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October 2020

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GOVERNMENT

Battle for
the Board

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How Mike Ingram
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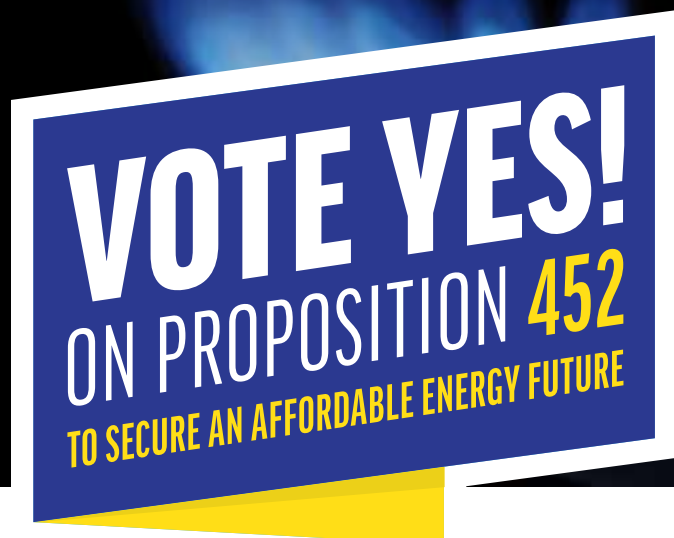
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On June 2, 2020, Mayor Christian Price and the City Council unanimously approved and referred a natural gas franchise agreement, known as Proposition 452, to the voters of Maricopa for their consideration. If approved, Proposition 452 will formalize the relationship between the City of Maricopa and Southwest Gas by establishing contractual rules, regulations and procedures that will dictate the company’s work in the community. Proposition 452 offers many important benefits to the City of Maricopa and its residents including:

- Access to Affordable Energy**

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- Infrastructure to Support Economic Development**

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Southwest Gas humbly asks for your **YES vote** on **Proposition 452** on November 3, 2020, to continue our productive relationship with the City of Maricopa.

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*American Gas Association
**Survey conducted by OH Predictive Insights and published in January of 2020. Survey conducted with Arizonans with natural gas in their homes.

A growing interest

Are you finally feeling fall in the air? It's usually the time of year when folks from colder states and nations return to their winter homes in Maricopa, though COVID-19 will lessen those numbers this year. Putting safety first, they may miss the ongoing miniboom of residential and commercial development working to change the cityscape.

So, it is a good time to look back at how modern Maricopa came to be, how a real estate investor named Mike Ingram persuaded wary utilities and businesses to buy into the idea of a new city where only an idyllic, one-horse town stood. Ingram, whose El Dorado Holdings continues to develop property in Maricopa, explains what kept him going in the face of many slammed doors.

Also in this issue, we look at how illegal skimming devices are working to steal money from local residents. Learn what to look for and what to do if you think your debit card has been skimmed.



Election 2020 is just a month away. You may be focused on the presidential race at the top of the ticket, but we're keeping it local. See where District 4 Board of Supervisors candidates stand on the issues, how Maricopa Unified School District candidates measure up and why unusual answers were drawn from the two finalists for a seat on Maricopa City Council.

Catch up with former MUSD Superintendent Steve Chestnut, find out how a "ghost" subdivision is being resurrected, learn how the Electoral College works and much more in this edition of InMaricopa. Happy reading.

Raquel Hendrickson

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A Brooklyn native, Murray has a Ph.D. and loves to read about history when not teaching math.



JOAN KOZOR
Joan came to Maricopa 15 years ago and will likely say yes if you invite her out to Papadeaux.



BRIAN PETERSHEIM
A Realtor, Brian has a soft spot for animals, both his own and those helped by ASPCA.

ON THE COVER: Mike Ingram has had a rollercoaster ride in the 20-year development of Maricopa.

Photo of Ingram by Kyle Norby. Design by Carl Bezuidenhout

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HEALTH GUIDE



Kyle Norby

History



The Corner Lot

The Maricopa Hotel was owned and operated by Arthur Deal (pictured with his son) from 1917 to 1931. Called Edwards Hotel in the 1890s and McCarthy House in the 1900s, the hotel burned in 1931 along with the depot.

Today, at least for now, NAPA Auto Parts, which will be moving, still sits on the foundation of the old Maricopa Hotel. In between, the location was also a small grocery store and blacksmith shop.

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InMaricopa asks the candidates



Two political novices will vie for the last open seat on City Council in the Nov. 3 general election. **Amber Liermann**, a counselor with the Maricopa Unified School District, and **Andre LaFond**, a Maricopa real estate agent, qualified for a runoff election in the primary. This month, we get to know them a little better:

Andre LaFond



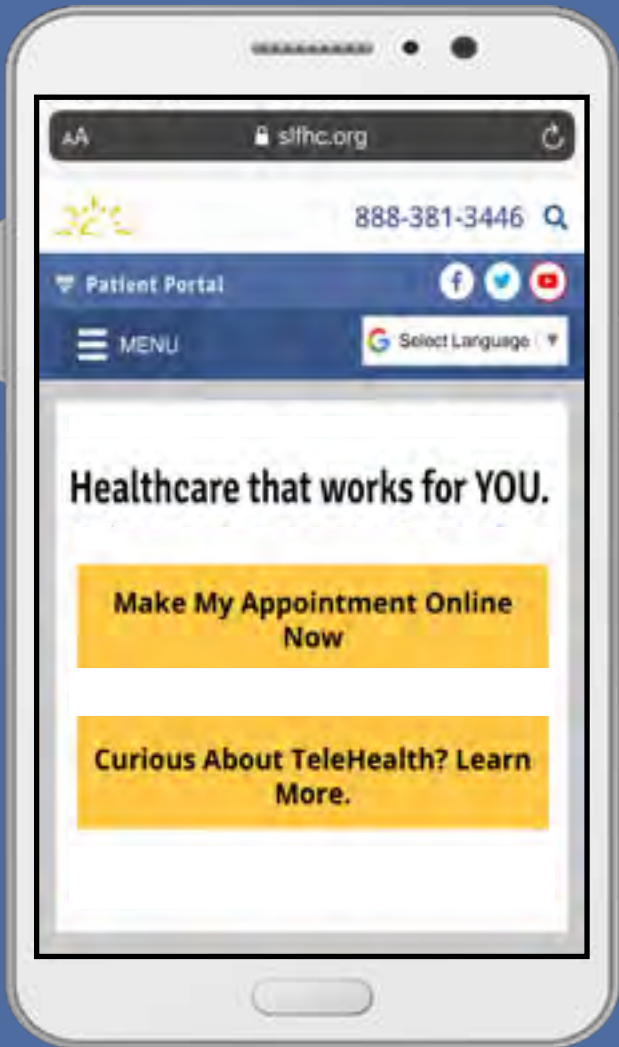
Amber Liermann



Name one new revenue stream for the City you would pursue as a councilmember.	A “downtown” area that provides storefronts for our small businesses	Adding fields at Copper Sky for large tournaments would provide rental and sales tax revenue
Where is your favorite place to spend time in town?	Ace Hardware, Honeycutt Coffee and the Monsoon Coffee trailer	Copper Sky Recreation Complex
My dream car is a ____.		
Do you own a gun?	Yes, a few.	Yes.
What is your greatest extravagance?	International travel	Having 4 teenagers
What would your autobiography be called?		
How would you describe the role of city councilmember to a child? (6-word limit)	A team that guides the city	Advocate on behalf of my community
If your name was on a product, what would it be?		The Peace Maker
What’s a job you’d never want to do?	Cleanup crew for the tilt-a-whirl at a Chili Festival!	Reptilekeeper 
What is your greatest fear?	Earwigs, darn things creep me out!	Fear is a luxury I don’t have
What is your most treasured possession?	My grandfather’s Eagle Scout badge	The love of my family
How would you like to die?	Knowing that my family is happy and safe. And that I left a positive impact on this world.	Very old, so I can be a mom, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great grandmother.
What living person do you most admire?	Nichelle Nichols, the original Uhura on “Star Trek,” was 4th in charge of the Enterprise at a time most African Americans on TV were servants.	My grandmother, Lavone Ledbetter, a strong woman who has loved and supported me my whole life.

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Battle for the Board of Supervisors

Independent challenges Republican in GOP stronghold

By Raquel Hendrickson

In January, Pinal County’s District 4 will have a new supervisor. Voters will decide who that will be on Nov. 3.

The district, which encompasses a wide swath of western and southern Pinal County from Maricopa to Arizona City to the Pima County border, is losing its Republican incumbent. Anthony Smith, who serves as chairman of the Board of Supervisors, opted not to run for a third term, opening the field for a new public servant.

Jeffrey McClure of Saddlebrooke, which is near Oracle, was the only Republican to run for the seat. No Democrat ran this year. The challenge comes from Maricopan Marlene Pearce, an independent who has been the District 4 administrator alongside Smith the past eight years.



JEFF McCLURE
Republican

Residence: Saddlebrooke
Age: 62
Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas
Occupation: Retired, entrepreneur
Education: Studied at Texas Christian University
Family: Married 38 years with three adult sons and a daughter who is due to give birth on Election Day
Years in Pinal County: 12
Political background: Precinct committeeperson 2010-present (elected); District PC chairman, 2013-2019 (elected);

State committeeperson, 2016-present (elected); **Oracle School District Governing Board,** 2013-present (elected).
Employment background: Owner of small businesses, 1978-2012; managing partner of an energy investment group, 1999-present.
Like most about Pinal County: Open space
Like least about Pinal County: Transportation infrastructure, difficulty of east-west travel and maintenance of some roadways

Why do you want to be a county supervisor?
I am excited about the economic growth and the many opportunities that exist for the county and its residents right now and in the immediate future. The interdependency between transportation, water, housing and education has the power to both limit and launch economic growth. This is a critical time to be involved in shaping the future of Pinal County, and ensuring it is done in a thoughtful way that benefits all residents and is sustainable moving forward.

What do you most want to change about how the county is run and how will you do so?
I think for the most part the County is well-run, and we are fortunate to have such great teams of staff who do a wonderful job providing a variety of services. I would like to see more analysis put into the designs of county facilities before constructing any more new buildings.

What are three main issues you are campaigning on?
Infrastructure needs for economic development corridors, such as the developing Tech Corridor; safety issues with regard to understaffed law enforcement; and innovative ideas for long-term water storage.

What is your evaluation of how Pinal County leadership dealt with COVID-19?

In my opinion, county leadership handled, and is handling, the pandemic well. The Board of Supervisors took advice from many resources, including its own Health Department officials and the Governor’s office, and balanced it well with the needs/wants of the majority of constituents.

What is your evaluation of how Pinal County leadership developed Prop 417 in 2017? If necessary, what would be your alternative to funding Prop 416?
I do understand the sense of urgency the Board felt in needing to get started with providing a transportation infrastructure for the continued economic and residential development of the county. The county was set to grow in leaps and bounds in the foreseeable future, and it has. They were tired of waiting for the state or federal government to provide funding.

Prop 417’s tax was contested by many from the first day. In my opinion, when faced with the possibility of a lawsuit over the language in the ballot proposal, the Board should have pulled the initiative from the ballot and reworked the funding plan. If Prop 417 tax does not survive the AZ Supreme Court, it may be time to re-think the plan.

During your campaign, what have been the biggest concerns expressed to you by Pinal County residents and business owners?
Most of the concerns have been around the COVID issue and the closures/re-opening of businesses and schools.

What do you see as Pinal County’s role in advancing education?
Educating a workforce truly begins with a strong pre-K—12 environment. It’s all about experience and exposure — showing the kids what is out in the world and getting them interested in something greater than their surroundings, creating lifelong learners and creative thinkers.

Pinal County has been on an economic roll, but how should supervisors prepare the county for a slowdown?
Pinal County is a service business. The needs of the client come first. The issue with an economic slowdown is that cashflow shrinks, and departments must cut excess spending. Unfortunately, this usually means layoffs, as in 2009. Our residents need employment stability

to thrive, so stabilizing our employment numbers to avoid large swings in staffing helps everyone.

What do you see as an important issue in Pinal County in the next four years that is not being generally talked about now?
Mid-level job development and affordable/accessible housing is needed in order for people to be able to work where they live.

What makes you the best candidate for the job?
Eight years of elected public board service, managing large, whole budgets (versus departmental funding) on relatively fixed income/taxpayer dollars, paired with decades of managing a variety of diverse business operations through economic booms and downturns. Ability to build consensus.



MARLENE PEARCE
Independent

Residence: The Villages, Maricopa
Age: 62
Hometown: Canoga Park, California
Occupation: District 4 administrator, Pinal County Board of Supervisors
Education: Cal State University-Northridge, University of Phoenix. National Association of Counties Leadership Academy, City of Maricopa Citizen Leadership Academy
Family: Son Austen and precious pups Daisy, Batman and Harley
Years in Pinal County: 15
Political background: None
Employment background: Eight years with Pinal County Board of Supervisors; 16 years in business development, sales and marketing with Boise Cascade/OfficeMax, The Estee Lauder Corp.,

Bijan Fragrances and Christian Dior
Like most about Pinal County: Pinal County is on the pinnacle of great things. It’s the fastest-growing county in the United States with a population of less than 1 million.
Like least about Pinal County: With all of the growth and opportunities we have and will be forthcoming, I would like to see a little bit less rivalry between cities/towns as there are plenty of opportunities to benefit and prosper.

Why do you want to be a county supervisor?
The past eight years serving the community has truly become a part of me. There is nothing more rewarding than being able to solve a concern or issue for the residents of District 4. I look forward to the opportunity to expand my experience and make a greater impact toward moving the county forward.

What do you most want to change about how the county is run and how will you do so?
We need to have better flexibility to the businesses who are trying to start, grow or develop within the county. Things are still a little too rigid, and we need to make it economically feasible and less restrictive for businesses to succeed.

What are three main issues you are campaigning on?
Economic development, education and infrastructure.

What is your evaluation of how Pinal County leadership dealt with COVID-19?
In general, the county did a good job, particularly with respect to challenging our governor to release the CARES Act funds that were owed to us, after he attempted to keep them. Where I feel we fell short was in a policy requiring masks in public places. I believe it would have been a short-term investment for a long-term gain.

What is your evaluation of how Pinal County leadership developed Prop 417 in 2017? If necessary, what would be your alternative to funding Prop 416?
With regards to Prop 416 & 417, the county took all the appropriate steps. The roads need development. Widening 347 in particular, but also other top projects which these propositions


addressed. With more companies wanting to call Pinal County home, it is imperative we have these roads developed. The half-cent tax the voters approved was and is our best option to move these projects forward.

During your campaign, what have been the biggest concerns expressed to you by Pinal County residents and business owners?
Health and the economy. The toll COVID-19 has taken on our county is hard, small businesses in particular. These businesses are the heartbeat of our community. Sustaining them is paramount. The other, of course, is our natural fears for our own health.

What do you see as Pinal County’s role in advancing education?
You can never underestimate the importance of engagement. I am a strong advocate for engaging our students very early. I would continue to support Achieve Pinal. But even more than that, to clarify that there are many paths to a successful workforce.

