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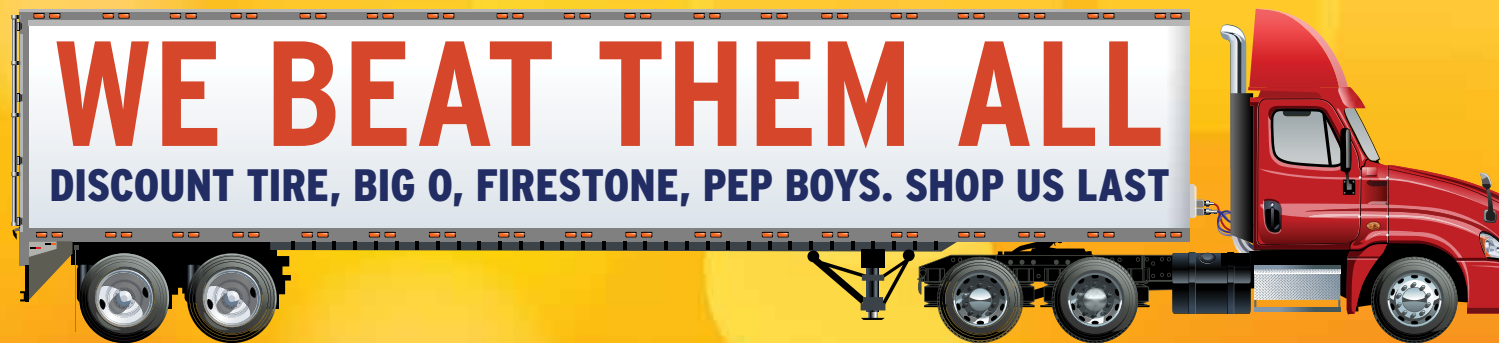
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Prepared for the future

EVERY MAY, WE CELEBRATE OUR HIGH school graduates.

In his column this month, Murray Siegel points out that commencement means beginning.

It's the transition for graduates who are starting down new paths to their futures. For some, that includes pursuit of a college degree. Others will join the military, learn a trade or get straight to work.

We highlight a small group of students in our Senior Spotlight with big plans — careers in pediatric medicine, neuroscience, computer engineering and social justice, for example — but each and every senior who graduates from Maricopa High School, Sequoia Pathway Academy and Heritage Academy deserves high praise for their hard work and accomplishments in a difficult year. (Their senior portraits begin on page 39.)

Now, they head out to the real world.

Since the entirety of their school year took place amid the COVID pandemic, we asked seniors and teachers how they adapted and what skills they will take forward with them.



Nick Sanchez is a graduate of the school of hard knocks, you might say. The tattoo artist, who learned his skills in prison, is now inking Maricopa at his own shop, which he named Redemption Tattoo. His fans love the easy feeling that permeates his shop. "I guess it comes from the way we do things," he told us.

Also this month, we provide an update on the business development activity in town and take a look at the 18 eateries dinged by Pinal County food inspectors.

And May is also the month we celebrate Mom and all she does for us. Our readers have nominated the mothers they believe are the best for the Best Mom in Maricopa contest. The voting has begun and continues through May 5. The winner will win a very nice prize package for being so wonderful. Check out the details on page 28.

Enjoy the magazine.

Bob McGovern

BOB MCGOVERN | EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Bob@InMaricopa.com

CONTRIBUTORS



KYLE NORBY

The digital photography teacher at Maricopa High School, he is also a freelance video editor.



DAYV MORGAN

Owner of HomeSmart Success, the Realtor has been busy in a wild real estate market.



KRISTINA DONNAY

Medical director at Maricopa Wellness Center, she is the mother of two.

ON THE COVER

Students in our Senior Spotlight were selected by their schools and photographed by Victor Moreno in Hidden Valley.

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Publisher
SCOTT BARTLE

Advertising Director
VINCENT MANFREDI

Editorial Director
BOB MCGOVERN

Advertising
JAIME HARRISON
MICHELLE SORESENSEN

Writers
AL BRANDENBURG
KRISTINA DONNAY
JOAN KOZOR
HARRIET PHELPS
MURRAY SIEGEL
RON SMITH
JAY TAYLOR
MICHELLE TRUJILLO

Photographers
VICTOR MORENO
KYLE NORBY
MERENZI YOUNG

Designer
CARL BEZUIDENHOUT

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Maricopa, AZ 85138

520-568-0040 Tel 520-568-0050 Fax
News@InMaricopa.com
Advertising@InMaricopa.com



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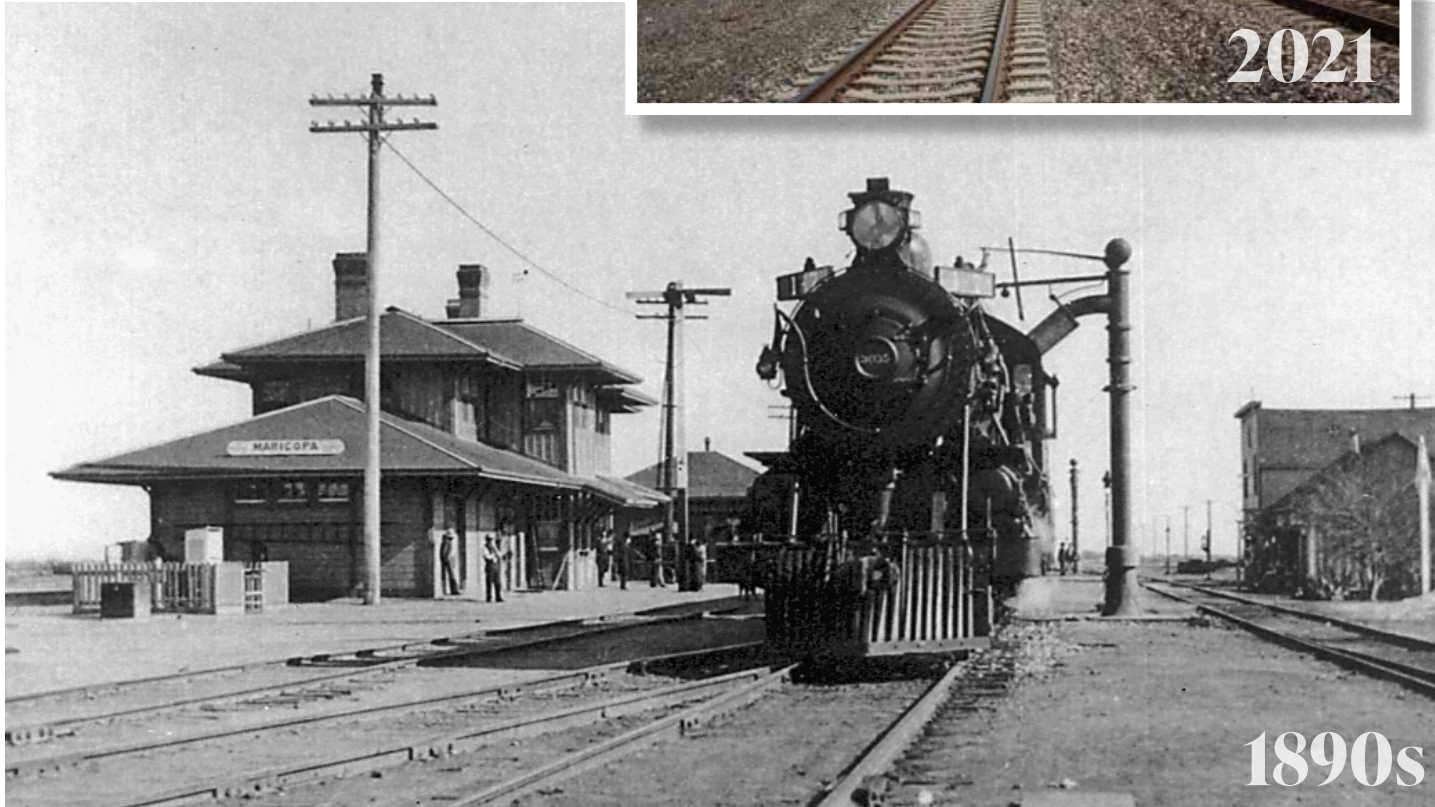
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19th century scene

This photo from the 1890s looks east along the railroad tracks while a steam engine is stopped at the Maricopa Depot, on left. The Williams Hotel and Lunch Room can be seen on the right. The scene is dramatically different today as the State Route 347 overpass carries automobile traffic over the Union Pacific tracks. Down the tracks to the left is the Amtrak station, where the Sunset Limited and Texas Eagle passenger trains stop several times a week.



