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Maricopa

May 2020

BUSINESS

Construction
around town

WHAT A FINISH

Pomp & (unusual)
circumstance of
2020 graduation

GOVERNMENT

Meet the
city council
candidates

PEOPLE

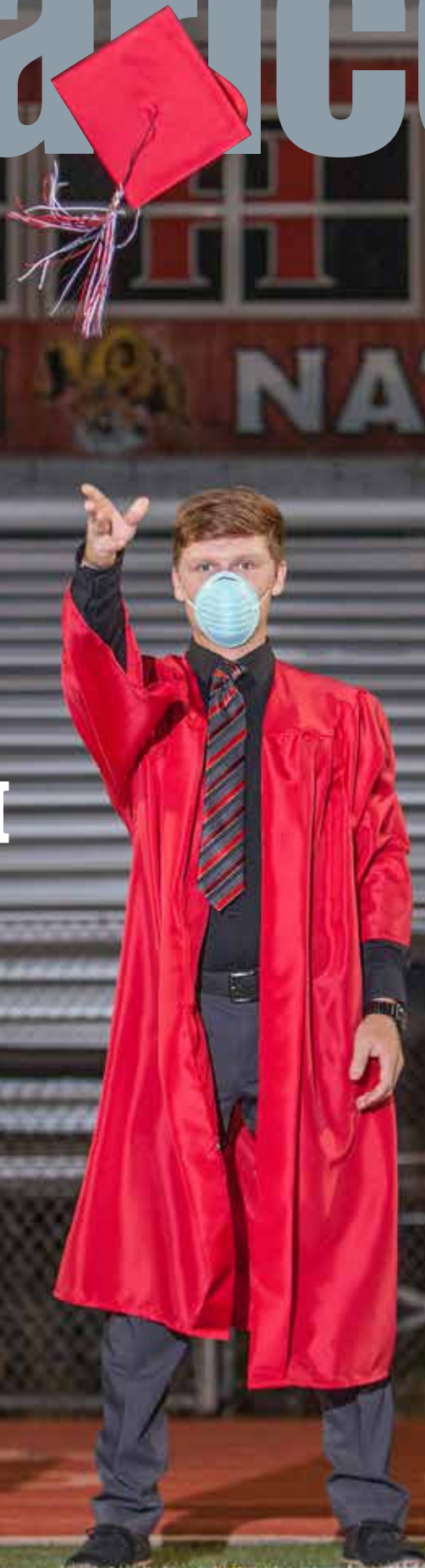
Teachers
teaching
from home

HOME

Self-sustaining
with raised-bed
gardening



Business
Directory





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Not ready to say good-bye

May is typically a time for end-of-school-year celebrations and especially graduations. But this year has been anything but typical for students, teachers and parents – and especially graduating seniors. The fallout from COVID-19 left them rather up in the air, not unlike a mortarboard at the end of commencement, as schools discussed options for giving them at least a semblance of a graduation ceremony.

As one senior stated, they wish they had known their last day of school was going to be their last day of school.

Whatever happens, there is plenty to celebrate for these young adults, who will eventually go on to schools and trades. In this issue, we spotlight just a few of the outstanding seniors from Maricopa schools. There are scientists, musicians, dancers, mathematicians, entrepreneurs and doers of good deeds. Congratulations to the unforgettable Class of 2020.



Also this month, we caught up with some of the hundreds of teachers in Maricopa who have continued to teach their schoolchildren from home through distance-learning programs. Small-business owners spoke to us about how COVID-19 created a new normal.

This issue highlights economic development that continues to roll out, questions candidates for Maricopa City Council about their ideas and visits an entrepreneur turning his pro baseball career into a second career.

You will also read our regular columnists and maybe pick up some tips for how to cope with staying at home.

Happy reading,

Raquel Hendrickson

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



RAQUEL HENDRICKSON
An Arizona native, she also has lived in Missouri, Pennsylvania and Utah.



RON SMITH
Retired from college administration, he is a member of the Age-Friendly Maricopa Advisory Committee.

ON THE COVER: Maricopa High School student Austin Rapp is among hundreds of graduating seniors in the city who, so far, have had to forgo planning graduation ceremonies because of the coronavirus. *Photo by Victor Moreno*

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Volume 15, Issue 5
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• The success of deserving businesses.
• Uniting our community.

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• Prosperity for clients, community, company and employees/contractors

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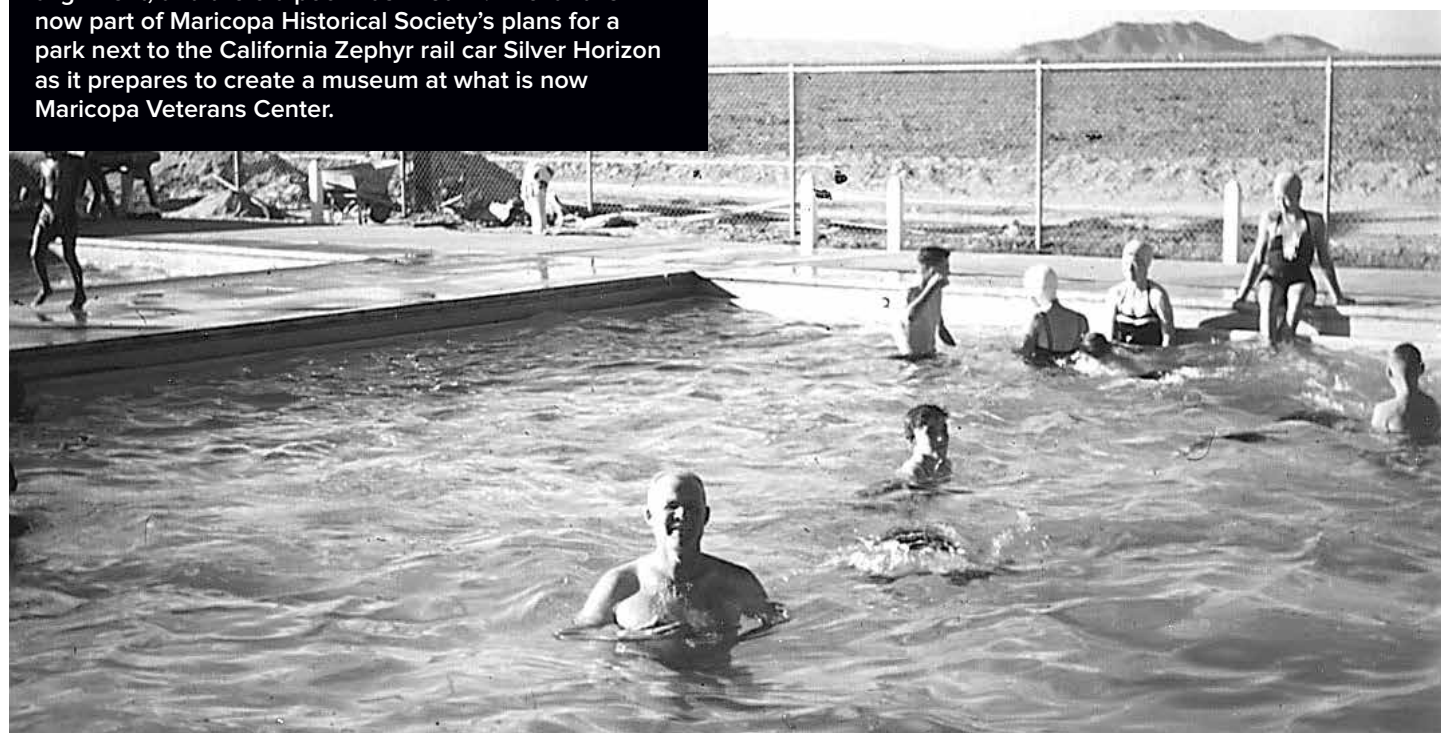
History

Hole lotta nothin'

For decades, Maricopans were able to cool off in the summer with a dip in the swimming pool at Rotary Park. Built to lessen drowning deaths in irrigation ditches, the pool was dug by the Rotary Club, and was open from 1958 to 2014. The park, which was on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, was removed for the new road alignment, and the old pool was filled in. The land is now part of Maricopa Historical Society's plans for a park next to the California Zephyr rail car Silver Horizon as it prepares to create a museum at what is now Maricopa Veterans Center.



Raquel Hendrickson



Maricopa Historical Society

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS IS STILL BOOMING IN MARICOPA



City of Maricopa

The majority of services provided by the City of Maricopa can be completed virtually. Contractors, developers, and small business owners have been utilizing these virtual services to ensure that their projects continue on schedule! In the month of March alone the City issued 154 building permits! Maricopa continues to ensure work gets done while still being responsible and following public health guidelines and instructions.

Below is a list of only some of the exciting projects coming down the lane, and some existing services to aid our residents and business community.

Building permits issued in March & April:

A+ Charter School
Audiologist Office
Bahama Bucks
City of Maricopa Library
Oasis at the Wells

May Forecast:

APEX Condos
Bungalows on Bowlin
Maricopa Animal Hospital

Approved by P&Z Commission in March & April:

Bungalows on Bowlin
MC Estates
Seasons Living at Copper Sky

May Forecast:

Kooline Plumbing
O'Jon Terrace Apartments

For details on these projects and more, visit
WhatsNewMaricopa.com

Business Registry

Shopping locally means nurturing locally owned businesses which use local resources, employing workers at decent wages and serve local customers as well as the greater region.

Purchasing local goods and services is a habit that we could all benefit from! Find the local business you are looking for at MaricopaBusinessRegistry.com

Maricopa Eats

Tired of cooking? Haven't had time to hit the grocery store? We have the solution for your meal woes with MaricopaEats.com!

MaricopaEats.com is an online food and beverage directory listing nearly 60 local restaurants currently open for business that offer takeout, drive-thru and/or delivery services. Residents may view all options or utilize easy-to-use filters to sort listings based on their preference for how they wish to receive their orders.

Participating restaurants and food trucks will be given a poster they may display at their storefront. The next time you're hungry, take advantage of maricopaeats.com to enjoy a delicious variety of cuisine while supporting Maricopa businesses!

COMET

Our Comet Transit Services have been temporarily modified to accommodate your most essential needs and ensure all Maricopa residents have access to groceries, medical services, and work! The efforts include, extending our Dial-a-Ride program and modifying the daily bus route to focus only on grocery, medical, and job-related stops. Visit MaricopaCOMET.com for more information.



Maricopa City Council Candidates

Three seats on the Maricopa City Council are up for election this year, and six residents are in the running.



LINETTE CAROSELLI
Age: 46
Occupation: Educator with Maricopa Unified School District



JULIA GUSSE*
Age: 50
Occupation: Veterans Upward Bound director, Arizona State University



ANDRE LAFOND
Age: 35
Occupation: Realtor, My Home Group



AMBER LIERMANN
Age: 47
Occupation: Maricopa Unified School District Exceptional Student Services counselor



BOB MARSH
Age: 76
Occupation: Retired from Microsoft



NANCY SMITH*
Age: 61
Occupation: Retired from Motorola and General Dynamics

What makes you the best candidate for council?	My willingness to provide national programs for our youth, my willingness to listen to different viewpoints and my willingness to act fairly when it comes to the best interests of the city.	I continue to move the city forward and am not afraid of hard work to make it happen.	I am a different generation from our current council. With that I have experiences and knowledge that other candidates may not. I carry the experiences of my U.S. Army service, my career partnering with public law enforcement, and as a small business owner and Realtor.	I have built positive working relationships with many agencies and am an excellent team player. I have received an endorsement by Steve Smith, our former member of Arizona Senate and others.	I started volunteering and serving on boards, commissions, and committees shortly after I moved here and have been serving ever since. I've worked on projects for federal, state, and local governments, including major projects for NASA, the FBI and the Navy.	I have a proven record for going above and beyond what I am responsible for as a city council member. I've been a leader in preparing Maricopa for exciting things to come in the areas of economic development, transportation, quality of life and responsible budgeting and finance.
What is the current council doing well?	I admire the way the current councilmembers have handled the challenges that come with a growing city.	Smart development and moving the city forward	We have been blessed to have a very capable council. They have shown a great ability to work together and leave partisan issues at the door.	City council is nailing professionalism, efficiency, heart, strategic planning, conservative budgeting and prudent fiscal policies. I would be remiss if I did not mention the consistent, strong, progressive leadership of Mayor Price.	I've attended nearly all council meetings in recent years, and I feel that current council seems to be working well as a team in support of the Mayor, the General Plan, and the 2040 Vision. Each councilmember is working hard on their "passion projects" and their own areas of focus.	The city's major needs include safety, transportation, economic development, floodplain, a hospital and responsible budgeting. I believe that the current city council does well on all of these needs.
What is the current council not doing well?	I would like to see more programming involving our youth.	Movement on a resolution for (State Route) 347.	There is always room for opportunities. I believe that also follows with our amazing council. I am looking to be a needed bridge for both our young families and our senior citizens.	City council is not fully aware of the need for social services here in Maricopa. We live in a unique, diverse community. Families move here with hopes and dreams. We can do more as a city by attracting both private and state assistance to help these families.	We need to take our strategies and tactics to a new level. We can do better with respect to improving the city's infrastructure, with a focus on attracting major employers and creating a more sustainable future for our residents and businesses.	City council should start looking at ways to meet the needs of the youth and art communities. The art community can be a significant economic driver for a city if supported correctly. Our city's young people can be better supported by working with a group such as the Boys and Girls Club of America.
What is your biggest concern about Maricopa's future?	My biggest concern is our infrastructure not being able to keep up with the fast-paced growth of the city.	A resolution on (State Route) 347.	Growth without reinvestment. Our growth is also putting a strain on our emergency services. We are at a point we could outgrow their capacity. I want to see smart investment in manpower and infrastructure aimed at this issue.	Although leadership in Maricopa is doing a great job, my biggest concern is the vision may be suffering from blinders to some issues I see as important. Working with youth on a daily basis reminds me to never think small and keep every option open.	Water is Arizona's major concern, and it is certainly Maricopa's biggest long-term concern. With water, you don't want to have too much or too little. Running out of sources for drinking water would be a disaster, and we've been in a drought statewide for years.	That we have a city council, city manager and staff that understands the importance of being the best at acquiring high-paying jobs to Maricopa, improving transportation in/out and within Maricopa, achieving a solution for our floodplain concerns and a hospital.