Pinal County has been on an economic roll, but how should supervisors prepare the county for a slowdown?
The budget office is continuously monitoring the county’s financial picture. If we did experience a downturn, there are initial things to take into consideration: hold on capital expenditures, hiring freeze and departmental budget adjustments. There is a 15% contingency reserve sufficient to cover any unexpected events.

What do you see being an important issue in Pinal County in the next four years that is not generally talked about now?
We need to stop the exodus of our residents traveling out of the county each day for work. We need to be the best at job recruitment, training and employee retention.

What makes you the best candidate for the job?
I have been preparing for this role for eight years. As second-in-command, each year I have taken on more responsibilities, been more proactive in solving issues for the residents and have taken the lead on projects for the district. I know how to work with county staff and outside entities to get things done. 



Torri Anderson



Tracie Armstead-Payton



Jim Jordan



AnnaMarie Knorr

MUSD candidates talk about the issues

The four candidates for three seats on the Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board answered our questions about current issues faced by the district ahead of the Nov. 3 election.

AnnaMarie Knorr, the board president, and **Torri Anderson** are running for re-election. **Jim Jordan** was appointed to the board and is running for election for the first time and **Tracie Armstead-Payton** is a newcomer seeking election.

What is your evaluation of how MUSD leadership has dealt with COVID-19?

Anderson: Unfortunately, COVID has caused our communities to become divided. We did the best we could, with very limited information. Once we received the Department of Health benchmarks, we were finally able to plan versus the wait-and-see approach.

Armstead-Payton: The MUSD superintendent is addressing COVID-19 similarly as other school districts in Arizona and has made great strides to ensure the safety of staff and students. The district is following recommendations from the CDC, Arizona Department of Health and publicly discussed and posted school mitigation plans.

Jordan: They have done everything to protect students, teachers, employees and administrative staff that they can. They have responded to anything that comes up in an entirely professional way.

Knorr: Acknowledging no one could be completely prepared for what we have experienced in 2020, I am proud of our leadership and staff for being flexible, making changes and supporting one another

throughout this crisis. I am extremely thankful that the voters passed the override, which allowed MUSD to purchase the additional technology that was necessary to give each student the tools they needed to participate in virtual school. I appreciate that parents and students have options to continue online through the semester, and I look forward to discussing the next steps and how we can be better prepared in the future.

What is your evaluation of how MUSD leadership planned for the 2019 bond election?

Anderson: The 2019 Bond Election failed and is over. Lessons are always learned.

Armstead-Payton: I was not on the school board when MUSD leadership planned for the bond and therefore not privy to any discussions about the planning process.

Jordan: I was not on the governing board at that time, so I am not able to offer an assessment.

Knorr: Ultimately, the bond election is the responsibility of the Board. We have the final vote in the amount and timing of the election.

During the discussion for the 2019 bond election, I made a motion to advance a limited bond to the voters that would only finance the construction of the high school. My motion did not receive a second and it failed. I felt that a limited bond would have had a better chance of passing last year. However, it is a five-member board, and the majority dictates the outcome.

Should MUSD again try for a bond to help finance the second high school?

Anderson: We will need to evaluate that when we have more information and the matter is presented to the Board for discussion and consideration.

Armstead-Payton: The MUSD board will have to decide as a collective body if the district should try for a bond again and when it is to be placed on the ballot.

Jordan: It is entirely probable that sometime in the future a bond will be needed to build phase 2, 3, 4 and the other things that are needed for a fully functioning high school. As a board, we will evaluate and discuss each option as the issue is presented.

Knorr: I believe in giving the community the option to vote for resources and facilities for the students of MUSD. Currently, we are moving forward with the building plans for a starter high school because we have to utilize the funds from the School Facilities Board or we will lose them. I look forward to gaining community input as this process continues to help guide the District in the next steps for phase 2 of the high school.

Do you agree with MUSD's selection of property for the second high school?

Anderson: [Did not respond]

Armstead-Payton: I was not on the Govern-

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Nathan Ulliott, Director of Community Services,
520-316-4600,
Nathan.Ulliott@Maricopa-AZ.gov

ing Board when property recommendations were being considered and therefore not privy to any discussions on this issue.

Jordan: Yes, I agree.

Knorr: I voted for the property selected for the second high school after spending a considerable amount of time over several months looking at the options available in Maricopa. Because of the floodplain issues, finding a large piece of land that can accommodate a high school campus is not as easy as it sounds. Further, I am thankful that we started the process of land purchase when we did, as the prices of land in Maricopa have increased substantially and we were able to lock in a relatively low price for what we are getting. We are fortunate Maricopa is a growing community and we will ensure there is space for every student that wants to attend MUSD.

During your campaign, what have been the biggest concerns expressed to you by MUSD taxpayers?

Anderson: Our budget continues to be a topic of interest (and) making sure we address the educational inequities within our schools.

Armstead-Payton: (1) Bonds and increasing

taxes; (2) Getting students back in school; (3) COVID-19 safety protocols for students, staff and teachers; (4) Social-emotional concerns; (5) Educational learning gaps

Jordan: When and how to return to school safely has been the biggest concern.

Knorr: COVID has really dominated the discussions in the past six months. I had several parents reach out to me asking for the opportunity for their student to go back to school. Specifically, I had an ER nurse and a Fry's employee ask me to consider opening schools for their children because they were struggling with online learning. These people have been working on the front lines the entire time. I believe education is essential, and I am pleased that MUSD has been able to accommodate the students and staff that want to continue online while giving those that want to attend traditional school the opportunity to go back.

Do you support an increase in property taxes to help the state fund education?

Anderson: We will need to evaluate that when we have more information and the matter is presented to the board for discussion and consideration.

Armstead-Payton: As a supporter of the public-school system and a taxpayer, I would support an increase in property tax to help the state fund education.

Jordan: My property tax went up this year and I did not like it. If this question refers to Prop 208, I do not support a Constitutional Amendment to raise taxes on a certain group of taxpayers. This could have the unintended effect of businesses and taxpayers leaving Arizona. I applaud any effort to keep property taxes low.


Knorr: I support transparency in all aspects of education funding. I believe the current system of allowing local control of school funding is effective. It allows the voters who will pay the tax bill to determine if they believe the funding is necessary. It also promotes collaboration and communication among the district and the community.

What must change to lift MUSD's three C-rated schools?

Anderson: MUSD has collaborated with our community stakeholders to create our strategic plan. This plan drives the work at each school. As a board member, we can provide the support necessary through our budget decisions. With this strategic plan our schools will achieve their goals to become A-rated schools.

Armstead-Payton: In my estimation, the school board should set a vision and goals in order for the superintendent to create and carry out a strategic plan designed to increase school ratings.

Jordan: In my discussions with administration I understand them to be taking this issue very seriously. While it is not the board's responsibility to step into micromanage individual schools, I strongly support administrative efforts to improve the education provided by each school.

Knorr: We have the most amazing teachers in MUSD. I believe in their ability to help our students grow and gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. I am optimistic that we can move our school letter grades up. However, if you really look into what makes those grades, it's based a lot on standardized testing. There is so much more to a child's experience in school than the grade they get on a test. I want to make sure our schools are supporting our students in all aspects of their education and they know they are valued, capable and important. 



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MUSD loses preferred site for 2nd high school



MUSD board member Torri Anderson, right, talks with district Superintendent Tracey Lopeman, in foreground, during the Sept. 23 meeting.

The Maricopa Unified School District has apparently lost the property it favored to build a second high school — and finding another suitable property is expected to cost the district millions more.

“Tonight, we find ourselves without land,” Superintendent Tracey

Lopeman announced to the governing board in a sometimes heated meeting Sept. 23.

MUSD had tried to purchase about 60 acres on the southwest corner of Murphy and Farrell roads in East Maricopa. For the district to move forward on the deal, surrounding agricultural landowners had to sign a covenant agreeing not to use pesticides near the future school.

One landowner, Anderson Palmisano Farms, declined to sign.

Kelly Anderson, managing partner of the farm, officially logged his objection to a school being built on that property. His wife, Torri, a member of the governing board, said no one from district administration called to find out why he had decided not to sign the covenant.

Lopeman, however, said district representatives had reached out to Anderson Palmisano.

A property owned by Anderson Palmisano was a finalist in the land acquisition process for the new school, but the board voted, 3-0, in April to go with the neighboring property.

Board President AnnaMarie Knorr encouraged administration to try one more time to get Kelly Anderson to sign the covenant.

After the meeting, however, Torri Anderson expressed doubt that her husband would reconsider.

The school district restarted its effort to find land. It wants at least 60 acres. But land costs have risen from 20% to 25% since the district agreed to buy its preferred property.

Torri Anderson said the district should acquire land within its boundaries.

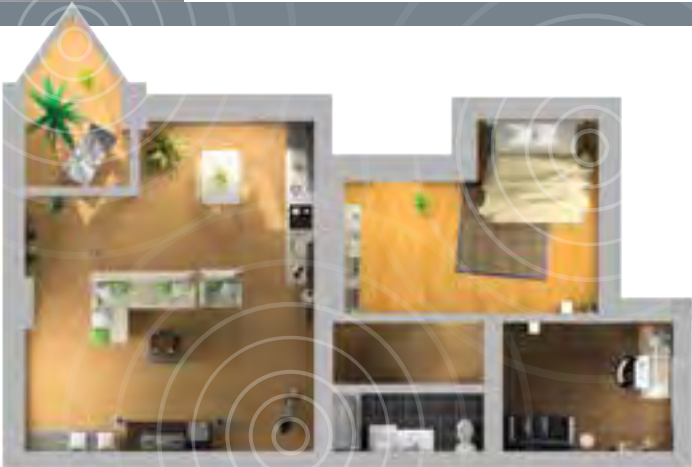
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Skimmers victimize Maricopans, clean out bank accounts

By Bob McGovern



People buy gas at the Circle K in the eastern part of the city. Skimmers often target gas pumps, but in late June one of the illegal devices was found on a credit card machine inside the store, according to police.

Merenzi Young / Eye of Odin Studios

Skimmers are active in Maricopa. Very active.

Leticia Rios found out the hard way.

So have a lot of others.

Rios was victimized on Aug. 5, the day someone used her stolen debit card information to make three ATM withdrawals — two for \$500 were made within minutes of each other — that cleared \$1,396 out of her account with an online bank. The withdrawals were made from an ATM in Phoenix, she said.

“I was devastated,” she wrote in a post to a private Facebook group the same day her account was hit. “It’s just so unreal when this s.... happens to you. I can’t believe that I’m the only one here that it’s happened to If anyone else has been a victim of this in the last few days please let me know.”

Rios, who has worked from home since March due to the coronavirus pandemic, said she doesn’t leave the house very often because of an underlying health condition.

Her boyfriend does most of the shopping, and the debit card hasn’t been carried out of the city in months. It was used only in town, mostly at the gas pumps at Walmart and the Circle K at Honeycutt and Porter roads, she said, noting her card was used at the Circle K before she was skimmed.

Her posts in several public and private Facebook groups drew more than 130 comments, with nearly 50 people reporting



Courtesy Arizona Weights & Measures

An investigator with the state Weights & Measures Services Division holds a skimming device found on a gas pump. One can be built for about \$20, authorities say.

they, too, were skimming victims, including a couple dozen incidents from this summer. In some cases, people managed to foil the criminals, but many others said they had amounts — from \$20 to more than \$2,000 — stolen.

When the first withdrawal was made from Rios’s account, her phone pinged. She had set up alerts to notify her when the debit card was used. Still, it was used two more times to take her money.

She called police in Phoenix to report the incidents and then drove herself to the Circle K in west Phoenix to obtain video footage of the ATM used to make the withdrawals. But store cameras are not set up to capture activity at the ATM and she could only see the person

walking away, she said, describing the suspect as a man in his mid-20s, tall and Hispanic — and wearing a mask.

There was no surveillance video available from the ATM machine, she said.

She reported the fraud to her bank.

Rios was surprised at the number of comments from people relating similar experiences.

“There are so many other victims here in Maricopa,” she said. “I was expecting others, but not as many responses as I did.” She received additional responses from her post on NextDoor.

“It’s just a really hard blow for me at this time,” she said, adding that friends and family helped with some money to get them by.

She finally received a credit from her bank at the end of August. Now she only uses cash and doesn’t leave funds in her checking account.

“I’ve lost trust in swiping my card,” she said.

In an interview, Rios said the manager at the Circle K on Porter Road told her boyfriend that the store routinely checks for skimmers.

But many who commented on the Facebook thread said they were convinced their information was stolen at the Circle K. Others said the Porter Road location has a reputation for skimming.

An InMaricopa investigation finds their suspicion is well-aimed.

LOTS OF SKIMMING STORIES

Skimming is the act of attaching an illegal device to fuel pumps, ATMs and point of sale systems to copy and store private debit or credit card information to be misused later to make cash withdrawals and fraudulent purchases. In more and more incidents, personal data is recorded at the pump and sent wirelessly via Bluetooth to the laptop or mobile device of a nearby perpetrator.

In posts on Facebook, local skimming victims said funds were siphoned from their accounts at ATMs in Chandler, Phoenix and Glendale even though their debit cards were never out of their possession and, in some cases, the cards had never been out of the city. Card information is also cloned onto gift cards to make big purchases at stores.

Many victims have reported the fraud to their financial institutions — some also have filed police reports — managing to get their money returned, but sometimes only after weeks or months of hassle.

“The same thing happened to my husband on this past Sunday and the only place he used his card at was Circle K off Porter,” wrote one woman on Rios’s post. “We also put on (sic) a police report and contacted circle K.”

Another woman wrote: “Happened to me, \$1K. Used that card at Circle K here in town (porter). They withdrew from QT in Phx off 51st ave & camelback. My card was in my possession the entire time.”

“Circle k has the worst problem with card skimmers,” wrote yet another woman. “Happened 2 times to my mom and once to me.”

A few others claimed they were skimmed after shopping at Walmart and other businesses in town.

Some say they have been hit more than once and know friends and family members who were victimized. In one case, a woman on unemployment due to the pandemic saw her state benefits debit card compromised.

It’s been such a problem in recent years the U.S. Secret Service launched a nationwide initiative in 2018 to find and remove skimmers at gas stations across the country. Agents found nearly 200 skimmers on gas pumps at convenience stores and service stations during investigations in 16 states. The skimmers can store hundreds of credit card numbers, the agency said.

According to some estimates, skimming is a \$16 billion business in the United States.

And immensely profitable for the criminals.



Merenzi Young / Eye of Odin Studios

Leticia Rios, hit by skimmers in August for nearly \$1,400, fills her tank at the Circle K convenience store at Honeycutt and Porter roads. She believes her credit card information was compromised at the store and now only uses cash to make purchases there.

EAST IS NOT EDEN FOR VICTIMS

In early September, InMaricopa sought police reports through a public records request for skimming complaints investigated between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31.

Twenty-two police reports in total for skimming incidents were reported between June 26 and Aug. 7, including 19 cases where victims lost money from their accounts. (In three other cases, financial institutions were able to stymie the thefts.) Over those 43 days nearly \$14,000 was jacked from Maricopans’ accounts, an average loss of about \$731 per victim. In most cases, the criminals made withdrawals and purchases at ATMs and businesses in the Phoenix area.