THIS MONTH BACK IN...

For these and other historical stories, visit InMaricopa.com.



May 18

2004

The people of Maricopa elected a full city council for the first time. Stephen Baker and Phyllis Von Fleckinger joined Kelly Anderson, Will Dunn, Edward Farrell, Kelly Haddad and Brent Murphree, who were previously elected after initial appointments to an interim city council upon the city's incorporation in 2003.



May 5

2006

InMaricopa.com reported on a mass vaccination clinic exercise staged by Pinal County Public Health in case of a worldwide flu pandemic. "We are the first generation in the history of the world that knows a pandemic is coming and are preparing for it," said Tom Schryer, who directed the drill.



May 20

2009

The Arizona Corporation Commission approved a Union Pacific Railroad request to add a second rail line through four Maricopa intersections: State Route 347, White and Parker Road, Porter Road and Hartman Road. In order for crews to lay the second track on the city's busiest road, SR347 was closed for about 48 hours.

Bob McGovern, Maricopa Historical Society

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 Kindergarten: Tuition-free for children age 5 before Sept. 1, 2021



Artist finds Redemption, community in popular tattoo shop

BY JAY TAYLOR

REDEMPTION COMES IN MANY forms.

For Nick Sanchez, owner of Redemption Tattoo, the name of his shop reflects his journey.

The artist has built a successful business and a legion of fans who return to his chair time and again. But that success was hard-earned.

Sanchez had to turn his life around after a stint in prison. Later, he rebounded from the somewhat-sudden sale of his first tattoo shop. Then came a journey of faith and, recently, a new family.

“I like the fact that he’s real,” said one of his fans, Ryan Kraemer, a Rancho El Dorado

resident. “He’s not just a great artist, but he’s a real person and that’s what I like about him. It’s a very personal experience in there and I really like that.”

Perhaps that feeling comes from the Sanchez’s humble beginnings. He served a seven-year sentence behind bars for aggravated assault. But he also learned a trade.

“Being in this business, that story isn’t unique,” said Sanchez, 44. “It’s one of those trades that’s still kind of a pirate industry. I’m not saying you can do whatever you want, but there’s no one overseeing your every move. It’s where discipline and ethics come into play — you have to surround yourself with good people.”

Sanchez’s team is composed of tattooers Jonathan Hawkins and Alex Moran and front desk assistant Alexis Boyd. There is an easy banter among the four and with the stream of customers making their way through their shop.

In prison, Sanchez said supplies and equipment had to be made from scratch.

“I wouldn’t say I learned how to tattoo in prison, it was more like I learned a different way,” he said. “It’s a pretty good hustle in there. You get paid pretty good. It’s still time-consuming. But that’s all you have in there is time.”



Nick Sanchez inks a customer at his shop in the Blue Barn.

Merenzi Young / Eye of Odin Studios

Nick Sanchez, owner of Redemption Tattoo, learned the art in prison, where supplies and equipment had to be made from scratch.



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Merenzi Young / Eye of Odin Studios

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How to get rid of sun damage and age spots

BY KRISTINA DONNAY, FNP-C

UNWANTED PIGMENTATION CAN often affect the clarity and tone of your skin. One of the most effective ways to address pigmentation is the IPL photofacial, a premier laser treatment offered at Maricopa Wellness Center.

Men and women have many options when it comes to choosing the best treatment for their skin care needs. Thanks to incredible medical advancements and cosmetic technology, there are many ways to hit the refresh button on your appearance without the need for invasive surgery. Radiofrequency with microneedling (Morpheus8), Evoke skin tightening and skin rejuvenation treatments like a photofacial or laser facials are just a few of the ways to address specific skin issues.

Photofacial or Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) therapy treatment is one of the most popular facial rejuvenation options today. Maricopa Wellness Center uses the state-of-the-art IPL device called Lumecca IPL by InMode.

For patients looking to address facial pigmentation, superficial vessels, skin texture and/or photodamage, IPL is the optimal solution. IPL treatments improve skin complexion, reduce skin irregularities and help patients look years younger. IPL “photofacial” addresses age spots (red/brown pigmentation), sun damage, vascular lesions (spider veins, port wine stains, leg telangiectasias), rosacea (redness) and freckles. The most common areas of treatment are the face, neck, décolletage, legs, hands and arms.

Photofacial therapy is a professional treatment to reduce or eliminate the signs of sun damage, lessen rosacea or hyperpigmentation, and reduce the appearance of fine lines or wrinkles. This noninvasive treatment is highly regarded for its amazing results while improving the texture and tone of your skin.

Lumecca is the most powerful IPL to treat pigmented and vascular lesions. It is a breakthrough IPL that delivers up to three times more energy in the 500-600 nm range to improve efficacy for vascular and pigmented lesions. After just one use, patients notice significant improvements in the complexion and clarity of the skin.

Lumecca operates using photothermolysis, which provides a photofacial through the



delivery of a comfortable light treatment. The technology in Lumecca uses a higher peak power to deliver a stronger result, which leads to fewer treatments than other IPL machines on the market.

An improved skin appearance can be seen after just the first session. Multiple sessions provide even better results. Treatment regime depends on the severity of skin damage, skin type, type of treatment (vascular vs. sun damage) and energy settings. Sun damage and skin complexion results can be seen a few days after the first session. The skin will continue to look younger and more brilliant over time with most visible results after 1-2 weeks. Having multiple photofacial sessions will improve the final result. For vascular treatments such as facial telangiectasias, results can be seen in up to two weeks.

Rejuvenating your skin with a photofacial is fantastic for women and men who want to look and feel younger. IPL photofacials offer a customized way to eliminate unwanted skin

issues while increasing the anti-aging help of collagen production. An additional benefit is IPL treatments generally cost less than more invasive procedures like facelifts. Noninvasive skin rejuvenation treatments like a photofacial can boost your appearance and recapture your skin’s youthful glow.

Are you ready to rejuvenate your face and get a fresh, new look? This fantastic technique features no downtime while offering the benefits of costlier and more time-consuming procedures. Schedule a consultation with Maricopa Wellness Center. One of our trained professionals can develop an effective treatment plan to help you get the results you are looking for.

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City of Maricopa

Sonoran Creek Marketplace is a retail development with over 85,000 sq ft of space. Anchored by a Sprouts Farmers Market and a major retailer, the project has received engineering and building permits and is now under construction. Located on John Wayne Parkway between Culver's and Dutch Bros Coffee, the development will create over 282 new jobs with an annual payroll of over \$10.4 million. Sprouts Farmers Market will be the fourth major grocery offering in Maricopa, and the first grocer that will specialize in natural and organic food. With over 85,000 square feet of new commercial space offering goods and services to Maricopa residents, Sonoran Creek Marketplace is a welcome addition to the City of Maricopa.

Tenants will include:

- Sprouts Farmers Market
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For a regularly updated list of tenants and information, on this project and more, visit WhatsNewMaricopa.com



“Maricopa is one of the largest Arizona markets without a specialty grocer and the existing retail in the trade area has very strong occupancy and sales, so our team thought this could be an excellent opportunity for an outstanding grocer like Sprouts,”

- Chris Hake, Senior Vice President, Director of the Southwest Region for Thompson Thrift.

City staff are working closely with developers to ensure Sonoran Creek Marketplace opens by the end of 2021. For additional details on this project contact:

Adam Shipley
Economic Development Coordinator
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MOD Pizza coming to Sonoran Creek Marketplace

BY JAY TAYLOR

A FAST-CASUAL PIZZA restaurant will set up shop at Sonoran Creek Marketplace.

MOD Super Fast Pizza will make its individual artisan-style pizzas and salads as the latest confirmed tenant of the shopping center, which is under construction at the southwest corner of John Wayne Parkway and Edison Road.

The announcement was made by Thompson Thrift, developer of the center.

According to Andrew Call, Thompson Thrift's vice president of development management for the Southwest region, construction of the center is on target for completion in the third quarter of this year. Tenants would likely begin opening around October.

Construction of the much-anticipated Sprouts Farmers Market should also be completed in the third quarter, Call said. The super-market will then decide when to schedule an opening.

"They have their own timeline to stock, staff and turn around the building and open," he said.



