

Maricopa

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November 2020

FAMILY

Learning goes concurrent as some return to classrooms

PEOPLE

Veterans from different eras give back

GOVERNMENT

What is the state of the city?

ON THE RISE

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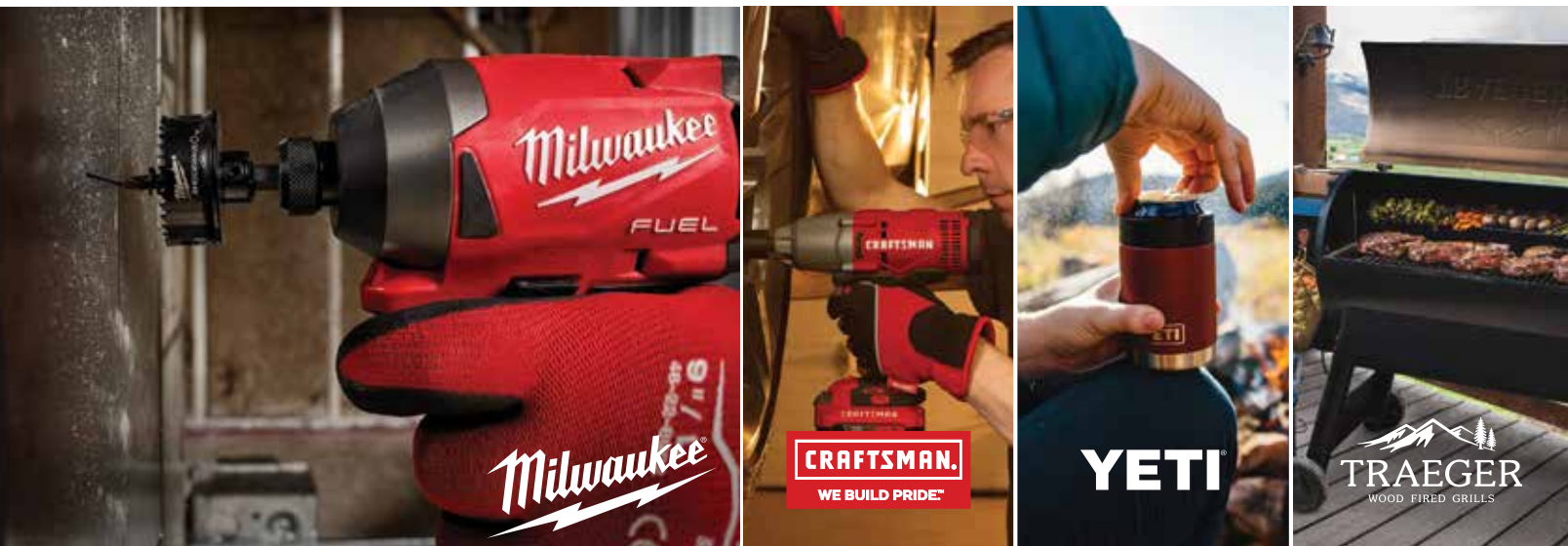
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Gratitude for the unexpected

In a year that has in many ways been brutal, November is a great moment to count blessings and thank good fortune for sticking it out. Maricopa has more than luck on its side. The city has seen an enviable economic boom at the most unlikely of times.

The pandemic was the last straw for some businesses, but 15 completed or started construction. In this issue, we look at those who have moved in and mainstays that have thrived against all odds.

We also celebrate Maricopa veterans. The three we talked to have found ways to keep serving, both their fellow vets and the public.

Korean War veteran Joaquin Comaduran, at 85, is an American Legion officer using his experience to run intervention on mental-health issues. Operation Enduring Freedom vet Octavio Machado became a police officer and is now a member of the Ak-Chin Community tribal council. As veteran service organizations across

the country struggle to engage our youngest vets, John Anderson connects them to the services and camaraderie they need.



This month we catch up with teachers adapting from all-online instruction to having some students back in class but some still at home. Concurrent teaching presented specific challenges for specialty classes like Blended Learning, CTE and performance arts, but all are finding their own solutions.

Check out what events are coming up for Maricopa, see the most expensive house of the month and much more in the November issue of InMaricopa.

Happy reading.

RAQUEL HENDRICKSON | Editor
Raquel@InMaricopa.com
520-568-0040

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Publisher
SCOTT BARTLE

Advertising Director
VINCENT MANFREDI

Associate Publisher
BOB MCGOVERN

Editor
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

Multimedia Journalist
KYLE NORBY

Advertising
JAIME HARRISON
MICHELLE SORENSEN

Writers
KRISTINA DONNAY
JOAN KOZOR
TERRY LEAMON
FRAN LYONS
DAYV MORGAN
HARRIET PHELPS
CHRIS SCOGGIN
MURRAY SIEGEL
RON SMITH

Photographers
SAMMANtha HARBAUGH
DENNIS McCORMAC
VICTOR MORENO
MERENZI YOUNG

Designer
CARL BEZUIDENHOUT

News@InMaricopa.com
Advertising@InMaricopa.com

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44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 101
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520-568-0040 Tel • 520-568-0050 Fax

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Contributors



CHRIS J. SCOGGIN
A certified public accountant, he is partner in Chaston Taxes & Accounting.



FRAN LYONS
Besides being a freelance writer, she is a certified life coach.



MERENZI YOUNG
A photographer originally from Tempe, she includes "cake smash" sessions in her portfolio.

ON THE COVER: Adelaide and Collins Appiah dig into sweet treats from Bahama Buck's, a franchise they are launching in November, joining several businesses to brave uncertain times to open in Maricopa this year.

Photo by Merenzi Young/Eye of Odin Studios

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Raquel Hendrickson

History

Farming Staples

The O.S. Stapley store opened in Maricopa in 1955 south of the railroad tracks and east of the high school on Maricopa Road. The store carried farm supplies, hardware, paint, small appliances, sporting goods and housewares, sold International Harvester equipment and repaired and serviced farm equipment. It was managed by Marvin Scott. The address is now occupied by A&R Towing, just north of Helen's Kitchen.



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The ups after the downs

Mayor Christian Price did not avoid the difficulties of 2020 in his State of the City address, despite the title “Maricopa Is Looking Up.” In fact, he highlighted challenges that were not as simple as they were first assumed to be. Most were met not with victories but compromises or something less when faced with obstacles.

- **Goal:** An updated, more accessible post office. Result: Two drive-by mailboxes at the post office.
- **Goal:** Implementation of voter-approved Prop 416 and 417 to improve county roadways, including State Route 347. Result: Stalemate as lawsuit is before Arizona Supreme Court for the next few months and design study delayed.
- **Goal:** Development of multimillion-dollar vacant land at Estrella Gin Business Park. Result: After nine years, an October groundbreaking.
- **Goal:** A grand “Welcome to Maricopa” monument at the north entry of the city completed this year. Result: Ongoing plans for a small monument.

Price’s takeaway: “Setbacks can lead to incredible things.”

He also dwelled a bit on signs of light during dark, COVID-19 times when more



City of Maricopa

than 1,400 residents of the Maricopa area contracted the virus. The light included the Copa Cares program, \$30,000 in community donations from Nikola Motors, a Maricopan rewarded by the Carnegie Heroes Fund, and the city achieving top ratings from national credit-rating services and refinancing Copper Sky to save taxpayers \$1.8 million.

2020 accomplishments that drew the most enthusiastic applause from the scattered, masked crowd at Copper Sky were projects completed or started by the Streets Department:

- Widening of a section of Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway between Porter Road and White and Parker Road
- Installation of a traffic light at White and Parker and Honeycutt roads
- Completion of a low water crossing and paving of Bowlin Road from Sorrento to White and Parker

- Completion of Shea Way around Oasis at the Wells
- Coordination of traffic lights on John Wayne Parkway for emergency services
- Plans or designs for East-West Corridor, two additional overpasses and more fiber lines

Price’s takeaway: *New roads “are some of the most expensive things our city can build and maintain.” Regional and federal partnership helped foot some of the bill. For instance, the federal government paid for \$5 million of the \$5.5 million cost of the MCGH widening.*

The look ahead at new projects contained no surprises, only an affirmation of ongoing work or much-discussed and much-anticipated developments:

- Completion of the new Maricopa Public Library
- Completion of the new county/city court and Pinal County Complex
- Groundbreaking for Sonoran Creek Marketplace, featuring Sprouts (took place in October)
- Groundbreaking for Exceptional Healthcare boutique hospital
- Continued design of Maricopa Station

Price’s takeaway: *“We need to keep giving our neighboring cities a run for their money.”*

Fifteen new businesses opened or at least broke ground in Maricopa this year. Price said that would draw others.

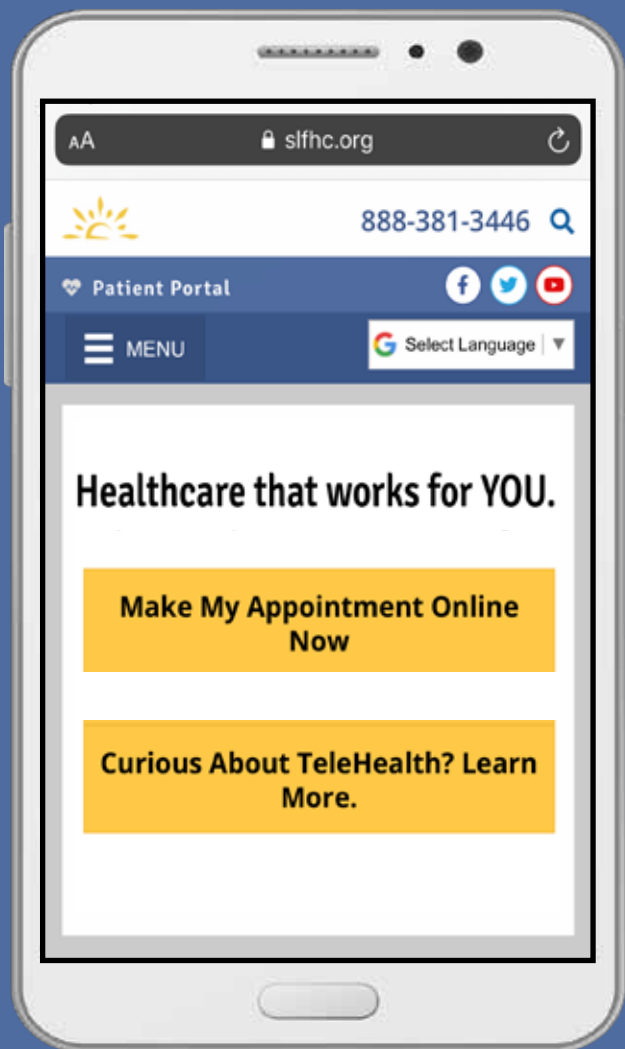
“The success of one business and/or industry literally gives birth or rise to another,” he said. “That’s how it works.”



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An automotive technician works in the garage at Iconic Tire, where business has been booming since a late August opening.

Kyle Norby

MARICOPA BOOMTOWN

By Bob McGovern

The numbers don't lie: The coronavirus has ravaged the national economy since March.

- Across the country, nearly 100,000 small businesses closed, nearly 60% of them permanently, through the end of August.
- More than 32,000 restaurants closed, about 61% of them never to open again.
- A U.S. unemployment rate of 7.9% led to nearly 900,000 new unemployment claims reported by the states in September 2020.

• In Arizona, 90,000 fewer residents were employed in September compared to a year ago, with about 58% of those jobs lost in the Phoenix region.

As grim a picture painted by those statistics, local businesses are surviving — and in some cases, thriving in — the pandemic. Certainly, many Maricopa businesses have felt pain and many local workers have lost their jobs for weeks or months, and perhaps permanently.

But eight months in, the greatest public health crisis in a century has been less doom



Bob McGovern

When Aaron's closed its Maricopa store, the company blamed the pandemic as revenues eroded earlier in the year.

than boom, doing relatively little to slow the Maricopa economy.

In fact, the future of the city, by many indicators, is rosy.

'WELL POSITIONED TO SURVIVE'

"I was on pins and needles in April and May, wondering how many businesses we were going to lose," Mayor Christian Price said of

the pandemic's effect. "It puts people on edge."

The governor's stay-at-home order closed all but essential businesses. Most other businesses started to open in mid-May, though a few businesses — including gyms — had to wait longer to reopen and were then closed again.