Many victims never filed a report with police, and some were directed to police departments in Phoenix and other cities, where skimmers made their transactions, to file reports.

Residents in the east end of the city comprised the biggest bloc of victims and for good reason, analysis of those police reports show.

On June 28, employees at the Circle K on Porter found a skimmer on a credit card machine inside the store. It had been there about two days, according to a police report on a July 5 case involving a Homestead South resident whose credit union debit card was misused nine times that day at a Fry’s Marketplace in

Scottsdale. Her total loss: \$445.63.

That resident had used her debit card twice at the Circle K between June 26 and 28, buying snacks and drinks inside the store, she told police.

In the 19 cases where money was lost, residential streets were available for 18 of the victims. Of those, 14 lived east of Porter Road, including seven in Homestead North and South, two in Sorrento, three in Rancho Mirage and two in Tortosa. One additional victim was from the Glennwilde neighborhood, but it could not be determined if she lived east or west of Porter.

The first two complaints received by Maricopa police were from residents whose financial accounts were struck on June 26. One of them was filed by a Maricopa police officer, whose bank account was hit for \$463. (Eighteen days later, the officer would take a skimming complaint from a Rancho Mirage woman hit for \$1,200.)

The store manager declined to comment on the skimming incidents, saying company policy did not allow her to talk to the media.

Donna J. Humphrey, advertising/brand manager for Circle K’s Grand Canyon Division, also declined to comment, saying she did not have an approved statement to release.

Maricopa police Det. Gary Gatzke investigated the skimmer at the Circle K on Porter and was provided video surveillance of four suspects, according to the police report written in the Homestead South victim’s case.

Able to identify one of the suspects in the video, Gatzke contacted an agent with the U.S. Secret Service who said the agency is working multiple cases in Arizona involving the suspects in the Circle K video, according to the police report.

In the immediate days following the discovery of the skimmer, five more complainants were asked by police if they had used their cards at the Circle K between June 26 and 28, and they all indicated yes. Two others told police their most recent card usage included purchases at the Circle K.

The Homestead South woman’s case and several others linked by police to the east-end convenience store, were referred to the Secret Service, according to several police reports.

Incredibly, of the dozens of people who commented on Leticia Rios’s Facebook post to say they, too, had been victimized, apparently only one filed a complaint with police.

HOW IT’S DONE

Skimming cases at gas pumps are also investigated by the Weights and Measures

Services Division of the state Department of Agriculture, which has recorded 37 skimmers so far this year in Arizona, through Sept. 9, according to Kevin Allen, associate director.

Weights and Measures, which partners with retailers and law enforcement agencies to aid in the identification and investigation of skimming devices, reported a total of 209 and 148 skimmers in 2019 and 2018, respectively.

Of the 539 cases investigated by Weights and Measures in the past five years, however, just one was in Maricopa.

In February 2019, two card skimmers were discovered by investigators in pumps at Circle K at John Wayne Parkway and Smith-Enke Road after a complaint. In that case, Allen said investigators used technology developed at the University of California San Diego to detect skimming devices using Bluetooth, a high-speed wireless standard used to exchange data over short distances.

Increasingly, skimmers are using the technology to capture credit and debit card information. It's called "bluesnarfing" or "blue skimming," and it's been around for years. It starts when criminals break into a gas pump, often with a universal master key, and install a skimming device — in less than two minutes.

“It’s unclear whether the skimming attacks documented here are the work of one or multiple scammers or gangs, but the activity pretty clearly shows a focus on stations directly off the main arteries from Phoenix on down to Tucson.”

KrebsOnSecurity.com

Connected to both the magnetic stripe reader and the keypad, skimmers can steal a customer's credit or debit card number, plus a ZIP code and PIN number for debit cards. Using Bluetooth, that sensitive information can be sent to a laptop or mobile device without the risk of re-opening the pumps to retrieve the device.

Just one skimmer, which can be manufactured for less than a family meal

at McDonald's, can put more than \$4,000 every day into a crook's pocket, according to University of California San Diego researchers. But a skimmer's daily revenue is potentially much higher.

“Based on the prior figures, we estimate the range of per-day revenue from a skimmer is \$4,253 (25 cards per day, cashout of \$362 per card, and 47% cashout success rate), and our high end estimate is \$63,638 (100 cards per day, \$1,354 cashout per card and cashout success rate of 47%),” said a study by the same group of researchers.

In September 2016, a well-known blog on computer and internet security looked at nearly nine months of skimming incidents at Arizona gas pumps after there were more attacks in August 2016 than in all of 2015.

“A review of the locations of the skimmed stations suggests that skimmer scammers prefer poorly secured stations that are quite close to a major highway, no doubt so that they get away from the station relatively quickly after the skimmers are planted,” KrebsOnSecurity.com reported. “It's unclear whether the skimming attacks documented here are the work of one or multiple scammers or gangs, but the activity pretty clearly shows a

Don't get scammed at the gas pumps: Experts offer tips

Experts from the Arizona Attorney General's Office and the state Weights & Measures Services Division recommend the following tips to avoid becoming a victim:

- **Always use credit cards to pay for gas at the pump.** If you have to use an ATM card, run it as credit. If possible, make fuel purchases with cash instead of a credit or debit card.
- **Wiggle the card scanner before you insert your card.** If it is loose, move on (this tip also applies to ATMs).
- **Fill up at stations that have updated security features,** such as unique keys for each pump and tamper protections that physically shut down a pump if the machine is improperly accessed.



Bob McGovern

- **Ask site employees about their measures to protect against skimmers** (does the station check for skimmers daily, have alarm systems installed in dispensers, etc.).
- **Some gas stations place security tags/tabs on the pump showing that it is secure.** If the tag/tab is broken, move on. Also, look for pry marks on the gas pump door or if the door is slightly open.
- **Use pumps in well-lit areas that are positioned in clear view of store employees.** Devices are typically placed into the pumps furthest away from the attendant.
- **Watch out for large vehicles** — SUVs, trucks

and vans — parked in front of fuel dispensers for long periods of time. Criminals may use large vehicles to block attendants' view while they install a device.

- **Look for people using electronic devices** (computers or tablets) as they sit in vehicles near a gas pump. Some skimmers use Bluetooth technology to download information from a device when they are in range of the wireless signal.
- **If anything raises a red flag, pay inside or go to a different gas station.** Report your concerns to station employees and law enforcement.
- **Monitor your credit card and bank statements** to look for any unauthorized charges.

IF YOU BECOME A SKIMMING VICTIM

- If your credit, ATM or debit card is lost or stolen, federal law limits your liability for

unauthorized charges. Your protection against unauthorized charges depends on the type of card — and when you report the loss, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

- Acting fast limits your liability for charges you didn't authorize. Report the loss or theft of your card to the card issuer ASAP. Once you report, federal law says you cannot be held liable for unauthorized transfers that occur after that time.
- Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, your liability for unauthorized use of your credit card tops out at \$50. But if you report the loss before your credit card is used, the law says you are not responsible for any charges you didn't authorize. If your credit card number is stolen, but not the card, you are not liable for unauthorized use.

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focus on stations directly off the main arteries from Phoenix on down to Tucson.”

‘I DON’T TRUST ANYTHING’

Lori Cincotta Apt and her husband were each hit, her in July and him in August.

Furloughed from her job in March due to coronavirus, the Maricopa resident was in line buying groceries with her state unemployment debit card when it was rejected. She tried the card a second time, knowing she had funds in the account. Denied again.

The money was gone. She had no idea criminals had stolen her information and removed \$500 from her unemployment account. She was never notified by her card company.

Her husband was hit for \$100 weeks later, but they reported it to his bank, which locked the card to halt subsequent attempts.

They did not file police reports, and she did not want to name the businesses where she believes her information was compromised. But she did say it was a “hassle.”

It took the Apts a few weeks to get the unemployment money back. She said she felt “very violated,” adding that it came at a tough time for them as the couple had to deal with a blow to their income from the pandemic.

“There’s an awful lot of people who have been affected,” she added.

It has changed how she pays while shopping, especially when she is filling the tank. “I’m being very careful,” she said. “Now I go inside and pay for gas. I don’t trust anything.”

LONG ROAD TO HELP CONSUMERS

Retail stores, gas stations, banks and credit card companies are well-aware of the problem.

Visa and Mastercard mandated gas stations comply with EMV, or chip-based, card technology by October 2017, in part to increase security at gas pumps.

The technology is called EMV because it was proposed by Europay, a European financial company, MasterCard and Visa. Unlike the magnetic stripes on debit and credit cards which store data statically, the account information on EMV cards uses unique encryption each time it is accessed, making them more secure and fraud-resistant — at least until the skimmers again figure out how to beat the system.

But the 2017 deadline was pushed back because of difficulties with updating hardware and software at pumps or replacing them altogether.

Recently, a new October 2020 deadline was postponed until mid-April 2021, according to the Association for Convenience & Fuel Retailing, because of the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic. But it is likely many gas stations will not make that deadline either, given the significant expense in adopting the technology.

The Maricopa location was among more than 90 Fry’s Fuel Centers in the state that made the transition to chip readers last year.

One national retailer with gas pumps in the region acted on its own in December 2017 to thwart skimmers.

QuikTrip, an Oklahoma-based chain of convenience store/gas stations that operates nearly 140 stores in Arizona, including 117 in metro Phoenix and one in the city of Maricopa, rolled out a program called PumpShield.

“PumpShield helps protect consumers from getting their information compromised,” said Aisha Jefferson-Smith, spokeswoman for the QuikTrip Corp. “When there is any unauthorized attempt to open a pump, silent alarms alert us, and the pumps are automatically shut off. Recently, two criminals were arrested for attempting to install card skimmers at a Tulsa QuikTrip, which was a huge mistake.”

Amber LIERMANN

FOR CITY COUNCIL



“Amber would do a great job as a councilmember. She has been volunteering in Maricopa for 17 years.”

- Mayor Christian Price

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Song: “Sittin’ on the Dock of the Bay,” Otis Redding
Athletes: My children
Restaurant: 347 Grill
Quote: “The surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.” Martin Luther King Jr.

 Learn more about Sheila at [InMaricopa.com/Community/Getting-To-Know](https://www.inmaricopa.com/Community/Getting-To-Know)



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- ✓ **Mix it up** — the general rule for successful plant groupings is something tall, something triangular and something round
- ✓ **Group plants by water requirements** — this makes installing irrigation easy and reduces the chances of over or under watering
- ✓ **Use color** — desert plants are extremely diverse offering color in the form of flowers, leaves, bark, and even thorns, take advantage!
- ✓ **Select the right plant for the right place** — whether it is a tree, shrub, cactus, or succulent consider the size of the fully grown plant when selecting location

For additional landscape design resources visit
www.gwresources.com/conservation-education

At Iconic Tire, business anything but flat



Josh Darrow, right, store manager at Iconic Tire's service center in Maricopa, inspects a vehicle with one of his mechanics.

Story and photos by Kyle Norby

Jeff Darrow has been in the auto repair industry for more than 40 years. Changing tires at age 16, he would begin opening his own Goodyear shops in 1998 on his way to operating 40 locations in California.

Now Darrow is growing a chain of Iconic Tire shops in Arizona, including the new location in Maricopa. It's a family affair, with son Jeremy as general manager of the shop and son Josh as store manager.

And while the Darrow family knows how to run a successful auto repair business, the overwhelming response to their new store here caught them by surprise.

"Forty years in this business, I've never seen a store take off the way this one did. I mean, it was just amazing," Jeff said.

His father was the vice president of Firestone tire company, so Jeff grew up in the business.

"I was 16, I started changing tires then became a salesman, then assistant manager, store manager, and my career just grew from there," Jeff said. "We were the largest Goodyear dealer in the state of California. We ran from the Mexican border to San Francisco. In 2019, we sold all those stores to a company from back east, then we came to Arizona."

Jeff Darrow initially came to the state for a liver transplant, as waiting lists were long in California. He had successful transplant

surgery but is still recuperating and getting his health in check.

"I was really sick, and I mean sick. But once I got here, I didn't want to leave," Jeff explained. "I had lived all my life in California, but I loved it here."

Jeff and his wife, Paula, live in Chandler, where they are enjoying their new home. Shortly after the move, Jeff asked Josh and Jeremy to join them in Arizona. The Darrows set their sights on Maricopa for a future Iconic tire location soon after Josh moved to the city. (They also own service centers in Mesa and Gilbert with an Ahwatukee location coming soon.)

"Jeremy's the general manager and Josh runs this particular store. I told them I'd help 'em get 10 or 12 stores and thereafter they're on their own," Jeff said. "Josh, my oldest, moved out here and wanted to live in Maricopa. I came out, looked around, and the only thing out here were the two other competitors up the street, so we decided to buy land and build."

The business opened on August 24 in a new facility at 19945 N. John Wayne Parkway. The Darrows expected a busy opening, but quickly realized they had underestimated demand in Maricopa. Initially short a few employees, the shop made some additional hires to scale up faster than planned to keep up with the influx of customers.

"We see more tire machines, more wheel balancers and a couple more employees in our future," Josh had said in early September. Vehicles, some on lifts, occupied the five garage bays on a recent day as workers changed tires,



The Darrows are making Iconic Tire a family affair: from left, son Jeremy, father Jeff and son Josh.

performed oil changes and made other repairs.

Iconic's early success is even more impressive as it opened amid a social media controversy over a photograph that purported to show a slide from Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company diversity training. The image showed, under a heading of "Zero Tolerance," that attire supporting "Black Lives Matter" was "acceptable," but President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" attire was not.

Conservatives were upset, saying the policy discriminated against them, and Trump took to Twitter to urge a boycott of the brand. In response, Goodyear said the slide, apparently shown only at a single plant in Kansas, was not officially sanctioned by the company.

Josh handled the store's response to concerns aired in local Facebook groups, and gradually the uproar subsided.

He said has felt the love and support from other local business owners, seeing them often on trips to the grocery store or gas station. He expressed how good it felt to have the "businesses supporting local businesses" culture in Maricopa.

Josh has been on the frontlines of the business with Jeremy helping out at the shop more often — running the store, dealing with vendors and hiring employees. The brothers said working with family has its perks, including knowing they can rely on one another to overcome obstacles in their mission to serve Maricopa for a long time.

The brothers said working with family has perks.

"It's great to work with family because we are well-known in our area of business for being good at what we do, being trustworthy and bringing up very successful shops," Josh said.

Jeremy said he agrees, mostly.

"It's not always easy to work together, you know, so it makes family dinners a little bit awkward every once in a while."

Pandemic sparked rise in domestic violence. But help is available

By Agnes' Centers for Domestic Solutions

Welcome to October, the month of ghost and goblins, when all the television networks play scary movies and the kids are excited about Halloween. Most families begin planning for the Holiday Season, storing summer clothes and bringing out the autumn and winter wardrobes.

October is also National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to remember that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience some form of abuse from an intimate partner, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. On average, nearly 24 people per minute are victims of physical abuse.

According to national reports, domestic violence is on the rise and as the nation begins to rebound from the coronavirus lockdown most people are eager to leave home for recreational, social and economic reasons.

Victims are looking for a way to escape the abuse of their intimate partner.