Progress is visible every week as construction continues on the Sprouts Farmers Market store at Sonoran Creek Marketplace.

Impact Windshield opens shop

BY MICHELLE TRUJILLO

MARICOPA BUSINESSMAN AND longtime resident Michael Chance celebrated his 32nd year in the automotive glass replacement industry by opening a new shop.

Impact Windshield's facility in the Mesquite Building of the Santa Cruz Commerce Center includes a climate-controlled work area for installations — especially convenient during Arizona summers.

"It's important that installers don't have to sacrifice personal comfort and safety on the job," Chance said.

According to Chance, the facility eventually plans to perform innovative services like the recalibrations of advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS), technologies which utilize the windshield as an operating platform, including lane departure warning systems, adaptive cruise control and emergency braking. The technology typically relies on a camera mounted on the windshield.

"A windshield can be properly replaced, and still, its position relative to the original windshield may be pitched a few degrees off," Chance said. "That might not seem like much at the camera level, but projecting an imaginary line forward 100 feet, at highway speed, and the system might dysfunction."

That's where recalibration becomes an integral part of the windshield replacement process. And the advent of ADAS has long-term market implications.

Chance said the industry expectation is that within a couple of years, every new vehicle will be equipped with the technology.

"My goal is to be prepared and up to speed to meet that reality. I don't want to farm that procedure out to another facility, subjecting my client to that facility's work calendar, which may delay proper functioning of vehicle safety enhancements," Chance said.

There is a benefit for all parties by providing a one-stop shop for windshield replacement and restoring safe operation of ADAS systems prior to releasing the vehicle back to the customer, he said.



"The service confers peace of mind to me and the customer."

Impact Windshield also performs chip repairs.

"Our climate-controlled facility is ideal for performing these repairs in the heat of summer," Chance said. "Climate control tips

the scales in favor of a successful outcome."

520-568-3933
ImpactWindshield.com
12501 N. Murphy Road, Suite A

SPONSORED CONTENT

Maricopa Sales Tax Collections

In March, businesses paid nearly \$1.72 million in transaction privilege taxes for the right to conduct business in the state. Various business activities are subject to the tax.

Contracting/construction	\$530,414
Retail (non-food)	\$424,161
Retail (food)	\$203,409
Restaurants and bars	\$127,432
Remote sales	\$100,828
Utilities	\$99,071
Use tax (out-of-state purchases)	\$55,948
Residential rental, etc.	\$52,271
Commercial rental, etc.	\$32,281
Rental leasing and licensing	\$17,431
Communications	\$9,457
License fees	\$482
Maintenance, repairs, etc.	-\$13,097
Other	\$79,296

Source: Arizona Department of Revenue



18 eateries tagged by inspectors

Ten restaurants and eight businesses were marked down by Pinal County health inspectors from March 16-April 14.

Alibertos

Internal temperatures of cooked beef being held in the steam well were 114-119 degrees. Manager was instructed to reheat beef to at least 165 degrees and maintain foods for hot holding at or above 135 degrees. Beef was reheated on the grill to 185-188 degrees. Observed a build-up of debris on the non-food contact surfaces of the ice machine and blender. Blender was taken out of service for cleaning and manager asked to clean often to avoid build-up.

The Box Meat Shop

Observed sealed bags of beef jerky held in the retail store. Internal temperature of the semi-moist beef was 78 degrees. Per the manager, the facility is cooking beef strips, cooling them to room temperature and then using a reduced oxygen packaging process (ROP) to package them. ROP requires a pre-approved variance, which the operator did not have. The package beef was embargoed. Manager stated they would no longer make/sell beef jerky.

Inspector found the hand sink not securely mounted to the wall. Manager asked to secure and seal space between wall and sink.

Culver's

Internal temperatures of cooked onions and mushrooms being held in the steam well were 123-131 degrees. Well water was recorded at 131-135 degrees. Manager voluntarily discarded

these items. Manager asked to maintain foods in hot holding at or above 135 degrees.

The Duke at Rancho El Dorado

Internal temperatures of cooked salmon being plated for service was recorded at 102-103 degrees. Cook was instructed to cook fish to at least 145 degrees for at least 15 seconds. Fish was cooked again, and temperatures were recorded at 150-173 degrees.

Per the cook, chicken wings are being par-cooked to 130 degrees, cooled and stored in

the walk-in. Par-cooking is a non-continuous cooking process that requires the operator to obtain prior approval from the Department. A re-inspection was scheduled within 10 days to verify correction.

Observed the following ready-to-eat items being held in the walk-in cooler without date marks: shepherd's pie, corn beef, pasta, baked potatoes and gravy. Person in charge was notified and date marks were provided. Date marks should be maintained on ready-to-eat foods.

EXCELLENT

[No violations found]

- Bashas' — AFC Sushi
- Bashas' — Bakery
- Bashas' — Deli
- Bashas' — Starbucks
- Butterfield Elementary School
- Children's Learning Adventure Childcare Centers
- Circle K (18141 N. John Wayne Pkwy.)
- Denny's
- Fry's Marketplace
- Fry's Marketplace — Bakery
- KFC/Long John Silvers
- IHOP
- Leading Edge Academy
- Little Caesar's Pizza
- Maricopa Elementary School
- Maricopa Shell — Dairy Queen
- Maricopa Wells Middle School
- McDonald's (20700 N. John Wayne Pkwy.)
- Pima Butte Elementary School
- Saddleback Elementary School
- Santa Rosa Elementary School
- Say Sushi
- Sequoia Pathway Academy — K-6
- Sequoia Pathway Academy — Secondary
- Sunrise Preschool
- Walmart
- Walmart — Deli
- Wendy's
- Yogurt Jungle

SATISFACTORY

[Violations corrected during inspection]

- Aliberto's
- The Box Meat Shop
- Culver's
- The Duke at Rancho El Dorado
- Dunkin
- Fry's Marketplace — Deli
- Fry's Marketplace — Murray Cheese
- Fry's Marketplace — Starbucks
- Fry's Marketplace — Sushi
- Good Donuts
- Gyro Grill
- Headquarters (The New HQ)
- Honeycutt Coffee
- Native Grill and Wings
- Panda Express
- QuikTrip #499 (20530 N. John Wayne Pkwy.)
- QuikTrip #499 — Kitchen
- Walmart — Bakery

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

Operator offering undercooked/cooked-to-order animal foods without the use of a complete consumer advisory; disclosure was missing. Please provide correction on all menus that offer undercooked items. Re-inspection was scheduled within 10 days to verify correction.

A food probe thermometer was not present at time of inspection. Person in charge was asked to provide and maintain a thermometer accessible at all times. Re-inspection was required with proof of correction within 10 days.

Operator is using a chlorine-based sanitizer for the bar three-compartment sink without the use of testing device/strips. Proof of correction was required within 10 days.

Inspector observed cold water not available and the hot water only available at a trickle at the only hand sink in the kitchen. Re-inspection was required with proof of correction within 10 days.

Dunkin

Observed employee enter the drink prep area from the restroom and begin to make drinks. Employee was stopped and instructed to wash their hands. Manager reviewed with staff when to wash hands.

Fry's Marketplace — Deli

Internal temperatures of cooked chicken wings being held in the hot holding display case were 118-121 degrees instead of 135 degrees or above. Manager voluntarily discarded chicken.

Fry's Marketplace — Murray Cheese

Operator did not have food probe thermometer at time of inspection. Manager was able to provide thermometer by the end of inspection and asked to make accessible at all times.

Fry's Marketplace — Starbucks

Observed employee wash then directly sanitize dishes. Dishes were in contact with the sanitizing solution for about five seconds. Per manufacturer directions, dishes/food contact surfaces are to be in contact with the quat-type sanitizer for at least one minute. Manager instructed employee to provide a one-minute contact time. Manager also instructed employee to provide a clean water rinse.

Fry's Marketplace — Sushi

Operator did not have food probe thermometer at time of inspection. Manager was able to provide thermometer by the end of the inspection and asked to make accessible at all times.

Good Donuts

Operator stated food probe thermometer was not present in the facility. Asked to purchase and maintain accessible. Re-inspection was scheduled to verify correction.

Operator is using a chlorine-based sanitizer without the use of testing strips. Asked to purchase and maintain strips. Inspector provided a temporary supply of testing strips and reviewed manual warewashing procedures at time of inspection. A re-inspection was scheduled to verify correction.