*Incumbent

For the love of gloves

Getting Primal with Mark Minicozzi

By Kyle Norby

Though all games from Little League to the majors have been stopped by COVID-19, baseball is still America's pastime. From the roaring crowds to a player's competitive spirit, Primal Gloves founder Mark Minicozzi believes baseball loses all meaning if you aren't having fun.

He runs a batting glove manufacturing business from his home in Maricopa, where he and his wife have lived a little over a year. His lively and whimsical designs enliven a typically staid piece of baseball equipment.

A professional ballplayer for 12 years, Minicozzi cites playing for the San Francisco Giants and the Washington Nationals farm system as major career highlights.

During his playing days when not affiliated with a major league club, Minicozzi noticed the outrageous price of batting gloves when buying his own. Ripping through Nike gloves every few games, he could not justify purchasing just a single pair for prices upwards of \$65.

A Philadelphia native, Minicozzi said the experience got him thinking: "How can I put my imprint on the game and make it better? I can develop a better glove."

Minicozzi spent months letting professionals test his glove prototypes and asked for feedback on how to make them better. With different colors and designs, he wanted his batting gloves to stand out from

the plain and generic black-and-white offered by bigger athletic brands. Fast forward to 2018, after much research and testing, to the birth of his company, Primal Gloves.

Customer Britt Hinklin said quality does not have to come with a big price tag. With his 14-year-old son, Hinklin saw the excitement a unique batting glove brought.

"My son had a pair of those gloves and tried them out. I'm telling you, he loved them," Hinklin said with a laugh. "It's kind of surprising, with Mark being able to put that product out there right around the same price, if not cheaper than the high-volume ones that you get at Dick's or other sporting goods stores."

With a website up and running as well as an engaging social media presence, Minicozzi's vision for a more exciting and quality batting glove became a reality.

Prices range from \$30-\$35 and allow customers to choose from existing designs or a custom choice, accompanied by an option to have the player's name, number or whatever else they would like stitched in. Minicozzi says turnaround time on orders is eight to 10 days.

Scaling up quickly, Minicozzi says supply and demand is the main obstacle at the moment. He plans on building an office in a corner of his backyard.

"The growth we've had over the last probably eight to 12 months, we went from selling about \$150-\$200 a day to where we're doing right around \$3,000 a day," he explained. "I hope by the end of this year to have that office up and being able to make it where you can come to make your glove right on the spot."

With business continuing to boom, Primal Gloves has ventured into multiple products, such as catching gloves, hats and other apparel.

"The biggest thing for me is, you know, we want to make it affordable so every kid can enjoy it. We also want to make it fun," Minicozzi said with a smile.

 PrimalGloves.com

 Learn more about Mark Minicozzi at InMaricopa.com.



Submitted



Kyle Norby

Mark Minicozzi created Primal Gloves company from his experience in pro ball.



Kyle Norby

The Maricopa Comeback:

Help us help you

2019 novel coronavirus, a.k.a. COVID-19 (COrona VIRus Disease 2019). It's all-consuming. Even if you are not infected, you are affected. We all are

In our lifetimes, this is uncharted territory for our country, much less our new city. Maricopa was the poster child for the bust that was the mortgage-lending-induced Great Recession — after being the poster child of the preceding boom. But even then, kids studied at school, cars crowded State Route 347 and customers shopped in businesses.

In the early 2000s I contemplated the type of business to start in the then-town of Maricopa. First choice was self-storage, but then Maricopa Self Storage started construction. Second choice was tool and equipment rental, but then it dawned on me I knew nothing about small-engine repair. So, I went with Door No. 3 and started an (online) newspaper. In hindsight, when it comes to having an impact on the community, I could not have made a better choice.

Since we launched in 2004, we have had the honor of helping hundreds of businesses and educating tens of thousands of people. Our large audience and ability to reach them almost immediately yields a unique opportunity to contribute to our community in ways other businesses cannot.

In some arenas, we call that a competitive advantage. In others, a moral obligation. It is in the spirit of the latter we embrace the opportunity to help our community through this crisis.

As you might expect, we are all-in providing as much local COVID-19 coverage our resources — and social-distancing regulations — allow. However, we've stepped outside our proverbial box to help in other ways, such as establishing a mini pantry to provide food, water, toilet paper and other necessities to those in need, and purchasing thousands of masks to keep our Maricopa neighbors safe.

In preparation of what we've dubbed the Maricopa Comeback, we are directly aiding local businesses by giving away marketing services:

- Free magazine ads.
- Free employment ads.
- Free listings on our soon-to-be enhanced business directory.
- Free sponsorships for our Best Mom/Dad contests.

 COVID-19 LOCAL NEWS FUND



Help us fund local COVID-19 reporting in our community



We cannot do it alone, however. We need your help.

The Local Media Association and its 501(c)3 foundation established a program to help independent and family-owned news organizations, like InMaricopa, in what was already a fragile industry prior to the pandemic. It allows you to make a tax-deductible donation in support of our coverage of COVID-19 issues in our community.

In our 16 years serving you, we have never asked our readers for a penny. But COVID-19 is too impactful and too important, and we want to provide you the best coverage possible. All seven of our full-time staff members are Maricopa residents, and we are fully committed to keeping them employed and serving you.

There is a lot of uncertainty. We don't know if the pandemic and its impact will last months or years. We don't know if the worst is behind us or ahead. Whatever the future holds, rest assured we will do everything we can to ensure a Maricopa Comeback for the ages.

Thank you for your readership, and thank you for helping us help our community.

 Please visit InMaricopa.com/LocalCoverage.



Scott Bartle
PUBLISHER



1



2



3



4

Going up

Buildings are in various stages of construction all over Maricopa.

1. Maricopa Public Library off White and Parker Road. *Kyle Norby*

2. Heritage Academy on Heroes Way. *Raquel Hendrickson*

3. High school addition at Leading Edge Academy. *Raquel Hendrickson*

4. Iconic Tire on John Wayne Parkway. *Raquel Hendrickson*

5. AAMCO Transmissions and Total Car Care on John Wayne Parkway. *Kyle Norby*

6. Walgreens on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway. *Raquel Hendrickson*

7. Oasis at the Wells apartments on Shea Way. *Raquel Hendrickson*

8. City of Maricopa Fire/Medical Department administration building off Edison Road. *Raquel Hendrickson*



5



6



7



8

Business community 'all in' for new normal

By Fran Lyons

During unparalleled and uncertain times of the coronavirus pandemic, Maricopa businesses, like the community at large, adopted the phrase, “We are all in this together.” The “business as usual” mantra was halted for most during a “stay at home” statewide mandate, and many creatively adapted to the challenge.

Corporate offices and smaller local businesses offering what has been deemed essential services in town have all felt the effects of the major shift to a “new normal” and have responded from their personal perspectives.

“Before our focus was primarily about our customers and our team members. Now that has shifted to include everyone,” said John Schurz, president and general manager of Orbital Communications. “We’re here to help keep all members of our communities safe. Our goal is to create a family culture where everybody feels connected.”

Ray Nieves, owner of 911 Air Repair, has been as busy as ever and said people are seeing the positive side of shopping local. He has added more precautions in work that usually requires him and his staff to be inside customer homes.

“We are following CDC guidelines with PPE and have also added shoe covers for extra protection. Being safe is our main focus even if it is difficult to talk to customers with a mask on,” he said. “We try to keep conversations out of doors while still honoring the six-foot distance requirement. Also, our invoicing process is online which makes the transaction less complicated.”

Schurz said his technicians in the field are also wearing gloves and masks and using sanitizing products to meet CDC guidelines.

“We have also provided thermometers for techs to use daily to monitor for fever,” he said.

And, like many businesses, some of his team members are working from home.

Depending on the business, there is some confusion left by federal legislation and by statewide executive orders, including Gov. Doug Ducey’s “stay at home” order for



Allstate agent Troy Mauser (with wife Kathy, son Brayden and daughter Lauryn) is trying to stay ahead of client questions.

Orbital President John Schurz (left) has field techs following CDC guidelines.

nonessential workers.

Troy Mauser, local agent for Allstate Insurance Company, said he tries to keep ahead of client questions while working from home himself.

“Wow, these are crazy times,” he said. “Just about everyone has to work at home — ‘stay at home’ — by the governor’s orders. We all have questions. We all want answers. No one can say for sure what the next day will bring. While we all seek a solution that no one can provide at this time, we are resolved to give you support and help for your situation.”

Mauser said Allstate, like other auto insurers, recognized fewer of its customers are on the roads and “no one is doing what they normally do.” That led to a discount program for at least a couple months.

“All customers with Allstate auto insurance will receive a discount of 15% off of their premiums for the months of April and May,” he said. “This is our payback program to help you move forward. To provide relief. No one knows exactly what the future will present.”

Instead of driving, many people have been at home, mostly on the Internet, whether for work or to kill time. Orbital has felt the pressure of that surge.

“By staying ahead of the curve, we have also been working with vendors to increase service capabilities during this time of massive Internet usage,” Schurz said. “We have also expanded our messaging to our internal staff members so that everyone is connected and included. A rising tide lifts all boats.”

Maricopans are also becoming more aware of the air they share.

Nieves said his customers have become more interested in an air-purification system he has offered for some time that is designed to filter viruses, bacteria and other pollutants.

“This process of dealing with this virus is like a reset button. It seems to me that people are looking at things differently. It has opened their eyes.”

Development around town

The commercial area around Walmart has been the focus of planning and construction this spring.

Bahama Buck's received a commercial permit March 17 for its planned store at 17470 N. Porter Road in Maricopa Power Center the Wells. The shaved-ice emporium is to be a 2,030-square-foot building with a 332-square-foot patio on the east side of the Walmart parking lot. The project is valued at \$349,000.

A+ Charter Schools received its commercial permit March 18, with construction quickly underway at 41735 W. Alan Stephens Parkway. The 25,022-square-foot building, valued at \$3.5 million, is to be a charter high school.

Mountain Trace Development commenced construction on several buildings comprising the **Oasis at the Wells** housing units at 41535 W. Shea Way between Walmart and Banner Health. The developer received commercial permits for four buildings — a clubhouse, a 36-unit building that is 39,456 square feet, a 24-unit building that is 29,350 square feet and a 12-unit building of 13,046 square feet. The four buildings are valued at nearly \$10 million.



Raquel Hendrickson

A+ Charter Schools is rising between Shea Way and Alan Stephens Parkway.



Kyle Norby

Property at Copper Sky has been rezoned for senior housing, including assisted living units.

Volkswagen of America, 17169 N. Murphy Road, is working on drainage issues due to erosion at the entrance to its test track.

Ak-Chin maintains payroll as Harrah's, UltraStar close doors

Ak-Chin properties Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and UltraStar Multi-tainment Center shut their doors as COVID-19 took hold, but the community government twice voted, two weeks apart, to extend payroll to enterprise and government employees.

Harrah's has 900 employees, and UltraStar employs 225. The decisions helped employees to the end of April.