But it could have been far worse, Price acknowledged.

Some essential businesses — the supermarkets and Walmart, for example — thrived from the beginning, with certain household goods flying off the shelves for months.

Many others, including restaurants, were forced to close and then, weeks later, change gears to do business within mitigation guidelines. Some received government loans to buy time until they could reopen.

"We were well-positioned to survive the pandemic, without a heavy reliance on sit-down restaurants," Price said, adding the type of restaurants in town made it easier for a pivot to takeout and curbside delivery.

At Native Grill and Wings, which was shut down for eight weeks, owner Pat Kieny said he and his team reopened with a robust plan to convert from full-service to takeout. Others did as well.

"Native was well-prepared to make that transition," said Kieny, noting the restaurant had a lot of experience handling food orders-to-go for big events like the Super Bowl and high school graduations. "We were aggressive with our 'Buy 10 wings, Get 10 Free' promotion to keep customers engaged."

Other businesses didn't fare so well.

Aaron's rent-to-own in Edison Place was perhaps the highest-profile business to close — in July. The company said earnings eroded earlier this year, primarily due to the pandemic.

Hospitality- and entertainment-focused entities like Harrah's Ak-Chin Hotel and Casino and the movie theater at Ak-Chin Circle suffered, too.

As did the gyms.

But there were many bright spots, too.

Sunrise Café, which closed during the pandemic, was purchased and reopened by new owners, and Crossfit Maricopa found a new owner.

Bahama Buck's owners excited to bring Sno to Maricopa

By Raquel Hendrickson

A physician and an engineer may not seem a likely pair to open a Bahama Buck's franchise, but they are excited about the opportunities. For Dr. Collins and Adelaide Appiah, it is their first foray into owning any kind of franchise.

"The first of what we hope are many," said Collins Appiah, who is a hospitalist in Gilbert.

Bahama Buck's is finishing construction on the east side of the Walmart parking lot near the intersection of Porter Road and Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway. The shaved-ice emporium has been around since 1990, but this will be the company's debut in Maricopa.

"We felt that the Porter Road location was close to a lot of subdivisions and communities and schools and all that," Collins said. "So, we wanted to be in close proximity where families don't have to travel so far to get a treat."

Bahama Buck's shaved ice, which the company calls Sno, comes with more than 70 individual flavors. The smoothies include fruit blends and ice cream blends. There are also other drinks.



Merenzi Young / Eye of Odin Studios

They have hired about 30 employees. Hours are likely to be Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-11 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Originally from Ghana, the Appiahs have been in Gilbert since 2008 and are buying a home in Maricopa. They moved to Arizona from New York and before that lived in South Carolina, where Adelaide had post-graduate studies at Clemson University.

This August, they celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary. When Adelaide wanted to pursue a graduate degree in chemical engineering shortly after they married,

Collins realized he either had to come with her to the United States while she pursued her studies or he was going to live the life of a bachelor. He came stateside for residency training.

They now have two daughters, ages 14 and 12. Their oldest wants to work in the store and even picked up an application and was interviewed.

Collins will maintain his practice in Gilbert, where Adelaide had been his office manager, but he is now hospital-based, on for a week and off for a week. Adelaide will manage Bahama Buck's full time.

A number of businesses launched during the pandemic, including AAMCO, Iconic Tire and Rili B's Taco Shop. Iconic was so busy when it opened in August, it started looking to hire more automotive technicians. Next door, the cars were lined up around the building when Rili B's opened in September.

Development — current and future — is moving ahead.

Construction of the city's first hotel, LaQuinta, hums along adjacent to Copper Sky. Other structures continue to rise, including John Wayne Parkway Self Storage, Maricopa Animal Hospital, the Pinal County Complex, and the city's new library. And Maricopa will soon have its first bicycle shop.

The couple working to open Bahama Buck's closed on the purchase of its new site at The Wells retail center in March, and then watched as the pandemic slowed construction of their shop. But they are on track for a November opening.

Like much of the rest of the nation, the real estate market is red-hot, with average home prices here up 15% over a year ago.

Residential development is surging, with 229 new-home permits awarded in September, the highest monthly total in more than a decade. Homes are rising at Oasis at The Wells, a multifamily development of apartment homes, and in several existing communities.

There are major residential projects on the board. In October, El Dorado Holdings received site approval for REV@Porter, a gated rental community. Maricopa Stonegate, a "village" of homes, shops and restaurants, earned approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission in August.



At Native Grill and Wings, which has a 50% capacity limit, owner Pat Kieny is looking at expanding his outdoor patio. Hanging out on the patio on a recent Tuesday are, from left, Phillip Davis, Kat Hejda, Michael Gates, Terry Shaffer and Brenden Stephens.

Meanwhile, some big commercial developments were getting ready to break ground, including the Sonoran Creek Marketplace, which signed Sprouts Farmers Market as a tenant, Estrella Gin Business Park, the city's first office complex, and a 20,752-square-foot emergency medical center.

A SUMMER COMEBACK

At Native, the January-to-May period — with New Year's, March Madness, school celebrations and hungry Snowbirds — is typically the busiest part of the year, Kieny said.

Closing the doors for two months meant the business was "way down" for that period year over year, he said. In mid-May, the restaurant began to claw back and eventually welcomed diners back indoors at 50% percent capacity, a restriction in place for the foreseeable future.

Things improved, and despite the limit on the number of diners, Native's business in July and August surged, outpacing revenues for the same period last year.

Kieny figures the pandemic kept a lot of Maricopa families at home this summer. Instead of vacationing in San Diego or Disneyland — all of California shuttered — they remained in the city. They bought lots of wings and pizza.

"It was really nice that the people in Maricopa supported us over the summer," he said. "It turned out about as well as it could have, given the situation."

The reduced capacity does hurt, especially during football season, with tables not turning over as quickly as patrons eat and watch the games, Kieny said. He acknowledged that face masks and physical distancing will be around for a while.

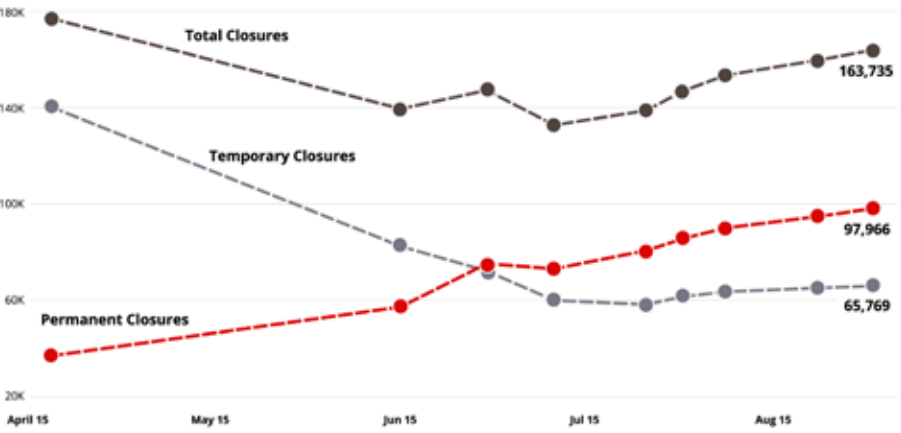
"It's a little bit troublesome trying to plan," he said. "Will it be a couple months or a couple years?"

Meanwhile, Kieny has another move in store.

With outdoor dining possible year-round, Kieny said he is looking at expanding the open-air patio to accommodate more diners.

Business Closures Continue to Increase Nationally

Number of businesses marked closed* on Yelp that were open March 1



*Among U.S. businesses that were open on March 1. A business was counted as closed if it was marked as permanently or temporarily closed, changed its hours to mark itself as closed for entire days, or included the word "closed" in the COVID-19 business updates section of its Yelp page. Closures are updated through August 31. Data may lag actual closures because of time taken to report and verify closures.

Source: Yelp
Chart: The DataFace



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‘THEY STEPPED UP HUGE’

“It hurts, but we didn’t get clobbered,” the mayor said, noting other cities, like Scottsdale for instance, with its huge hospitality industry, felt far greater economic pain.

He said the pandemic reminded him of the housing recession in the late 2000s. The downturn was difficult to predict, but when it hit, you just “work through it.”

“We were nothing but houses,” he recalled. “We just got annihilated. Yet we made it through it.”

With the pandemic, most small businesses in town were helped by residents who rallied around them, “shop local” becoming a popular mantra in local Facebook groups.

“I think they stepped up huge,” Price said of Maricopans. “I hope we always give the local fare the first shot. It’s so, so important.”

The mayor said he sees the trend continuing, pointing out an effort to encourage residents to buy their holiday presents — gift certificates, massages and the like — from local businesses.

“I think that is phenomenal,” he said. “It is the epitome of the ‘shop local’ campaign.”

“I think they stepped up huge. I hope we always give the local fare the first shot. It’s so, so important.”

Mayor Christian Price

That support of local merchants helped City finances, too.

In September, most major sales tax categories showed increases. Restaurants were up 38%. Retail was up 30%. Utilities increased 15%. Construction contracting was up 12%. Grocery stores up 4%.

‘WE FEEL THE EXCITEMENT’

For Collins and Adelaide Appiah, it couldn’t have come at a worse time.

In 2018, they purchased a Bahama Buck’s franchise. As the virus took hold, they were

preparing to build a 2,000-square-foot building with indoor seating and drive-thru to sell frozen treats.

“It was a little scary when the pandemic hit,” Collins said, in mid-October, about three weeks before their scheduled opening.

Contractor costs went up considerably as a result, said Adelaide, an engineer, but their bank’s cooperation helped them stay the course.

And the city’s assistance during the process made it very smooth, she added.

“You get a sense the city really wants businesses to open here,” added Collins. “Always a quick response and they are great to work with.”

The Appiahs have provided regular construction updates — including delays — on their Facebook page. They are excited to see the community’s enthusiasm for Bahama Buck’s.

“We feel quite comfortable” opening with the state of things right now, said Collins, a medical doctor. “We feel the excitement.”

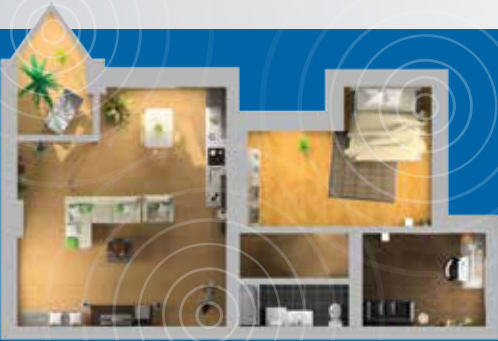
Raquel Hendrickson contributed to this report.



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Getting to KNOW

JAY AND DANIELA CLAYTON
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Hometown: Payson
Reside in: Alterra
Maricopan since: August 2007
Family: Jay, Daniela, Jeremiah, Chloe, Tony and Madison
Hobbies: Hiking, camping, fishing, art
Dream vacation: Cabin on a lake in summertime
Like most about Maricopa: Community strength

FAVORITE ...
Charity: F.O.R. Maricopa, Maricopa Pantry
Book: Bible
Movie: "Marvels Avengers," "Star Wars" and "Star Trek"
Actor: William Shatner
Song: "Butterfly Kisses"
Restaurant: Gyro Grill
Joke: A great plumber is more than just a pipe dream.

Learn more about the Claytons at InMaricopa.com/Community/Getting-to-know



A worker removes an UltraStar sign at the entertainment complex on the day the Ak-Chin Indian Community assumed management.

Bob McGovern

Ak-Chin assumes management of entertainment center

By Bob McGovern

UltraStar Cinemas, the company that managed the “multi-tainment center” at Ak-Chin Circle, has handed off.

In a Facebook message posted on Oct. 15, the company announced the Ak-Chin Indian Community would assume management of the center.

“Thank you, Maricopa! ... It has been an honor to be a part of all aspects of this landmark entertainment project, from conception, building, opening, managing and operating for the past 8 years,” the Facebook post said. “We wish the Ak-Chin Indian Community continued success.”

The 162,000-square-foot center, to be known as Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center, will remain open but it appears there won’t be any movies shown for the foreseeable future. The other parts of the complex will remain open.

Adam Saks, president of California-based UltraStar and former general manager of the Maricopa center, said Ak-Chin wanted to manage the facility from the beginning and became an operations partner early on.

“This is what the community always wanted,” he said. “We were happy to facilitate the transfer.”