Inspector observed an excessive build-up of debris on the non-food contact surfaces of the upright mixer base, baking racks, three-compartment sink, fryer, oven, crock pot, cappuccino machine, prep tables and shelves, containers used to store donut toppings, doors and handles of the ice machine, upright coolers, walk-in cooler and walls around prep areas. Operator was asked to clean often to avoid build-up to sight and touch. A re-inspection was scheduled to verify correction.

Gyro Grill

Observed employee enter the front kitchen from the back of the house and immediately go to the grill station, handling ready-to-eat cooked bread with bare hands before donning gloves to place non-cooked bread on the grill. Employee was stopped and the ready-to-eat bread was discarded. Inspector provided training on when to restrict bare hand contact.

Internal temperatures of house-made blended hummus held in a deep metal container in the prep cooler was 58-61 degrees. Per the manager, the beans had been cooked and cooled in the morning and then blended about an hour before inspection. Internal temperature of cut lettuce being held mounded in a deep metal pan and covered with plastic wrap in the upright reach-in cooler was 71 degrees. Per the manager, the lettuce was cut and placed about one hour prior. Inspector reviewed cooling methods to include a reduction of food in shallow metal pans in the upright reach-in coolers.

Headquarters

Inspector observed gloved employee handle raw hamburger then immediately handle ready-to-eat cut tomatoes. Employee was stopped, instructed to remove soiled gloves, wash hands and don clean gloves. Glove use limitations and when-to-wash training was provided. Tomatoes were discarded.

Observed employee wash, rinse and then place dishes on drain board to air dry. A sanitizing step was not provided. Manual warewashing training was provided by the inspector. Third sink was set up with 50-100 ppm chlorine-based sanitizing solution. Dishes were properly sanitized.

Operator is offering eggs and meat "cooked to order"/undercooked without a complete consumer advisory. Example of

complete consumer advisory was provided. Re-inspection was required with proof of correction.

Observed hood filters with a build-up of debris/grease. Manager asked to keep clean.

Honeycutt Coffee

Observed a large baking stone being stored on top of the handwash sink basin. Sink was not accessible. Soap and paper towels were not present. A handwashing sink shall be maintained so that it is accessible at all times for employee use. Manager removed the stone and provided soap and paper towels.

Internal temperatures of milk and cheese held in the display cooler were 49-50 degrees. Ambient air temperature of the cooler was recorded at 46 degrees. Manager voluntarily discarded these items. Manager was asked to

maintain foods for cold holding at or below 41 degrees and stated the cooler will only be used for non-temperature-controlled foods.

Inspector observed leaking drainpipes from the hand and rinse sinks and a build-up of organic matter on the pipes. Inspector also observed a build-up of debris on the floors under the rinse sink and drink stations. Manager asked to repair and maintain clean leaky pipes and clean often to avoid build-up of debris.

Native Grill and Wings

Observed employee handle ready-to-eat cut salad at the wait station salad prep cooler. Employee was stopped and instructed to provide a barrier between bare hands and ready-to-eat foods. Salad was discarded. Manager provided training to the employee.



The in-use dish machine was tested to have 0.0 ppm chlorine. Inspector observed the sanitizer dispensing wand was in the soap container. Manager made corrections and machine was tested again to be at 50-100 ppm.

Internal temperatures of marinara sauce held in the steam well was 118-123 degrees. Staff was instructed to reheat sauce to at least 165 degrees and maintain foods in hot holding at or above 135 degrees at all times. Internal temperatures of cut lettuce held in deep, plastic, covered containers staked in the walk-in cooler were 50-55 degrees. Per the staff, the lettuce had been cut and placed there a few hours prior. Reviewed cooling methods to include a reduction of food in shallow, metal, uncovered pans and/or ice bath. Staff placed cut lettuce in an ice bath to chill quickly.

Panda Express

The quat-based sanitizer in the three-compartment sink was tested to be 0.0 ppm. Sanitizer was then tested directly from the dispensing hose at 0.0 ppm. Manager provided a new container of sanitizer and solution tested at required levels of 200-400 ppm.

Internal temperatures of orange chicken, sesame chicken and spring rolls held in the hot holding case were 109-119 degrees. Manager verified temperatures with calibrated thermometer and voluntarily discarded the items. Discard form was reviewed and is on file. Manager asked to maintain food in hot holding at 135 degrees and above at all times.

QuikTrip #499

Observed dishes in the dish machine. Manager verified the

unit is in-use for both the kitchen and retail equipment. Hot-water dish machine was tested three times at 118 degrees, 150 degrees and 141 degrees. Hot-water sanitizer must reach at least 160 degrees at the dish surface. Manager was instructed to set up the three-compartment sink and take the dish machine out of service. Manager instructed not to use the unit to sanitize food contact surfaces until it can be repaired to provide hot water at the dish surface at least 160 degrees. Dishes were removed from machine and from service. A re-inspection was scheduled to verify correction.


Inspector observed build-up debris on the non-food contact surfaces of the cheese dispenser and on the floors throughout the back dish and soda areas. Manager asked to keep clean.

Say Sushi

Observed employee plate cooked/ready-to-eat fish with bare hands. Employee was stopped and instructed to wash their hands and provide a barrier between ready-to-eat foods and their bare hands. Fish was discarded. Employee washed their hands and donned clean gloves.

Inspector observed in-use cutting boards to be scored and scratched. Manager was asked to repair or replace. Inspector also observed a build-up of debris on the floors and walls throughout the kitchen. Manager asked to clean often to avoid build-up.

Walmart — Bakery

Water temperature at the only handwashing sink in the bakery was 67 degrees. Please repair to provide hot water of at least 100 degrees. Re-inspection was scheduled. 

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GETTING TO know

GARY HOPKINS
Owner – operator
Maricopa Renovations

Hometown: Chicago
Reside in: Maricopa
Maricopans since: 2004
Family: Four children and three grandkids
Hobbies: Golf
Pet peeve: Slow drivers in left lane on 347
Like least about Maricopa: Need better restaurants



Gary Hopkins with Sandy, his wife and business partner.

FAVORITE ...

Charity: All that rescue dogs

Band: Green Day

Team: Arizona Cardinals

Food: Seafood

Restaurant: Smokin' Fins

Getaway: Las Vegas

Quote: "It is what it is."

Words to live by: "It's 5 o'clock somewhere."



Learn more about Gary at InMaricopa.com/Community/Getting-to-Know.



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**Even if a product
says it is
flushable...unless
it is toilet paper
it should not
be flushed**



Business, development around town



Heavy equipment works at the construction site of Bungalows on Bowlin.

Sonoran Creek Marketplace at 20300 N. John Wayne Pkwy. will re-subdivide lots 2 and 3 for owner **John Wayne Parkway Maricopa AZ LLC**.

Fry's Marketplace at 21145 N. John Wayne Pkwy. will spend \$53,000 to add 1,500 square feet for a veterinary clinic and grooming/boarding facility. A sliding door entry will be replaced with a double swing door on the exterior. Interior renovation will include removal of wall partitions, flooring and ceiling. New or modified electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems will be added.

At its building at 19025 N. San Pablo St., Tortosa South Homeowners Association will spend \$800 to provide telecommunications services to residents within the new build area of Tortosa. A power supply was needed for electronics within the parcels. Work will be done by **Native Technology Solutions Inc.**

Sequoia Pathway Academy will require an electrical inspection for wiring run to a meter box for Electrical District No. 3 at its campus at 19265 N. Porter Road, Building Q. North Porter LLC is having the work done by **Torcom Construction**.

Shade structure-related work will be done for Tortosa HOA by **Gothic Landscaping Inc.**: a 1,089-square-foot shade sail at 18290 N. San Pablo St. for \$8,400 and two 256-square-foot ramadas costing \$4,200 each at 18335 N. Alicante St. and 18580 N. Los Gabrieles Way.

The **City of Maricopa** conducted a development review of the Bungalows on Bowlin at 44900 W. Bowlin Road, which will feature 196 units of single-family, detached and duplex homes. The review was done for Desert Cedars Equities East LLC.

New electrical service will be provided to at the **Oasis at the Wells** apartments (72 units), 41535 W. Shea Way, **Horizon at the Wells** apartments (36 units), 41475 W. Shea Way, as part of replats of lots at the Maricopa Power Center. The work is being done for Oasis at the Wells LP by Mountain Trace Development LLC.