"With this financial support, our government and enterprise employees can rest easier knowing they will be compensated for the remainder of the month," said Robert Miguel, chairman of the Ak-Chin Indian Community. "This is a challenging time for all of us, and we are glad that we have the ability to support these employees."



Raquel Hendrickson

Health inspectors ongoing at restaurants

As COVID-19 caused many eateries to change the way they do business or shut down completely, Pinal County's health inspectors remained diligent March 16-April 15 in investigating restaurants. All but one received excellent marks. Jack in the Box had a small problem with temperature control. While the walk-in, reach-in and drawer refrigeration units were holding food at 41 degrees or cooler, as required, the inspector found shake mix and all cheese slices at 47 degrees. The shake mix was tossed, and repair called in for the small refrigerator.

EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Aliberto's
- Brooklyn Boys Italian Restaurant
- Children's Learning Adventure
- Cilantro's Mexican Cocina
- Denny's
- Domino's Pizza
- Good 2 Go
- IHOP
- Little Caesar's Pizza
- Maricopa High School
- Maricopa High School – Culinary
- Panda Express
- Papa Murphy's Pizza
- Province Community Association – Clubhouse

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- Jack in the Box

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

COVID-19's complex impact on business owners

On a recent Monday, the CPAs at Chaston Taxes and Accounting had a Zoom meeting for clients and others wanting more information on coronavirus-related aid for businesses and individuals.

More than 40 people joined the virtual session, most of them small-business owners from Maricopa, according to Chris Scoggin, a longtime Arizonan and CPA for 28 years who joined Chaston six months ago.

"Our phones for the past couple of weeks have been ringing off the hook," Scoggin said. "People have a lot of questions ... There's been a tremendous amount of legislation in the past three weeks. It's complex and somewhat confusing."

The Zoom meeting was a way to share information about the CARES Act and other loan programs and tax benefits for businesses hurting from COVID-19 and the process to apply for those benefits,



including unemployment benefits and the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) for businesses, according to Scoggin.

The PPP is a business loan that can be used for payroll, mortgage interest, rent or utilities over an eight-week period. At least 75% must go to payroll. As long as the money is spent on just those four items, the loan is forgiven, Scoggin explained. Proceeds spent in other areas will need to be paid back over a four-year period.

"They can use the benefits issued by the federal government to continue to pay employees or rehire them back, to stay viable," he said.

How soon businesses in Maricopa rebound will depend on a number of factors, including how much support they get from customers now and when social distancing regulations are relaxed.

"Ultimately, it's about the consumer

and whether they are comfortable going back to the businesses they have frequented," Scoggin said. "It's very

important our local restaurants and businesses gain back the business as soon as possible.

In April, Congress passed a \$484 billion extension of the rescue package that will expand small-business aid.

Meanwhile, he encouraged residents to support their local businesspeople now, however they can. —Bob McGovern



**Arizona Native
Constitutional
Republican**

Fiscal Conservative

Compassionate Leader



Choose Cruz on August 4th



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**Lower Property Taxes
Fair Property Assessments
Jobs and the Economy
Senior Citizens**

"May God bless you and your family during these unprecedented times. Together, we will beat COVID-19 and prevail a stronger country."

-Mike

Follow me online at:

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- Threading
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Green Reverse Osmosis 5 Stage

By Terry Leamon, My Maricopa Plumber

How safe is your tap water? Water contamination within cities can occur at almost any point in the delivery, including lead leaching from corroded pipe solder, bacteria entering the system from water main breaks or gardening chemicals back-siphoned from a neighbor.

Unfortunately, most local and state governments do not have the financial resources to address this. Most cities will add chemicals like chlorine and fluoride to their water. The tap water quality in the United States will most likely decline. The best way to protect your family from the wide range of contaminants found in today's tap water, is by installing a reverse osmosis drinking water system in your home. An RO is the most convenient and effective method of water filtration.

RO filters water by squeezing water through a semi-permeable membrane, which

is rated at 0.0001 micron (equals to 0.00000004 inch). This is the technology used to make bottled water. It is also the only technology capable of desalinating sea water, making it into drinking water.

Non-RO water filters typically use a single activated carbon cartridge to treat water. They are much less effective, and the pore size on these filter media are much bigger, generally 0.5-10 micron. They can filter out coarse particles, sediments and elements only up to their micron rating. Anything finer, and most dissolved substances cannot be filtered out.

This is actually the biggest myth in the water industry. To understand clearly, first we need to examine "what minerals" are in our tap water.




If we were to send a sample of water to a laboratory, we would get back a report that includes calcium, magnesium, and sodium along with a list of other minerals and contaminants. While some of these minerals

are safe and benign, there are also many toxic ones on this list, including fluoride, arsenic, chromium and radium just to name a few.

Basic carbon filter systems will leave in all the minerals, including the highly toxic and radioactive ones. On the other hand, RO systems will remove 90-99% of these undesirable contaminants.

With our RO system, we use the same technology as major bottling plants use to filter water. RO water has a refreshing taste with a touch of minerals. RO systems purify water daily in your home, which is more naturally fresh and healthy compared to stagnant water that has been sitting in plastic bottles for months.

The five-stage system delivers the most stable and complete RO process for home water purification, and it allows you to manage the unit's performance and ensure the purity of your water. This eco-friendly solution also protects the environment from plastic waste.

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Planning your own funeral service

Submitted by Kristin Gramando

Funerals serve as a time for family and friends to gather together to celebrate the life of a loved one who has died. Not only do they offer the opportunity to remember the deceased, but they also can offer comfort and support at an emotional time. While planning your own funeral service may seem uncomfortable, there are several great reasons to do so. These steps will help you create a genuine event to honor the end of life.

Reasons for Planning Your Own Service

Arranging your own funeral requires that you come to terms with your mortality, which can be an empowering act. Being able to embrace the inevitability of death may inspire you to cherish life. Having plans in place when you reach the end of your life will also lift a tremendous burden from your grieving family and friends. With all of the arrangements addressed, your loved ones can focus on honoring your life and tending to their emotional needs as they

navigate this difficult time. They will have the time and space to grieve and support one another. If you pay ahead of time, you can also lift a significant economic burden from your loved ones.

Making Decisions

A funeral generally has two components. First is a more practical decision: what to do with the deceased's remains. These options usually include cremation or traditional burial. Should you choose burial, you will have to select a cemetery or other burial site. Should you choose cremation, you can decide what you would like to be done with your ashes. You may wish for a loved one to have them scattered in your favorite place, or you can select an urn to hold the ashes.

The second component of a funeral is a more creative decision: how to celebrate the deceased's life. As you plan your funeral or memorial service, imagine an event that would provide the most meaningful way to say

goodbye. It should represent your uniqueness and provide an opportunity for loved ones to express their grief.

Talking About It

As you make your funeral arrangements, it is important to talk about them with your loved ones. There is no one right time to have the conversation. Asking a question may help ease into the dialogue: "Have you ever thought about how you would like to be remembered?" or "Do you have a favorite song, scripture or poem?" It's natural to be sad or uncomfortable during such conversations. Remember that speaking about your wishes can provide peace of mind not only for you, but for your loved ones as well.

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Global Water revamps customer assistance program during COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 has created immediate needs for residents within the City of Maricopa. Global Water has expanded our customer assistance program to provide assistance to those who need it most during these challenging times. The new program was expanded to provide assistance specific to COVID-19 including:

- Assistance to customers who have been furloughed
 - Assistance to customers who have experienced a medical hardship
- Additionally, at Global Water we recognize the commitment and sacrifices made by the members of the military and our military veterans. The revamped assistance program provides resources to support our military customers and veterans. This additional assistance includes:
- Assistance to deployed service member
 - Assistance to disabled veterans

The revised customer assistance program continues to provide low-income assistance and expands the program to be inclusive of more customers. Customers who have a household income equal to or less than 300% of the federal poverty level can qualify for the program.

Finally, the program was expanded to allow qualifying customers to receive up to \$350 per year per utility service. If a qualifying customer has both water and sewer service from Global Water the customer would be eligible for \$700 in assistance annually.

To distribute these funds to customers, Global Water works with the local community action agencies. The local agencies work with you directly to determine if you qualify for these programs. Rest assured, Global Water does not collect your personal information



regarding these programs.

If you are a Global Water customer who is in need of assistance, you can find more information about our Customer Assistance Program at www.gwresources.com/customer-assistance or you can call us at 866-940-1102 or email us at CustomerService@gwresources.com.

We recognize these are unprecedented times and Global Water is here to help.

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Let's get the Maricopa economy started again

By Chris J. Scoggin

First and foremost, let me start this month's article by saying that we all should continue to take the warnings of the medical experts seriously and let's use common sense as we adjust to our new reality.

Last month, I wrote about the various stimulus programs that have been passed to help address this unprecedented shock to the American economy. Never before have the engines of business and prosperity been stopped so suddenly. Our lives changed drastically in the matter of just a few weeks. We were suddenly unable to go to our favorite restaurants and entertainment venues, and most shockingly, many of us were now without work. Customers stopped calling, businesses were closing, and our paychecks stopped being deposited.

Given all that has happened with blinding speed, it is tough to be optimistic. But that is what we have to be. We have to be optimistic that the COVID-19 virus will run its course in the next few weeks, and we can start to visit family and neighbors, gather for a meal at our favorite restaurant and, most importantly, we have to be optimistic that we can go back to work.

While, admittedly, I am taking a forward-looking perspective, it is becoming apparent that this virus has not created the health crises that were initially projected. The predicted number of American deaths has shrunk from the millions to 260,000 to 100,000 to the latest projection of under 60,000. While this is still an incredible toll in terms of human life, the data are indicating that the worst is behind us for now.

So, what can each of us do to ensure the quickest economic recovery possible?

For small businesses, there are several programs that will pay some or all of your payroll, rent and utilities for eight weeks after funding. This program, called the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), is available to every small business with fewer than 500 employees. The program allows the business to take out a loan based upon 2.5 times average monthly salaries paid. For the amount of this

loan that is used over the eight weeks from the date of funding to pay wages and benefits, plus rent, utilities and business mortgage interest, this debt will be forgiven and never need to be repaid.



Chris J. Scoggin

There are other loan programs that will help a business injured by the coronavirus. The Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program will grant a low-interest loan to businesses that have been severely harmed by the recent economic shutdown. These are long-term loans, some as long as 30 years, intended to help the business owner rebuild their business from the ground floor. These EIDL loans have an immediate \$10,000 grant to help the business owner keep their doors open until the larger loan has been funded.

For Individuals, each adult over 18 years old (with some exceptions) will be paid up to \$1,200 to help every American citizen be able to cover some of the loss of income that might have been caused by the shutdown. If you have a child under age 24 that can still be claimed as a dependent, you will receive an additional \$500 in Stimulus Payments. If you haven't filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019, you can go to IRS.gov and click on Non-filers: Enter Payment Info Here to ensure you receive your incentive payments as soon as possible.

As this medical crisis begins to wane, please do everything in your power to support your local Maricopa businesses. If you are financially able, try that new restaurant, shop at that store around the corner, call a Maricopa based professional to assist you with your needs. If you are a Maricopa business that has been searching for a great member of your team, look to hire a new employee that lives here in Maricopa. These are your new customers. These are your neighbors. This is how we recover and this is how we ensure that Maricopa remains a great place to live and work.

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Teachers bring it home, find creative ways to connect

Adapting for COVID-19 may have long reach

By Raquel Hendrickson

“This is a crazy time, and I don’t think any of us expected to ever be teaching like this.”

Stephanie Arturet is one of hundreds of Maricopa teachers who made a dramatic shift to educating their students online for the last two months of the school year to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. A third-grade teacher at Santa Cruz Elementary School, she is also helping her own children with their online classes at home.

“It’s not easy, especially while I’m doing school with my own two kids, both of whom are MUSD students,” she said. “But we want the best for our students and are figuring it out as we go.”

Shannon Hull, who teaches Blended Learning at Desert Wind Middle School, said the toughest impact of not returning to school was the lack of closure and not getting to say goodbye to students and staff.

“When teachers found out we were closing the doors for the rest of the school year, the first thought was not about math or English or science; it was all about the end-of-year field trips, the graduations, the promotions, prom, senior nights for baseball, softball and track, etc. — all these life events that our seniors will now miss. All of the end-of-year activities we all plan for our students are now gone.”

Instead, everyone had to find a way to stay connected and keep teaching. Everyone went virtual.

Posting videos on Google Classroom and communicating with students and parents via ClassDojo are the new normal. Maricopa Unified School District purchased workbooks for all students in math and English with a schedule for completion by the end of May. After a Santa Cruz staff meeting to clarify the dos and don’ts, Arturet created a calendar and activities.