“We’re excited to see what comes next” for the rebranded entertainment center, he added. UltraStar had an initial five-year management contract that was extended for three more years. When the contract expired this time around, the Ak-Chin Community Council decided not to renew.

That decision, said Saks, came out of discussions about the impact the coronavirus pandemic was having on operations at the entertainment center, specifically, and the movie business, generally. “It came down to now is the right time,” he said.

Calling the pandemic “a significant challenge,” the Ak-Chin Community saw an opportunity to reposition the 162,000-square-foot facility, which includes a restaurant, cinemas, bowling alley, laser tag and arcade.

“This is an opportunity for the Ak-Chin Community to rebrand and refresh this entertainment complex so that it lives up to its fullest potential,” said Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel said in a statement. “We thank UltraStar for its partnership over the past eight years and look forward to what comes next for our Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center.”

Saks may be moving on from the entertainment center on State Route 347, but he will be busy with UltraStar’s two locations in North Carolina and others in development in six states.

He expects to remain active in the Maricopa community as a member of the board for both the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce and Maricopa Economic Development Alliance. A founding board member of the Maricopa Community Foundation, he also serves as vice chair of the Pinal Regional Partnership Council for First Things First.

“We live in Chandler, but my life is in Maricopa,” he said.

Questions about previously purchased gift cards can be directed to 520-568-3456.

Comparing the candidates’ tax plans

By Chris J. Scoggin, CPA

As of this writing, we are less than three weeks away from the presidential election. So, by the time you are reading this article, this election season may already be wrapped up. This analysis is not intended to influence any reader but may be useful in understanding the tax proposals that will, no doubt, be discussed in the coming months.

Estate and Gift Tax from \$11.58 million to \$5.79 million.

BUSINESS TAXES

Increase the flat tax rate for C Corporations from 21% to 28%

Create a 15% Minimum Book Tax Rate for companies with more than \$100 million in book net income

Increase employer-paid Social Security tax on employees earning more than \$142,800.

The Biden Harris plan has other elements that have not been quantified at this time, such as reducing tax incentives on “tax havens,” equalizing tax benefits of defined contribution retirement plans and imposing a financial transactions tax.

TRUMP-PENCE PLAN

As you might imagine, with the passing of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017, President Trump was able to successfully implement almost all

of his priorities during his first term. Therefore, the tax plan for the incumbent president and vice president is much more succinct. Based on his stated priorities, here are their tax-related initiatives, if re-elected:

INDIVIDUAL TAXES

Reduce taxes for middle class taxpayers (joint filers making between \$80,250 to \$326,600 and individual filers earning \$40,126 to \$163,300) to 15% tax rate from the current 22% or 24% tax rates.

Permanently reduce payroll taxes and forgive employee-paid Social Security and Medicare taxes for the last four months of 2020.

BUSINESS TAXES

At this time, there are no proposed changes to business taxation laws by President Trump.

If the uncertainty of the changing tax environment has you concerned and you would like specific advice and an action plan, please feel free to call one of our CPAs at Chaston Tax and Accounting.

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Chris J. Scoggin

BIDEN-HARRIS PLAN

In his speeches, Vice President Biden has said that he would repeal the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017, also known as the Trump Tax Cut. Biden has also been adamant that he would not raise taxes on anyone making less than \$400,000. There are some inconsistencies in these two statements, but here are some specific changes that the Biden-Harris plan has identified as priorities if elected:

INDIVIDUAL TAXES

Increase the top individual tax rate from 37% to 39.6%

This would increase marginal taxes on married filers making more than \$622,000 and single filers making more than \$518,000. For a married couple earning \$750,000 after deductions, this would result in a \$3,450 tax increase.

Limit itemized deductions

The Biden plan limits itemized deductions to a 28% tax benefit. This means that if you were in the 35% tax bracket and donated \$1,000 to charity, you could only receive a tax benefit of \$280 instead of the anticipated \$350. The Biden plan would also gradually phase out itemized deductions for taxpayers earning more than \$400,000.

Expand individual tax credits

These expanded tax credits would apply to renewable energy, New Markets Tax Credits for investment in low-income communities, an \$8,000 tax credit for individuals with children in child care and expansion of Earned Income Tax Credit to workers over 65.

Increase Capital Gains Tax from 23.8% to 43.4% for taxpayers earning over \$1 million

Increase payroll taxes (Social Security and Medicare tax) for taxpayers earning over \$142,800

Eliminate step-up in basis for inherited assets like real estate and other non-IRA (IRD) investments

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Questions to ask before getting aesthetic, laser, radio frequency or body contouring procedures

By Kristina Donnay, FNP-C

A medical spa is a hybrid between a medical clinic and a day spa that operates under the supervision of a medical director. Medical spa menus vary, but most usually offer medical spa treatments, including laser treatments, laser hair removal, IV therapy, microneedling, injectables like Botox/fillers, chemical peels, skin tightening, skin rejuvenation and body contouring services.

Medical spas tend to have a more clinical atmosphere than day spas. But many also offer relaxing services like facials and massage. Some medical spas have a wellness focus and include services like Lipotropic MIC B12 shots, bio-identical hormone replacement therapy, thyroid treatment and medical weight loss.

Normally the first question to ask is who owns and operates the medical spa? Knowing if the owner is a medical professional and if they will be on site supervising and performing treatments to ensure safety. Sometimes medical directors lend their names to medical spas but have relatively little involvement. Make sure the medical director is on site or easily accessible to handle any complications.

In Arizona, the medical director has to be on site when any laser or radio frequency device is being used. The only exception, in Arizona, for an off-site medical director is for laser hair removal. Other questions to ask include who will be performing the procedure? What is the licensing and training of the person who is actually doing the services? How long have they been doing the procedure? This is especially important with laser hair removal, injectables, hormones, body contouring, radio frequency and any facials.

Some facilities do not carry any license whatsoever, and you can be badly burned, develop an infection, and develop blindness or scars if someone doesn't know what they're doing. Knowing that the provider or aesthetician is operating under a license and has had proper training is important. Knowing the facility also operates under licensing and certification boards is important to know someone is monitoring the facility to ensure safety.

In Arizona anyone using a laser or radio frequency must be laser-certified by the Arizona Department of Health Services and Bureau of Radiation Control. The laser technician's license must be visible during the treatment, similar to a cosmetology license. The license must be renewed yearly.

Additional questions to ask include: what kind of equipment do they use? When did they buy it? Prices for medical spa treatments like laser and skin tightening (or skin rejuvenation) are higher because the equipment is expensive. Research the type of equipment they use for the treatment you're interested in, because it's a complex field and the technology is always changing. You really want the most up-to-date, least painful technologies for procedures like skin tightening, radio frequency and laser treatments.

Understanding how the process works in the body is also important. Body contouring can be the most popular service and it's sometimes confusing. Some body contouring machines "shrink" fat cells similar to what body wraps will accomplish. These services are great for instant results and can be beneficial right before a wedding or event. Unfortunately, these results are not permanent and last 48-72 hours. Once the fat cell rehydrates, the effects will be gone.

Other body contouring procedures using radio frequency at deeper depths or cryotherapy cause the fat cell to rupture and takes 12 weeks to fully flush through the lymph system. When a fat cell ruptures, the results are permanent, similar to liposuction. Understanding the risks associated with radio frequency and cryotherapy is also important.

Some of the most important questions to ask are what will this treatment realistically do for me and what are the risks? Asking for before or after photos of their work is always a good idea. Understanding realistic expectations and deciding if the procedure or treatment is right for you is important for your satisfaction. Also, asking about the risks and how they will be managed ensures the provider or aesthetician understand what can go wrong and know what to do if it does.



Medical Director
Kristina Donnay

One of the most common questions is how many treatments will I need to see results? This is a hard question to answer. People respond differently, and you may get good results from just one treatment or you may be unsatisfied after a series. But ask the provider or aesthetician what the general protocol is — how many treatments you require, frequency, and how to maintain results. The best approach is to identify what is bothering you, then see what the medical spa recommends for treatment. It's important to know if it's the best choice for you.

Red flags include no medical director on site, the provider is not trained in the services or the person doing the facial/procedure is not a licensed aesthetician. Other red flags include deep discounts or many negative reviews.

Laws to remember: no one below the training of an RN can administer injectables; aestheticians must be licensed; RNs need a medical director to oversee them; Botox parties are illegal in Arizona; and fillers cannot be administered in a home. Laser technicians must be licensed in Arizona and all laser devices must be registered with Arizona's Bureau of Radiation Control.

At Maricopa Wellness Center, safety is our number one priority. A medical director is on site and certified in all services offered. They offer some of the latest technology including the Aerolase Neo and Era Lasers, Evolve by InMode body contouring machine, Evoke by InMode facial tightening system and more. The aestheticians are certified and laser-certified in Arizona. The lasers are registered with Arizona's Bureau of Radiation Control. Maricopa Wellness Center strives for safety and transparency within the aesthetic industry. Call for your free consultation today (520)464-6193, LIVE WELL, BE WELL.

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Maintenance extends life of water heaters

By Terry Leamon, My Maricopa Plumber

Do you wonder if water heater flushes are necessary? Do you do regular maintenance on your water heater? Well, if not, you should be. It helps prevent your water heater going out, or worse, from leaking. Doing this helps extend the life of your water heater. The mineral content and hardness of the water dictates how often you should be doing flushes. Annual flushes, if not every six months, are recommended.



Terry Leamon

If not regularly flushed, your water heater can corrode more quickly. The sediment can also block the drain valve and also the temperature and relief valve, which prevents your water heater from exploding. If the water heater is not draining, or draining slowly, the problem is likely a sediment build-up blocking the drain valve. Once the water heater is drained, it will flow steadily and your

water heater will be back up and heating your water again.

Another important key to extending the life of your water heater is the anode rod. What is the anode rod, you ask, and why is it important? It is a temporary steel core wire with magnesium, aluminum or zinc around it. An anode rod exists to protect the metal lining inside of your water heater tank to prevent explosion or corrosion over time. The rod goes in the top of the water heater and attracts the corrosive materials, so it will corrode first.

Over the course of 3-4 years, however, the anode rod will corrode away entirely. When it is NOT replaced, materials start to corrode the water heater itself, eventually leading to leaks. The anode rod should be replaced every three years if you have a water softener and every four years if you do not.



Regular maintenance is extremely important to extend the life of your water heater and prevent water damage from leaks or the bottom rusting out.

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Business, development around town

Since Arizona added **remote sales** to the list of businesses paying a transaction privilege tax (sales tax), Maricopa’s portion has added up to \$821,607, according to the Department of Revenue. Those collections, on companies such as Amazon and Wayfair, started in November 2019.

American Richmond Homes continues its residential development in two areas of town. It has powered up construction trailers at 44264 W. Palo Amarillo Road in Palo Brea and 21967 N. Daniel Drive in The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado.

McDavid Estates, owned by Maricopa 64 Partners LLC, is being remapped on the General Plan to allow 66 acres to be turned into medium-density residential for single-family and multi-family housing. It lies between McDavid Road and the Union-Pacific Railroad tracks.

Anglin Dairy, 494 acres at the northwest corner of State Route 238 and Green Road, is being remapped as a master planned community. Currently a working dairy, it is being developed by Land Advisors Organization.



Anglin Dairy on Route 238 is being developed.

City of Maricopa received a permit to install a \$24,600 shade fabric structure over the gym equipment at Pacana Park, 19000 N. Porter Road.

La Quinta Inn installed fire sprinklers at its construction site, 44575 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., next to the dog park at Copper Sky.

Gehan Homes installed a flagpole at its model home complex at 41085 W. Agave Road in The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado.

Group homes at 43298 W. Estrada St. in Senita and 21549 N. Backus Drive in Rancho El Dorado received fire inspection permits. The Backus house also received zoning for six residents.

2 eateries written up by inspectors

Of the 28 eateries inspected by Pinal County from Sept. 16 through Oct. 15, all but two received excellent scores. The two outliers had similar issues with cold-holding that was fixed on the spot.

Cold-holding appliances like refrigerators must keep food at 41 degrees or less. At **True Grit**, a walk-in refrigerator was found to be holding food at 49F, including lunchmeat, shredded chicken and raw chicken. The problem was corrected by discarding the items and placing recently prepped items in other coolers.

Rili-B’s Taco Shop had cooked beef sitting at 53F in a container despite being in a walk-in cooler overnight. The inspector gave the manager a handout on cooling methods, and the beef was discarded.

EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- A+ Charter Schools
- Chevron — Food Mart
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Circle K (south)
- CVS Pharmacy
- Dairy Queen
- Dickey’s Barbecue Pit (west)
- Dickey’s Barbecue Pit (Walmart)
- Dollar General
- Firehouse Subs
- Freddy’s Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
- Good Donuts
- Heritage Academy
- JB Farmer’s Convenience Store
- Jersey Mike’s Subs
- Maricopa Head Start
- Maricopa High School — concessions
- Maricopa Wells Middle School
- Raceway Bar & Grill
- Rob’s Convenience Store
- Roots Eatery
- Starbuck’s
- Sunrise Café
- Sunrise Preschool
- Walgreens (east)
- Wingstop

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- Rili-B’s Taco Shop
- True Grit Tavern

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

Specialty hospital to break ground



Exceptional Healthcare, a private specialty hospital company, expects to break ground for its facility Nov. 13.

Maricopa Planning & Zoning Commission approved a site plan for the property on the northwest corner of John Wayne Parkway and Maricopa Avenue. Chief Financial Officer Saeed Mahboubi said the facility will have 10 inpatient beds and 10 emergency room beds, plus five beds for intensive care. The company hopes to be open this time next year.

“We are very excited about expanding to Arizona,” Mahboubi said.

The site design, which includes a helipad, is a flagship design for future sites in Arizona. The facility will have state-of-the-art equipment, Mahboubi said, and COVID-19 testing.

With that in mind, the groundbreaking will be in morning, noon and afternoon sessions, with each including invitations to up to 50 people.

New life at Estrella Gin

Ground was broken in October for the city’s first business park.

The 30-plus-acre Estrella Gin Business Park will be a major hub for business development and growth along Edison Road, just west of State Route 347.

The property is currently zoned light industrial with the ability to rezone for a large variety of uses. The business park will include leased and build-to-suit space for office, flex/manufacturing/retail, and warehouse/distribution.



Growth in the city is outpacing available space with an employment base looking to reduce their commuting times within the Phoenix region, according to the city. Availability of office space has essentially been non-existent in the city since 2017.

Last year the City of Maricopa sold 12.32 acres to J.E.T. Real Estate Holdings and 16.96 acres to Elpida LLC. The total purchase price between the two was \$1.9 million. The City also sold two acres to Mel’s Auto (NAPA Auto) for around \$152,000.

The Elpida LLC portion of the development is controlled by developer Joe L. Cook.



Global Water wins national recognition

Global Water Resources Inc. has been recognized nationally as a ‘Utility of the Future Today’ for its water reuse approach.

A national consortium of water and conservation organizations led by the Water Environment Federation honored Global Water for its effective implementation of Total Water Management. TWM is an integrated approach to

managing the entire water cycle by owning and operating water, wastewater and recycled water utilities within the same geographic area in order to maximize the beneficial use of recycled water.

The management approach also helps protect water supplies in water-scarce areas experiencing population growth.

Global Water was recognized in a virtual awards ceremony last month during the world’s largest water quality conference and exhibition.



1



2



3

1. Jenniann West won Maricopa's first abstract art contest with "347 Pot o' Gold."
2. Construction workers glide up the side of La Quinta Inn, under construction at Copper Sky. Developer Andy Bhakta told the City he would like to build a second hotel. *Raquel Hendrickson*
2. Workers continued to move dirt at the new Pinal County complex on Wilson Avenue. *Raquel Hendrickson*
4. Supporters of President Trump have turned up weekly along John Wayne Parkway during election season. *Dennis McCormac*



4

**WHERE
ARE THEY
NOW?**
Kelly Haddad

For original city councilman, work is a numbers game

By Kyle Norby

Kelly Haddad, right, who played an active role in the effort to incorporate the city, with his family: from left, daughters Brooke and Mia, son Ethan and wife Jenny.

Then-City Councilman Kelly Haddad listens at a November 2006 meeting.



Kelly Haddad

Age: 50

Occupation: Self employed bookkeeper

Residence: Chandler

Family: Wife Jenny, daughter Brooke, 27, son Ethan, 16, and daughter Mia, 12

Submitted

accomplishment,” he said, “and that is to take this community from just that to a full-fledged, well-run city.” The Pinal County native lost his bid for re-election.

“We moved to Ahwatukee in 2010 and we were there for three years. Then we moved to Chandler and we have been in the same place here ever since,” he said.

Haddad has been an independent bookkeeper for more than 20 years.

“I’m still doing the same thing. I primarily work with agricultural facilities. I’ve got about 30 different sets of books that I’m doing,” Haddad explained. “I’m all over the place.”

While not keeping up with the goings-on in Maricopa as much as he used to, Kelly has taken notice of the city’s growth since his departure and thinks there is nowhere to go but up. Haddad has always supported development, but in his time on council wanted to make sure the city was working smarter, not harder with developers.

“I have seen a lot of the changes and it’s still amazing. When we moved into our home in

Rancho El Dorado, there were less than 2,000 people in the entire town,” he said. “I think it’s still growing, but it’s slow now. It’s not what it was in ’02. From what I can tell, it appears the city has grasped pretty good control of the growth and they’re growing smart.”

Haddad said when he has a rare break from his busy work schedule, he and his clan love relaxing on the beach or at their cabin in Pinetop. Haddad’s oldest daughter Brooke works as a real estate agent in Tempe and his teenage son Ethan is playing baseball at Hamilton High School. His youngest, Mia, is at San Tan Junior High.

When asked about retirement, Kelly admitted he doesn’t even think about it and would probably get bored.

“(My wife) Jenny helps me with my business quite a bit. She’s also busy keeping track of the kids. Luckily, she doesn’t need to be as big a taxi away now that Ethan’s driving,” he said. “But hypothetically speaking, if I did retire, just like everyone else, I’d want to travel.”

Kelly Haddad, one of the original members of city council, entered community service at the invitation of civic leader Ed Farrell when Maricopa was just a patch in the desert.

He joined the incorporation committee working toward city status and saw it achieved in October 2003.

“The day we acquired the final signature necessary to incorporate the city” remains his favorite Maricopa memory, he said.

He was then elected to city council by the Pinal County Board of Supervisors and held a council seat until 2008.

In 2007, as a candidate for a second term, he was asked to look back at the council’s achievements. “They are all part of one large



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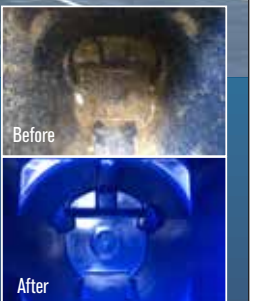


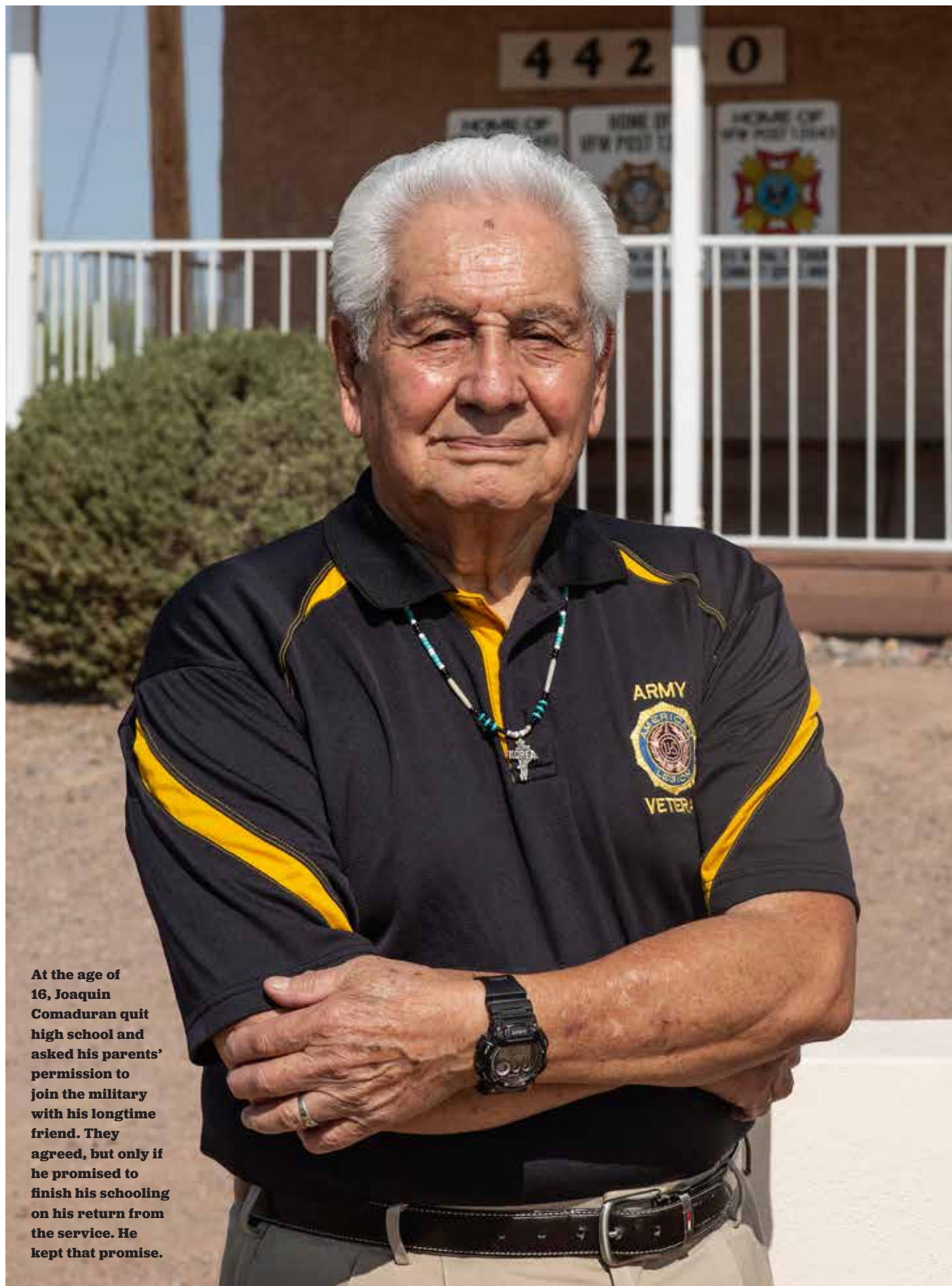
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At the age of 16, Joaquin Comaduran quit high school and asked his parents' permission to join the military with his longtime friend. They agreed, but only if he promised to finish his schooling on his return from the service. He kept that promise.

A promise kept: Korean War veteran Joaquin Comaduran

By Fran Lyons

He said to himself, “No wars in the U.S.” He wanted our country to be protected and safe. He wanted freedom and he was willing to go to war to defend his country. Joaquin Comaduran was 12 years old at the time, and yet he knew he was going to serve his country.

His best friend and schoolmate, Rene Peters, shared the same fierce loyalty. They had a mission, and they were in it together. They agreed and planned to join the military as soon as they could. They were filled with zeal and a deep sense of pride for their country.

When he was 16 years old, Joaquin quit high school and asked his parents to sign a waiver giving him permission to join the military with his longtime friend. Comaduran and Peters both lived in Nogales, where Joaquin was born and spent his childhood. His parents agreed, but only if he promised to finish high school when he returned home from the service.

Comaduran and Peters headed to Tucson and enlisted in the Army. After induction, they were sent to their home base in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, for 16 weeks of basic training.

Following “boot camp,” they were sent to Fort Benning, Georgia, for Special Forces training that qualified them to become rangers in the infantry. This is where Comaduran practiced his paratrooper jumps and received his first set of wings, which were called Original Wings or “rookie wings,” as he says.

The two buddies were assigned to the 11th Airborne Paratroopers, attached to the 187th Airborne Division, and deployed to the Korean peninsula.

“I was told to pack my bags to send home to my family,” Comaduran said. “I sent my cowboy clothes and boots, along with a short note to my mother just before we left.”

Neither one of them knew what to expect next. It was clear, though, they had to leave the past behind. They were jumping into an uncertain future.

‘I LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR RENE’

The Korean War, which started in 1950 between North Korea and South Korea, was well underway in 1953 when Comaduran and his buddy landed. Comaduran, who saw so many unpleasant things on the battlefield, is understandably reluctant to discuss his time in the theater of war.



