia Pathway Boys’ Soccer
4 p.m., Pacana Park
19000 N. Porter Road

26
Sequoia Pathway Volleyball
7 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road

27
Sequoia Pathway Volleyball
7 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road

28
Josh Turner in Concert
8 p.m., Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

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

MONDAYS
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
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
16000 N. Maricopa Road

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



Submitted

Country star Josh Turner to perform at casino

MCA Nashville recording artist Josh Turner will bring his rich, deep voice and distinctive sound to The Events Center at Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino on Sept. 28.

As one of country music’s most recognizable talents, Turner has been honored with multiple Grammy, CMA and ACM nominations, as well as received six Inspirational Country Music Awards. Turner is known for his unique voice and many hits including “Hometown Girl,” “Would You Go with Me,” “Your Man,” “Time Is Love,” “Why Don’t We Just Dance” and “Long Black Train.”

His first studio album, also called “Long Black Train,” was an instant success, and the title track won song of the year at the Inspirational Country Music Awards. This year, he is up for a Dove Award for his recording of “How Great Thou Art.”

In addition, Turner is one of the youngest members inducted into the Grand Ole Opry, selling more than 8 million units and topping more than 1.5 billion in global streaming and populated radio.

Along with his success as a musician, Turner has also tackled the written word as an author. He released his first book, “Man Stuff: Thoughts on Faith, Family and Fatherhood,” in 2014, highlighting songwriting and performing in his childhood.

In support of early music education, Turner created The Josh Turner Scholarship Fund to assist other children following the same path and mirroring his own upbringing. Turner and his wife Jennifer have four children.

The Events Center seats 2,000 people.

 JoshTurner.com

IF YOU GO

Who: Josh Turner

When: Sept. 28, 8 p.m.
(doors open at 7 p.m.)

Where: Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino, 15406 N. Maricopa Road

How much: \$35 and up

Info: Ticketmaster.com

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Valenzuela sentenced to maximum for 'unspeakable evil'

Family and friends of Tina and Michael Careccia packed the pews of Judge Christopher O'Neil's fourth-floor courtroom for the sentencing of Jose Valenzuela.

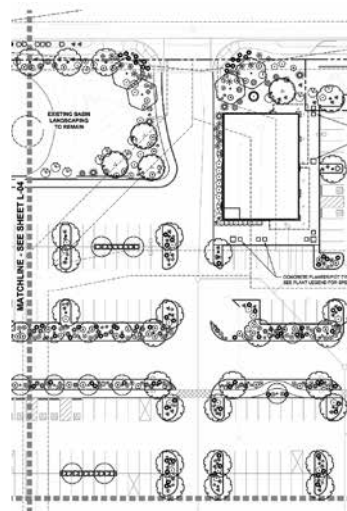
MHS gives CAC office space to connect with students

Central Arizona College launched its new partnership with Maricopa High School in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Traffic impact gets new emphasis in city planning

How do new commercial and residential areas affect traffic?



Planned retail center with grocery gets preview

While no timeline has been set for the project, Thompson Thrift is pushing to get started by the end of the year.



Sunday rollover kills 1, injures 2

While no timeline has been set for the project, Thompson Thrift is pushing to get started by the end of the year.



Police, schools deal with SnapChat threat

Maricopa Police Department had calls from two schools this week for very different reasons



For these and more stories every day, visit inMaricopa.com.

Copper Sky development pushes out Mud Run

Say good-bye to the Maricopa Mud Run, at least for now.



City issues permit for first hotel

Maricopa just issued the building permit for the first hotel in city limits — La Quinta.



MHS Rams re-armed for new football season

There is no off-season for MHS football; just out-of-season. and residents are irate.



Threatening voicemails lead to Maricopa woman's arrest

A Maricopa woman was arrested in Rancho El Dorado on suspicion of aggravated harassment.

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