“I also want to post some videos about content we would be covering now, math especially, and assigning some practice activities, games and challenges to put those



PE teacher Paul Krigbaum (above) uses props at home to teach his students from afar.

Third-grade teacher Stephanie Arturet teaches her students from her Tortosa home while helping her own children with their schoolwork.

DAY! That is when he posts his full cooking video so students can watch before they start cooking at home.

“I like to make my cooking videos fun and engaging so they will hopefully be inspired to cook something during this time,” Smith said. “So far, the students are responding very well. When I open my email now, it is from a student, and they are sharing their cooking pictures with me. So awesome.”

Paul Krigbaum, who teaches PE at Maricopa Elementary School, said reaching students is the biggest challenge. He also uses ClassDojo.

“I could make a calendar, but how do I know they’re actually doing that?” he said.

So, he created 5-7-minute videos every day of workouts the students (and their parents) can do at home, knowing most will not have the same equipment at the house that they would have at school. He posts them on his “Get Fit with Coach K” Facebook page, and parents respond by posting photos or videos of their children working out.



See full story and video at InMaricopa.com.

A Tobata workout will have throwing and tossing. Kids have created their own exercise course with sidewalk chalk. Krigbaum has created a ball from duct tape for a game of hamper ball. He’s been happy to see 110-200 views a day. His exercise challenges have prizes of jump ropes and Gatorade.

He sees ways to incorporate what he is doing temporarily into his regular lesson plans when “normal” school begins again.

Music teacher Ivan Pour also sees a future for elements of the distance-learning curriculum beyond the pandemic.

“I’ve been wanting kids to use SmartMusic more and this is an opportunity to get more kids connected and comfortable on the system,” said Pour, who chairs the Fine Arts Department at Maricopa High School. “I’m also learning a lot about making videos and live online events. Since I’m more comfortable with it, when we get back, I will probably have a more robust selection of online resources for them to use at home than before. Hopefully, that leads to more independent musicianship for students and more at-home practice, which is a top goal for any music educator.”

SmartMusic, which has made its entire catalogue free, is an online practice platform Pour calls “a very cool practice resource.” Band students are expected to use their time working on their individual playing. They have two assignments each week, one a playing assignment and one “virtual concert attendance” using streaming platforms to watch symphonies, bands, opera, etc. Pour encourages them to

listen to music they normally don’t hear or play.

Pima Butte Elementary art teacher Ellen Zoretic uses Google Classroom, ClassDojo, email and phone calls to stay connected to her families.

“In my Google Classroom I post videos I’ve recorded of myself teaching the students art lessons as well as reading them art books,” Zoretic said. “I have an extra activity section where I have uploaded links to art games online, printable coloring pages, virtual museum tours and other ideas to keep busy and be creative.”

One of those ideas was creating a color-wheel challenge. Students had to find household items of every color of the rainbow and put them in a circle in their categorized color ranges. “They loved that project!”

She found another way to keep students engaged by reading Diane Alber’s “I’m Not Just a Scribble” while her bird sat on her shoulder as a special guest. She maintains Facebook and Instagram accounts to connect and show student artwork.

“One thing that I think is interesting is that our Blended Learning students at both middle schools are at a distinct advantage with the new online learning that is now happening across the nation and world,” Hull said. “Our students already received their schoolwork online, so this doesn’t change. Our students are also already used to doing research on their own and not needing that direct instruction that most teachers do on a daily basis.”

What’s changed is Hull is teaching her Blended Learning students from her computer table at home instead of in a classroom. She’s making WeVideo math content to post on Google Classroom. In language arts, weekly assignments include blogs or vlogs, where students can express themselves in a safe environment.

“And the things that our kids are concerned about go from funny to heartbreaking,” she said. “Most are concerned about food in the house, parents’ jobs, taking care of siblings, worrying about grandparents’ health. But the biggest thing our students talk about is not seeing friends and teachers and wondering if we will see each other at all before school starts next year.”

Graphic design teacher Maria Pour said she wants her MHS students to feel they are at least connected with her. It’s been a learning experience for her, too, as she created her own YouTube channel, showing students her home studio and posting enrichment lessons.

“Throughout our entire school year, we’ve used Google Classroom to submit student work, so that has continued as usual and offered



Maria Pour

the students some stability when it comes to Graphic Art & Design,” she said.

Through the school’s main software vendor and in-house information-technology expert, students were set up with the Adobe Creative Suite at home. Maria Pour said that gave her graphic designers a creative outlet and opportunity to master technical skills.

“I’ve done a Livestream for my students, which felt awkward for me until my students began submitting comments, feedback and jokes through my e-mail,” she said. “It was a wonderful way for me to feel connected to them again.”

Enna Post is the K-5 technology teacher at Saddleback Elementary. She normally would see students twice a week 30 minutes at a time.

“Now with the Distant Learning method, I’m reviewing their computer skills, combining files and video tutorials,” she said. “When students finish and turn in their work, I can see it in Google Classroom. I make sure and leave a personal note for them, to let them know I appreciate their work.”

The program allows her to explain and show the students basic skills like copy/paste and text editing. They can hear her voice and follow along as she moves objects or creates graphics.

Hull said the technology aspect of Blended Learning may get new attention when this vast experiment is over.

“I think now more people will look to our Blended Learning model of how to better integrate online and in-person teaching for the new world we live in.”

Old-fashioned communication still has a place, too. Arturet said she is continuing to connect with kids the way she always has, even by “snail mail.”

“I’ve mailed all of my class postcards and plan to do that every two weeks or so,” she said. “It’s something I do during the year sometimes, and they’re always super excited to get their own mail.”



Ellen Zoretic

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



High school seniors across the country saw their final year implode as COVID-19 stripped away many of the spring events that normally put a big exclamation point on the achievement of graduation. But that hasn't stopped these outstanding seniors from pursuing their goals.



Freya Abraham
Maricopa High School

The valedictorian of MHS Class of 2020 spent all her school years in Maricopa. Her career goal is to be a pediatric neurologist, working in healthcare advocacy and public policy.

How are you achieving your career goal? Attending University of Arizona as a Baird Scholar, attend best possible medical school for neurology. I participated in Banner Health volunteer, T-Gen Bioscience Leadership Program, Maricopa STEM club, job shadow medical professionals, Project Puente Microbiology intern [anticipated], many hours spent researching and applying, JSA director of expansion (policy exposure) and DECA (marketing and presentation skills).

Greatest achievement: National and state scholarships and awards including National Merit finalist, Presidential Scholar candidate, Coca-Cola semi-finalist, Flinn semi-finalist. Winning second place in the world for Business Marketing Services at DECA's 2018 International Career Development Conference, being on the international stage and making friends from across the country.

COVID-19: I'm not frustrated with anyone or anything in particular, except maybe for myself for paying for things too far in advance. It's hard to believe in the intensity of my losses when I see death counts rising and the struggles of healthcare workers worldwide. I feel blessed to have the option to stay home with my family and be safe; I didn't realize that was a privilege before.

Riley Bell
Maricopa High School

A Maricopa native, Riley is a noted dancer who performed with the MHS dance and theater troupes this year. She plans to become a hospital pharmacist.

How are you achieving your career goal? I plan to attend CAC to finish my general studies, then transfer to U of A. From there I plan to do pharmacy school.

Greatest achievement: Assuming the role of president of MHS's dance company and choreographing countless dance pieces throughout my high school career. My favorite memories from high school are a collection of the hours and hours of rehearsing for recital with my dance family.



COVID-19: With the cancellation of the remainder of our senior year, I regret not taking advantage of the time I had left; I wish I would have cherished it more. The biggest sting is not having a "senior-spring recital." I have been preparing myself for years for my last time on stage and I was not ready to say goodbye.



Cassandra Bonah
Maricopa High School

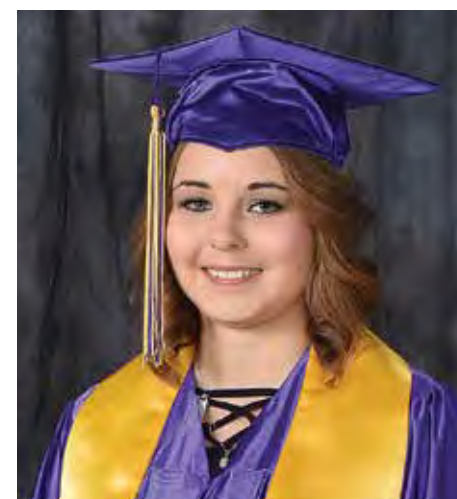
A Maricopa native, Cassandra participated in student council and plans to be a general physician for low-income and marginalized communities and eventually run for public office to encourage healthcare reform.

How are you achieving your career goal? Obtain a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences and a minor in law and society at NAU to eventually attend medical school. I currently take AP and Honors courses to prepare myself for the rigor and intensity of university and medical school. I also spend my time volunteering to help low-income communities through church.

"I realized the titles were pointless, but the effort I put into them and the growth I received from them wasn't. I did what I could, and though the physical rewards I don't get to experience, I do get to go into the rest of my life knowing I have the capacity to always try my best and be personally successful just for my own peace of mind." -Haley Lemon

Greatest accomplishment: Being awarded the Martin Luther King Jr. Dream award. It felt nice to be recognized in the name of someone I respect and admire so much. My favorite memory has been Mr. MHS. I was a part of the student council committee for it and seeing it all come together was just amazing.

COVID-19: It was difficult at first to come to terms with the fact that I wouldn't be able to enjoy my senior prom or walk the stage at graduation due to COVID-19. However, it's nice to see the Class of 2020 in MUSD, as well as all over Arizona, recognizing one another and supporting each other through this. It's comforting to know that we're all in this together.



Brielle Duff
Sequoia Pathway

Brielle has lived in Maricopa less than a year after moving from Kentucky. She is graduating from Pathway as salutatorian of the Class of 2020. She is pursuing a career in music.

How are you achieving your career goal? I have been accepted into Western Kentucky University's music program, which I will be attending in the fall, and I am dedicating myself to my music. **Greatest achievement:** Overcoming the obstacles in my life that held me back from my potential. It felt freeing and satisfying.

If I had stayed in that situation, I would still be trapped in my own belief that I couldn't achieve anything worthwhile with my life. Now I am on my way to making an impact. **COVID-19:** It has hindered me from getting the benefits of classroom learning, but it has allowed me more time to spend with family and work on my career interest. While losing educational hours is a loss, the virtual learning has allowed me to work on my own schedule and increase my self-discipline.

Roberto Esqueda Quintana
Maricopa High School

Originally from Chihuahua, Mexico, Roberto has lived in Maricopa 11 years and played four seasons of MHS football. His career goal is to help preserve buildings for centuries to come.

How are you achieving your career goal? I have applied for many scholarships and have started diving deep into the field and what I will have to learn in college. Attend ASU and get my degree in architecture.

Greatest achievement: Being able to succeed in Honors and AP classes while being a multi-sport varsity athlete and having many



hours of community service throughout my high school career.

COVID-19: It is quite sad; a lot of things were taken from me, but I have no doubt in my mind that we will pull through and find a way to please everyone.



Yasmeen Hanania
Maricopa High School

Yasmeen has spent all her school years in Maricopa; moving with her family from California when she was 4. She plans to attend ASU W.P. Carey School of Business to be an entrepreneur and study political science to enter government.

How are you achieving your career goal? I have interned with City Hall before and have campaigned for my State Officer position with Arizona DECA. I also am taking marketing and have participated and helped run Market Day at Maricopa High School and have presented my business idea to entrepreneurs to get advice and connections to start my business.

Greatest achievement: Becoming a state officer for Arizona DECA, representing District 9 and being able to be a part of an organization that has helped shape me and has prepared me for my future and being able to give back to my members and hold conferences and events for

them. Also qualifying for ICDC the last two years and getting glass at State.

COVID-19: We have worked so hard and accomplished so much and the fact that all the rewards we get for our accomplishments that other graduates were able to get have been taken away by a disease is extremely devastating, but I understand that it is for our safety and that the Class of 2020 is still going to be the best graduating class.



Angello Hernandez de la Peña
Maricopa High School

Gianni discovered computer programming in middle school and now has set his sights on becoming a software engineer at a large company. What he'll be doing, he said, depends on whether he goes to graduate school.

How are you achieving your career goal?

I will study computer science at Harvard and possibly pursue Artificial Intelligence for graduate school, depending on my interest by that time. I also plan to minor in History or Political Science. I have already learned to program in Python, C++ and Java.