Merenzi Young / Eye of Odin Studios

Joaquin Comaduran looks over a photo from his days with the 11th Airborne Paratroopers.

“Everything was a blur. I lost track of him. I did not know what happened to him. I looked everywhere for Rene.”

Serving from 1953 to 1956, he participated in multiple paratrooper combat jumps. During his time overseas, he received his paratrooper Senior Wings and later, after multiple, perilous night jumps, he received his Jump Master Wings.

He will tell you, while not delving into details, the memories are seared in his mind.

“The older I get, the worse it gets,” he says of the post-traumatic stress he suffers as a result of his experiences almost 70 years ago.

“The Korean Armistice agreement was signed in 1953, and yet we were still fighting,” he said. “I flew two more combat jumps, and we experienced a horrific firestorm. My best buddy, Rene, jumped right before me. There I was, behind Rene. It was very confusing and

chaotic. Everything was a blur. I lost track of him. I did not know what happened to him. I looked everywhere for Rene.”

Staff Sgt. Comaduran left the military in 1956 and returned to Nogales and civilian life. He made good on his promise to his parents and finished high school. He received his diploma and presented it to them in a graduation ceremony at the Hollywood Bowl in California, where he was living at the time. He remained in California, married and raised two children with his wife, Guadalupe.

Utilizing the G.I. bill, he studied ergonomics and business administration at Pepperdine University, enabling him to excel in his career at General Motors, where he worked for 31 years.

He and Guadalupe were married 44 years before she died of cancer in 2000.

‘WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER’

Then Comaduran, who never gave up on finding his buddy Rene, finally located him. He had survived that deadly firestorm in Korea but stayed in the military. It had been over 50 years since they last saw each other.

He visited his friend, who had been ailing, at his home in Tucson. The years dissolved in their deep friendship as they reminisced. Shortly after their reunion, Rene died in a Veterans Affairs hospital from Agent Orange-related illness linked to his service in Vietnam.

In 2015, Comaduran married Paula, whom he calls “a godsend.” They moved to Maricopa to help raise his granddaughter and send her to school in a friendly community. They reside in Acacia Crossings.

“Maricopa is a great place to live and I have met some wonderful people here,” he said. “I love it here and it is my home.”

Comaduran, 85, is very active at the American Legion, Ira H. Hayes Post 84, in Sacaton. He is also a chaplain and a peer specialist focusing on suicide prevention and intervention. Dedicated and committed, he also volunteers to help people with PTSD-related traumas.

“I love to be involved in my community, and I use my own experiences to work with and help others,” he said. “We’re all in this together.”

Ex-paratrooper brings get-it-done attitude to Ak-Chin Council

By Raquel Hendrickson

When Octavio Machado enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 19, he was following a family tradition that went back to his grandfather, who served in Korea.

His two brothers served in the Army and Marines. All are members of the Ak-Chin Community.

Machado heard there was an opportunity to join the paratroopers and thought that sounded like a good idea. Signing “that piece of paper” in 2001, he had no idea what was ahead except that he was off to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Machado’s military was a post-9/11 world. As part of the 82nd Airborne Division, he served combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, rising to the rank of sergeant.

“It was intense sometimes,” he said with some understatement.

During what he described as “hairy situations,” his unit formed bonds that are beyond any civilian friendships. Even now, nearly 20 years later, when they reunite it’s as though no time has passed. Because those were the voices next to him in combat, those are the voices that bring comfort now, he said.



Ak-Chin Indian Community

Ak-Chin Councilman Octavio Machado served in a Middle East war zone after 9/11 before returning home to be a police officer. He was in the U.S. Army’s 82nd Airborne Division.



Submitted

Eight years after returning to civilian life, Machado was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress. His combat buddies’ availability to talk and Veterans Affairs programs have helped him acclimate to the slower pace back home, he said.

Like his brothers, he joined Ak-Chin Police Department but has since moved on. His brother Manuel Garcia is the police chief. His brother Davis Garcia is a police sergeant.

Machado says his mother, Dolores Rodriguez, hates it and loves it at the same time.

“She’s always worried about their safety but extremely proud that they’re police officers,” he said. “It was the same thing as far as being in the military. I was the only one who deployed to a war zone. I can’t imagine having to do that three times over. She loves it, has a lot of pride but also a lot of stress about the physical danger.”

Machado, now 38, said he brought a high-intensity combat mentality to his policing job along with a desire to get things done. But he also learned he needed to cool his jets a little for community policing.



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The 82nd Airborne Division was engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

His military experience also instilled in him the desire to see projects through and create policies that would allow that to happen. He had witnessed the opposite overseas.

“You would see crumbling infrastructure. They would have these amazing-looking buildings that are half built that they just stopped,” he said. “And if they could tweak policy one way or the other, you could see the potential. I didn’t want to be one of those leaders who did things halfway. Everything I do, I want it to bear fruit.”

Back home, he saw the opportunity to make that happen.

Machado was elected to the Ak-Chin Council in 2018, taking office in January 2019. He ran on a platform of fiscal conservatism with expansion of social programs. He said



Submitted

Octavio Machado was 19 when he enlisted.

wants to tackle the substance abuse issues in the community and revise the criminal code.

An Ak-Chin membership benefit is housing, but there is a long waiting list. Machado knows, because he was on it. That is a problem he wants to solve during his term.

With two daughters, a son and a grandson, Machado wants to make a difference, including

“And if they could tweak policy one way or the other, you could see the potential. I didn’t want to be one of those leaders who did things halfway. Everything I do, I want it to bear fruit.”

Octavio Machado

giving the council the benefit of his military-taught knowledge.

“Ak-Chin has been here since 1961. Even being around that long, it has not been enough time to fully update how we operate,” he said. “I know we kind of want to keep that small-town feel, but I want to bring us into the 21st century.”

The James Sanson Team



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“Maricopa is Looking UP!” Mayor Christian Price presented his annual State of the City Address to hundreds of Maricopa residents on Oct. 21. The 2020 address broke tradition as it ventured outdoors to Copper Sky Regional Park, surrounded by the warm ambiance of a clear, warm fall evening and lighted hot air balloons. The presentation celebrated our young city’s rich history, current progress, economic victories and vision for the future, proving indeed, that Maricopa is looking UP.



Veteran organizations face challenge of attracting young vets

By Bob McGovern

Veteran service organizations provide a unique opportunity to serve the community and share the bond of military service to the nation. But VSOs, including the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, have struggled for years to attract younger veterans to sustain their missions into the future.

John Anderson, 54, is a District 11 American Legion Rider representative and peer crisis counselor. The service officer at American Legion Post 133 in Maricopa from 2016 to 2019, he connected vets with medical and mental health care and other services and helping them cut through red tape.

An over-the-road truck driver, Anderson said his phone is always on to take calls from veterans who need help in the region, including Maricopa. The Army veteran has set up a website to highlight the assistance provided by service officers and to help connect interested individuals with service officer training.

He believes VSOs can do more to put themselves in front of younger veterans to encourage membership and participation.

“Attracting young veterans to the veteran service organizations is a national problem, as well as a local problem,” he said, noting he works with four main groups of veterans, and three of them present challenges.

The pre-9/11 veterans, said Anderson, putting himself in that group, are “debilitated and busted-up,” but easier to reach because they really need the help. They are the mainstay of membership but advancing in age.

Post-9/11 veterans, who face a different set of issues from the older generation, including the burn pit registry, are tougher to attract, he said. Most are still raising families, working jobs and have other responsibilities in the community.

Women veterans don’t tend to join veteran service organizations because they don’t feel their specific health issues are heeded and addressed, according to Anderson.

“Rider chapters have the ability to strike a chord with younger veterans. That is a way to grow both the American Legion and VFW.”

John Anderson

And veterans in the LGBTQ community are difficult to reach because of the stigma. “Some of the people (working to help veterans) don’t want to deal with them,” he said, calling out the bias. “My view is, who cares? They are veterans.”

He sees the Rider chapters — groups of veterans who ride motorcycles — affiliated with the local American Legion and VFW posts as an essential link to younger veterans.

“A lot of younger people ride motorcycles” Anderson said. “The Rider chapter is the face of your post.”

Out in the community, they are seen riding their bikes, wearing their vests and performing service projects.

“Rider chapters have the ability to strike a chord with younger veterans,” he said. “That is a way to grow both the American Legion and VFW.”

Importantly, many younger vets don’t understand all that VSOs can do for them.

“They don’t realize how much the organizations can help them, the support they can get, the power of the VSOs to help them,” he said.

Many younger vets who feel they have lost the feeling of brotherhood are missing out on the sense of camaraderie.

“But if they joined a VSO, they will get that back,” Anderson said.

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Rider chapters – groups of veterans who ride motorcycles – affiliated with the local American Legion and VFW posts are an essential link to younger vets, says John Anderson, a U.S. Army veteran and the District 11 American Legion Rider representative.



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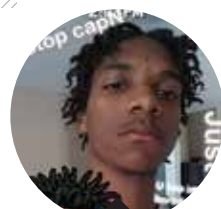
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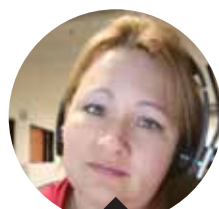
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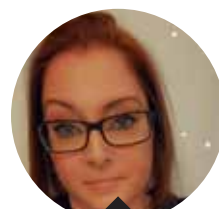
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1. The Maricopa High School freshman football team celebrated a narrow victory Oct. 7 against Canyon View. *Sammantha Herbaugh*
2. Attendance at school sports has mostly been limited to families of players, who must remain masked. *Victor Moreno*
- 3 and 4. Smith Farms got into the spooky spirit for Halloween in the City's Mysterious Mansion Mayhem contest. *Bob McGovern*
5. MHS varsity quarterback Cipriano Childers dodges Willow Canyon in a season-opening win. *Raquel Hendrickson*



5

Maricopa baby born in I-10 rush hour

By Raquel Hendrickson

Villages residents Michaela and Ruben Fierros are old hands at childbirth, but Oct. 7 brought a surprise in the middle of commuter traffic on Interstate 10.

The parents of five children expected their sixth a little earlier than his due date of Oct. 24. Not this early. Michaela, 28, started feeling tell-tale pains as Ruben was preparing to head to work at Chandler Chiropractic.

They called her mother to come watch the kids and took off for Banner Desert Medical Center in Mesa in their Honda Civic. They were on the road just in time for rush hour.

“We couldn’t speed on Maricopa Road, let’s put it that way,” said Ruben Fierros, 33, a Maricopa native. “There were cops everywhere. By the time we were able to get on the I-10, we could go a little faster.”

He said he knew the baby was going to be born in the car when he heard her screams get louder. They thought once they got off State



Submitted

Called after the baby was born, paramedics treated Michaela and Josiah in the car near the intersection of I-10 and Highway 60.

Route 347 they had a good chance of making it to the hospital, “but God had other plans.” Their children are ages 10, 9, 7, 2 and 1.

They had a close call with their last child almost being delivered in the car, so they took along towels this time just in case.

When Michaela began taking off her clothes in the front seat, Ruben pulled over near the junction of I-10 and Highway 60 in the thick of traffic. Michaela delivered her own son, carefully unwrapping the cord around the baby’s neck.

Josiah Fenn Fierros was born at 7:10 a.m. weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces.

“Once the baby was born and we knew he was good and breathing, that’s when I called 911,” Ruben said. “It’s safer to drive with the baby in an ambulance and making sure the airways are clear.”

By the time they reached the hospital, a local television news crew was waiting for them.

Ruben’s mother, Lucinda Boyd, said her son was nearly born on the way to the hospital back when SR 347 was just a two-lane road. So, there is a bit of family history at play. That did not mean they were completely prepared for the unexpected.

“We have to get a passenger van now, we have so many kids,” Ruben said. “But we thought we had a few more weeks.”



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Ruben and Michaela Fierros added a sixth child to their family in an unexpected way.