While the government and health departments are focusing on stopping the spread of COVID-19, most advocates against abuse are focusing on stopping domestic violence by raising awareness.

Domestic violence and assault calls to 911 have increased an average of 20% in our nation. Most female victims of intimate partner violence were previously victimized by the same offender, including 77% of females ages 18 to 24, 76% of females ages 25 to 34, and 81% of females ages 35 to 49, as reported by the domestic violence national hotline. Reported in an azcentral.com interview, Phoenix police reported an increase of 140% homicides involving domestic violence. Domestic violence deaths year-to-date through August 3 jumped 180% compared with the same period in 2019.

That's the problem. Agnes' Centers for Domestic Solutions has the solutions.

Agnes' Centers for Domestic Solutions has given aid and assistance to several hundred families throughout the state of Arizona. With a vision to ending the cycle of abuse for both the victim and the abuser, the Center offers individual and group therapy which gives them the tools and skills to overcome trauma, abuse, and addiction. The center offers the following classes on nurturing parenting, domestic violence awareness and prevention, anger management, relapse prevention, DBT, CBT, and overcoming grief. It's open enrollment for the fall classes. Agnes' Centers also provides Case Management and Psychological evaluations.

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Business, development news around the town

Rili-B's Taco Shop, an affiliate of Riliberto's, opened Sept. 11 at 19975 N. John Wayne Parkway.

Honeycutt Coffee, 44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 109, received a liquor license.

Dream Group Homes is planning to open a location in an Acacia Crossings home for 10 children age 4 to 17. The home on Miraflores Street received a fire inspection.

Pulte Homes received a permit to convert a two-car garage into a temporary sales office in the Santa Rosa Crossing subdivision, where homes were demolished in 2015. It also ran a hydrant-flow test on the revitalized property and received the OK for an 8-foot by 12-foot monument sign.

The **City of Maricopa** issued 173 permits for single-family homes in August, the highest monthly total since 2007. The August total was 57% more than the entire year of 2011, according to city staff. To see who is doing all the building, see the graph on page 62.

Mountain Trace Development, building the Oasis at the Well apartments at 41535 W. Shea Way, moved in a 340-square-foot storage shed at the site. It also received an off-site improvement permit for the rest of Shea Way from the backside of Walmart to Porter Road.

Shade sails were permitted at **The Lakes** at Rancho El Dorado as commercial shade structures at 40240 W. Shaver Drive and 22870 N. Chase Drive as residential construction continues.

CrossFit Maricopa has a new owner. CrossFit coach J.J. Kressberger took over the business at 21576 N. John Wayne Parkway in August.



Food inspectors tag Headquarters

One restaurant had a little trouble with rice, but all other eateries in Maricopa scored excellent marks in county health inspections Aug. 16-Sept. 15. The inspections included almost all schools in town. Though most did not yet have students back in class at the time of inspection, they were providing meals to school-aged children in the community. At Headquarters, formerly known as The New HQ, the inspector found day-old rice in a walk-in refrigerator at 48-49 degrees F while the maximum cooling temperature should be 41 degrees. It was discarded.

EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Butterfield Elementary School
- Desert Wind Middle School
- Dollar Tree
- Dunkin Donuts
- Good 2 Go
- Honeycutt Coffee
- Leading Edge Academy
- Legacy Traditional School
- Little Caesar's Pizza
- Maricopa Elementary School
- Maricopa High School
- Maricopa High School Culinary Arts
- Pima Butte Elementary School
- Saddleback Elementary School
- Santa Cruz Elementary School
- Santa Rosa Elementary School
- Sequoia Pathway Academy — K-6
- Sequoia Pathway Academy — Secondary
- Subway

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]
The New HQ

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

Kintner promoted to GM at Harrah's Ak-Chin

Caesars Entertainment Inc. announced Michael Kintner has been promoted to senior vice president and general manager of Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino.

The appointment follows former GM Robert Livingston's move to assume the role of senior vice president of tribal development and general manager of Harrah's Resort in Southern California. Both will report to Glenn Carano, Caesars Entertainment regional president.

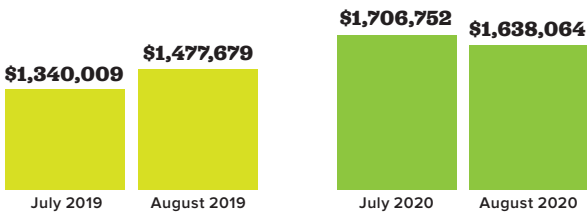
Kintner most recently served as director of marketing and operations, responsible for leading the efforts to promote the Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino property and analyzing the effectiveness of all marketing initiatives and programs. He was also responsible for overseeing the performance and integrity of all slots, table games, Bingo and Keno.

"It's a real honor to work for the Ak-Chin Indian Community and to fill the shoes of those who have come before me," Kintner said. "My predecessors played an integral part in making Harrah's Ak-Chin what it is today — a property rooted in tradition and culture that has been able to set an example of what is possible when a team is fully committed to working together to build something great."



Michael Kintner

Maricopa Sales Tax Collections



Arroyo Grille hires new executive chef

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club recently welcomed Don Stansell as the new executive chef.

Stansell will oversee the club's Arroyo Grille restaurant, including menu creation, food preparation, service and catering. An eight-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, he has more than 25 years of culinary experience.

"I look forward to bringing taste-of-the-world flavors to our guests of the Arroyo Grille," Stansell said. "I am passionate about providing casual, yet upscale country club fare with a Mediterranean and southwestern flair."



Don Stansell



Sprouts announced for Sonoran Creek

Sprouts is coming to the Sonoran Creek Marketplace in Maricopa, according to the company marketing the property.

The grocer will anchor the new shopping plaza on the southwest corner of John Wayne Parkway and Edison Road, behind Culver's restaurant.

Phoenix Commercial Advisors is seeking tenants for the "new neighborhood shopping center" that will rise on the empty field in the Heritage District. The 19-acre site will feature 85,000 square feet of retail space.

Groundbreaking is expected later this year. Sonoran Creek also received a replat from one lot to five lots.

Lucid shows off new electric car models



Lucid Motors unveiled production details for its new Lucid Air in a broadcast Sept. 9 from its Newark, California, headquarters.

The luxury electric car is set to begin production at a new factory in Casa Grande in the spring. The plant is currently hiring.

The development of the Lucid plant along with Nikola Motors has been a talking point for Pinal County and Arizona economists for years. Maricopans are expected to fill a high percentage of openings at the factories.

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1



2



3



4

1. Maricopa neighborhoods turned on blue lights to support police ahead of the anniversary of 9/11. *Bob McGovern*
2. Parker Moore and his father, Bryan Moore, helped raise and lower the flag at the Friday morning ceremony. *Kyle Norby*
3. Veterans gather for the annual 9/11 flag-raising ceremony at the Veteran's Center. *Kyle Norby*
4. Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino General Manager Robert Livingston presents a \$10,000 donation check to F.O.R. Maricopa founder and Executive Director Wendy Webb. *Submitted*

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WHERE
ARE THEY
NOW?

Steve Chestnut

By Kyle Norby

Steve Chestnut, who led the Maricopa Unified School District from 2012 to 2018 as superintendent, is now living happily in Scottsdale.

Chestnut left MUSD to become associate superintendent for the Scottsdale Unified School District in 2018. He retired from SUSD in June and has been enjoying time with family. Originally from Washington State, Chestnut and his wife Kellie talked to InMaricopa from the Seattle area.

"We're spending the month of September here with our son, daughter-in-law, and (three) grandkids," Chestnut said. "We also took a trip to Denver to see our daughter."

Chestnut was hired at the Scottsdale district immediately prior to then-Superintendent Dr. Denise Birdwell being investigated and ultimately reaching a settlement with the district to step down amid allegations that she violated district policies.

Five months after he was hired as associate superintendent, Chestnut became the



File photo by Michelle Chance

Then-MUSD Superintendent Steve Chestnut talks to parents in 2017 about how student grades are calculated.

executive director of support services after temporary leadership succeeded Birdwell. Asked if he felt Birdwell's fall affected his own career, Chestnut simply said, "My goal was to work in Scottsdale for two years and then retire, which I did in June."

Programs like Maricopa High School's Ram Academy and the passage of a maintenance and operations budget override in 2016 were among Chestnut's proudest achievements at MUSD. He said he follows the city's goings-on regularly and expressed excitement for current projects in the district.

"It was unfortunate that the bond failed, but it's very exciting that Maricopa is getting a second high school," he said. "That's going to be needed for the long-term future of the city. Obviously, it's needed."

Before his retirement, Chestnut saw the effect of COVID-19 on education. He commended the state public school system for adapting quickly to the situation. He also believes his successor at MUSD, Tracy Lopeman, has handled the crisis well and

continues to move the district forward.

"I think Tracey is doing a wonderful job, I've been very impressed. Moving forward on a second high school is probably the best example of that. Schools are demonstrating wonderful flexibility in an unprecedented crisis," he said.

While Chestnut plans to take on light college teaching duties, he hopes to spend his retirement relaxing with friends and family. Meanwhile, he continues to watch the growth of the Maricopa and Scottsdale school districts, strong in the belief that public education is one of the most important institutions in the country.

"It was a privilege for 43 years, and I could not be more proud of my career."

Steve Chestnut, former superintendent of the Maricopa Unified School District, now lives in retirement in Scottsdale with his wife, Kellie.

STEVE CHESTNUT

Age: 65

Occupation: Retired

Residence: Scottsdale, Arizona

Education: Ed.D., Seattle University

Family: Wife Kellie, daughter Monica, son Matt, daughter-in-law Jen, grandkids Hadley, Lucas and Everly

Favorite Maricopa memory: "The first day of school each year!"



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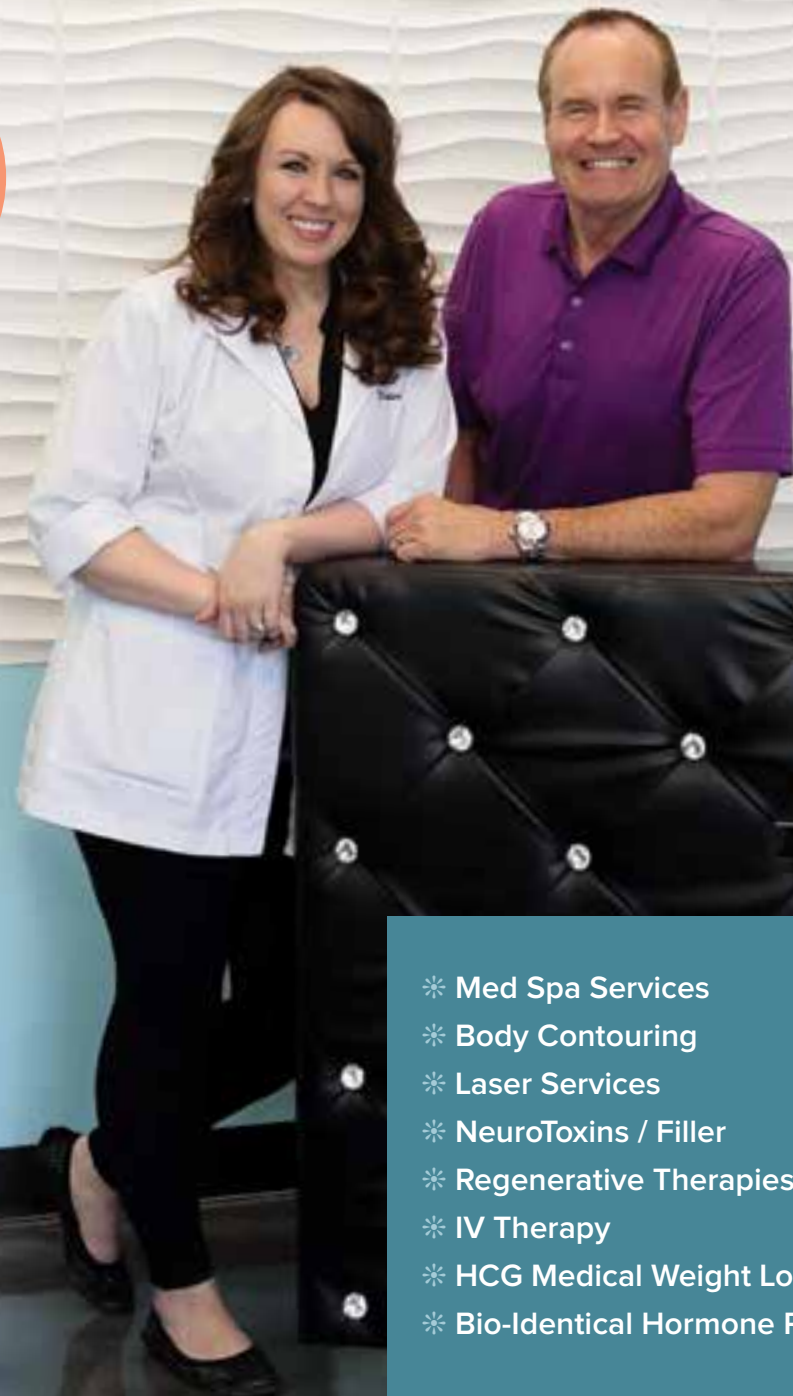
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- HG8** Maricopa's first full service med spa
- HG10** Auto injury care is not healthcare
- HG12** Health Matters
- HG14** Sun Life is helping people live their healthiest life
- HG16** Directory

On the cover: Bill Day and Kristina Donnay are the father-daughter team at Maricopa Wellness Center.

Health



State of health in Maricopa

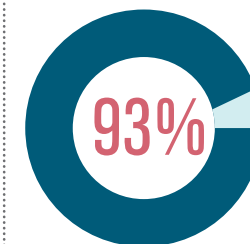
With a population of over 50,000, Maricopa is a diverse mix of age groups, income brackets and health needs. According to U.S. Census estimates, the city has 5,900 residents over the age of 65 and 3,300 under the age 5. Data from 2018 estimate 6.5 percent live below the poverty level.

In 2020, Pinal County Public Health tried to help communities mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Through August, the county had 9,900 cases, with 190 related deaths.

The health portrait of Maricopa is similar to that of Pinal County, with some of the same health concerns. Cardiovascular disease remained, by far, the leading cause of death.

Here are statistics from federal and local agencies.

5
Pinal County's health rank out of 15 counties



Percentage of Maricopans with health insurance

3,200
with no health insurance in 2018.



13.9

Rate per 100,000 dying from traffic accidents in Pinal County (the same rate as dying from firearm injuries). Men were twice as likely as women to die in a traffic accident



894

Maricopa women between age 15-50 who gave birth in 2018

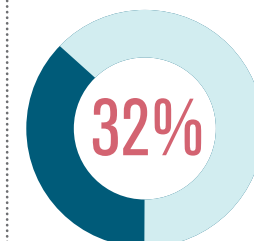


256

Reported opioid overdoses in Pinal County 2017-2019, 29 of them fatal

1,100

Maricopans who received food stamps/ SNAP in 2018



Pinal County adults deemed obese, a rate that rose 4% in six years

73.2

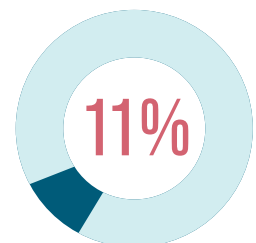


Average lifespan for Pinal County females

68.8



Average lifespan for Pinal County males



Maricopa's military veteran population 20% disabled



1,541:1

Maricopa residents per primary care physician per primary care area

592

Maricopa sexually transmitted disease per 100,000

Data from U.S. Census, American Community Survey estimates and Pinal County Public Health Department



City shy about naming names in hunt for hospital

File photo by Jonathan Williams

Maricopa is within 30 miles of two medical centers, but transportation issues seem to magically expand that distance for residents.