Greatest achievement: Being accepted to Harvard. Other than that, I would say my greatest accomplishment has been my acceptance to and participation in the SAMS summer program at Carnegie Mellon last year. The program helped me immensely through the college application process and made me even more excited to pursue computer science in college.

COVID-19: School shutting down has made it difficult to stay motivated about my classes. Being stuck inside all day without any in-person contact with my friends takes a toll

after a while. I'm also disappointed I won't be able to see my friends speak at graduation or walk on stage. However, I understand this is all being done to protect the safety of ourselves and others. I hope the situation clears in time for the next school year to begin and our city is not hit heavily by the pandemic.

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Haley Lemon
Maricopa High School

A 12-year student in Maricopa, Haley has had a diverse high school experience and has diverse plans for her future. She is the salutatorian of MHS Class of 2020.

How are you achieving your career goal?

I am going to NAU in the fall and the plan is to begin with an associate degree studying in the fields of English, studio art and/or forestry. I will then serve a mission with my church and return to school to complete my bachelor's and go from there. I am a person who feels obligated to constantly be working on myself. I work hard to do my best morally, academically and creatively in all areas of my life, and I hope that effort is enough to give me the opportunities of growth and experience I would like to have in life.

Greatest achievement: I was amazingly lucky to be able to be both the president of the internationally recognized MHS Theatre Company and the salutatorian of the Class of 2020. I consider both of these opportunities in such high regard I cannot pick which one is greater.

COVID-19: I think it has made me realize something very important about how I should treat the rest of my life. When I first realized



my senior year had basically ended, I wrestled a lot with the knowledge that the show I was waiting months to direct was cancelled, that I would get no chance to give a speech to thousands of people like I had dreamed of, that I wouldn't get the senior week I was so excited for and that no one else in my class would either. I realized the titles were pointless, but the effort I put into them and the growth I received from them wasn't. I did what I could, and though the physical rewards I don't get to experience, I do get to go into the rest of my life knowing I have the capacity to always try my best and be personally successful just for my own peace of mind.



Juan Marquez
Maricopa High School

A native Californian, Juan and his family moved to Maricopa in 2019, and he found a way to excel in a new school for his senior year. He plans to attend Grand Canyon University while working for Proof Pest Control.

How are you achieving your career goal?

My career goal is to find something that makes me happy, so I don't work a day in my life. I am practicing yoga, reading books on interesting topics, and searching for my heart's desires.

Greatest achievement: Becoming Mr. MHS, joining the wrestling team and being able to start at a new place and still do good. My favorite memory from high school is the interaction between students and all the smiles and laughs that took place.

COVID-19: It hasn't stopped me. I'm still having a blast. There is always a good side and bad side. It matters what you look at and become.



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Leah Peterson Sequoia Pathway

A native Maricopan, Leah is the valedictorian of her class at Pathway. She was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, which inspired her to set her career goal toward being a nurse.

How are you achieving your career goal? When I was diagnosed, I spent some time in the ICU and it gave me insight and made me feel very thankful for the nurses who watched and took care of me as well as reassuring me in a hard time. I hope to be this way to someone else in the future. The steps I am taking to reach this is going to a university. I have been accepted into Grand Canyon University and will start classes that will prepare me for being a nurse. I was also accepted into their Honors College which will provide me many opportunities as well.

Greatest achievement: Becoming valedictorian of my graduating class. School has never been easy for me, and I have had to work really hard to get to where I am. My advice for others would be no matter what your goals are just try your best and work hard at it. You won't be disappointed by the results.

COVID-19: It has affected my senior year tremendously. It's sad that I may not see my classmates again and may not have a prom or graduation or be able to have the same experiences as other senior classes before me. I hope I will be able to have a graduation when things get back to normal.

Elijah Quinto Maricopa High School

A standout on the color guard auxiliary for his school's marching band, Elijah came to Maricopa five years ago. He plans to teach high school science and wants to be part of a professional-level color guard. He was named one of just six Winterguard Arizona scholarship recipients.

How are you achieving your career goal? Finishing high school and starting CAC classes in fall of 2020.

Greatest achievement: Being promoted at work to become a shift lead at Dutch Bros. My favorite memory of high school would be all the times during band and band competitions. I think getting a caption in our auxiliary section was my favorite part.

COVID-19: I unfortunately let go of high school after we learned our winterguard season would be cut short due to COVID-19, therefore I lost hope in all aspects of life in terms of finishing the last year of my formal education. I know, however, that I will still strive for my own education in the future and if that means online school, then we must change our norm.



Alex-Ann Velasco Maricopa High School

A self-described Army brat, Alex-Ann came to Maricopa her sophomore year. With a wide array of talents exhibited at MHS, she plans to hone her studies to become an obstetrician.

How are you achieving your career goal? Studying biomedical science in the Honors College at Northern Arizona University. I will use my biomedical science degree to meet all my prerequisite requirements for medical school.

Greatest achievement: My costume designs competing at the Central Arizona Festival of Theatre and qualifying to compete at the International Thespian Festival. Also, reading "The Flea" by John Donne in my sophomore honors English class or getting on the roof for the first time as the Fiddler in last year's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

COVID-19: Events like graduation, senior awards night, cap decorating, prom and even dress shopping were things I looked forward to for years. I understand it is better to take extra precautions for our safety than to risk anyone getting seriously sick or worse. But it is still a bummer to check your phone after a shower to see more has been canceled in what seems to be the blink of an eye. We worked hard for years to earn all the fun senior activities that we no longer get.



Maricopa High School



Freya Abraham



Nicholas Allen



Aylleen Alvarez



Jackson Anderson



Charlie Anderson



Emily Anderson



Alexis Araiza



Jocelyn Arballo Sosa



Xavier Arias



Ethan Atkinson



Isaiah Aviles



Carlos Avilez



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Brandon Balandran-Rodriguez



Jeremiha Ballard



Adam Ballotte



Hope Barajas



Yvanira Barbosa



Christina Barcello



Steven Barna



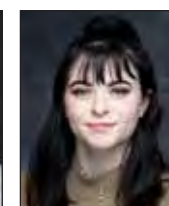
Ellissa Barocio



Makenzie Batt



Gabriel Baugh



Samantha Bayless



Emonie Beal



Kytori Beaton-James



Beattie Micah



Riley Bell-Niver



Kamariah Bennett



Ryan Bennett



Jake Bergen



Kenny Betancourt



Juanelle Billingsley



Jalen Black



Brookie Black



Derek Blakely



Jazel Bobo



Cassandra Bonah



Patty Borboa



Destiny Bowman



Kamille Boyce



Jaylen Brosseau



Elias Brown Thunder



Marcus Brown



Tyler Brown



Arionna Burgess-Sargent



Keara Burke



Genevieve Burno



Shaelyn Burno



Matthew Butler



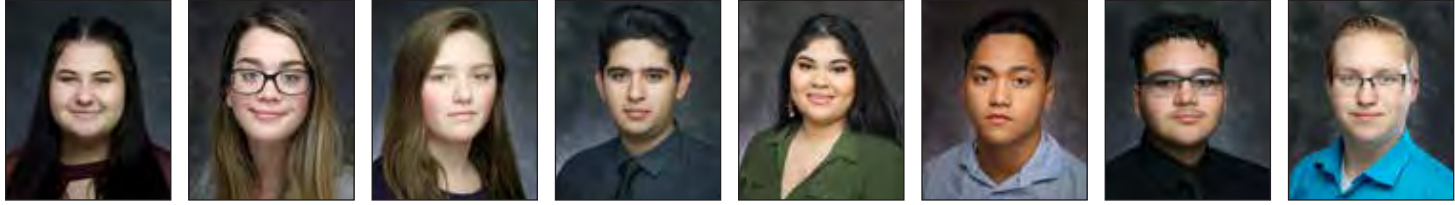
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Trae Camarillo Martin Benedict Camarista Michael Benedict Camarista Allison Campbell Destiny Campbell Nacey Carroll Kian Carroll Johnathan Carter



Anahi Castillo Diego Castro Andreana Ceballos Nadia Chacon Cassidy Chang Carlos Chavez Alexandra Christy Joey Cliche



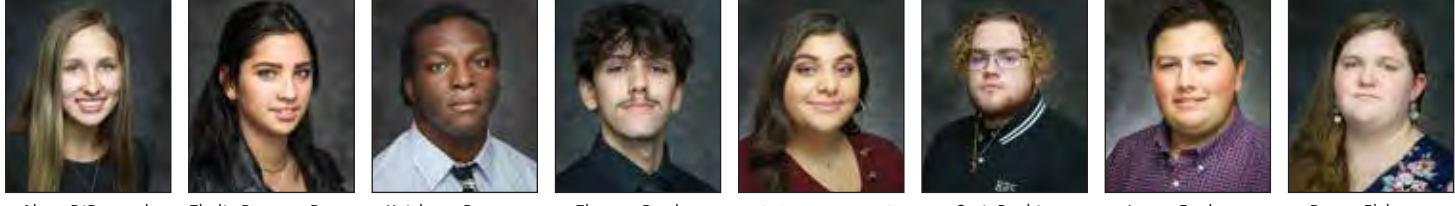
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Saneya Cowing Leilani Cramer Ashley Crider Emma Cruz Alexandra Cuellar DeAndray Curtis Masen Dale Britney Daniels



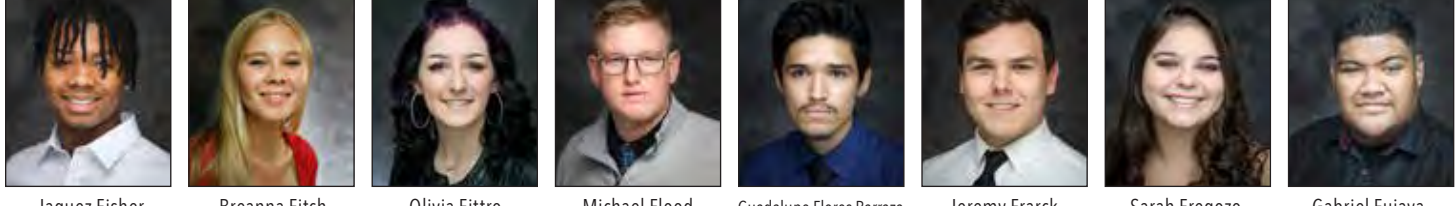
Jacob Davis Ronald Davis Jaren Deulio Brandon Delemos Alejandro Delgado Katelynn Delrio Hayley Dennee Aidan Di Maria



Alana DiPasquale Thalia Dorrego Reyes Keishaun Downes Thomas Dryden Isabel Duarte Quezada Garit Durbin James Egelston Regan Elsberry



Elaina Enos Lisbeth Eriksen Roberto Esqueda Quintana Angelica Estrada Peralta Matthew Ferguson Jolynn Ferland Henri Feyas Raven Figueroa



Jaquez Fisher Breanna Fitch Olivia Fittro Michael Flood Guadalupe Flores Barraza Jeremy Frarck Sarah Fregozo Gabriel Fuiava



X-Zavior Furman Maury Galaviz Odessa Galvan-Fuentes Athena Garcia Davin Garcia Doria Garcia



Seleste Garcia Brianna Garza Isabella Garza Noah Garza Margret Geib Corrin Gelber



Taegon Giddings Joshua Gillies Kennedy Glen Edgar Godinez Caitlyn Goldner Xiomara Gomez



Alyssa Gonzalez Kamila Gonzalez Julianna Goodrum Katherine Gores Myla Gorrell Kyana Gray



Keanue Greeley Xander Green Alexis Gregory Alyssa Gregory Dallas Grimm Hailey Gross



Kiana Guerra Rigoberto Guillen Corchado Ariadne Gutierrez Kaila Gutierrez Alejandro Guzman Payson Hacker



Michael Hadenfeldt Juni Hall Jarrod Hamlett Madyson Hampson Yasmeen Hanania Alea Hanley



Andrea Harker Thymen Harry Sophia Hartman Minayah Hawkins Brynna Hayzlett Olivia Healey-Martin