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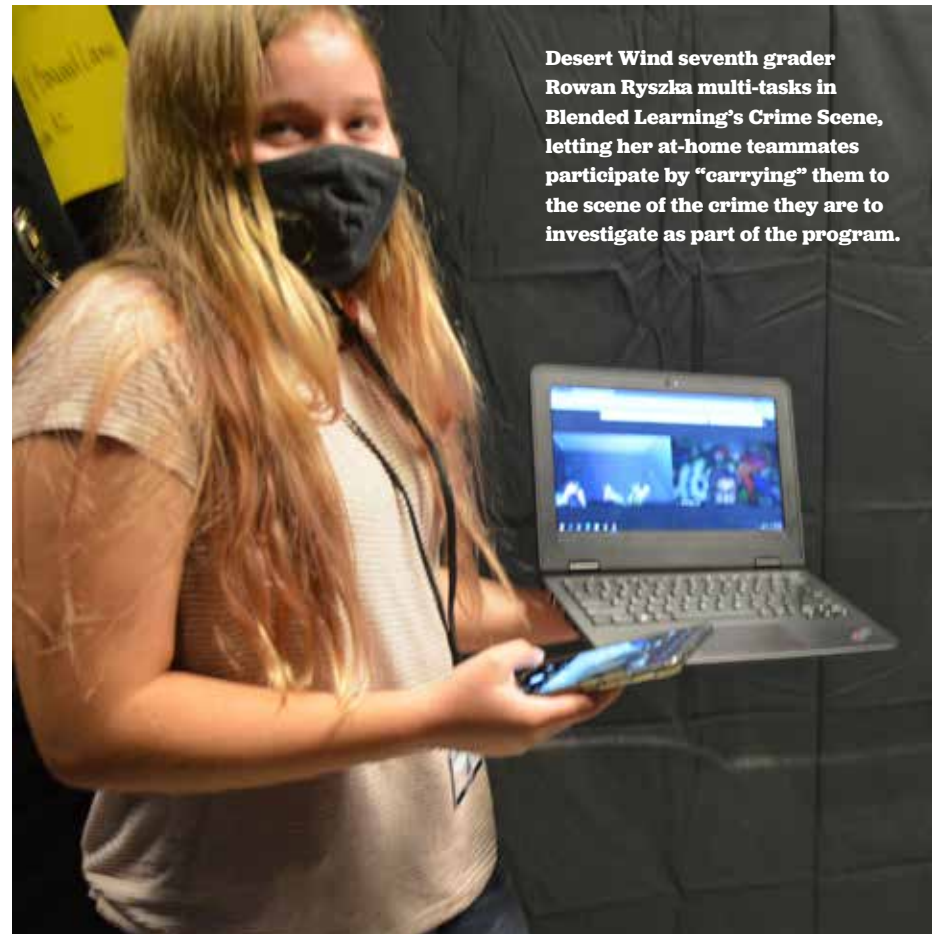


Angela Mazaneres Rodriguez
9th Grade
Maricopa High School

Mixed success

Concurrent teaching tries to close gap between pupils in class, at home

By Raquel Hendrickson



Desert Wind seventh grader Rowan Ryszka multi-tasks in Blended Learning's Crime Scene, letting her at-home teammates participate by "carrying" them to the scene of the crime they are to investigate as part of the program.

Raquel Hendrickson

A little blood, some broken glass, strands of hair and, of course, a "dead body" are all important parts of crime scenes at Desert Wind Middle School.

The Blended Learning classes are on the case, with students photographing, measuring, analyzing and looking for any clue. It's a fun and educational part of the program, but this year it has been different. The classes are adapting to the COVID-19 situation that has caused nearly half of the participating students to be at home.

They are not being taught separately or on a different educational path. They are being taught concurrently with their on-campus colleagues.

"It's definitely different," said eighth grader Catherine Correa. "They're not right here, so we can't see the same things, so we really have to verbalize."

It is a common challenge for secondary schools, as teachers of hands-on courses teach in-person and online simultaneously.

"It is a crazy atmosphere of computers, monitors, doc cameras and projectors with kids at home on Google Meets, kids in person spread out all over our rooms, and us just trying to make this time as productive as possible for all of our students," said DWMS Blended Learning teacher Shannon Hull.

Teachers started the year exclusively online and then adapted their lessons to bring many — but not nearly all — students back to campus. If they are the only teacher in their specialty, there is added pressure to include those students who have been kept home.

Brad Chamberlain teaches networking and computer repair in Maricopa High School Career & Technical Education.

"This is a lab class," he said. "We need to get our hands on equipment to really teach

it effectively. So, I really feel for those still at home."

About 40% of his students are continuing to distance-learn. As concurrent instruction, that only works if Chamberlain can stay on camera or manipulate the camera to follow what is being done. When he needs to wander the classroom to give individual help to in-person students, the online students can feel disenfranchised.

He said it's not the nightmare scenario he has heard from other classes where teachers were educating up to 50 students concurrently, with nearly half at home, and trying to give them all equal time.

"One of the tough things for me is a lot of my curriculum updated this year, so I had to rewrite quite a bit of what I've been doing," he said. "So, I've been doing that on the fly. I also teach four different preps, meaning I have four distinctly different programs."

Chamberlain's students came up with a couple of solutions to keep online kids engaged. One was to take advantage of old computers donated to the CTE class by Arizona Students Recycling Used Technology (AZStRUT), a partner in the department's student-run computer-repair business, 24PinTech.

They prepped and tagged those computers and left them at the front desk for those at-home students to pick up so they could work on them at home. About 30 students participated in that way, photographing their progress removing and reinstalling the motherboard.

"Some of them did a really good job following the step-by-step instructions. Other ones weren't quite sure," Chamberlain said. "They're scared they're going to break something. I said, 'Look these are donated computers. I don't care, as long as it's in the process of attempting a repair. Now, if you threw it off the roof in anger, that's a different story.'"

Some out-of-the-ordinary courses adapt to the online-to-in-person shift better than others.

Theater teacher Alexandra Stahl has watched amateur and professional performers adapting to virtual performances, and her MHS students have done likewise.



Blended Learning students in sixth through eighth grade investigate "crime scenes."

"It is an adjustment for sure, but it is something that is allowing theaters to continue to participate in their art," she said. "From a teaching perspective, distance learning has provided my students the ability to really hone and practice their skills."

The students are not just learning and repeating for a grade. MHS Theatre Company, in lieu of its annual fall play, is preparing its first-ever virtual performance of "The Diary of Anne Frank" in November. It will be done via Google Meets, and the audience can purchase tickets to an online viewing platform.

"We are getting the opportunity to really evaluate a character and understand their goals and wants because in a virtual environment that is what the actor *must* rely on," Stahl said. "Within the classroom, students have resiliently adapted to this new learning environment and all the new tools and tricks I and other teachers are bringing forth."

Over in the band room, director Ivan Pour has split the band and orchestra classes into small, working groups for the semester. The class theme is "Our Universe," based on space travel, plants, moons and stars. Students are working on a composing piece by Jodie Blackshaw called "13 Moons."

"For this piece, the students get the 'pieces' of a band composition (like melody, counter-melody, accompaniment, A and B sections, and rhythms) and each group gets to collaborate on the format of their performance and create their own version of the piece," Pour said.



For concerts, they are looking at combining individual performances digitally and livestreams.

"A big challenge is the one-way nature of video conferencing. That and internet lag make it impossible to play together in real time, but we can still play along with a single person while muted," Pour said. "We can take turns 'leading' the group, and we can play one at a time."

They continue to work on fundamentals with SmartMusic software, which allows them to record tracks and play along.

"The students are doing a *great* job overall and I'm excited we will have some amazing, creative and different performance products to share with the community this semester," Pour said.

Chamberlain, too, has found software programs to help keep all his students involved. "I found a program called PC Building

Simulator. It's a pretty darn good program where you actually go through the process," he said. "You have your own workshop and can actually put these computers together. You have to select components, make sure they're compatible. You gotta do all the cabling. It's surprisingly detailed. I was pretty impressed with this. I had a smaller group of students take advantage of that. In these times, you have to be creative."

Still, there is often a disconnect between online and in-person. Chamberlain spent fall break working out a fair grading system that wouldn't burn his online students.

"There's no magic bullet for how to do this," he said, adding the challenge of concurrent teaching has had its benefits. "It's made me a better teacher. Adapt or die."


Back at Desert Wind, the Blended Learning teachers have tried to group kids for Crime Scene. Most groups have a leader, two detectives on site, a district attorney at home and a forensic expert at home. Unlike the good old days, all the students in the group will not see everything together. But the on-campus detectives bring their online counterparts to the scene by carrying around their laptops.

"There are just a lot more logistics about how ... to involve everybody at home," said Hull, who noted the new approach may be more realistic. "In real life, why would the district attorney be at the crime scene? You're going to talk to the district attorney, but not in the same room."

Along with Hull, teachers Joe and Jen Szoltysik and Jacque Witte concocted the criminal scenarios, made them both silly and interesting without being too gory and set up a classroom during fall break.

Hull said students are not necessarily graded on coming up with the "right" answer but in collecting evidence that supports their theory of the crime. Even staff members, hungry to be involved from home, play witnesses and suspects. On-campus students have the school resource officer helping.

After one crime scene investigation, seventh grader Asten McAnelly is analyzing fingerprints, looking for a match. This is his second year in Blended Learning but his only year in Crime Scene. His group has one "concurrent" student working the scene from home.

"It's fine," he said. "As long as we can get things uploaded to our folder, she can read everything and know what we're learning and talking about." 

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Teaching responsibility in elementary school

By Murray Siegel

Readers of this column may remember a primary academic goal in elementary school was learning the three Rs — Readin', Ritin' and Rithmetic. Today, a fourth R is required: Responsibility. Several educators with vast experience in the elementary grades were queried and asked to detail problems they had observed and what can be done to improve student responsibility.



Murray Siegel

One respondent mentioned her concern about a grading policy that mandated a grade of 50 be given to a student who submitted nothing for a graded assignment, allowing a student who failed to do anything to receive the same grade as a student who tried but failed. She feels this rule instructs students that it is OK to do no work, thus removing from the student any feeling of personal responsibility.

Another educator wrote about students failing to be responsible for work missed when absent from class, feeling that absence is a valid excuse for not making up missed work. She is also concerned about students not taking responsibility for completing homework assignments.

Readers may ask why we should be concerned about student responsibility in these early grades. Is there not time for proper behavior to be developed in middle and high school? Since elementary school should be where the foundations of learning are developed (think the three Rs, which are the key to future education), it is proven failure to begin the sense of personal accountability will not improve as the child grows up.

What follows is my observations while regularly teaching Calculus I for Engineers at Arizona State University. Students struggled due to a failure to master the algebraic and trigonometric skills needed for success. On the first day, students received a note outlining the skills needed. I provided eight specific problems that students must be able to solve this first day.

The note explained the free, on-campus tutoring center was aware of the needed skills and would help students upgrade their knowledge. Three weeks into the course, I gave a quiz with those same eight problems. Each semester, the quiz grades were consistently below 40 (out of 100). When I checked with the tutoring center, only one or two students had visited to get help.

The failure of students to take responsibility for their learning led most of the class to withdraw or get a grade of D or F. Had they learned to accept responsibility in elementary school, these failures would have been minimal.

Murray Siegel, Ph.D., has more than 40 years teaching math up to the collegiate level and volunteers at Butterfield Elementary School. To learn more about Murray, go to InMaricopa.com/Columnists

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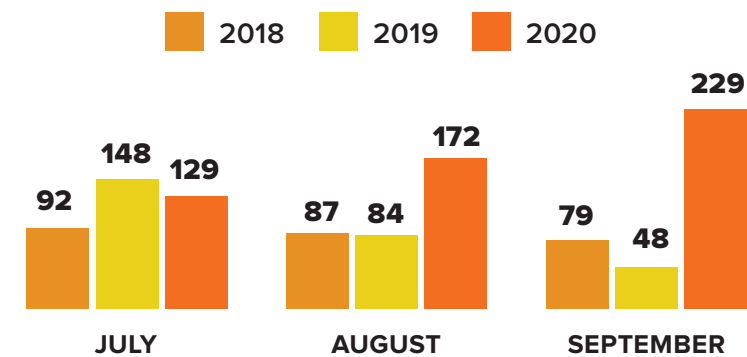
1. 18339 N. Stonegate Road, Glennville

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa Sept. 16 — Oct. 15 was a two-story home in Glennville. The grand front entrance leads into a home with tile and wood flooring throughout. The home is ready to host guests with plenty of space to entertain, plus a full bath and bedroom on the main floor. The oversized private backyard features a pool, hot tub, BBQ area and extended covered patio. The home sold quickly for \$20,000 over asking price.