State Route 347, a necessary corridor for those heading to a hospital in Chandler, is often slowed by commuter traffic. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, the route to Banner Casa Grande Medical Center, is mostly a two-lane road with its own challenges.

That is much of the impetus behind the long-time push to bring a full hospital to Maricopa.

“Sure, we might have hospitals within 30 minutes, but for our middle-aged/elderly folks who suffer a heart attack or have a stroke, a legitimate hospital within our community makes more sense,” resident Brent Engal posted on InMaricopa’s Facebook page. “Additionally, our lack of routes out of the city complicates transport to the hospital



Bob McGovern

during rush hour, or when a crash closes down the 347 or MCG.

“A smaller hospital would be good for our community; something that has a 15-20 bed ER, MED-SURG unit, outpatient surgery unit, radiology department, and lab would create lasting jobs for our current residents and give the community a reliable place to obtain care.”

According to city leaders, there are ongoing talks with healthcare companies to make that happen, but COVID-19 slowed any advancement of those conversations in

Dignity Health has long owned this property at John Wayne Parkway and Cobblestone Farms.

Exceptional Healthcare is planning to build an emergency center at SR 347 and Honeycutt Avenue.

2020. The messaging about the possibility of a hospital echoes what was said publicly in 2019.

“Discussions are being had with all the major companies,” Mayor Christian Price said. “Clearly, there are two companies here who have a foothold already. Things are progressing. We’ve made progress with one of them perhaps far more than with the other.”

He declined to name names, but Banner has a health center on Porter Road, and Dignity Health runs an urgent care facility



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Hospital

on John Wayne Parkway and has long owned a vacant lot at the intersection of John Wayne Parkway and Cobblestone Farms.

Residents have noticed that, too. “Too bad Banner or Dignity wouldn’t step up. I’ll still drive out of town for medical care,” Julie Schlagel commented to InMaricopa on social media.

“They are very excited about doing it,” Price said of the unnamed provider. “They want to come. It’s just a matter of getting all the signoffs from the national side of things. All these companies have a state presence due to state insurance laws and they have a national presence if they’re traded on the New York Stock Exchange.”

As a result, cities wishing to lure them must start at the local level and move on to the national level. Though headway was being made, the pandemic was a blow.

“COVID threw a wrench into things, so clearly the national folks didn’t meet as often,” the mayor said. “That’s kind of what the hang-up is.”

The process now is only described as “moving forward.”

While Exceptional Healthcare announced its intention to build an emergency room in Maricopa, residents still want a comprehensive medical center.

“We need a HOSPITAL, with beds, doctors, a cardiac team, a labor & delivery unit, a trauma center and a proper emergency department,” resident Merida La’Calsty shared.



Submitted

“We need a HOSPITAL, with beds, doctors, a cardiac team, a labor & delivery unit, a trauma center and a proper emergency department.”

–Merida La’Calsty

Because of the uncertainty of the progress of talks, Price said he did not want to share misleading information with the public.

“I can call over there a million times, but at the end of the day, all we can do is stay in front of them,” he said. “They have to go through their process, their timeframe and everything else. It’s in their hands.”

Resident Robin Bennett understood that situation: “Ask a hospital to build out here. They pick us. We don’t pick them.”

Price said discussions have made it clear a future medical center will be a general-practitioner hospital and not just an ER or an urgent care.

“It’s not going to have a ton of specialties, just because it will start out small, but you’ve got to think like a big company does. You’ll grow in phases as the city continues to grow, as the area grows,” Price said. “It will certainly have the things the people need here.”

All of that is tentative, of course, which is why officials have been reluctant to make a major announcement about a hospital. And that leaves residents with big questions and theories.

“We need a real hospital system,” Engal said. “We need a hospital that works with our insurance companies. Where is Banner, Dignity or Honor Health?” ■



Raquel Hendrickson

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BY KRISTINA DONNAY



Maricopa's first full service Med Spa

Maricopa's father and daughter team opened Maricopa Wellness Center in April 2019. Maricopa Wellness Center is a fully licensed medical facility specializing as a full-service Medical Spa, utilizing cutting edge technology, offering patients the latest treatment options for their bodies and skin.

Kristina Donnay is a certified Family Nurse Practitioner and the facility's on-site Medical Director. Kristina is also Board-Certified in Aesthetics and a Certified Master Injector. Bill Day is an entrepreneur and the acting Office Manager. Maricopa Wellness Center's focus is helping people look and feel better in their own skin, combining medical-grade services in a relaxing spa-like setting. The staff customizes each individual program to fit the needs and goals of each customer.



Some of the treatments Maricopa Wellness Center offers include laser services, hair removal, skin tightening, acne treatments, Ultherapy, microneedling, Botox, fillers, chemical peels, rejuvenation services, medical weight loss, IV therapy, Liop MIC B-12 shots, skin care, medical grade supplements, body contouring by Evolve, COVID-19 testing and antibodies testing, PRP joint injections and Bioidentical Hormone Replacement Therapy (BHRT).

BIOIDENTICAL HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY (BHRT)

Hormones coordinate everything from digestion, brain function, immune function, mood, libido and more. As men and women age our hormones decline or become out of balance, having a big impact on our health and well-being. BHRT pellet therapy is the delivery of hormone replacement via pellet placed under the skin. Data supports this as the safest and most effective method of BHRT.

Pellets are compounded from organic plant materials and have the exact molecule structure of those hormones found naturally in the body. Pellets are about the size of a cooked grain of rice. Using a painless office procedure, the pellets are inserted under the skin. Medical literature has shown this delivers a consistent level of hormones into the bloodstream, avoiding the fluctuations that occur when using creams, pills, shots, patches or other methods. In women, pellets last 3 to 4 months; 4 to 6 months.

EVOLVE BODY CONTOURING

The Evolve System is a groundbreaking set of body sculpting treatments, with EvolveTite, EvolveTrim and EvolveTone in its suite of hands-free devices to sculpt your body, tone your muscles and smooth your skin. The applicators use various thermal techniques to heat the skin and tissue, activating the subdermal layer to remodel and sculpt various body areas. Due to the design of the applicators, you can treat multiple parts of your body in one appointment.

The Evolve System employs multiple technologies to activate adipose tissue, tone muscles, and remodel skin and tissue. This suite of devices can be customized and tailored to fit your specific needs without the need for surgery. All the procedures under the umbrella of the Evolve System require no incisions, no pain or no downtime.

Maricopa Wellness Center won Maricopa Chamber's 2019 Small Business of the Year and is a leader in hormone replacement therapy. Come in and meet their fantastic, friendly, licensed staff, and learn about optimum health. LIVE WELL BE WELL ■

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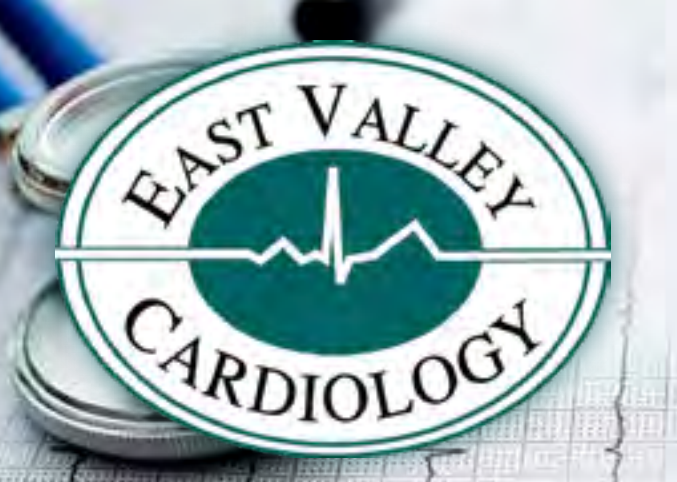


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BY JOHN A. DONOHUE

Auto injury care is not healthcare

Automobile collisions have very distinct injuries that need to be addressed by specific, detailed exams. These exams are determined by the type and location of impact on a motor vehicle and its passengers or pedestrians. The physician must also look at whether the airbag deployed, the type and size of the vehicles, if a seat belt was worn, the approximate speed of each vehicle, the height of your head rest or if it is a front, rear or side impact to name a few variables. Each of these will affect the individual victim in numerous ways. You must understand what is relative to the biomechanics of each variable and how every type affects your body independently.

There are more than 50 symptoms associated with motor vehicle collisions that are correlated to the injuries that include, but are not limited to neck pain, low back pain, arm pain with tingling, numbness and weakness, leg pain with tingling, numbness and weakness, visual disturbance, fatigue, headaches, dizziness, nausea, memory problems, etc. You can develop anxiety and irritability that may emotionally affect you like PTSD. It can cause fear of driving, depression, and sleep disorders.

Eighty-seven percent of minor impacts result in Traumatic Brain Injury. The most common form is a concussion. The brain shifts inside the head and hits the skull. Fifty percent of all concussions occur in motor vehicle collisions and half of those occur in low speed impacts. A doctor must be able to identify a concussion, know if it is improving or worsening, know how to test it and how to treat it and know when to refer to a concussion specialist.

One of the major injuries of motor vehicle collisions is a spinal ligament injury, which can cause problems for decades after a collision. When a ligament is hyper-flexed or hyper-extended, it causes hypermobility of the spine. In turn, this causes accelerated degeneration of the area.

There are specific protocols for automobile collisions. Each injury has an individual protocol for concussions, ligament injuries, etc. Some of the imaging types used are X-ray, MRI, CT scan, etc. Know which to choose and when.

Injuries can impact your life by making it difficult to do certain activities and may cause the

inability to do some things altogether. You must understand how these issues tie into physical health, emotional well-being and how they affect your healing time.

Another area of concern is vehicle damage and how to proceed regarding the type of parts, the collision center, rental cars, diminished value, mileage, seatbelt replacement and how minimal vehicle damage affects your body. There is a Florida statistic showing 35,000 accidents at less than 10 mph resulting in 1,900 deaths.

To put it into perspective: a crash at 2.5 mph can cause symptoms, but vehicle damage may not occur until 8.7 mph. A rear-end collision at 8 mph produces 2 g's of acceleration to the vehicle and 5 g's to the head after a quarter second. At 15 mph, the head will accelerate 10 g's in a half second. Fighter pilots gray out at 6 g's.

There is much more to a Motor Vehicle Injury vs Basic Healthcare. Take all areas of this article into consideration when deciding on what to do after an automobile collision. Due to the space limitation of this article, consider that we are just scratching the surface of all the important factors pertaining to automobile injury.

Helpful information

- Head restraints should be even with the top of your head. If it is too low, it acts as a fulcrum. It is best to keep your head against it while you drive.
- If the airbags go off, have your lungs checked because you suck in the powder when they deploy. Have your ears checked as well. The sound of airbags can be deafening.
- After an accident, ice is the therapy of choice, not heat.
- Do not wait to see if the pain gets worse. Low-level pain can turn serious over weeks, months and even years.
- Pay attention to your body and emotions after an accident. Get help if you notice anything unusual.
- If you do not know what to look for, you will not find it. Dr. Donohue is certified in Motor Vehicle Injury Care and has treated thousands of motor vehicle collision patients over 28 years. ■



For more information, contact Dr. Donohue's office at 520-494-7788.



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Pain management

BY PHILIP WAZNY, NMD

Do you suffer from knee pain? Shoulder pain? Elbow pain?

Prolotherapy is designed to specifically address the source of your pain and triggers the body's innate healing mechanisms to strengthen damaged joints due to trauma or arthritis. It is a natural, non-surgical treatment and can eliminate the need for surgery!

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decrease pain and regenerate joint tissue.

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Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) therapy is another great option for joint trauma or arthritis. PRP uses injections of a patient's own platelets to accelerate the healing of injured tendons, ligaments, muscles and joints. A patient's blood is drawn and processed in a centrifuge. The platelets are then injected into the injured tissue. This releases growth factors that stimulate and increase the number of reparative cells the body produces. Above all, PRP injections use a patient's own healing system to amplify the natural growth factors in the body and heal tissues.

If you are experiencing joint pain, prolotherapy is a viable option that is highly likely to resolve pain and anatomical issues with little to no side effects. At Health Matters, we're happy to discuss your case via telemedicine to determine your candidacy for prolotherapy and answer any additional questions you may have. ■



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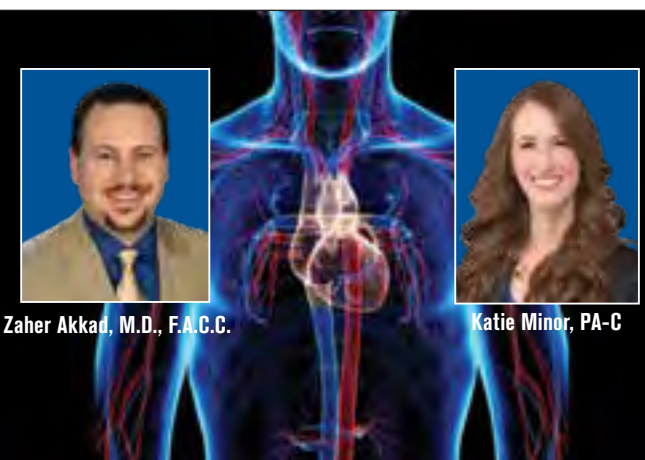


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BY STAFF WRITER

Sun Life is helping people live their healthiest life

The staff at Sun Life truly care about the community. It has been our legacy since Sun Life started. We began in Casa Grande, as an outgrowth of the Arizona Job College, which provided job training for migrant and seasonal farm-workers. The farm workers who were interested in health services were trained at the Center. Over time, as the training funds ran out, the health funds kept coming and the job college became solely a health facility.

SUN LIFE'S HISTORICAL JOURNEY TO AND IN MARICOPA

In 1976, the Center became incorporated as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, which staffed one full-time and one part-time physician. In the first year, the Center provided 12,000 patient visits. In March 1977, the Center moved from the Job College to Cottonwood Lane. This move provided a larger facility, allowing the Center to increase staffing to three full-time and three part-time physicians. This new facility was built to offer laboratory, X-ray and pharmacy services as a convenience for patients. By 1978, the Center had introduced family dentistry and women's health and maternity care services (OB/GYN), now providing an array of services to the community, and truly being a "family health center."

The Center saw the start of growth to communities outside of Casa Grande, starting with our second office in Maricopa in 1980.

The Center became established as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in 1981, allowing a shift in funding from migrant grants to the Community Health Center Program grant.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

This meant the Center was able to ensure that everyone in the community was eligible to use its services, regardless of income or insurance status. The goal was to offer good quality care, focusing on preventative health services. This level of care supported continued growth, and, by 1984, the organization was operating four offices in the County.