MHS Not Pictured

- Michael Aguado Ruiz
- Jodai Alcantara Zamora
- Samantha Anguiano
- Danya Arellanos-Reyes
- Prince Bah
- Sandy Barajas
- Shane Beaumont
- Brandon Bechtel
- Tyler Beck
- Emma Berg
- Michael Boman-Behmardy
- Saige Burnett
- Koby Burton
- Amelia Cameron
- Jaslynn Castillo
- Damian Cenera
- Mayran Cervantes
- Cade Chagollan
- Adrian Cherry
- Antonio Ciecferko
- Jasmine Crane
- Vianna Darby
- Karen Davis
- Josh Deboer
- Dawson Demeter
- Jorge Diaz
- Dean Dodson
- Zynir Downes
- Austin Dunbar
- Alexis Duran
- Dayn Dusek
- Cheyenne Dusenberry
- Alyssa Escobar
- Carlos Flores Ramirez
- Kayla Flores
- Angelica Garcia Fabian
- Juan Giles-Gomez
- Charles Granger
- Nicholas Dean Grisworld
- Alex Gutierrez
- Tarianna Hairston
- Domingo Hernandez
- Christian Hernandez Guzman
- Samantha Herron
- LeeAnthony Hill
- Jacob Hitchcock
- Brian Homar
- Tyler Inscore
- Jenna Iversen
- Brendon Jackson
- Carlos Jimenez
- Jada Jones
- Kierianna Justin
- Samuel Justin
- Danny Khliu
- Steel Lewis
- Anthony Lisby
- Ashley Lopez
- David Lopprino



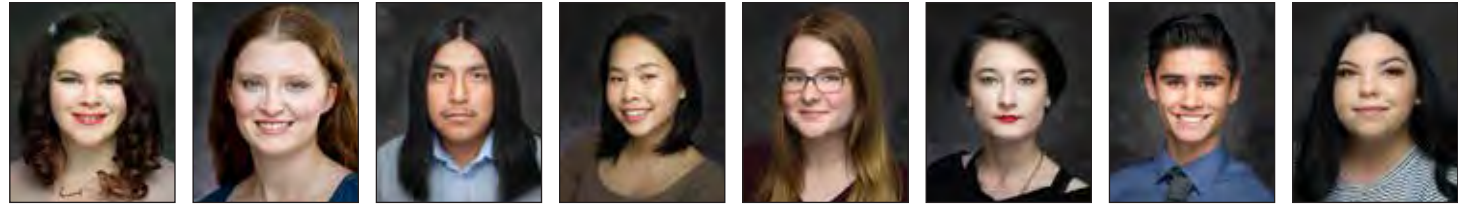
Monique Hem Angello Hernandez-De La Pena Nathan Heun Hannah Hickey Alexis Hicks Josiah Holguin Brianna Hollingsworth Chayla Holloway



Makayla Horn Saige Horsley Alyssa Huffman Parker Hunsaker Neil Hunt Mistic Icenogle Aaron Jackson Bryan Jackson



Josiah Jackson Amoni James Ar'Marieah Jamison Haliegh Jensen Zackary Jensen David Johnson Ilijah Johnson Taliya Johnson



Jamie Johnston Savannah Jones Earl Justin Kanthikan Kanjana Christen Kemp Emily Kenny Jadon Kentch Candis Kenyon



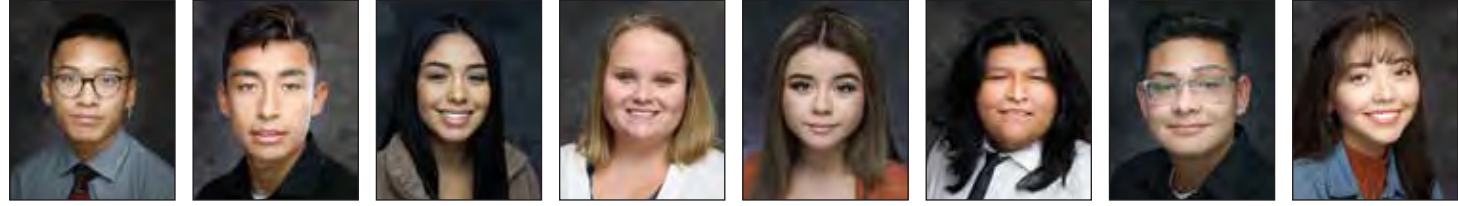
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Haley Lemon Jordan Levy RyAnn Liermann Jackson Lindseth LisiJadyn Brandon Lokmor Sydney Lomeli Tyler Long



Javier Lopez Rodriguez Desirae Lorenz Gavin Lucarelli Ethan Luetkahans Chloe Luiz Christian Lukasik David Luna Elise Luna



Alexander Luong Jesus Maciel Leslie Madrigal Lopez Jayde Maglothlin Melody Maldonado Derek Manuel Angel Manzo Briseida Marin Lopez



Jemel Marquez Juan Marquez Gabriel Martin Tommy Mason Kayla Matos Emily McCormac



Jordan McKee Alonzo Mejia Deserae Mellott Jacob Meyers Jaqueline Meza Mascareno Asher Miller



Charity Miller Kiana Miller-Gomez Coreyuna Mitchell-Shepherd Maximus Miu Isabella Moe Priscilla Mojarro Urena



Heriberto Mollinedo Raymond Montero Desmen Moody Nicholas Mooney Mia Moreno Taylor Morgan



Douglas Moulton Hunter Mullinex Alexandra Mullins Erik Muniz Peter Mwangi Maceo Myers



Alyiah Navarro Kaden Nelson Taylor Nelson Alexa Neuhaus Alen Nezirevic Calista Nielsen



Grace Bridgett Njue Kale Norris Kayla Occhiline Adam Olsen Juan Ornelas Gonzalez Andrea Ortiz



Thomas Ortiz Daniel Pablo Noah Panter Alexis Paramo Nunez Tristan Paris Jeremiah Parker

Savion Lowe
Rebecca Marsden
La'Kisia Marsh
Va'Kisia Marsh
Jacob May
Carlos Mazon
Brooke McCabe
Autumn Mitchell
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Hayden Simmons
Jacob Skelton
Heaven Smith
Manin Sokkun
Uriel Solis
Kaleb Steward
Jade Swann
Rickie Tolle
Malik Turner
Anthony Valenzuela
Derek Valli
Izaiah Vasquez
Rosa Vasquez Jimenez
Alexander Vasquez
Anahi Villa Rodriguez
Blake Walker
Ryan Waters
Logan Wayerski
Destiny Weldon
Daniel Wellington
Katelyn Wells
John Williams
Juan Yepiz Verdugo
Jennifer Zazueta Valle



Hunter Parry Alexis Pasten Rosales Jesus Peralta Jose Perez Barraza Aaliyah Perez Patrice Perrone Michael Peters Bailey Petty



Jamie Phelps Bryan Pick Hailey Piquette Nathan Plemons Carlos Ponce Kailei Pozos Akeirha Price Gracie Price



Mackenzie Price Martin Puentes Haleigh Purchase Paola Quinones-Ortiz Evelyn Quintana Mendoza Anthony Quintero Elijah Quinto Sandra Ramirez Herrera



Mario Ramirez Magana Fernando Ramirez Zanaa Ramirez Fernando Ramirez Miguel Ramirez Cole Ramon Alize Ramos Austin Rapp



Jakob Rasmusson Jonathan Reale James Redfern Rhianon Reed Fernando Reyes Dakota Rhoades Alexxiss Richards Jacob Richmond



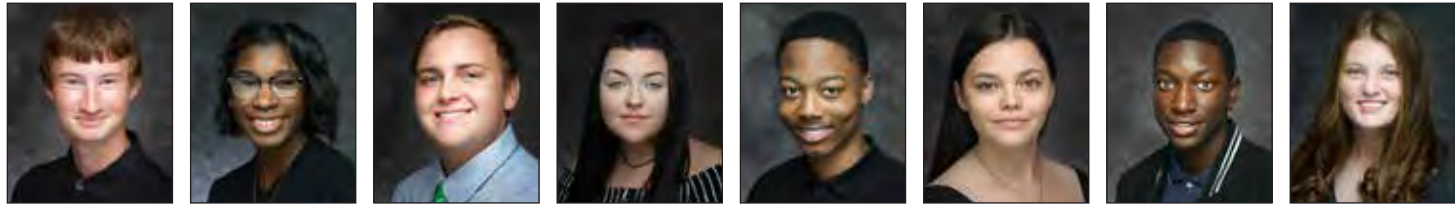
Tayler Riley-Coleman Lilly Rios Diana Rivera Tristan Rivers Megan Robert Kelly Roberts Anna Rock Marc Rodriguez Montoya



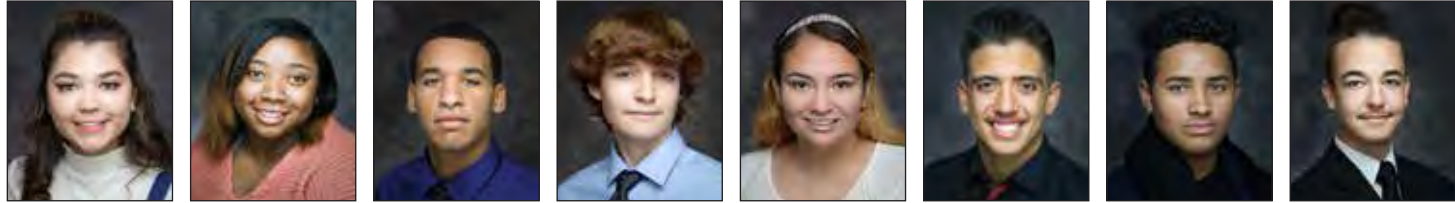
Emilio Rodriguez Kaylin Roman Daniela Romero Kevyn Romero Natalie Romo Aimme Rosales Keylon Ross Angela Ruiz



Taylor Russo Isaac Salinas Nicholas Sanchez Anival Sanoval Esteban Santillan Kimahri Saunders Matt Schornack Manzanita Schrader



Anthony Schumacher Daijah Scott Hunter Scott Chloe Seekings Lazaro Seriale Desiree Shane Avion Shaw Savannah Shelaburger



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Blaine Stapleton Quinton Stapleton Miles Starks Janae Stephany Kacie Swaffield Drew Tabor Marko Tanev Austyn Teran



Da'Mya Thomas Landen Thomas Benjamin Thompson Alexia Timmons Jerry Titus Kathryn Tolle Adam Torres Arlette Torres



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Wakeem Price
Emily Rodriguez
Angela Ruiz
India Starks
Janae Stephany
Arlette Torres

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Autymn Mitchell
Amir Muhammad
Yesina Muhammad
Abigail Nichols
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Anelaya Vasquez Alex-Ann Velasco Andy Velasquez Sofia Ventura Jose Venzor Vanessa Vidal Teran Mario Villarreal Sahara Visitor



Andrew Vonderheide Chris Walker Brandon Waters Levi Watlington Bowen West Brad Whitaker Matthew Whitley Jefferson Wiemiller



Aaron Williams Serenity Williams Kemon Wilson Aniya Windsor Connor Witte Hayley Witte Tacie Woodhouse Ryan Wresh

Dear Maricopa High School Graduating Class of 2020,

Congratulations to you on this remarkable achievement. You have worked hard throughout the years and I am so proud of your accomplishments as well as the courage you have shown during these uncertain times. Each of your stories are unique and each of you have overcome obstacles along the way that made you stronger and more prepared for the world that lies ahead.

The Maricopa High School Class of 2020 has a prominent place in history. Forever, you will have a milestone in your personal story that connects you to the entire human race.

As you approach the end of your journey at MHS, keep your eye on the goal. The conclusion of your high school career is not what you envisioned; you have sacrificed important milestones these last few weeks. Still, know that this does not diminish your accomplishments, the pride your parents and teachers feel for you, or the opportunity for you to achieve success beyond your wildest dreams.

Each time you reach a future goal, and the spotlight shines on you, take a moment to recall your senior year. Remember the lessons you learned from your school, community, nation and world during this unprecedented time. Reflect on the bravery, innovation, unity, and overwhelming acts of kindness that are swirling around you at this moment. These are the qualities that mark this important transition, the qualities that will become your destiny.

This era in history will be defined by challenge and uncertainty, but it will not define you. The class of 2020 is embodied by your spirit, your friendships, your perseverance, and your drive to finish strong — attributes all too big and important to be limited to a timeline, one moment in history.