Sold: Oct. 15
Purchase price: \$450,000
Square feet: 4,283
Price per square foot: \$105.06
Days on market: 11
Builder: Richmond American
Year built: 2006
Bedrooms: 5
Bathrooms: 3.5
Community: Glennville
Features: Double-door front entrance, formal living and dining rooms, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, covered patio, pool, hot tub, built-in BBQ area and four-car garage.

2. 44044 W. Palo Abeto Drive, Palo Brea.....\$399,000
3. 40817 W. Rio Grande Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$387,500
4. 43496 W. Eddie Way, The Villages.....\$377,500
5. 44288 W. Palo Nuez St., Palo Brea.....\$377,000

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Bob McGovern

1. 43848 W. Bedford Drive, Rancho El Dorado

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa Sept. 16 — Oct. 15 was a one-story, two-bedroom house in Rancho El Dorado. The home exterior, interior and garage were newly painted. The house sold \$3,000 under asking price.

Sold: Sept. 25
Purchase price: \$192,000
Square feet: 1,094
Price per square foot: \$175.50
Days on market: 26
Builder: DR Horton
Year built: 2002
Bedrooms: 2
Bathrooms: 2
Community: Rancho El Dorado
Features: Epoxy garage floor, tile and carpet throughout, ceiling fans, and walk-in closet.

2. 40033 W. Catherine Drive, Desert Passage.....\$195,500
3. 37246 W. Amalfi Ave., Sorrento.....\$200,000
4. 18115 N. Larkspur Drive, Desert Cedars.....\$200,000
5. 43610 W. Bedford Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$201,000



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

How will apartments impact Maricopa's real estate market?

By Dayv Morgan

All housing studies completed in Maricopa have shown the need for multi-family housing, mostly known as apartments. The City's goal is to have 5,000 units. Current plans for apartment complexes will deliver only a fraction of that.

The addition of apartments for rent will likely create a little bit of a downward pressure on home rental prices, but not much. That is because the supply is still low, and demand is high.

Excluding vacation rentals, Maricopa currently has just seven active home rental listings in the MLS. The least expensive available home is a three-bedroom, two-bath home for \$1,450 a month.

That's a lot of money for a single person who just wants a one-bedroom but has no other options than a single-family house. The City often uses the middle-income example

of teachers and police officers who struggle to find housing. People in this category may pass on living in Maricopa altogether and instead look to other cities with apartments, like Casa Grande.

So, apartments will help to increase our overall population and boost the local economy, without affecting the housing market much at all.

So far, six multi-family housing complexes, including two senior apartment projects, have been announced in Maricopa.

At least four complexes are planning a mix of single-family detached and multi-family units. In time, the addition of the rental homes in these complexes may affect the pricing on existing rentals, bringing more competition to the narrow market.

Apartment construction trends still aim to serve the higher-income residents who are



Dayv Morgan

seeking apartment living for convenience more than cost-efficiency.

None of the multi-family housing developers in Maricopa has announced projected rental rates. In the Valley, the monthly cost of mid- to high-level apartments is surpassing the cost of renting a home in Maricopa. If home mortgages remain below the monthly cost of renting either a house or an apartment, home sellers still have the advantage.

In Chandler, rental prices have gone up 8% in the past year, with one-bedrooms typically renting for over \$1,100. In Casa Grande, a one-bedroom is approaching \$1,000 on average.

Maricopa apartments are expected to come on the market just as the economic impact of COVID-19 is lessening. So, the effects on the local housing market may be difficult to discern for some time. We just don't know yet what the "new normal" will be for Maricopa housing costs. [In](#)

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



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REV@Porter gets site plan approval for multi-family housing

By Raquel Hendrickson



A rendering by Iplan Consulting shows a sample duplex planned for REV@Porter, which will be a mix of single-family and multi-family rentals off Porter Road and Bowlin.

An “atypical” multi-family residential development received a design review permit.

REV@Porter, property owned by El Dorado Holdings, is at the southeast corner of Porter Road and Bowlin Road. Maricopa Planning & Zoning Commission approved a design review permit and site plan for 20 acres of the property.

The application did not include the five-acre commercial property directly on the corner, which is also owned by El Dorado Holdings.

The residential property is planned as a gated, rental community. It includes single-family and multi-family housing, all one-story homes. The planned density is 10 units per acre. The project comes in one-, two- and three-bedroom units.

Each building will look like a stand-alone home. The single-family units are detached homes. The multi-family buildings are duplexes or larger. All will be owned and maintained by El Dorado Holdings.

“The REV product is more of a lifestyle,” said Greg Davis of Iplan Consulting. He said people like the appearance of being in a single-family detached neighborhood but “don’t want maintenance responsibility or a yard to take care of.”

He said every unit has a small, private yard. The units are 800 to 1,500 square feet. Developers have planned four parks in the community.

Similar projects have been successful in Phoenix and Queen Creek, he said, particularly among retirees and “singles who like to lock and leave.”

The main traffic access into REV@Porter will be off Porter Road, aligning with Shea Road that




loops around the Oasis at the Wells apartment complex under construction behind Walmart. There is a second traffic access off Bowlin Road.

Davis said the color schemes and materials are meant to provide a smooth visual transition from the homes in the nearby Glennwilde subdivision.

City engineer Joshua Plumb said all current conditions — being in a neighborhood with seven schools, a busy commercial area and

increased traffic on Bowlin Road due to a recently completed wash crossing — were all taken into consideration.

Davis said the project will have garages for rent, including some with charging stations for electric vehicles.

He described a community center with a clubhouse and swimming pool with “high-level amenities.” That includes a gym, lounges, kitchen and spa. 

Deep watering under the canopy

By Harriet Phelps

As in all things, 2020 this has been an unforgettable year for high heat and drought. The “non”soon did not produce any significant rainfall, leaving us in a deficit for moisture. Notably all plants are desperate for moisture.

Sadly, we witnessed the felling of trees from high wind and the saguaro collapsing from lack of moisture. The National Weather Service is predicting a La Niña pattern winter, bringing higher than normal temperatures and lower averages for moisture. The snowbirds will love it, but we natives know we need to protect our trees.



Harriet Phelps

In the low desert, most yards have irrigation systems. If you have reduced or turned off your water to plants, you may want to reconsider for several reasons. Trees, shrubs, and vines are woody plants that can reach a height of 15 feet or more with or without self-supporting upright stems. Roots go outward from the root ball 1.5 to 3 times as wide as the canopy and within one foot of the soil surface or have a tap root growing down several feet.

Water penetration must reach at least one to two feet deep; most is absorbed outside the canopy drip line. Watering is governed by how fast the water is absorbed by the soil so the application must reflect the absorption rate. If water is running off, then slow down the application rate.

Deep watering promotes deep rooting of trees and shrubs and means survival. If not, tree roots may grow on the soil surface and risk a shortened life span.

Pushing a soil probe, a smooth rod about 1/4 to 3/8 inch in diameter, into the ground will determine penetration depth. When wet the probe will easily slide through the soil until it becomes difficult to penetrate, BM reaching the hard, dry soil.


Typical root zone for mature shrubs is 12-24 inches and for trees 18-36 inches. A good rule to remember is to water when your soil probe will not penetrate deeper than 3-4 inches. Remember to water deeply a couple times a year — three times as deeply as normal to leach salts out of the root zone to promote a healthy plant.

The canopy of a tree gives nature and humans several benefits. The function of trees and shrubs provide us with shade, screening, windbreak, noise reduction, ornamentation, wildlife shelter, edible fruit and nuts.

The canopy is so very important other than its beauty. Low desert characteristics we require are relief from the sun and the protection



of shade. Our ecology, which includes us, requires the function of trees for air purification and food sustainability.

Taking wisdom from the rainforest and each level of importance up to the canopy, our trees provide us with solar protection, ecology for wildlife in our area and food production. 



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Reclaiming your garage

By Ron Smith

Typically, our garages serve at least two purposes — housing the car and providing a convenient spot for needed storage. Sometimes storage needs even preclude the housing of your car.

Too much storage can result in obstacles to movement and tripping hazards. Improperly stored paint, painting supplies, cleaning products, car maintenance products and solvents may create dangerous conditions.

Periodically clean and purge your garage of outdated, flammable and unnecessary objects. Try to use shelving, overhead racks, storage systems and cabinets to organize your necessary gear, supplies and tools. Try to secure your yard tools so that they don't become tripping hazards if left on the floor or leaning against the walls. Take advantage of garage sales and bulk trash pickups to minimize clutter and make the garage work for you.

Parking space: Clear an area that allows you to swing open the driver's door. Use parking aids like a free-standing stop sign or hanging guide. Consider swinging your car mirrors in to provide more passage space between cars, or simply mark the adjacent wall or shelf with a piece of tape to align your side view mirror when you pull in.

Garage door: The biggest hazard in your garage is the garage door system. The doors are heavy. Door springs/torque bars are under a great deal of pressure. Periodically have your system lubricated and checked by a professional garage door installer. Also, remember to replace the batteries in garage door opener remotes.

Lighting: If you only have the light on the garage door opener, you may need to add a lighting fixture. You should have a wall switch near your entry door into the house for an additional light.



Ron Smith

Emergency: You should have a wall-mounted fire extinguisher near the entrance door. In addition, there should be a fire heat detector (not a smoke alarm) in the garage. The heat detector should be rated for 175-250 degrees Fahrenheit. A carbon monoxide alarm should be placed inside the home within 10 feet of the entry door from the garage.

Safety: There should be a secure lock on the entry door into the house. The threshold strip for the entry door serves as weather seal, but it should be as flat as possible for easier entry with a wheelchair, shopping cart or stroller. A work bench or small table near the entry door can serve as a handy spot to place packages being moved in and out of the garage.

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

Ron Smith is a Maricopa resident and an aging-in-place advocate. He is also a member of the Age-Friendly Maricopa Advisory Committee and a member of the Maricopa Senior Coalition. To learn more about Ron, go to InMaricopa.com/Columnists

To refinance in your senior years ... or not

By Joan Koczor

Many of us have reached retirement age — the “Golden Years,” a new chapter in our lives, a time to enjoy all those things we have on our bucket list. Freedom to travel. Possibly start a second career. More family time. More leisure time.

What many didn't anticipate in the Golden Years was a home with a mortgage. It is a drain on those retirement funds that may have got you thinking it's a good time to refinance. Banks and lending companies are making attractive offers to refinance, tempting you with a lower interest rate and lower monthly payments.

The decision to refinance is equally important as the decision to buy a home. With a refinance, you are replacing your old mortgage — or a first and second mortgage — with a new loan.

- It could have advantages, such as:
- Reducing your monthly payment
 - Stabilizing your interest rate

- Allowing you to pay off your home faster
- Removing a home-equity line of credit

And disadvantages, such as:

- Restarting your mortgage clock
- Increase your monthly expenses
- Costs outweighing benefits if you plan on selling within the next few years

There are closing costs of around 3% to 6% of the original mortgage. Fees for loan origination, your application, appraisal and more. In many cases these costs are added to the existing balance on your mortgage.

Each lender has its own requirements for refinancing. To get the best rate, you will need a credit score of 670 or higher. If you have fair or poor credit, you may end up with a higher interest rate.

If you are considering a cash-out refinancing to help with expenses, it may

not be a good idea to get cash from your home to pay down unsecured debts such as credit cards. Missing a payment on a card can impact your credit score but missing a house payment could result in losing your home. If you are planning to make home improvements, you may be able to deduct some refinancing costs. Check with your tax advisor to discover tax-related refinancing pros and cons.

Whether mortgage refinancing is the right move depends on your goals. Before you proceed with refinancing, research. Ask questions from your banker or lending officer. Consider the pros and cons. Then refinance in a way that works best for you in your circumstances.



Joan Koczor

Joan Koczor is a senior advocate and a member of the Age-Friendly Maricopa Advisory Board. To learn more about Joan, go to InMaricopa.com/Columnists



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Nov
7



Group saves annual veterans parade from COVID-19 cancellation

By Bob McGovern

The parade is on.

Since 2017, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 133 organized and planned the annual Maricopa Veterans Day Parade to honor the men and women who have served the nation. But this year, the Auxiliary encountered pandemic-related obstacles while planning the November parade and members decided to forgo the march and plan a smaller, separate event.

That's when Scott Dillmn, Jason Martin, Joseph Harvey and others stepped in, creating their own parade committee to build off the Auxiliary's efforts and ensure the march went off this year — with participation from veteran-owned businesses as well as veterans beyond the city limits.