In 2001, the organization saw construction of its Maricopa Family Practice office and, in 2015, Sun Life moved Maricopa's family practice to a new, larger facility and a pharmacy. Sun Life then renovated the original Maricopa office to provide OB/GYN services to reopen as Sun Life Center for Women.

Sun Life Family Health Center has been serving the community of Maricopa for over 38 years. Sun Life has an unwavering dedication to providing our patients and the community comprehensive, trusted and affordable healthcare close to home. Over the years, we have grown our services to meet the changing needs of our communities. This includes offering integrated behavioral health, wellness education and open to the public pharmacies. ■



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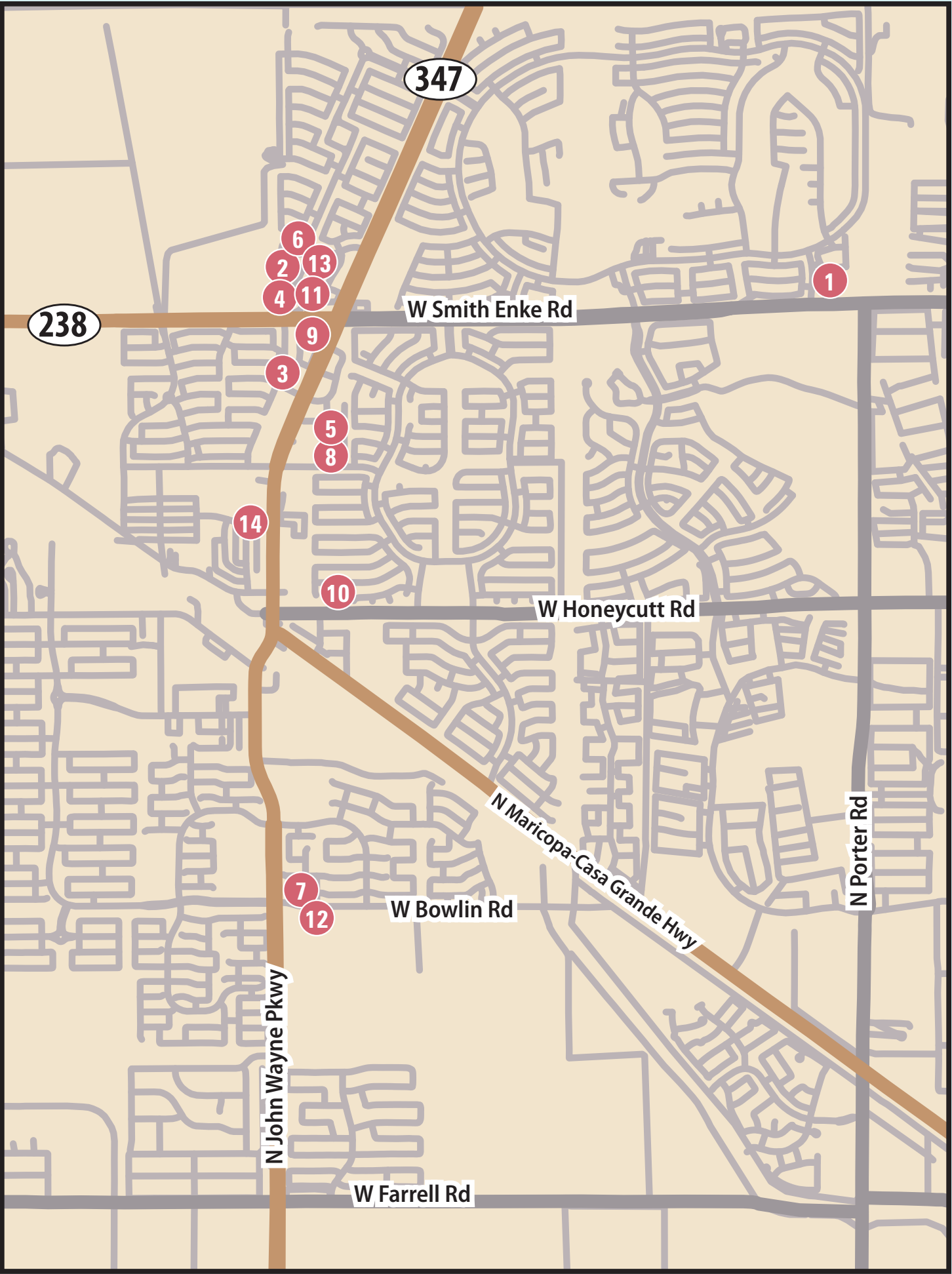
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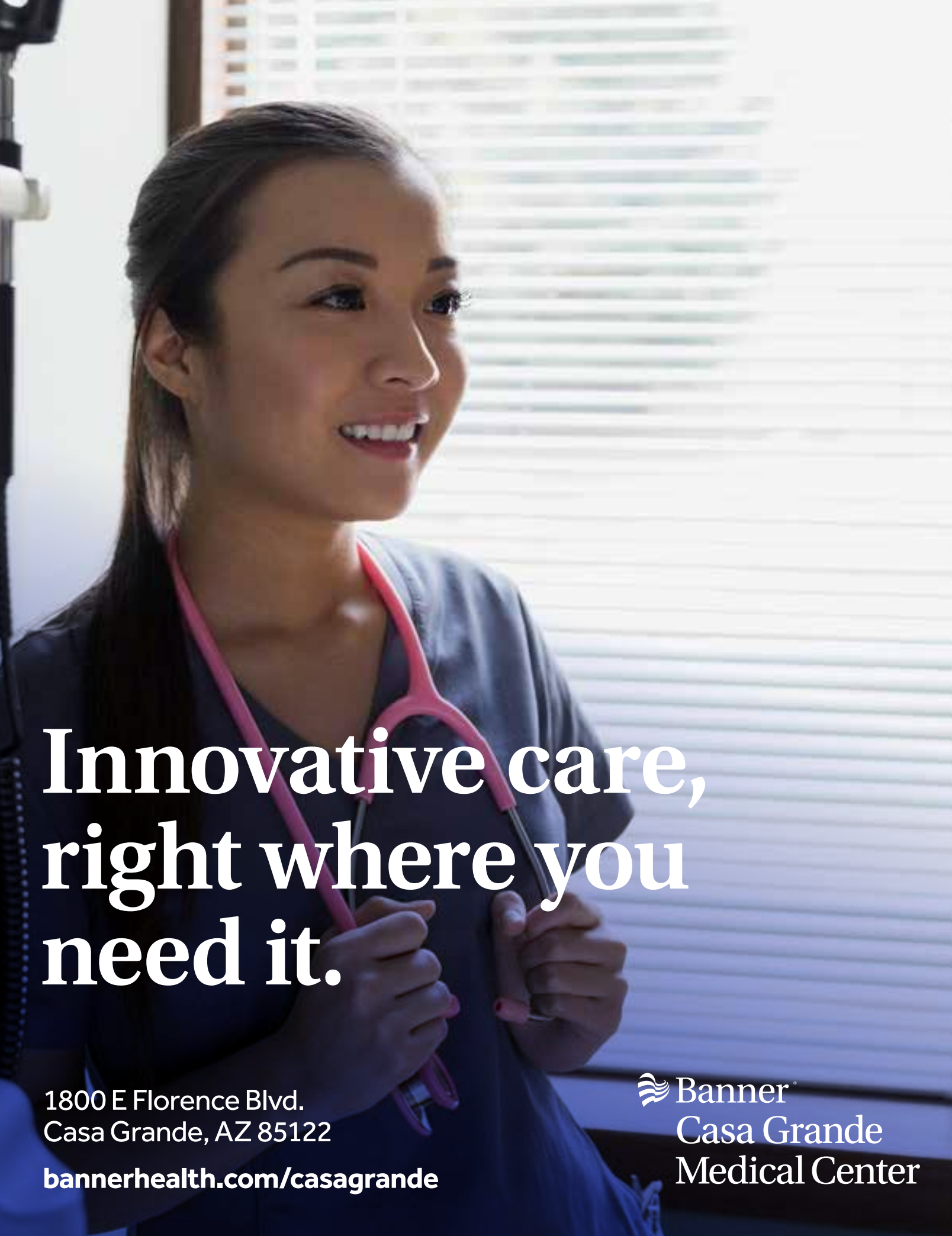
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Master Planner

How Mike Ingram brought together building blocks of Maricopa

By Raquel Hendrickson



Kyle Norby

Mike Ingram has walls covered with plans in the offices of El Dorado Holdings in Scottsdale.

Mike Ingram is not crazy or stupid. That may be obvious to observers now, but 25 years ago, many of Arizona’s most knowledgeable movers and shakers thought he was nuts. Now the chairman of El Dorado Holdings, which he founded in 1992, Ingram became one of the most influential people forming the modern history of Maricopa.

After creating Rancho El Dorado and sister subdivisions The Villages and The Lakes, El Dorado Holdings still has about 8,000 acres in and around Maricopa set for residential and commercial development. It has thousands more acres in other communities it is also developing.

But Maricopa continues to be his baby. The work has been a combination of puzzle pieces and chess moves to find the right combination of partners and investors in what others thought was a hair-brained scheme.

“I had this vision and plan for a new city there,” said Ingram, 76. “At the time, we had entitlements through Pinal County. There was no City of Maricopa. Maricopa was less than 500 people.”

His first deal in real estate was with partner Marty Ortman, with whom he purchased El Dorado, a ranch formerly belonging to John Wayne near Stanfield. That gave their fledgling company its name. Then they purchased other farms in the vicinity in 1992 and became known to other landowners.

He still clearly remembers the day Karl Eller called and asked him to lunch at Phoenix Country Club. Eller was an advertising mogul and John Wayne fan who had purchased the Red River Ranch in 1980 from the late actor’s estate.

“I need you to think about buying the Red River from me,” Eller told Ingram. “But I need you to close it in a week.”

Eller had a loan with a local savings and loan company that had collapsed and been taken over by the federal government. He made a deal with Resolution Trust Company, the government’s asset management company, to pay off the loan. Time was running short. He offered Ingram a fair price.

“So, we bought the Red River in ’92, and we still own a big part of the Red River today,” Ingram said. “I had a love for John Wayne my whole life. When we bought El Dorado ranch, I was real excited to be a part of that deal, the Louis Johnson and John Wayne history behind it and what that means to the whole community down there. And preserving that history, you just don’t have any idea what that means to me.”

When El Dorado Holdings had Red River in escrow, Ingram received a call from Louis Johnson, Wayne’s long-time business partner in Maricopa whose property was in the middle of Red River. Johnson said he wanted to be a partner in Ingram’s real estate plans and set him up with Willard Sparks, one of the largest commodity traders in the nation.

Another partner, Dr. James Little, became one of Ingram’s best friends.

IT STARTED WITH A ROAD

When Ingram began buying farmland around Maricopa, some locals thought he could be key to solving a serious problem – Maricopa Road. Community leaders like Alma Farrell and Jane Askew were hosting meetings in their homes to get property owners on board with widening the deadly, two-lane strip.

Leading farmers Bill Scott and John Smith reached out to Ingram, getting the ball rolling for the Maricopa Road Association.

“He recognized that we needed to have a four-lane highway coming out here,” Smith said. “So, we got together and posted a bond issue. We knew that the county wouldn’t help finance it. So, we voted on it, and it just barely passed.”

In 1989, Arizona Department of Transportation was ready to accept the road if the association could raise half the money.

“The citizens of western Pinal County all had a big, big part in making that happen,” Ingram said. “Alma Farrell was a big part of that. She had many, many meetings, actually gave me a place at Headquarters to work out of in those days. In a room between the bar and the restaurant, that was my little office there in Maricopa. And we went to work on it.”

U.S. Sen. Dennis DeConcini brought federal money to the table. Pinal and Maricopa counties also came on board. Gila River Indian Community was in agreement. Property owners around Maricopa voted to tax themselves for the improvement district. The widening was completed in 1996.

“Mike worked hard, a lot harder than I did,” Smith said.

Despite naysayers calling it a road to nowhere, Ingram knew it was vital to his plans. He started piecing together his properties, buying farmland from Smith and others.

THE NEED TO BELIEVE

Ingram knew he still needed a powerful real estate broker to bring in homebuilders. Each one he called in Phoenix shot him down, telling him Maricopa would just be a bunch of mobile homes.



A 2000 aerial photograph from the El Dorado Holdings archives shows farmland where housing would soon rise.

“In those days, all the interest was on Casa Grande,” he said. “I went to every broker in town and showed them my idea. And every broker except one said, ‘Mike, you’re absolutely crazy. You’ll never sell one lot. You’ll never sell one home until Casa Grande is completely built out. Do you not understand that Casa Grande has doctors, they have shopping centers, they have car dealers, they have dentists? You have a Circle K and Headquarters, and NAPA was there.”

“I was absolutely the laughing stock of the real estate community.” Mike Ingram

The one broker who listened was someone Ingram did not want to approach in the first place. James ‘Nate’ Nathan of Nathan & Associates brokered some of the biggest deals in the state, including Johnson Ranch, Power Ranch and Copper Mountain Ranch in Casa Grande. Ingram saw him as a major competitor.

Nathan listened because he saw what Ingram saw: tiny Maricopa’s proximity to the East Valley and Sky Harbor.

“You could tell growth patterns,” Nathan said. “He said, ‘I can’t list this with you because you’re going to take the people to those other places.’ I said, ‘No, I’m not. It’s an emerging market.”

In 2000, Nathan and his partner David Mullard took the first phase of 1,000 lots and sold to three homebuilders. It took them just 10 weeks.

Nathan said a top selling point was the newly widened road where before there was no safe access.

“The affordability in the southeast Valley was going away, just like it is again, and so Maricopa exploded,” Nathan said.

Many homebuilders wanted to go cheap, building homes with car ports and swamp coolers, roof-mounted air conditioners and composition roofs instead of tile.

“Mike was like, ‘No, I’m creating a whole new city,” Nathan said. “We went with the builders that Mike believed would build the quality product that he demanded. He never wavered from that once.”

Ingram said if he had settled for the county standards, he wouldn’t have put in curbs and sidewalks and could have chip-sealed the roads. He said Maricopa would look like Arizona City today. Instead, he wanted standards like those in municipalities like Chandler and Gilbert. At Nathan’s insistence, the homebuilders agreed.

Ingram was spending \$14 million on The Duke golf course and another \$3 million on landscaping for phase 1 of Rancho El Dorado and wanted quality homes to go with it. With no impact fees at the time, homebuyers could get an 1,800-square-foot home for what they would pay for a 1,300-square-foot home in Chandler.

The homebuilders were just the first hurdle. Utilities had no interest in coming to Maricopa.

When he had 1,103 lots in escrow with five homebuilders, Ingram went hunting for a water company. He went to Atlanta, Minneapolis, Los Angeles and Dallas.

“Nobody would put in a water company or wastewater,” he said. “So, we put in the water and the wastewater.”

Eventually Global Water agreed to take over most of Maricopa’s water system, inheriting those early lines.

Ingram asked Cox to provide cable service. That was another no-go from a company that

did not believe Maricopa would be a success. Then Ingram found Orbitel and talked its principals into being a partner in the venture.