Decca Commercial Builders Inc. will a replat of lots 18 and 19 at **Horizon at the Wells**, a part of Maricopa Power Center at 41475 W. Shea Way, Apt. F137, including new electrical to building F.

Fry's Marketplace at 21145 N. John Wayne Pkwy will add two automatic fire suppression heads to the 27 existing heads. Work will be done by **Nolin Fire Sprinklers Inc.** for Fry's Marketplace SCF RC Funding IV LLC.

A new fire sprinkler system will be installed at 44157 W. Copper Trail, per plans on Parcel VII of Cobblestone Farms for **Cobblestone Sunrise LLC**.

A permit was granted to Maricopa Auberge LLC for a \$4,000 project to erect a flagpole at the La Quinta Inn at 44575 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., with work to be done by **Adanac Builders Corp.**

Richmond American Homes will spend \$6,500 to install a flagpole in The Lakes at Ranch El Dorado, 22304 N. Daniel Drive, parcels 43-48. The flagpole will be installed by **Impact Sign & Graphics LLC**.

Province will conduct two projects at Porter and Smith-Enke roads: a \$1 million to grading of Province Parcel 12 and an \$833,358 grading of Parcel 9. Both will be done by **Beusing Corp.**

An at-risk grading and drainage project will be done for Maricopa Heritage Pointe LLC at 45115 W. Garvey Ave. by **Frederick Clark Moiser**.

An initial fire inspection was conducted at the Behavioral Health Residential Facility Adult Group Home at 17320 N. Lago Drive in Santa Rosa Springs by **Racho Paul Inspection**.

A group home was inspected to comply with the Arizona Department of Health at 41629 W. Avella Drive in Glennwilde for **Mercy Waweru**.

A fire inspection was conducted at Paradise Lodge, a behavioral group home at 43858 W. Lindgren Drive in The Villages at Rancho El Dorado. The property owner is **Afua Osafao-Acquaah**.

A hydrant flow test was performed for **DR Horton Inc.** at Phase III, Parcel 59 of

The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado, 40988 W. Hillman Drive.

A fire hydrant flow test was conducted at 40675 W. Honeycutt Road for the Honeycutt-Gunsmoke project for **MR Investments #3 LLLP**.

Leading Edge Academy will install a new digital sign at 18700 N. Porter Road with the work to be done by **Precise Sign Co.**

Richmond American Homes will install signage for its new community in The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado at 22334 N. Daniel Drive, with work to be done by **Impact Sign & Graphics LLC**.

Pinal County will install a monument sign at its facility at 19955 N. Wilson Ave. with work to be done by **Addisigns Inc.**

An on-site improvement permit was given to Discount Tire for a \$600,000 project to re-subdivide 8,192 square feet for its retail tire store on lots 2 and 3 at 20240 N. John Wayne Pkwy. The work will be done for John Wayne Pkwy Maricopa A LLC by **FMI West Inc.**

A permit was granted to Metro Red 1 LLC for improvement plans for paving, grading, signing and striping, sewer and water work at 39950 W. Hillman Drive in The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado. **Otago Development Inc.** will do the work.

Civil permits for grading, concrete, paving and landscape were granted to K Hovnanian at Santa Rose Springs. **Rhino Contracting** will do the work.

The Fishel Construction Co. was granted a right-of-way permit to install fiber optic cable at Anderson and Peters & Nall roads for Wester CA & NJ Trust.

A right-of-way permit was granted to **Ninyo & Moore Geotechnical and Environmental Sciences Consultants Inc.** to perform three soil borings on west side of North Porter Road, north of West Farrell Road.

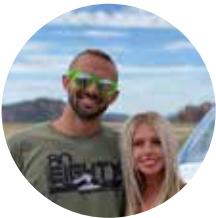
EHC Maricopa LP was granted a right-of-way permit for row work at 19060 N. John Wayne Pkwy. by **Native Technology Solutions Inc.**

Redemption Tattoo at 19428 N. Maricopa Road will move an existing 14-inch channel letter sign from the north side of the building to the south side, where it will replace an existing 8-foot aluminum sign. A new 20-inch channel letter sign will be installed on the building's north side.

James N. Maigwa is seeking zoning to accommodate a group home of 1-6 people at 45790 W. Starlight Drive in Maricopa Meadows for **Group Care Homes LLC**.

f /InMaricopa

'top fans'



Bobbi Marie



Carla Samano



Cathey Fredrickson



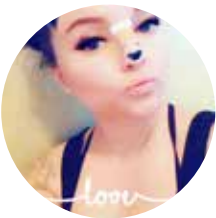
Chloe Seekings



Chris Appleton



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Salsa Night Market

The annual salsa festival on March 27 entertained the crowd at Copper Sky Regional Park. Attendees listened and danced to the music of Selena the Show and Mariachi Arizona. Opposite: A dancer with Ballet Folklórico de Santa Maria performs.

Victor Moreno





One Chip Challenge: A salsa sideshow

The One Chip Challenge drew a crowd throughout Salsa Night Market. The event, hosted by InMaricopa's Vincent Manfredi and Realtor Brian Petersheim, dared competitors to eat a super-spicy Carolina Reaper chip — or two. Lupe Huante winces from the heat and mops her brow after eating a peppery chip at the InMaricopa tent. Many walked away with a reward for their bravery.

Victor Moreno and Bob McGovern



Library opening

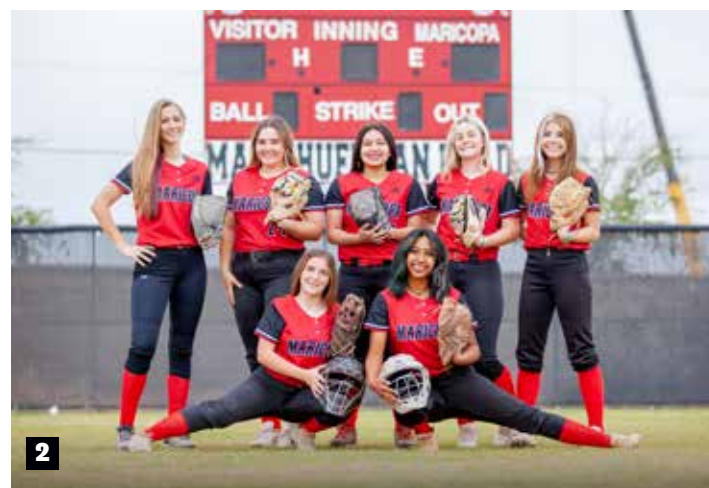
1. Wisdom Bond, left, and Elijah Selig, students at the ATA Martial Arts of Arizona school, demonstrated their moves for the crowd on the outdoor stage as part of the fun-filled opening of the Maricopa Library and Cultural Center on March 27.

2. Josiah Cartwright, 9, showed off his balloon mask as his mother Tasha looked on.

3. The Núñez family worked on crafts at the library opening: from left, dad Alberto, son Oliver, 3, daughter Lila, 6, and mom Michelle.

4. Patricia Stone and her son Ethan, 13, look at books at the Friends of the Maricopa Library sale.

Bob McGovern



Softball, baseball senior nights

1. Seniors on the Maricopa High School baseball team pose for a group photo on Senior Night. Clockwise from top

left: Sebastian Teran Monge, Jonathan Leyva, Isaiah Peters, Jacob Keel, Lynn Andrews and Jared Hawthorn.

2. The senior players on the softball team posed for their own photo at Senior Night. Clockwise from top left: Shayla

Barry, Miquela Pino, Evone Santiago, Karyn Meier, Gillian Gardner, Ferny Carias and Hailey Blackwell.

3. Rams batter Karyn Meier drives the ball during the game.

Victor Moreno



Senior Evone Santiago is joined by her family for the Senior Night.

Who is the best mom in Maricopa?

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The winners will be notified May 6 and announced on May 9.

- **Grand Prize** includes Harrah's Chop, Block and Brew dinner with bottle of wine/cider, flowers and chauffeur-driven ride in a 2008 Rolls Royce Phantom, with one guest.
- **2nd place** includes Sunday brunch at a local golf course with flowers and chauffeur-driven ride in a 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air convertible, with one guest.
- **3rd place** is a gift basket.

All prizes carry a total value of \$750.

Additional prizes will be donated to the winners by local businesses.

People had the opportunity to nominate their favorite mothers in April with a written or video nomination.