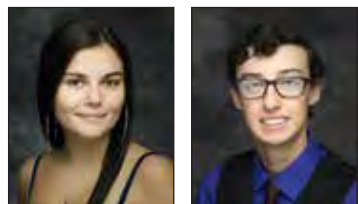
Maricopa High School Class of 2020, I wish you a future full of hope and opportunity. This is your beginning. The best is yet to come. May success be with you, always.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tracey Lopeman
SUPERINTENDENT
Maricopa Unified School District



Evelyn Young Isabel Youniacutt



Eva Zavala Jacob Zeising



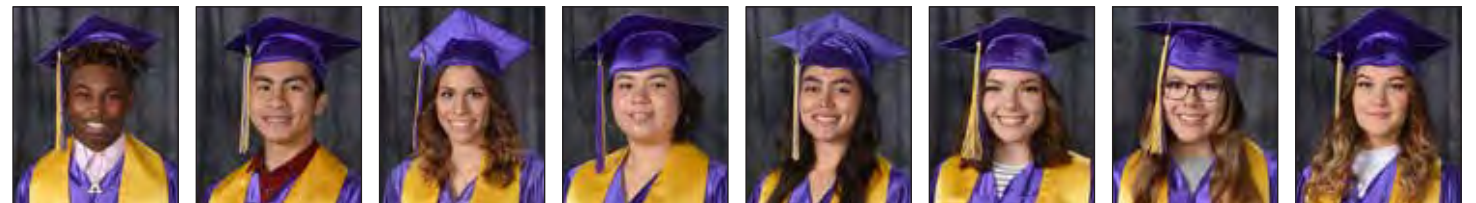
Armando Zepeda Cassidy Zimmerman



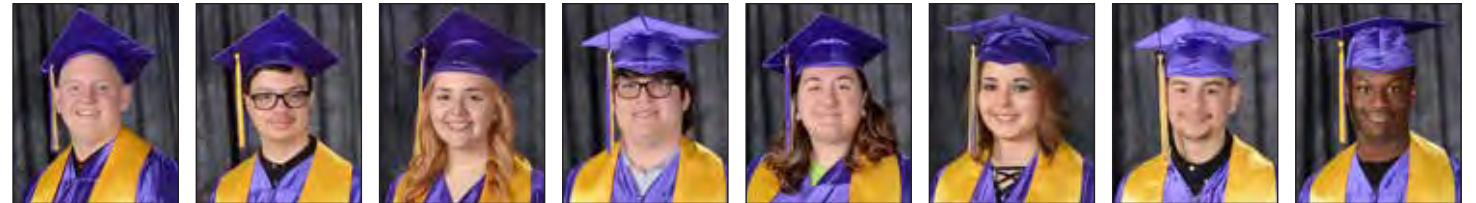
Sebastian Zuniga



Sequoia Pathway Academy



Daijuan Anderson Anson Jre Anderson-Coronel Lynniece Andrews Katelyn Aneses Hailey Arboleda Macee Bell Mickenzee Bell Joliegh Boothe



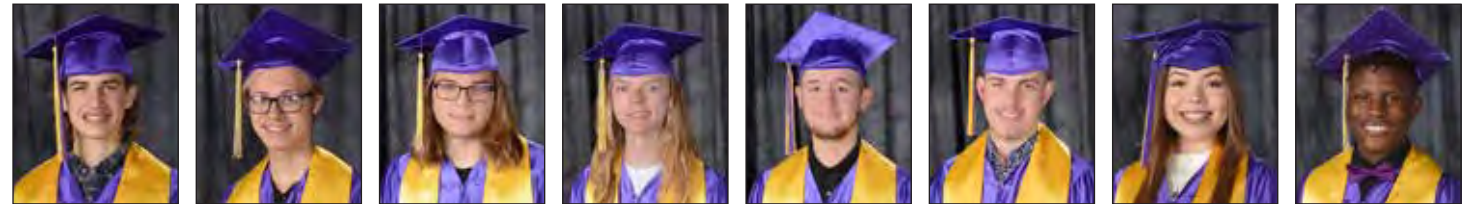
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Jayden Enriquez Aleina Estrada Serenity Fierro Mikayla Gallon Hailey Garcia Malikia Gustina Mauryce Harper Emilio Hernandez



Wyatt Hughes Dylan Hunsaker Aaliyah Hutcheson - Torres Christian Johnson Landon Jones Jacob Keleman Wyatt Klee Dakota Langhammer



Patrick Lisby Kafer Lloyd Joshua Marino Mason McCowan Micah McEvers Jacob McIntyre Clarissa Mendoza-Cibrian Shane Miller



Fatima Mohammed Janette Olivo Caitlyn Orozco Carlo Orozco Cassandra Ortiz Silva Samantha Pardo Christopher Perez Leah Peterson



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Complete your Census online at:
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Or by phone: English: 844-330-2020
Spanish: 844-468-2020

Who is the Best Mom in Maricopa?

ENTER AND WIN!

Let's celebrate Mother's Day! Local businesses are again sponsoring the Best Mom in Maricopa Contest, running through May 5 at InMaricopa.com/contests.

Nominate your favorite mother by emailing a photo, the nominee's name AND

- A written nomination of no more than 100 words OR
- A video of no more than 1 minute to News@InMaricopa.com

Moms must be Maricopa residents. Nominate your mother, your wife, your sister, niece, friend, grandmother — simply the best mom in town — and tell us why she is so great.

Voting will begin immediately after nomination is posted on the contest page. Readers will vote for their favorites through May 5. Readers can vote once a day on as many devices as they own. The earlier you nominate, the more votes she can gather.

Grand Prize includes a bouquet from Cotton Blossom Flower Shoppe, family photoshoot with Victor Moreno Photography (one household), Trend Salon & Spa Gift Basket and gift card, Maui Jim Sunglasses from Maricopa Eye Care, a \$200 bill credit from Electrical District No. 3, an anti-aging facial from K'Bella Salon & Day Spa and two \$25 gift cards to local businesses courtesy of Brian French at My Home Group. Total value is more than \$1,500.

Second place is a bouquet, \$100 K'Bella gift card courtesy of Vanessa McDill State Farm, a free yard treatment from Just Weeds (\$70 value), \$50 Amazon gift card courtesy of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and a \$25 gift card.

Third place is a bouquet, K'Bella Salon & Day Spa 30-minute infrared capsule session (\$50 value) and a \$25 gift card.

• Voting deadline **May 5**

• Winner notified **May 6**

• Winners announced **May 10**

InMaricopa.com/contests

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Olivia Healey-Martin and Cassidy Zimmerman at Ram Stadium as the empty high school turns on lights each night for 20 minutes for the Class of 2020.



Victor Moreno



Destiny Campbell

Seniors reflect on loss of would-be high school memories

By Joycelyn Cabrera

Taliya Johnson is a Maricopa High School senior who, like everyone else in her class, was looking forward to the final weeks of her final year.

“I think the hardest part was hearing that we’re not going to have an actual graduation,” Johnson said. “We’re all kind of losing motivation, because that was our motivation. It was kind of heartbreaking.”

High school seniors reflect on everything they will be missing now that schools have closed for the rest of the year due to the COVID-19 outbreak.



Lexi Hicks

The closures, announced by Gov. Doug Ducey and Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman, forced schools to move curriculums to online platforms.

While some students are adept in the changing environment, cruising through online classes, others struggle to manage their time and focus on schoolwork.

Many left materials for projects and assignments in the school building, not knowing they would not be allowed to retrieve their belongings as planned. Some wonder how they’ll return textbooks before the end of the year. Overall, seniors lament all the things they will be missing in their unusual senior year.

Student Voices

Zanaa Ramirez, leader on the MHS track and field team, which had its season canceled: “I’m a little frustrated. We were doing really well so far, and my teammates worked really hard.”

MHS soccer captain Taylor Russo: “I feel for my friends who are part of the baseball team, they didn’t get to finish their season. I would definitely be really upset if I wasn’t able to finish mine. I got to have my senior night, I got to have my last game and everything because this happened right when the season finished.”

MHS Dance Company performer Taliya Johnson: “Missing the last dance recital made me the most upset. The last dance recital is the last time dancing with your team, your family. You get a rose at the last recital, on senior night. It’s a big thing for everyone in the company.



Taylor Russo

Going to dance was the thing I looked forward to every day.”

Lexi Hicks, whose family is from Chicago, had already purchased a prom dress, tickets and graduation memorabilia: “The thing I was looking forward to the most was definitely graduation, prom, senior ditch day and senior week. I don’t live with my parents, so I was extremely excited to have them come down and watch their oldest daughter graduate. I was excited to decorate my cap with my friends and even take prom pictures with them.”

Destiny Campbell will be the first member of her family to graduate high school: “I am a member of Student Council. This being my last year, I won’t get to fully enjoy all of the end-of-the-year celebrations that Student Council holds for seniors. I was looking forward to senior week, prom and graduation.”



Taliya Johnson

A Message from Teachers

Even with the uncertainty, loss and changes, many students have referenced the support and structure teachers are giving from their new virtual courses.

Teachers in the English department at MHS wrote a letter to their Class of 2020 students, posting the letter on social media.

“This is a generational turning point,” the letter read. “Your milestones may have been postponed, but you haven’t been. Continue to learn, and grow, and reach, and strive, and change, and be.”

The letter to students was signed by senior English teachers Aidan Balt, David Blanchard, Juan Garavito, Laura Lomayeva and Talitha Martin, who, like their colleagues, have transitioned to teaching online.

Many students have reached the conclusion school closure is necessary for public safety, but back-up plans should be applied for the senior class.

“I understand why they did what they did; everyone’s safety should be a priority,” Campbell said. “But I feel that everything else should not have had to have been canceled.”

“I feel like the class of 2020 has handled this pretty well,” Russo said. “I feel like it could have gone a lot worse, and we’ve all taken it in stride.”



Math taught differently, better in other countries

By Murray Siegel

Erin Richards, an education reporter for *USA Today*, published a Feb. 29 article about the lack of success realized in American K-12 education in mathematics. Her article was entitled “Math scores stink in America. Other countries teach it differently — and see higher achievement.”

The lead paragraph in her story stated, “The latest results of an international exam given to teenagers ranked the USA ninth in reading and 31st in math literacy out of 79 countries and economies. America has a smaller-than-average share of top-performing math students, and scores have essentially been flat for two decades.”

Her investigation revealed how other countries teach math much differently than we do here, and their results are significantly better. Perhaps we can learn from Richards’ reporting.

One example of these differences is the American “geometry sandwich,” where U.S. secondary schools teach a geometry course sandwiched between two algebra courses. Other developed countries teach three years of integrated math instead of the sandwich.

Integration blends various strands of math curriculum, not only tying together the curriculum, but allowing the use of math in practical applications. One particular part of mathematics that is omnipresent in foreign programs is statistics or data science. Data-driven problems can use many areas of the math curriculum to solve real problems in everyday environments.

Richards provides an example of a nation that has made radical changes in the teaching of math and has reaped positive results. “Estonia students ranked first among European countries in mathematics, as well as reading and science, on the 2018 Programme

for International Student Assessment. Many factors may have helped: The country offers high-quality early childhood education to all kids, class sizes are small, and there’s little high-stakes testing, leaving more time for instruction.”

The report highlights the correlation between how math is taught in the elementary grades and student performance in high school. To be honest, how mathematics is taught in our schools is dictated by the state, and local districts can do little without state direction. This report should motivate those who care about the mathematical achievement of our students to inundate state legislators with requests to review this report and take actions needed to allow Arizona high school graduates to be competitive with those from Estonia.

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



Murray Siegel



Handling anxiety

By Harriet Phelps

We could not have seen the current coronavirus situation coming. Preparation for and anticipation of a global pandemic with unforeseen consequences is outside of all of our experience. From the top down, we are all handling the circumstances as best as we can.

Today, the majority of us are experiencing heightened awareness about staying well, financial stability and family needs, which creates anxiety. It is normal to get anxious about important events or life changes, but coping may have its consequences. The pandemic has hit us all in many areas of our lives like a fast-moving train.

Fear and anxiety are survival warning systems. The feelings may cause fight, flight or freeze. We become hyper-vigilant in trying to protect ourselves from these very uncomfortable feelings. This is a significant emotional event that is outside our experience to cope. We then revert to survival mode that engages fighting by becoming angry at the smallest issue; flight, I run from what is bothering me in an attempt to cope; or I freeze, I do nothing and the anxiety builds to uncomfortable levels and affects me physically.

Mainly, this is out of our control and we do not know what to do.

Most of us have anxiety from time to time, however. The person who has

an anxiety or panic disorder is struggling. Physical symptoms that come with anxiety to panic are tension in the body, fast-beating heart or palpitations, breathing fast, trembling, shaking or sweating, loss of appetite, loss of sleep and difficult concentration. Should these symptoms become too difficult to cope with please reach out for help by calling your doctor, a mental health center or hotline. Maricopa County 800-631-1314 or 602-222-9444; Pinal 866-495-6735; Ak-Chin 800-259-3449, teens 602-248-TEEN (8336) and veterans 800-273-8255 (press 1).

Stopping these overwhelming feelings may feel like an uphill struggle but there are skills you can develop to help you cope. Anxiety is a future oriented state of mind. Worrying is time-consuming and accomplishes nothing. This, too, will pass.

Stay Present and Time Tight. Today my plan is to _____. Be specific with the

activity.