Current President John Schurz said the founders of Orbitel “believed in the City of Maricopa and its residents. There is a can-do spirit that permeates throughout the community. And, like Mike Ingram, Orbitel saw the potential in Maricopa.”

Then Ingram received back-to-back doses of bad news.

“The darkest day of my whole life was the day Arizona Public Service told me they wouldn’t bring me electricity,” he said. “Qwest said they wouldn’t bring fiber optics.”

Electrical District No. 3 was serving farmers in the area with hydroelectric power. Ingram saw they did not have the capital or the know-how to bring thousands of homes online. So, he flew to California to convince Edison Power to partner with ED3 on a new utility company.

“About that time Qwest called, after they saw the utility formed, and they said, ‘We’re on our way with fiber optics,’” Ingram said.

KEEPING THE FAITH

Looking back, it might have been easy for Ingram to quit trying to open so many closed doors.

“People didn’t believe in it. I would go to these meetings at these restaurants, and people would say I was the craziest man in the world,” he said. “We built this four-lane divided highway and thought we could build a town down there. I was absolutely the laughingstock of the real estate community.”

But he had a far stronger incentive than ego keeping him fighting for his idea. Taking pride in operating his real estate company since 1987 with no debt, he had a lot invested in Maricopa.

“I have a lot of my very best friends and myself committed. We have a lot of money invested in land in western Pinal County,” he said. “There is no option. It has to work. It has to go. I have too many people that trust me. There was no turn-back.”

Those who believed in what El Dorado Holdings was doing included Eddie Basha, then-CEO of Bashas’, the first supermarket in town; Norman McClelland of Shamrock Foods; Larry Williams, an investor from Boise, Idaho; and Ingram’s biggest investor, ophthalmologist Jim Little.

“These guys were all in my LLCs,” Ingram said. “I could be replaced at any time.”

DOWN AND UPS

Though the company had stopped buying land



Kyle Norby

Mike Ingram has walls covered with plans in the offices of El Dorado Holdings in Scottsdale.

by 2005, El Dorado Holdings was gearing up to launch another master-planned community on the east side of town called Eagle Shadow in 2007.

“It’s taken a lot longer because we had to go through a recession we didn’t expect,” he said.

The bubble burst on the housing market in Maricopa, in Arizona and across the country. At El Dorado Holdings, everything came to a dead stop. Through 2007 the company had sold 57,000 lots in Pinal and Maricopa counties. Then, from 2008 to 2018, they did not sell one lot.

For 10 years, Ingram told his employees there would be no raises or bonuses. Their Christmas bonus was a letter guaranteeing them 12 months of employment. Scary times, but he had quality people.

“We never laid off one person,” he said. “These people hung with us. They stayed with us through the recession.”

“Mike’s an incredibly smart land player, an incredibly passionate master developer and basically the most incredible thing about him is he has no debt,” Nathan said, “as opposed to everyone else in ’06, ’07, ’08, ’09, ’10, ’11. They had a lot of debt, so a lot of things changed hands. If you don’t have debt and you entitle your ground and you get it ready for when things recover, that’s when you capitalize, and that’s exactly what Mike did.”

The company started buying land again in 2012 for 10% of what it would have cost in 2005. Ingram said his degree in agricultural economics convinced him all commodities go through cycles. He and his partners began putting back together the plans for Eagle

Shadow and for Douglas Ranch in Buckeye.

“Now we have 1,127 lots ready to go to escrow with the builders all lined up,” he said. “We today manage about 64,000 acres of land that is zoned and entitled. In and around the town of Maricopa, we’ve got about 8,000 acres of land that’s still yet to be developed.”

HOW IT STARTED

Mike Ingram was raised in Roswell, New Mexico. His father, Paul, died of cancer when Ingram was 13. With little formal education, his mother, Maude, owned and operated the Navajo Motel in Roswell. He worked at the motel and picked up jobs around town.

He attended one year at Pasadena College, which is now Point Loma Nazarene, in San Diego, where he had too good a time and made straight C’s. The dean encouraged him to follow his aptitude in agricultural economics, elsewhere. He attended Texas Tech for a year, met and married a sheriff’s daughter named Sheila his sophomore year and moved to New Mexico State in Las Cruces to complete his degree.

He landed a job in a meat-packing plant in Colorado, then moved into sales with a position at Merck & Co. He called it “a great, great training ground for one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the nation.”

With a growing family, he started his own company with financial backing from John Tufts Sr., who had offered him a partnership in his veterinary supply company. Ingram became a wholesale distributor for Merck, Pfizer and other major pharmaceutical companies in Oklahoma. He dealt in agriculture veterinary

supplies for 15 years. He grew the company to over \$100 million in sales.

He studied entrepreneurs and was inspired by, and later befriended by, motivational writer and speaker Zig Ziglar, as he moved from one company to another field altogether in the mid-1980s.

“Oil had gone from \$40 a barrel to \$8,” Ingram said. “From ’84 to ’86, 62 banks went under in the state of Oklahoma. Without a bank, without a credit line, I sold my business for pennies on the dollar.”

He headed off to Arizona in 1985, essentially broke and trying to reinvent his livelihood. He started real estate dealings as Sheila and her mother later packed up and moved their belongings by U-Haul to Ahwatukee. Starting with designated broker Deb Bricker, he put together a team of loyal, hard-working individuals and turned his eyes south of the Valley.

“Zig saw Maricopa before we ever started. He didn’t believe that would ever amount to anything,” Ingram said. “After he saw the great success it was, he said, ‘Mike, you gotta write a book.’”

He did so in 2012, explaining his philosophy of interpersonal relationships in business in “The Master Plan.” After he received the Horatio Alger Award in 2019, the book was republished this year. The Horatio Alger organization says the award, which is given to up to 12 people a year, symbolizes “personal initiative and perseverance, leadership and commitment to excellence, belief in the free-enterprise system and the importance of higher education, community service, and the vision and determination to achieve a better future.”

Ingram isn’t just watching the revitalized growth of Maricopa; he is part of it. In addition to Eagle Shadow, El Dorado Holdings has REV in the wings, a residential/commercial property on the southeast corner of Porter and Bowlin roads.

“We do business in a lot of communities, and you don’t find what you (have) in Maricopa,” Ingram said. “They have very high standards. We want them to have high standards. One of the reasons Maricopa is coming back is the reputation it has in the development community to be agreeable to work with developers and homebuilders, and they listen.”

He lays credit for that at the feet of City Manager Rick Horst — “one of the best problem-solvers that I know of” — and an attitude of not opposing developers.

“To this day, we’re still trying to get a big employer down there,” he said. “It’s going to come. It’s going to come.”

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1. Youth soccer took over the playing fields of Copper Sky Regional Park in August. *Raquel Hendrickson*
2. Junior Connor Schrader helped the Maricopa High School boys' swim team to a season-opening win. *Victor Moreno*
3. The MHS girls' golf team had its first home competition Sept. 14 at The Duke. *Victor Moreno*
4. The MHS varsity volleyball team kicked off its season Sept. 22 against Mesa as they made their 6A debut. *Victor Moreno*
5. Local youth softball clubs were also back in action at Copper Sky by August. *Raquel Hendrickson*



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Safe marijuana vaping for teens is a myth

By Priscilla Behnke

Vaping is continuing its popularity among local youth and is one of the main substances being vaped by teens is marijuana.

The truth is marijuana has long term consequences and studies show youth vaping of any kind increases the risk of future marijuana vaping.

The cultural shift towards marijuana legalization is crafting a myth that youth can use marijuana consequence free. But it is not safe for them. Youth is a time of critical development necessary to help them become confident, connected, and successful in life and marijuana directly counters that.

A study from two years ago indicated that marijuana could impact the development of a young person's brain and increased the risks of developing depression and suicidality. This is in line with years of studies showing chronic marijuana use negatively affects cognitive impairment and hurts a student's chances for academic success.

There are also physical risks. TEVALI is a vaping product recently associated with lung injury. The CDC created the term in response to a multi-state outbreak of severe lung illnesses linked with using e-cigarette and vaping products. These cases were first documented in August 2019 and by November 2019 there were more than 2,000 cases in 49 states and 39 deaths.



Priscilla Behnke

Unfortunately, despite all the science showing the dangers it is the number one drug being used by teens here in Maricopa. To compound the problem, vape pens can deliver a higher potency of marijuana through vaporized concentrates. These can contain THC levels as high as 99%. This is the chemical that affects brain development.

The popular trend is relatively new, and it can be intimidating to learn everything there is to know. There is a lot of new information coming out as researchers learn more. It even has its own subculture with its own slang used to describe the habit. Only half of parents can identify them.

Here are some to know:

- **Ghost:** A vape trick where a user will pull as much as they can and not exhale to show toughness
- **Nic:** Nicotine
- **Clouds:** What vapers call the vape mist that is produced during vaping
- **Dab Pen:** A dab pen is used primarily for consuming THC concentrates and using the device is typically also referred to as "vaping." These devices look and work much like other vape pens.
- **Greening:** the act of throwing up after hitting THC
- **Rip It:** Refers to vaping as much as a user can tolerate

- **Vit E:** Vitamin E Acetate, which has been linked to illnesses related to vaping THC
- **Dank Vapes:** The "most prominent in a class of largely counterfeit brands, with common packaging that is easily available online and used by distributors to market THC containing cartridges," according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report on e-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injury.

There is a lot of information and terms on the risks of vaping and marijuana at www.truthinitiative.org or contact the Be Awesome Youth Coalition at www.beawesomeyouth.life.

While the realities of youth vaping can be scary, parents and caregivers can do something about the trend. Youth whose parents and other significant adults in their lives talk with them regularly about the risks of drug abuse are less likely to use.

Each of our kids have potential to take into the world, and we don't have to just hope they don't get involved with drugs. We can make time to talk with them honestly about the risks and help them avoid the lifelong consequences that will hurt their future and rob them of their agency. Talk soon, talk often, and talk truthfully. This October take the time to speak with your kids about the harms of vaping marijuana before time creeps away.

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What a tuition-free college would actually look like

By Murray Siegel

Some politicians promise to deliver a free college education — actually it is a tuition-free public college education.

Notice it is a college education not a college experience that will be provided. Many of the trappings of a college experience, such as intercollegiate sports, fraternities, sororities and dormitories, will not be present at the tuition-free school.



Murray Siegel

To reduce costs, which will allow the state to cover those expenses, majors will be limited to those that do not require the latest technology. Majors in the humanities, social sciences, the arts, business and mathematics will be available.

To study engineering or nursing, students may enter a two-year, pre-engineering or pre-nursing program, where they can complete core courses before transferring to a university that charges tuition. A limited number of research professors, in areas not requiring advanced technology, will be hired. Most faculty will focus on teaching. A master's degree will be sufficient for most faculty positions, thus reducing salary expense.

A Ph.D. will be required for elevation to full professor and only research professors will be required to maintain scholarly research. Research faculty will have a reduction of one class per semester and a student assistant will be assigned to reduce the researcher's administrative and grading time.

Tuition will be free but appropriate fees will be charged and textbooks must be purchased. Students who cannot afford these costs will work, at minimum wage, performing clean-up, filing and other duties. The only athletic competition will be intramural, and fees will be charged for participation. Once again, students can perform on-campus tasks to pay these fees.

These tuition-free schools will be commuter campuses. Students who live more than 25 miles away and/or have no transportation available can live in the few available dormitory rooms, for an appropriate fee or in exchange for a fixed number of work hours.

Students must maintain a 2.5 (C+/B-) average to continue with free tuition. A student whose grades are deficient will be given free mentoring and tutoring. Students receiving academic assistance who do not obtain a 2.5 semester average will be considered for dismissal.

Classes will be held on underutilized public college campuses, especially at two-year schools. This can be done and will provide a tuition-free quality college education to those who seek to elevate their potential without incurring debt.

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

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Square Footage: 4,251
Price per square ft: \$107.03
Days on Market: 54
Builder: DR Horton
Year Built: 2007
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 4
Community: Homestead North
Features: Former model home on a corner lot backing up to a

community park. Resort-style backyard with diving pool, putting green, partially-turfed lawn and spacious outdoor entertaining area. The home has four large bedrooms, three-car garage, walk-in closets and pantry, private master and vaulted entryway. Open concept living and kitchen area, stainless steel appliances and granite countertops.

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Kyle Norby

1. 37137 W. Amalfi Ave.

Sold: 9/1/20
Purchase Price: \$187,000
Square Footage: 1,371
Price per square ft: \$136.39
Days on Market: 1
Builder: DR Horton
Year Built: 2008

Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2
Community: Sorrento
Features: Newer carpet and interior paint. Includes all appliances. Backyard is ready to be customized.

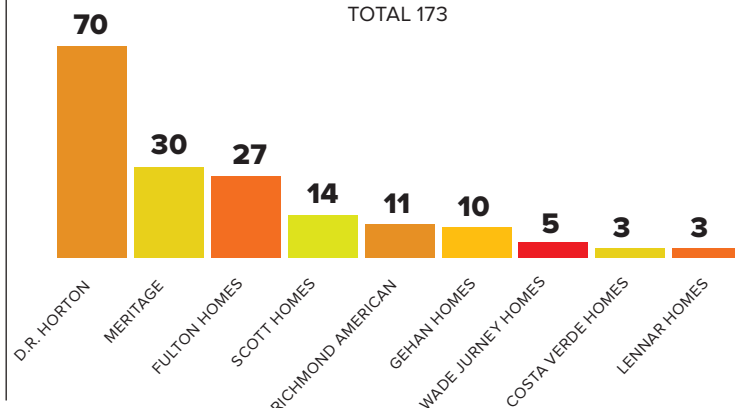
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3. \$199,000 — 45528 W. Amsterdam Road — Maricopa Meadows
4. \$205,000 — 40220 W. Green Court — Smith Farms
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For a full list of last month's Maricopa home sales, visit InMaricopa.com/Real-Estate.

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Buyers may turn to new builds in seller's market

By Dayv Morgan

In today's seller's market, homebuyers face a real challenge.

They are competing with many others for existing homes, facing higher and higher bids and are often on the wrong side of negotiations. Homes are selling within days of being listed, leaving buyers exhausted and frustrated.

That is driving more homebuyers to new builds, a situation that seems to be a win-win for both builders and buyers. Even in a seller's market there are no multiple offers with new homes, just first come first serve. If you can wait, typical build time is six to eight months right now.

Builders often have incentives, such as paying your closing costs, if you use their preferred lender. In such a competitive resale market it is unlikely that a seller will agree to pay these costs for you.

With a new home, buyers have varying degrees of options. Some new homes come

with everything pre-selected, which is great for first-time buyers and the budget-conscious. Others have full design centers with many customizable features, although it comes at a higher cost.

Homebuyers should make sure they understand what each homebuilder considers to be "standard" rather than an upgrade. Simply comparing the base prices of each builder is not enough. If you choose the lowest price, you may be disappointed to find there is an extra cost for a covered patio, nine-foot ceilings instead of eight-foot, tile instead of vinyl, and other options you thought were included.

This is especially true when looking at the model homes; it's not uncommon for them to have \$100,000 or more in added upgrades.

On the plus side, new homes are more energy efficient than most resale homes and include warranties of up to 10 years, so you

can have peace of mind that you won't need to spend money on repairs right away.