[InMaricopa.com/Contests](https://inmaricopa.com/Contests)

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As the first graduating class whose entire senior year was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Class of 2021 has faced many challenges on the way to earning a diploma. These outstanding seniors have overcome the obstacles and are looking ahead confidently to college life and career goals.

The colors of three city high schools come together in the desert: from left, Cara Krathwohl, Sequoia Pathway Academy; Anabelle Dayley, Maricopa High School; Hannah Skousen, Heritage Academy; Victor Moreno, Maricopa High School; Emma Wrenn, Maricopa High School; Emma Schrader, Maricopa High School; Jasmine Tafolla, Maricopa High School; Tyler Kientzler, Heritage Academy; Airen Fortunato, Maricopa High School; and TJ Boyd, Sequoia Pathway Academy.

Victor Moreno



TJ Boyd
SEQUOIA PATHWAY ACADEMY

A self-described small-town kid who wants to follow his dream and have a good journey on the way, TJ has made art his whole life. He plans to attend Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, to study animation while playing football.

What are your career goals and how has high school prepared you for them?

My career goals are to, well, have a good and successful one, but to also work hard and do the best I can, and I believe high school has taught me how to do both of those things.

Greatest achievement: My greatest achievement, it may sound weird or odd, but honestly it's the people that I have surrounded myself with. They are the ones who have pushed me in the right direction and have shown me my path.

Favorite high school memory: My favorite memory isn't just one, it's about 12: every Friday night I got to run out onto that field and play the game I love.

Annabelle Dayley
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL

Anabelle Dayley is a Maricopa native, attending Butterfield Elementary, Maricopa Wells and finishing with four years at Maricopa High School. She graduates as valedictorian with a 4.77 GPA. In addition, Anabelle excelled on the soccer, cross-country and track teams while actively participating in a variety of clubs.



What are your career goals and how has high school prepared you to pursue them?

I have had my mind set on being a pediatric nurse caring for neonatal babies for many years and plan on pursuing that career while studying at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. My time at Maricopa High School and in competitive sports have given me lots of experience and life lessons in leadership, self-discipline, teamwork and problem solving. Those skills will be important while entering this next chapter of my life.

Greatest achievement: The amazing friendships made during my time as a Ram. My friends, coaches and teachers have been uplifting and supportive. They all are wonderful examples to me and push me to be a better person, better student, better athlete and better friend. When my time is finished here in Maricopa, I hope that I've been able to be a positive influence to those around me and been able to contribute to our beautiful community of Maricopa."

Favorite high school memory: MHS Homecoming Week my junior year!



Airen Fortunato
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL

A 15-year Maricopa resident, Airen was involved in band, Junior States of America and the National Honor Society. As a Flinn Scholar Semi-Finalist and Dorrance Scholar, he will attend the University of Arizona in the fall to study neuroscience with plans to be an ER physician assistant.

What are your career goals and how has high school prepared you for them?

My career plan is to pursue a career as a physician assistant, and I credit the support and encouragement of teachers who pushed and encouraged me, as well as providing me with information for extracurriculars to join to satiate my curiosity and expand my knowledge.

Greatest achievement: My proudest achievement is making the MHS drumline, having no formal music experience whatsoever. I saw the fun they were having my freshman year, how welcoming the section leader was, and told myself I would make it. I taught myself the fundamentals of percussion from the ground up and learned from peers. When the audition results came out, I couldn't believe it happened, and it sparked a passion for music.

Favorite high school memory: The 2019 Youngker band show: superior rating in percussion and 1st place!

Katie Hanks
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL

Katie has lived in Maricopa since she was 4. She loved her time at Maricopa High School and has been actively involved in National Honor Society and the MHS Theatre Company. After graduating, she plans on serving a mission for her church and then going to school to study neuroscience.



What are your career goals and how has high school prepared you for them?

I can see myself doing so many different things for my career and that is because of all of the opportunities I have had in high school. Growing up, I have always wanted to become a pediatric epileptologist and while that is still a goal, I have many other interests. Being a part of theater has allowed me to stage-manage and student-direct a few of our shows, and I realized I had this love for management within the arts. I have looked into doing stage management/design and tech in order to become a production or tour manager.

Greatest achievement: My greatest achievement has to be stage-managing three shows at MHS!

Favorite high school memory: Mr. Miller's APUSH class my junior year.



“The teachers at Maricopa High School have prepared me for this future by encouraging creativity and imagination even in the densest of subjects, resilience and dedication in the darkest of times, and faith in the success of their students.”

EMMA SCHRADER



Tyler Kientzler
HERITAGE ACADEMY

A young senior at just 17 years old, Tyler was awarded the New American University President’s Award to Arizona State University. He was active in National Honor Society, sports and as a community volunteer. He will pursue a degree in computer engineering.

What are your career goals and how has high school prepared you to pursue them?

I do know that I want to study computer engineering in college but that’s about it. High school has taught me a lot inside and outside of the classroom and helped build a lot of different relationships that I hope to carry with me into college.

Greatest achievement: I was able to buy my own first car at just 16 years old.

Favorite high school memory: My first day of school seeing familiar and welcoming faces.

Cara Krathwohl
SEQUOIA PATHWAY ACADEMY

Cara has lived in Maricopa since 2014. She and her family moved to Arizona from Indiana. She is graduating from Sequoia Pathway as the salutatorian.

What are your career goals and how has high school prepared you to pursue them?

I am going to Northern Arizona University to get a bachelor’s degree in hospitality. High school has helped me learn to handle stressful situations, manage my time efficiently and deal with controversial topics.

Greatest achievement: Making it through the drama of high school, as well as COVID, to become the salutatorian of my school.

Favorite high school memory: Hanging with my friends.



Victor Moreno
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL

A junior, Victor will complete enough credits to graduate a year early. He was Homecoming King and active on the swim team and the Mr. MHS Pageant.

What are your career goals and how has high school prepared you to pursue them?

I will be pursuing a career in business at Arizona State University. I was first introduced to business through Maricopa High School’s marketing and DECA programs.

Greatest achievement: Graduating early and still making the most of my junior/senior year.

Favorite high school memory: DECA’s State Career Development Conference

Nick Perez
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL

Born in Mesa, Nick moved to Maricopa when he was in 4th grade. He has always loved doing the best he can for those around him in school and in life. He plans to study computer engineering at Northern Arizona University and work to create the next big tech company.

What are your career goals and how has high school prepared you to pursue them?

I plan to work in the IT field and pursue a degree in computer engineering. High school has helped prepare me for the world to come and how to deal with the varied types of people I’ll meet throughout my life. 24Pintech (a student-led business that repairs technological devices) and Mr. Chamberlain, our IT teacher, have also had a huge impact on solidifying my path in life

Greatest achievement: The balancing act that is enrolling in Honors/ AP courses, participating actively in 4-5 clubs, working part-time and still finding a way to spend time with friends and family.

Favorite high school memory: Performing in front of a live audience.



Emma Schrader
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL

After calling Maricopa home for over 14 years, Emma plans to study art history in New York. He is incredibly grateful for his leadership roles in both the MHS Theatre Company and National Honor Society, and he can’t wait to see where the arts will take him in the future.

What are your career goals and how has high school prepared you to pursue them?

My career goals are changing every day. One day, that means looking toward a future on the stage. The next, it’s studying Renaissance artworks and crafting exhibits for a new museum. I am not sure where my ever-changing passions will take me, but I am positive that the arts will play a crucial role in wherever I go. The teachers at Maricopa High School have prepared me for this future by encouraging creativity and imagination even in the densest of subjects, resilience and dedication in the darkest of times, and faith in the success of their students.

Greatest achievement: Completing senior year.

Favorite high school memory: Saturday night’s curtain call for “Newsies” and my final bow.

Hannah Skousen
HERITAGE ACADEMY

Born and raised in Maricopa, Hannah was involved in numerous clubs and captain of the girls golf team the last two years. She will attend BYU in Provo, Utah next year to study landscape management and design as she focuses on plant science.

What are your career goals and how has high school prepared you to pursue them?

My goal is to help create new varieties of plants that can thrive in low-water, desert climates like ours. High school has helped me love science but also taught me to work hard and learn everything I can.

Greatest achievement: Earning a 4.0 while taking advanced classes and playing on the varsity girls golf team all four years.

Favorite high school memory: Performing in the murder mystery plays the last two years.