In the next five minutes I will do _____. I will worry about _____ between 1 and 1:30 p.m. Anything beyond that becomes incessant with no results. Making a plan helps. Activity is the antidote, do something.

Reality Check your Thoughts. Under stress we can play mind games. It is natural to think and fixate on the worst-case scenario. Check your thoughts with how realistic they are. Retrain your brain and understand you are capable in problem-solving or asking for help. We are presented with many opportunities to work with our loans and bills. These may

be new skills you are learning that will last a life time.

As always, be awesome.



Harriet Phelps

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Kyle Norby

1. 20659 N. Enchantment Pass, Province

A 3-year-old, lakeside home was the most expensive house sold in Maricopa March 16-April 15. Gorgeous interiors include a large master suite, wet bar in the great room, staggered cabinetry, stainless-steel appliances and large kitchen island with lots of upgrades. It sold for \$10,000 under its original asking price.

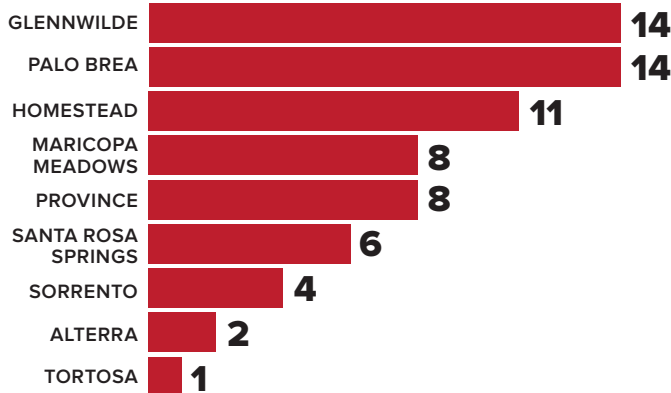
Sold: April 14
Purchase Price: \$415,000
Square Footage: 2,499
Price per square foot: \$166.06
Days on Market: 114
Builder: Meritage Homes
Year Built: 2017
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5

Community: Province
Features: Master features double vanity, large walk-in shower, walk-in closet connects to laundry room. Plantation shutters throughout. Covered patio. Water filtration system includes RO and soft water.

- 2. 22322 N. Balboa Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$379,900
- 3. 41917 W. Granada Drive, Glennwilde.....\$355,000
- 4. 42474 W. Little Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$350,000
- 5. 41809 W. Bravo Court, Rancho El Dorado.....\$350,000

Single-family home permits by subdivision

March 1-31



Kyle Norby

1. 40057 W. Hayden Drive, Homestead

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa March 16-April 15 was a cozy two-bedroom with a large backyard. It last sold in 2016 for \$124,900. It was put on the market in November but relisted two months later after a \$3,100 price drop. Its selling price was still 35% higher than four years ago.

Sold: March 24
Purchase Price: \$169,000
Square Footage: 1,066
Price per square foot: \$158.53
Days on Market: 123
Builder: DR Horton
Year Built: 2007

Bedrooms: 2
Bathrooms: 2
Community: Homestead North
Features: Wood plank tile floors, open floor plan, den, plush carpet, window blinds, patio, large bedrooms

- 2. 35669 W. Costa Blanca Drive, Tortosa.....\$175,000
- 3. 45056 W. Cypress Lane, Alterra North.....\$178,000
- 4. 45750 W. Windmill Drive, Maricopa Meadows.....\$185,000
- 5. 43815 W. Colby Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$186,000

For a full list of last month's Maricopa home sales, visit [InMaricopa.com/Real-Estate](https://inmaricopa.com/Real-Estate).

Tips for buying, selling home during pandemic

By Dayv Morgan

When COVID-19 reached Arizona, the number of homebuyers decreased, as did the number of sellers. This has kept the supply of houses low, meaning Maricopa remains a seller's market with many homes going under contract in the first couple of weeks.

Even before real estate was considered an "essential business" by executive order of the governor, Realtors had safe practices in place to guide homebuyers and home sellers through pandemic procedures. Homes on the market are still being shown, but sellers and buyers can take precautions.



Dayv Morgan

may also ask potential buyers to remove their shoes or make "booties" available.

- Open all cabinets and all interior doors so guests will not need to touch them. Turn on all lights and lamps before the showing so guests are not touching switches.
- Before a showing and directly after a showing, wipe down all surfaces in the home with disinfectant.

Buyers

- If you are ill, do not attend home showings. Ask your Realtor about a video tour of the home that has your interest.
 - Drive yourself to the home being shown rather than traveling with your agent.
 - Don't touch surfaces or objects.
 - Wash your hands with soap, following CDC guidelines, after every showing.
- Realtors will be reminding potential



homebuyers in your house to observe all social-distancing norms. Discuss with your real estate agent any concerns you have about participating in home showings during a pandemic. For Realtors the health and safety of their clients and themselves are top priority.

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

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Raised garden beds can help self-sustaining efforts

By LeeAnn Noschese

This is the perfect time to gather the family and grow your own food. Self-sustainability in your backyard can be done in a small area with a surprising amount of production. It is wonderful to go out in your yard to collect fresh, nutritious, homegrown vegetables.

There are many different methods of construction for a raised garden bed, such as brick, wood, rock and concrete. I have tried a few methods over the last 29 years of gardening in Arizona.

Adding a drip system to your raised bed is the standard way to assure consistent watering.

Choosing a raised garden bed has its benefits – protection from pests, controlled soil quality, fewer weeds, no tilling, water conservation. Plus, some folks find it easier to reach all the plants.

Wicking beds are a fantastic way to maintain a productive garden. I have used this method for one year, and I am excited about the results.

In the concept of a Wicking bed, a lower chamber is constructed which holds water. The plants seek out the water below, promoting a

healthy root system. The plants use the water as needed from the chamber. It is necessary to top water the garden until seedlings establish stronger roots.

I call it my bonding time.

The construction

We stapled hardware cloth to the bottom of the bed to discourage gophers and ground squirrels, put cardboard on the inside of the bed to protect the plastic liner, then lined the bed with Poly sheeting (we used a tarp), stapling around the top edge.

Then put in the perforated pipe. I used a square of landscaping fabric on the end of

the perforated pipe and secured it with a zip tie to keep the pea gravel out. Attach the other end to the PVC pipe elbow then connect the 2-inch pipe. Drill a hole to fit the half-inch PVC pipe for a water overflow. This will help indicate when the bed is full.



Fill the bed with pea gravel, staple landscape fabric over the pea gravel, add soil.

The soil should be at least 12 feet deep with a mix of potting soil and organic matter, such as finished compost.

You can create the “wicking effect” on a smaller scale with a 5-gallon bucket, storage tub, even an old trunk like this one in my garden.

Most of all, enjoy the experience. Happy gardening. 🍷

LeeAnn Noschese is a master gardener intern with the University of Arizona Maricopa Agricultural Center.



LeeAnn Noschese



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Stay calm, stay informed during pandemic

By Joan Koczor

Seems the news is filled with frightening stories about the new coronavirus COVID-19. It is natural to feel anxious about any major disease outbreak, especially one affecting so many in what seems like a short time.

Governments are encouraging the public to stay home and take preventive measures to stop the spread of the virus, which may be harmful to high-risk patients, older adults in particular and those who have severe health conditions.

As a result, many people all around the country are working from home and isolating themselves from social situations. Many experts say there is sufficient evidence to show social isolation may bring depression, poor sleep quality and weakened immunity.

If you are feeling especially anxious, talk to someone who can work through your concerns in a realistic, calm manner.

On the positive side you have time for those projects you said you would get to when you had the time. Spend quality time with your family. Organize that box of pictures you have hidden away with a promise to get to them —

some day. Staying physically active can boost your immune system. Try spending at least 30 minutes a day walking, doing yard work or low-impact exercise.


Protect yourself and your family by following advice from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Create a list of local

organizations you and your family can contact should you need access to information, healthcare services and resources. Create an emergency contact list. Include family, friends, neighbors, healthcare providers. Choose a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

Get your information from reliable

sources, such as the CDC. For email updates go to CDC.gov to the Get Email Updates section and provide your email address.

The World Health Organization maintains a “Myth Busters” page that covers common misconceptions about the COVID-19 outbreak. If you hear or read something that you question, go to: www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters

Stay safe. Stay informed. Avoid crowds and people who are sick. Wash your hands often. If packages are delivered, leave them in the sun for six to eight hours before opening. Then use caution. Use gloves to open the package. Wash your hands immediately. Same with groceries. Wash purchased items before putting them away. 

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



Joan Koczor

A checklist to make your home safer

By Ron Smith

Now that we are all sequestered in our homes, we have time to investigate how well they are working for us. Are there places that could be safer or work better for us in our daily living?

Before we start looking at individual rooms, here are some generic problems that we can possibly improve. Best yet, most of these are no-cost improvements.

A great starting point is to identify possible sources of falls. Falls are the leading cause of injuries in people age 65 and older, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Some of the most common contributors to falls are area rugs, loose cords in your walkway, stair carpeting that is not properly attached, furniture placement that doesn't allow easy passage and simple clutter that gets underfoot.

Some tips:

- Check that frequently needed items are

stored in places that are easily accessible.


- Wear proper footwear. Make sure that your shoes or slippers fit properly and have nonskid soles.
- If you have area rugs that you really want to keep, secure them properly with double-sided tape or a slip-resistant backing.
- Install nightlights to provide a clear path in the dark.
- Check outdoor walkways and paths for loose bricks, cracks or uneven joints.

Also check to see if your shrubbery needs to be trimmed to provide a clear view from your doors and windows or to improve your visibility while backing out of your driveway. Do you have sufficient light at your entry door or along your walkways? Do you have a table or a bench near the front door to set down a package when you are trying to open the door?

As part of aging, our eyesight needs to

work harder. Proper lighting in your home is very important. Look for areas that are dark or have shadows. Can you add more light by pulling back the window coverings more or adding a lamp? Light helps us with our depth perception by providing contrast. Light, particularly sunlight, can also help us improve our mood and our outlook on life.

Another good item to check is the temperature setting on your hot water heater. The water temperature should be set to 120 degrees or less to prevent scalding and reduce energy costs.

In the coming months, I will share some important tips to make your home fit for aging-in-place on a room-by-room basis. 

(Source: AARP HomeFit Guide at aarp.org/homefit.)

Ron Smith is a Maricopa resident and an aging-in-place advocate. He is also a member of the Age-Friendly Maricopa Advisory Committee and a member of the Maricopa Senior Coalition.



Ron Smith



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Things to do while sheltering in place

By Al Brandenburg

It's been months, and all of us have had to deal with the threat of the coronavirus. So, while one is staying home, other than trips to the supermarket for essentials, what can seniors really do to pass the time while still having some fun? After scouring the various sources for ideas, here are some suggestions that may help:

1. Complete a puzzle. Studies show solving jigsaw puzzles can keep seniors' minds sharp and can target the parts of the brain that deteriorate through neurological diseases like Alzheimer's. Plus, they're quite affordable, so you can pick up several at a time and stow them away for later.

2. Watch old home movies. Sometimes it's nice to take a stroll down memory lane. But seniors don't always feel up to talking. That's what makes home movies so special. They capture our most cherished memories and allow us to play them back whenever we want. Watching home movies reminds seniors they

are loved and lifts their spirits.

3. Learn a skill together. To keep those cognitive abilities up, try learning something new. There are thousands of tutorials on sites like YouTube that teach everything from knitting and cooking to basic home repair and foreign languages. The possibilities are endless.

4. Play games. Let's face it, board games are just flat-out fun. Break out your copy of Monopoly or the chess board or snag a deck of cards for a fun, easy way to spend some time with the spouse and loved ones. You'll get to have fun and make some truly amazing memories in the process.

5. Try chair exercises. It isn't always easy for seniors to get up and work out, especially if they have mobility issues. Chair exercises are the perfect solution. Check out some quick and easy exercises on the internet anyone can do regardless of age or mobility

6. Garden. Gardening (one of my

personal favorites) is a great way to spend some time outdoors, and if you have the ability to grow vegetables, you might save money on food. Many online plant and seed companies are taking and delivering orders, though some are apologizing for delays as they try to keep up with demand. You might be able to get some soil from local garden or home improvement shops.

7. Broaden your mind. Now more than ever, you can visit museums digitally, such as Paris's Louvre and London's British Museum. Or take virtual tours of national parks like Grand Canyon or Jamestown.

So, don't just sit around the house watching hours of mindless TV. With a little effort, what seems like endless time can be truly enjoyable. Stay safe (and sane). 📞

Al Brandenburg is the director of Maricopa Senior Coalition.

Sources: The Citizen.com, AARP, mydomaine.com, unitycouncil.org



Al Brandenburg



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