Even with the builder guarantee a home inspection is still recommended before closing. On your one-year anniversary you can have the builder come back and fix any defects that you have found. However you are likely not looking in the attic or on the roof, and there could be major structural problems not discovered until you sell and the buyer does their home inspection. And then the repairs will be your responsibility.

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

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It's fall, time to plan your cool-season garden

By Al Brandenburg

Living in the low desert of Arizona year-round means intense dry heat in June and July. This is followed by more and more heat (whew!), windstorms and monsoons (maybe) in August and September. At the end of the summer you



are ready for the cooler mornings and pleasant (albeit a little warm) days of October. Certainly, October in the Arizona garden is a busy time. Fortunately, the cooler temperatures are a welcome relief, and it's a pleasure to be outside after the heat of the summer. So, here are the things you need to do to get ready for another season of growing. Your checklist:

- 1. Get your soil tested and add soil amendments as needed. Send a sample of your soil into your local cooperative extension to be tested.

- 2. Amend your soil with a dressing of compost.
- 3. Turn your compost pile. Clean up garden beds by removing dead plant material. Use any disease-free garden debris to start a new compost pile.
- 4. Plant trees and shrubs. Be sure to keep them well-watered, even through the winter.
- 5. Make sure all vacationing houseplants are brought back inside.
- 6. Plant cool-season annuals. Covering mums and asters on nights when a frost is expected, will lengthen their blooming.
- 7. Clear away dead foliage.



- Plant herbs such as cilantro, dill, fennel, and parsley.
 - Seed quick-growing cool-season vegetables such as carrots, lettuce, radishes, and spinach.
 - Transplant seedlings of broccoli and cabbage.
 - Dig up summer-blooming bulbs.
 - The bulbs of tender plants such as dahlia are damaged by cold weather.
 - Plant strawberries.
 - Plant garlic separately and around your roses. Save some bulbs for planting around tomatoes and peppers in the spring. Do not use store-bought garlic.
- Good luck and happy gardening. 🗨️

Al Brandenburg is a Pinal County Master Gardener.

Maricopa temperatures moderate a bit in October. On average, the high is 89 degrees, the low is 64 degrees with hardly any rain. Prepare to:



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AGRICULTURE

Signs of life at 'ghost subdivision'

By Brian Petersheim

Maricopa's "ghost subdivision" is coming back to life. Dormant for a decade, the Santa Rosa Crossing development with a long history and no homes is ready for a rebirth.

Construction of 230 homes is starting on the empty tract, located east of Desert Cedars and northeast of Copper Sky Regional Park, with infrastructure work already conducted in more than half of the community. (The development is not to be confused with the Santa Rosa Springs community across Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway from Walmart, though the Crossing also takes its name from the Santa Rosa Wash that crosses over the property.)

Streets and utilities were initially installed in Santa Rosa Crossing in 2006. Hallcraft Homes, a significant builder in the Phoenix area and a majority developer in Santa Rosa Crossing, started building about 30 homes and models]. Hallcraft also had a construction trailer and sales office on the property.

The sales office would provide construction updates along with price sheets and floorplans. One day in 2007, it was suddenly locked up during business hours. The Hallcraft corporate office couldn't — or wouldn't — explain why the office was closed.

Several of the homes were very close to completion, with finishes being finalized in



Brian Petersheim

In 2012, the abandoned and vandalized Santa Rosa Crossing development was sold to an investment group, which later sold most of the lots to Pulte Homes.

2007. But soon after, fences and gates went up around the entire subdivision and the only movement in the area was by vandals breaking every window and door in the development.

Not a single home was ever sold to buyers because the developer never completed

necessary improvements to the property. The mostly-completed homes were taken back by the bank in a foreclosure proceeding against the builder as the project went belly-up in the financial crisis of 2007-2008.

In July 2012, Santa Rosa Crossing was sold to an investment group, G4 RRJK International L.L.P., for \$4.6 million, according to Pinal County Assessor's records.

In 2015, the City of Maricopa razed all the structures, even removing the slabs.

Earlier this year, G4 RRJK received re-approval for Phases I and II to restart development of the site and Pulte Homes, one of the largest builders in the United States, purchased 230 of the 351 lots for \$7.1 million.

Pulte subsidiary Centex Homes is now building model homes on the site. According to Centex's website, eight single-story floorplans from 1,243 square feet to 2,389 square feet will be built. Home prices and features have not been announced.

The Santa Rosa Crossing and Desert Cedars communities will be linked via Juniper Avenue. 🗨️

Brian Petersheim is a local Realtor with HomeSmart Success.



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YOUR CANDIDATES. YOUR QUESTIONS

Why prearrange?

Submitted by Kristin Gramando
Advanced Funeral Planning
J. Warren Funeral Services

You've always strived to do things the right way in your life. Your good judgment, determination, organization and passion have helped you find success in both your professional and personal life. You've worked hard to build supportive, loving relationships with your family and friends. Now you're thinking about prearranging your funeral because you want to do what's best for your loved ones and for yourself.

Thinking about final wishes doesn't mean that a person's sad, depressed, seeking to shock people or looking forward to death. People preplan because they want to give their family and friends as much comfort as possible on that difficult, yet inevitable day. Some do it because they've had a say in all the other major decisions in their life and they want their funeral to be

on their terms as well. Others prearrange because they believe it's just another part of being a responsible adult.

Whatever their reason may be, preplanning is a logical decision that a rapidly growing number of people make each day. More and more Americans have dispelled the antiquated notion that death and funerals are taboo by taking control of their funeral arrangements and finances well in advance. They've accepted that life follows a natural cycle and have decided

“Death ends a life, not a relationship... love is how you stay alive, even after you are gone.”

Morrie Schwartz

Tuesdays With Morrie

by Mitch Albom

that it's simply good sense to be prepared for the end.

Prearranging your funeral allows you to show your love in a way your family will never forget. By taking care of all the details yourself — and well in advance — your preplanned funeral will exemplify the selfless love and generosity you have shown your loved ones throughout your life.

Nobody is eager to reach the day of their funeral, but taking control of that inevitable step and organizing your final wishes is simply the right thing to do for yourself and for your family. Completing the preplanning process will create a great sense of clarity, joy and pride. You'll have a renewed energy to live your life to its fullest with knowledge that you have accomplished something that your family will remember lovingly when the time comes. ■

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The Electoral College: What is it and how does it work?

By Joan Koczor

With the presidential election nearing, there seems to be some confusion or misunderstanding about the Electoral College and the role it plays.

The Electoral College is a body of electors established by the U.S. Constitution, which forms every four years for the sole purpose of electing the president and vice president of the United States. The Electoral College consists of 538 electors, and an absolute majority of at least 270 electoral votes is required to win the election.

The electors of each state, equal in number to its members in Congress, are expected to cast their votes for the candidates selected by the popular vote in their state. This ensures the election of the president and vice president is based on popular vote in addition to the congressional vote.

Arizona has two senators and nine representatives.

They are governed by the Office of the Federal Registrar, guaranteeing the Electors have all the certification and experience required to represent their state in the presidential election.



Joan Koczor

How it works

Electors are appointed to their position in the Electoral College by their affiliation with political parties. They are appointed during party conventions or by a vote of the party's primary committee in each state.

On the day of the primary election, individuals cast their vote — the popular vote — for their chosen candidate by using a ballot. The ballots are tabulated and results are issued to the electors. The final vote is left up to the electors in each state.


Typically, the votes of the electors follow the popular vote. But there is no federal law that states electors must do this. Some states require the elector to vote with the popular vote.

These electoral votes are then tabulated similar to the popular vote to determine the presidential and vice-presidential winners.

If there is a tie between elector votes in each state, a tie breaker is performed. The tie-breaking process is different for each state.

The Electoral College was never intended to be the “perfect” system for picking the president.

Five times in history, presidential candidates have won the popular vote but lost the Electoral College. The debate continues to this day why Americans use this system to elect their presidents in the first place.

It will be interesting to see in the upcoming election if the popular vote agrees with the Electoral College as it decides our next president and vice president. 

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

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Avoid bone fractures by taking preventive steps, plus apps to keep you safe

By Al Brandenburg

Seniors who fall and break their hips or other bones and then face serious potential illnesses and possibly death as a result. The latest research finds vitamin D and calcium supplements can reduce the risk of bone fractures.

According to medical experts, people who take vitamin D every day had no significant reduction in the risk of fracture. But treatment combining calcium and vitamin D reduced the risk of hip fracture by 16%, according to the latest study.

Doctors advise that other lifestyle modifications can help lessen the risk of falling and bone injury:



Al Brandenburg

Exercise: 150 minutes of exercise a week, along with gait, balance, functional and resistance training, has been shown to significantly help reduce falls.

Home safety: Make sure your home is clutter-free. Remove throw rugs and cords that can be tripped over.

Mobility aids: If you have a walker or cane, remembering to use it has been found to also help reduce falls.

Sources: Everyday Health, AARP, NCBI resources-MDPI

Al Brandenburg is director of Maricopa Senior Coalition.

Tips

By Ron Smith

Most of us can't live without our cats and dogs, but sometimes they literally just get in the way.

About 85,000 people suffer nonfatal injuries each year due to falls involving pets. About 88% of those falls are attributed to dogs. Not only do our pets get entangled in our feet when we are walking or carrying stuff, but their toys and accessories create more opportunities for tripping.

1 The National Institute on Aging states "know where your pet is whenever you're standing or walking." Limit toys laying around by regularly picking them up. And if you're going to carry a bulky item, such as a laundry basket, put your pet in a closed room where it will be out of your way.

Speaking of laundry baskets, moving laundry around creates its own special opportunities for falls. Most of us living



in Arizona don't have to deal with carrying laundry baskets down stairs to the basement to do our laundry, but those that live in a multi-story dwelling might have to deal with stairs to do their laundry.

2 Consider a laundry bag or a wheeled laundry basket instead of a bulky, hard-to-manage, laundry basket that might obscure your feet when walking.

When selecting washing machines and dryers, consider the ergonomics of loading and unloading the units.

3 Consider whether a front-door model is easier to load and unload, or would a top-loader be better? If you have an adequately sized laundry room, add a table or a folding surface to assist in sorting and folding laundry in place.

Dryer lint traps and dirty exhaust ductwork can present a risk of fire.

4 Clean your lint trap after each use and hire a professional ductwork specialist as necessary to clean ductwork.

5 Select a sturdy, non-slip step stool with a grab bar to hang on to for safety. Sometimes a reaching tool can be used to retrieve a lightweight object from an upper shelf without resorting to the climbing dangers of a step stool or ladder. The room should have a smoke alarm, and if you are using a gas dryer be sure to have a carbon monoxide detector.

NEW TECHNOLOGY APPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE

I have personally tried out most of the following apps and am impressed that they are not only free but work with both Android- and Apple-based phones. The apps below, except for the last, are available in your respective app store:



First Aid by Red Cross: Instruction for common first aid emergencies, plus emergency weather app downloads and expert advice for proper safety during tornadoes, earthquakes and floods.



Cairn: Share your planned car trip or hikes with loved ones, calculate your ETA based on speed and altitude and download maps showing cell service availability.



Medisafe Medication Reminder: Get reminders on your phone to take meds or supplements and alerts when supplies are

running low. Caregivers get real-time alerts for missed meds and warns of potentially harmful drug interactions.



ICE Medical Standard: A medical alert system informs first responders of your conditions, allergies, medications and emergency medical contact information.



Noonlight: Silently summons help to your exact location with a tap of a button. A trained operator will text and call you back to verify the alarm. If you can't talk or respond, the app sends 911 an alert including your location, profile info and even your picture.



Snug Safety: Made for people who live alone, this app checks on you at a time of day you select. You press a green checkmark on the app and receive a quote of the day. If you fail to check in, your emergency contacts are immediately notified. (Available at SnugSafe.com)

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Calendar

OCTOBER

1

MHS Swim Meet

4 p.m., Copper Sky Aquatic Center

44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

6

Maricopa City Council Meeting

7 p.m., City Hall

39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

9

MHS Football vs. Canyon View

7 p.m., Maricopa High School

45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

10

Live Music on the Patio

4:40-8:30 p.m., Arroyo Grille

48456 W. Highway 238

14

MHS Volleyball vs. Tolleson Union

6 p.m., Maricopa High School

45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MUSD Governing Board Meeting

6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District

44150 W. Maricopa Casa Grande Hwy.

15

SPA Volleyball vs. Sequoia Charter

6 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy

19265 N. Porter Road

16

MHS Football vs. Saquaro

7 p.m., Maricopa High School

45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

17

Community-wide Fall Garage Sale

7 a.m.-1 p.m., Tortosa

20

SPA Volleyball vs. Rancho Solano Prep

6 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy

19265 N. Porter Road

21

State of the City Address

6 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park

44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

MHS Volleyball vs. Red Mountain

6 p.m., Maricopa High School

45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

SPA Football vs. Chandler Prep

7 p.m., Pacana Park

19000 N. Porter Road

SPA Football vs. Tombstone

7 p.m., Pacana Park

19000 N. Porter Road

Maricopa City Council Meeting

7 p.m., City Hall

39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

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

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Calendar

22

MHS Swim Meet

4 p.m., Copper Sky Aquatic Center

44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

23-25

Mysterious Mansion Mayhem

6-9 p.m., various locations

25

Silent Heroes Charity Golf Tournament

1 p.m., The Duke Golf Course

42660 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway

26

SPA Volleyball vs. San Tan Charter

5 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy

19265 N. Porter Road

28

Pumpkin Walk

6-8 p.m., Pacana Park

19000 N. Porter Road

MHS Volleyball vs. Queen Creek (Senior Night)

6 p.m., Maricopa High School

45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MUSD Governing Board Meeting

6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District

44150 W. Maricopa Casa Grande Hwy.

30

Multi-generational Game Night

6:30-9 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park

44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

SPA Football vs. Santa Cruz Valley

7 p.m., Pacana Park

19000 N. Porter Road

Sundays

Narcotics Anonymous

7 p.m., 45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Mondays

Virtual Storytime

9 a.m., Maricopa Public Library

facebook.com/MaricopaLibrary

Narcotics Anonymous

7 p.m., 16540 N. Porter Road

Tuesdays

Celebrate Recovery

Small Group Meeting

7 p.m., Maricopa Community Church

44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

Thursdays

Narcotics Anonymous

7 p.m., Ak-Chin Social Services

48227 W. Farrell Road

Fridays

Al-Anon

7 p.m., Community of Hope

45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

ALL EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE

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

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- Active on county committees for more than 10 years, he is knowledgeable of government operations, and has proven his ability to build consensus among differing viewpoints and represent people of all political parties. He is an award winning, visionary leader with more than 25 years as a successful small business owner; spanning decades of economic booms and downturns, managing large budgets and industry trends, and developing long term strategies. He has built relationships with Pinal County staff, and elected AZ State and County officials over the years; and is ready to hit the ground running after the election.
- Dedicated to community, Jeff values feedback and information from residents and business owners. He continues to volunteer at his local food bank, after eleven years, has worked with teams to build community playgrounds; and he supports several nonprofits, including Against Abuse in Casa Grande.

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