Last year, some veterans were not permitted to promote their businesses in the parade, according to Harvey, an eight-year veteran of the Air Force, and member of the Maricopa Veterans group on Facebook created by Martin. That ruffled some feathers in the community. Several members of the Maricopa Veterans group asked the Auxiliary for a voice in the planning of this year's parade and were offered an opportunity to convey their feelings about organizing a more inclusive event.

With the Auxiliary's withdrawal, however, Dillmn, Martin, Harvey and others were off and running to organize the

fourth annual Veterans Day Parade down Bowlin and Porter roads, an event that has drawn hundreds of spectators. This year's march is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7 with a 9 a.m. start.

Dillmn is founder of Rent a Vet Services, a handyman business that hires veterans and offers carpentry, plumbing, electrical and general home maintenance services. That led to Rent A Vet WGY6, a state-approved nonprofit that assists veterans looking for employment and helps them get job training.

Martin created the Maricopa Veterans group in 2018 to provide veterans with a place to find and offer support to others. After a local suicide a year later, the group began holding "SIX" meetings to give veterans an opportunity to connect with other veterans who may have a better understanding of what they experienced. More than 450 veterans share their camaraderie in the group, which has the motto "Family, Honor, Community: Sempur Simul" (Always Family).

Harvey said his group seeks to increase veteran participation with the goal of making the parade the biggest in the state outside of Phoenix and Tucson. Members of Blue Star Mothers, American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars will participate. Outreach has been made to veterans from the Ak-Chin and Gila River Indian

communities as well as veteran-owned businesses and veterans groups in Maricopa and beyond, Harvey said.

"We've created an inclusive approach to ensure veterans from all walks of life are represented in the parade," he said.

Joe Abodeely, a Vietnam veteran who has run the Arizona Military Museum near the Papago Mountains for 40 years, will be grand marshal. Participating in the parade will be Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb, Maricopa Mayor Christian Price, the Maricopa Police Department, Constable Glenn Morrison, Tracy P. MacPherson VFW Post 12043, American Legion Post 133, and the Boy Scouts.

Right now, Harvey said, it does not appear anybody else in the region is hosting a "real parade" this year because of public health concerns about the coronavirus pandemic. (The annual Phoenix parade this year will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.)

The organizers' application for a parade permit — recently approved by the city — includes a plan to keep both marchers and spectators safe, Harvey said.

A COVID committee worked through the details of holding a parade during a pandemic that adheres to — and enforces — CDC guidelines. The plan includes monitors walking the route before and during the march to ensure spectators are physical distancing. Markings will be painted at least six feet apart on the sidewalks to help spectators maintain a safe distance from others, and volunteers will walk the route throughout the parade to help ensure the safety of all. Congregating before and after the event will not be permitted.

"We knew the parade couldn't go forward with the city unless we did that," said Harvey, calling 2020 a "difficult year for everybody."

Harvey said the organizers want to highlight the active role of veterans in the Maricopa community. More than just prior military service members, they own and run businesses, lead community organizations, volunteer at food pantries and other nonprofits and serve on city council.

Gabby Potter, president of the Auxiliary, said the parade tradition is a "great opportunity to bring the community together and honor and celebrate our veterans."

She said that while coronavirus concerns derailed her organization's involvement this year, her group will be back next year to organize the fifth anniversary of the celebration.




"We didn't feel comfortable having a traditional parade," said Potter, noting that when the Auxiliary made its decision, students were not yet back in schools and there were stricter guidelines around gatherings. "We wanted to be safe and take absolutely no chances."

She noted many of the veterans are high-risk for COVID-19 due to their age and medical conditions.

As far as this year's parade, Potter said, "We're happy that our veterans are being celebrated."

The Auxiliary will recognize veterans and promote patriotism with a separate event, she said.

A Veterans Day Caravan is planned for Nov. 11. It will begin about 8:45 a.m. after a flag-raising ceremony hosted by the VFW and American Legion at the Veterans Center on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway. The caravan of vehicles will travel down Honeycutt Road and through the Province community, where they will be joined by veterans who live in the neighborhood, and then back to the Maricopa Unified School District parking lot, where all veterans will receive a small gift bag to honor their service, Potter said.

"We're just doing it a bit different this year," she said. 

IF YOU GO

Parade will start at 9 a.m. from Legacy Traditional School, head west on Bowlin, north on Porter, ending at Leading Edge Academy lot

Road closures

- North Porter Road and West Adams Way (8:30 a.m. hard close)
- North Porter Road and Alan Stephens Parkway (8:30 a.m. hard close)
- North Bowlin Road and west side of Smith Farms Circle across from Central Arizona College (7 a.m. hard close)
- Glennwilde community entrance: North Bowlin Road and North Emma Lane (8:30 a.m. hard close)
- Smith Farms Circle and West Tamara Lane (7 a.m. hard close)
- West Adams Way and North Falcon Lane (8:30 a.m. hard close)

Alternative roads

- White and Parker Road, for residents in the community near Legacy Traditional School and Central Arizona College
- Stonegate Road and Glennwilde Drive for residents in Glennwilde community

Parking areas

- Sequoia Pathway — Spectator parking
- Saddleback Elementary — East side parking lot for disabled guests
- Legacy Traditional School — Open to participants and the public
- Pacana south parking lot — For spectators and veterans

Areas to view the parade

Spectators can enjoy the parade from both sides of West Bowlin Road between

Regent Drive and North Porter Road, and along both sides of Porter from Bowlin to the end of parade route. Lawn chairs can be set on the sidewalks but it is not permitted to stand or set chairs in the street.

End point

Veterans participating in the parade can turn into Leading Edge west-side parking lot. Other vehicles and floats will end in the north parking lot at Saddleback Elementary School on North Adams Lane.

Emergencies

In case of an emergency, please dial 911.

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Calendar

NOVEMBER



3

ELECTION DAY

4

Treats for Troops

3-6 p.m., Letters to Soldiers Club
44870 W. Hathaway Ave.

5

SPA Volleyball vs.

San Tan Charter

6 p.m., Sequoia
Pathway Academy
19265 N. Porter Road

5-7

MHS Theatre Company presents "The Diary of Anne Frank"

7 p.m., Livestreamed
MHSTheatreCo.com

6

MHS Football vsz. Horizon

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

7

Veterans Day Parade

9 a.m., Legacy Traditional
School (start)
17760 N. Regent Drive



7-9

Copa Shorts Film Festival

Times vary, virtual
Xerb.tv



11

Veterans Day Caravan

8:45 a.m., MUSD District
Office (start)
44150 W. Maricopa-
Casa Grande Hwy.

13

Sequoia Pathway Football vs. Antelope Union

7 p.m., Pacana Park
19000 N. Porter Road

14

Copa City Dems Meeting

4 p.m., Copper Sky
Police Substation
17985 N. Greythorn Drive

Maricopa Grand Slam

6:30 p.m., Maricopa City
Hall (participants only;
audience virtual)
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

19

Zonta Club of Maricopa General Club Monthly Meeting

6 p.m., The Villages Clubhouse
20991 Butterfield Parkway



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



"Rosie," a college film about Rosie the Riveter from World War II,
will be featured as part of the virtual Copa Shorts Film Festival
from Nov. 7-9.

Copa Shorts Film Fest adopts flexible, virtual format

More than 50 short films will be showcased during the fourth annual Copa
Shorts Film Fest, which will be held Nov. 7-9 as a virtual event.

The festival will be held on xerb.tv with its own streaming channel
due to health guidelines in place for the coronavirus pandemic that limit
gatherings.

"Our virtual format will give our audience flexibility in which to see
films with an extra day of reviewing," said Roger Gillespie, director of the
festival. "Like Cinderella, though, all films will stop showing just before
midnight, Nov. 9."

"We're keeping people safe," said Shelley Gillespie, co-director and
Roger's wife.

The nonprofit festival was to be hosted by the City of Maricopa at City
Hall, but the pandemic forced the event online. That, of course, gives fans
the opportunity to watch from the comfort of home, Shelley Gillespie said.

On the marquee this year are entries from military veterans, Native
Americans and middle, high and college students. Professional short
films, from around the United States and the world, will be shown in a
number of categories, including animation, comedy, documentary, sci-fi
and drama.

Three filmmaker workshops will kick off the festival on Saturday,
Nov. 7.

Kevin R. Phipps, an experienced director and 2019 workshop
presenter, will lead workshops on "Rules for Filming During COVID" and
"Creating a Film on a Small Budget." Pat Battistini, director of the fest's
2019 Audience Choice award, will present on the topic, "Adding Comedy
Organically."

"We're hoping to inspire people to pursue a career in movies," Shelley
Gillespie said.

Movie fans can view a total of seven film/workshop blocks during the
festival. An after-hours block includes films suitable for a mature audience,
with themes appropriate for those 18 and older.

The award for winning screenplay will be presented to a Phoenix-area
resident after the "Best of the Fest" awards.

Tickets for the festival are on sale at xerb.tv. Prices are \$5 per film block
and \$25 for an All-Access Pass. Viewers will be able to see films for a full
extra day, through Nov. 9, in the flexible virtual format.

At 4 p.m. Nov. 8, the "Best of the Fest" block will highlight the best-
rated film in each genre and group. At the end, viewers can vote for
the "Audience Choice" winner. Winners of all the categories, except for
Audience Choice, will be announced at the end of "Best of the Fest." The
Audience Choice winner will be announced on CopaShortsFilmFest.org
on Nov. 10.



xerb.tv/channel/csff2020/-virtual-events

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Calendar

20

MHS Football vs. Campo Verde (senior night)
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

22

Casey Family Concert
8 a.m., Maricopa Community Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.



Dec. 4

Merry Copa
6-9 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Dec. 4-13

Holiday Homes on Parade
6-9 p.m., various locations



CONTINUING

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

Maricopa Cruise-in
5-9 p.m., behind Burger King
20699 N. John Wayne Parkway

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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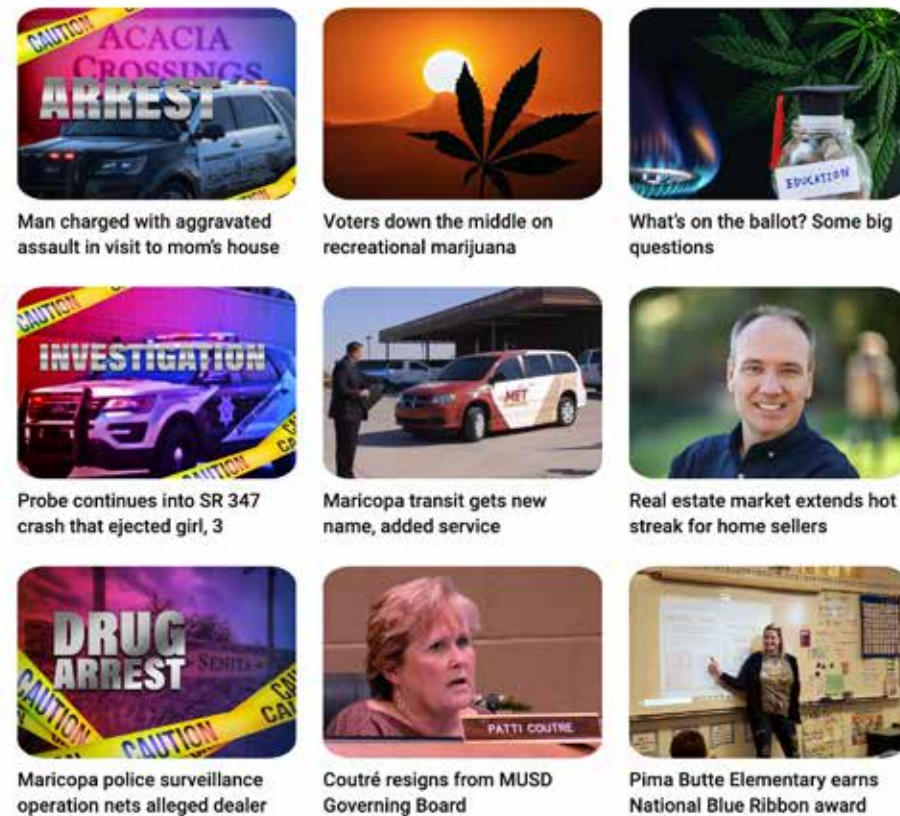
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