Jasmine Tafolla
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL

Jasmine moved to Arizona from Utah during her 5th-grade year and has loved it ever since. In her senior year, she started taking extracurriculars like Student Council and Link Crew. Her future plans include helping the



Emma Wrenn
MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL

Emma and her family moved 11 years ago from Pennsylvania to Maricopa. She has been active in the Maricopa DECA chapter, serving as Vice President of Career Development (2019-2020) and Vice President of Store Operations (2020-2021). She has accepted a full scholarship from the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University and the Next Generation Service Corps, where she will begin her freshman year in August.

What are your career goals and how has high school prepared you to pursue them?

I look forward to exploring business careers at ASU. Through the Service Corps, I will get hands-on experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors. I expect this new knowledge and experience will help me focus on a specific career path. Success for me means being happy, healthy and surrounded by the people I love, while still making a difference in the world.

Greatest achievement: I am most proud of being awarded Maricopa DECA’s Officer of the Year in 2020. I earned this award by going above and beyond in my responsibilities as the Vice President of Career Development. Through my leadership on DECA’s Board of Directors, our chapter set new school records at the State Career Development Conference for most state finalists, most first-place trophies, most trophies overall and most international qualifiers.

Favorite high school memory: Not only finding friends but finding myself in the process.

wrongly convicted, misunderstood, immigrants and minorities. She wants to be a part of the change in society and make an impact.

What are your career goals and how has high school prepared you to pursue them?

My goal is to pursue a career in law, specifically as a social justice/ human rights lawyer. High school has prepared me for this through advanced classes, CAVIT, teachers, and, most importantly, our caring

counselors. Without Mrs. Russionello, Mr. Veltrie and Ms. Flores I am not sure if my high school experience would have been the same.

Greatest achievement: Acceptance into the University of Arizona. I will be the first in my family to attend college. This means a lot to me not only because I am proving that my parents’ hard work toward me having a better future paid off but also because I will be a part of the percentage of Mexican Americans that will go to college.

Favorite high school memory: Every Student Council class.



Seniors step up, up, up for photoshoot

BY BOB MCGOVERN



WHEN WE ASKED VICTOR Moreno to photograph our Senior Spotlight students for the May cover, he immediately said, “I want to shoot them in the desert.”

And that’s what he did.

Ten seniors — six from Maricopa High School, two from Sequoia Pathway and two from Heritage Academy — trekked to Hidden Valley on a sunny, early April afternoon with temperatures in the low 90s to help Moreno get his shots.

In the shadow of the Palo Verde Mountains, as the Golden Hour approached, the students posed and jumped among the cacti in their graduation gowns, some of the girls throwing their caps skyward in high heels. Like the camera, the group from three schools just clicked.

Then it was back into the car for a short ride, to smile for the lens among the boulders at the southern terminus of the range. An early attempt at a balanced arrangement was reconfigured. Some students were lucky enough to have a seat on a flat rock, but others tensed their muscles to hold themselves in the proper place in Moreno’s viewfinder. Perched on a stepladder to get the right angle, Moreno snapped away.



“Victor’s a great guy and always makes us do difficult things to get the shot,” said Heritage Academy senior Tyler Kientzler. “And we appreciate it with all our hearts.”

If the photo session had ended with that shot, the seniors would have proved themselves a courageous bunch of troupers — with nary a complaint heard — but their boldness was to reach new heights.

Moments after that image was captured, Moreno’s eyes lifted to the top of the hill rising behind the boulders and the sun preparing to set behind. Senior TJ Boyd of Sequoia Pathway immediately sensed an edgier, bonus shot in the offing, asking the photographer if he wanted the group to climb the mountain. Before anyone could say “Hey, I’ve got to get home!” eight of the 10 students were on their

The seniors climbed to the top of a ridge in the Palo Verde Mountains for one last photo. At left, photographer Victor Moreno checks his camera display to make sure he got the shot in Hidden Valley.

way, trying to find a path upward, feet slipping the whole way up, some of the young men steadying the young women.

Minutes later, they were perched confidently at the edge, striking poses choreographed by Moreno, who shouted his instructions from below.

Click, click, click and the students had the shot *they* wanted.

“The photoshoot was super fun as I got to see a couple friends that I had not seen in a while,” said Victor Moreno, the photographer’s son. “Hiking a mountain in a suit was also super fun as it was the first, and probably last, time I will be doing that.”

A fellow Ram agreed.

“I had a lot of fun doing the Senior Spotlight photoshoot,” Jasmine Tafolla said. “It was nice getting to meet new people and even see some familiar faces. Although the heat was no fun and almost face-planting down a hill, I would do it all over again.”

Top to bottom: Victor Moreno, Bob McGovern



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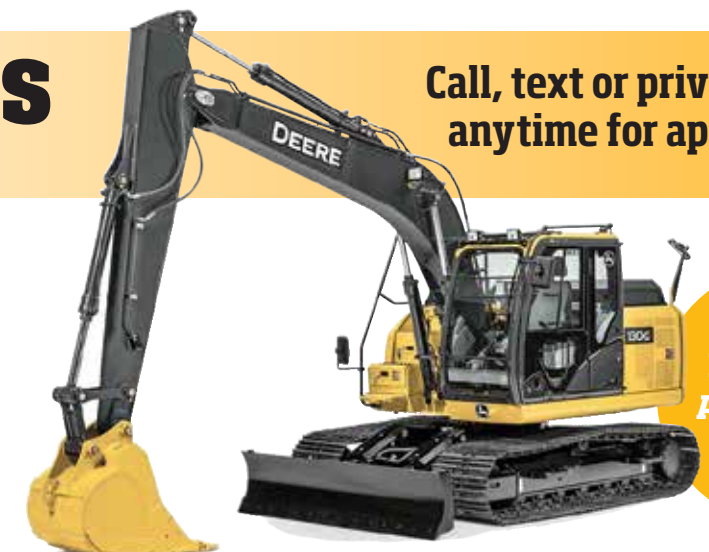
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EDUCATION



As seniors graduate, plenty of others deserve recognition

BY MURRAY SIEGEL

IT IS MAY AND TIME FOR GRADUATION CEREMONIES, which are generally called “a commencement,” meaning a beginning.


This year’s ceremonies will truly be recognition of completion. Normally, graduation plaudits go to the students, yet this year recognition is deserved by parents, teachers and administrators as well.

This school year has definitely been the most challenging experienced in recent history. The pandemic presented many barriers to proper education. At times, students had to learn from home, and at other times, some students were in school while others participated remotely. Students had to be socially-distanced while at school and sanitation became a part of the academic schedule.


How students attended classes was not the only challenge. COVID testing, worry about symptoms and restrictions on movement complicated life. Then, there are parents who worked and had to find childcare for their children attending school from home. The school district had to ensure all students had access to virtual learning, when that was the only means of attending class.

Teaching a class with diverse needs is the normal task for a teacher. But this year they had to plan to teach while seeing students’ faces on a computer monitor. It was not a simple task, and teachers adapted and helped their students reach this point. Administrators had to deal with changing rules, and keeping faculty, staff and parents informed about the latest dictates on student attendance and efforts to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Since much of the learning this year has been virtual, I offer some virtual awards. A virtual certificate of merit to all parents who helped their children navigate this difficult academic year. A virtual medal of valor to all teachers who had to demonstrate flexibility to deal with ever-changing rules, and who extended the time they spent on planning to give their students a chance to learn. The award for administrators should not be virtual, since they must receive some real peace and quiet, to get themselves prepared for the 2021-22 school year.


Some Americans have raised concerns about the loss of learning that has occurred due to the craziness of the school year. We will find students are resilient, and teachers have always adapted to new challenges. There may be some new challenges as we adapt curriculum to overcome any losses in learning suffered due to the virtual nature of this year, but the lessons learned will be applied to help students be prepared for their futures. I have always been a cautious optimist! 

Murray Siegel, Ph.D., has more than 44 years of teaching experience and volunteers at Butterfield Elementary School.




InMaricopa.com/Columnists

EDUCATION



Seniors, teachers take new skills beyond pandemic

BY KYLE NORBY



Juan Garavito, who teaches 12th grade English, said he found it challenging to get comfortable with being in front of a camera.

FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR, THE graduating class at Maricopa High School will collect their diplomas during the pandemic.

But while last year’s graduates had a traditional start to their senior year before COVID-19 forced changes to instruction and end-of-year events, the Class of 2021 had a somewhat opposite experience. Seniors started amid the public health emergency, but the last half of their school year has coincided with the vaccine rollout, relaxed restrictions and increasing optimism for a more-normal life as graduation and other senior year activities approach.

It is fitting seniors are scheduled to have a real graduation ceremony — though perhaps different — as a reward for their persistence through the pandemic. They have had to learn in new ways, embrace technology, make sacrifices and forgo being with their friends. Their teachers and administrators have made some of the same adjustments to keep students on track.

We asked a group of MHS seniors and teachers to reflect on the 2020-2021 school year and how the challenges they met will serve them in the future.

SENIORS

OLIVIA BYERS

What new skill did you learn during the pandemic that you will use in the next chapter of your life? Over this past school year, I have truly learned how to overcome challenges, even those you least expect. Although not the ideal current situation, life will always go on and it becomes what you make of it.

What didn’t you get to do in this atypical year? I was really looking forward to participating in Powderpuff football and taking the W as a senior class! Although I was not able to do so, I am grateful for all the experiences I have been able to still participate in such as attending/competing in athletics, homecoming court and the athletic training student aid program.

How did you overcome the challenge of

JACOB KEEL

What new skill did you learn during the pandemic that you will use in the next chapter of your life? I learned how to manage my time wisely and get everything done on time rather than wait until the last minute.

What didn’t you get to do in this atypical year? I would have liked to finish out my senior year of baseball, but I got hurt in the middle of the season, forcing me to sit out the rest of the year.

How did you overcome the challenge of staying connected to friends and classmates? I kept in touch with all of my friends through social media and hanging out by going out to eat or having campfires.

BROOKE SMITH

What new skill did you learn during the pandemic that you will use in the next chapter of your life? Because of COVID, I have learned to be more technologically strong, given that all of our work is online. I’ve also gotten better at talking to people because trying to communicate through the internet is difficult.

What didn’t you get to do in this atypical year? This year has had a lot of challenges. Many of the senior events that make our senior year special got canceled including homecoming, attending football games, senior trip and many more. Prom and graduation are scheduled to happen, so that’s a relief.

How did you overcome the challenge of staying connected to friends and classmates? This year really has affected friendships, especially with blocked scheduling, quarantining and the choice to be an in-person or online student. Connecting with friends has been hard this year. I’m looking forward to summer though, so I can have more guaranteed time with them.



Grant Hanks helps a student in his mathematics class. Post-pandemic, he said will continue to use many of the virtual tools learned this year.

TEACHERS

GRANT HANKS MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

What was the biggest change that went surprisingly well? The biggest change was the transition to teaching online and integrating new technology in the classroom. I was worried I wouldn't be able to teach some concepts virtually as effectively as in person. I was also overwhelmed with how many resources were available and if I could effectively utilize them. After some professional development and some trial and error, I found several things that worked well for me. I have also been pleased with how resilient the students have been in adapting to the changes in how they are being taught this year.

What new skills will you continue to use post-pandemic? I will continue to use many of the virtual tools I learned about this year moving forward and see if I can discover more that will be beneficial.

What was your biggest challenge? The biggest challenge has been not seeing all my students every day. There is a large portion of my students that I have not had the opportunity to meet in person this year. I love my job because I get to interact with such amazing students each day.

KEVIN PIQUETTE

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR / TECHNICAL
THEATER INSTRUCTOR

What was the biggest change that went surprisingly well? The biggest change that went well was the technology integration. It was a big change for everyone, and I think it was handled as well as it could have been.

What new skills will you continue to use post-pandemic? The biggest skill I will utilize moving forward is the use of virtual classrooms to deliver information. This proved to be a very efficient way to provide resources to students in a consistent way.

What was your biggest challenge? The biggest challenge for me was in relationship-building. It is much harder to learn about



Michelle Mills, a U.S. history and economics teacher, said her biggest challenge was not having faces to look at when she taught online.

students' lives, personalities and struggles when you are interacting with a thumbnail on the screen.

MICHELLE MILLS

U.S. HISTORY AND ECONOMICS

What was the biggest change that went surprisingly well? The biggest challenge that went well for me was becoming more familiar with Google Classroom. I can actually plan ahead and put in future assignments and just assign them when ready.

What new skills will you continue to use post-pandemic? I will continue to try and build relationships with the students. I knew it was important but it's even moreso now.

What was your biggest challenge? The biggest challenge was not having faces to look at when I taught online. I like to see my students and I can gauge how things are going. Online, we can't do that.

JUAN GARAVITO

12TH GRADE ENGLISH

What was the biggest change that went surprisingly well? The handling of concurrent classes. Not saying that it was easy, because it really wasn't, but surprisingly it worked. It did require some extra work, but ultimately, I think it worked for both myself and the student.

What new skills will you continue to use post-pandemic? Anything Google-oriented, being able to expand my knowledge on everything that Google has to offer has been great when it comes to planning, assessments and projects.

What was your biggest challenge? Getting comfortable with being in front of a camera. 



Maricopa High School



Tyler Abbott



Justine Abellanda



Maryam Abon



Melvin Agram



Alizah Aguilera



Simone Alexander



Spencer Allen



Airam Alvarado Ontiveros



Christopher Anderson



Dalia Anderson



Madison Anderson



Lynn Andrews



Macy Anglin



Marie Antone



Arlene Araujo Barraza



Jazelle Areola



Seth Arias



Zakiah Arias



Kale Armstrong



Benjamin Array



Adrian Arteaga



Leslie Arzate



Ramy Asasfeh



Laurel Auer



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Cami Bardin



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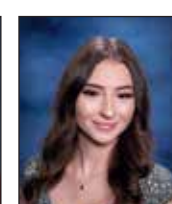
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Graciela Brambila Fimbres



Luka Breunig



Angelina Brewer



Le'Nyija Bridges



Allison Briggs



Joseph Brock



Mary Brokenshire



Aden Brooks



D'Andre Brooks



JaQuary Brothers



Arissa Brown



Ashley Brown



Dear Maricopa High School Graduating Class of 2021,

Congratulations to you on this remarkable achievement. You have worked hard throughout the years and I am so proud of your accomplishments as well as the courage you have shown during the last year.

At this moment, you have accomplished a major milestone that opens a path to your future. Remember, your future does not occur by chance, it occurs by preparation. You control your destiny.

Whether your path takes you to college, trade school, the military, or into the workforce, I know you will make a difference. I am confident that the leadership, passion, hard work, and dedication you have shown throughout your time with MUSD will continue to serve you and your community well.

This era in history may be defined by challenge and uncertainty, but it has not defined you.

Maricopa High School Class of 2021, I wish you a future full of hope and opportunity. The best is yet to come. May success be with you, always.

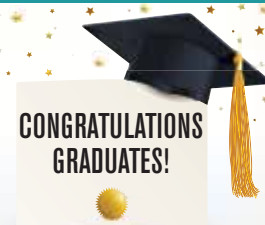


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Congratulations to
our team members
Amelia Guzman and
Brian Petersheim Jr.!

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CLASS OF 2021



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Alexis Esparza



Abby Estrada



Alyssa Evans



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Alexis Foreman



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Kaitlyn Gilmore



Morgan Godfrey



Aubree Goettl



Joseph Goncalvez



Robert Gonzales



Marco Gonzalez



Monserrat Gonzalez



Yadai Gonzalez



Hozhonii Gooden



Ebony Griffin



Lance Grist



Dylan Guaderrama



Saleena Guerin

MHS Graduates Not Pictured

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Jasmine M. Alvarado
Jocelyn Arballo Sosa
Prince Bah
Jazymn Bailey
Elizabeth Barbra
Leonardo Barco Sanchez
Roxanne Barker
Cereil Barner
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Alec Fields
Raven Fletcher
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Davin Garcia
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Hailey Nichols Avery Nieto Jorge Noriega Joseline Nowell Madison Odell Jacob Ortiz Alexander Osorio Herrera Rory Pack



Victoria Padilla David Pallares Sanchez Israel Palm Jamison Parker Cameron Patton-Scott Damien Paul Hannah Paul Gindiri Johnny Payan



Ivey Penunuri Andrea Perez Andrew Perez Cindy Perez Miguel Perez Nicholas Perez Omar Perez Isaiah Peters



Brian Petersheim John Piech Miquela Pino Kole Placer Blanca Platero Rubio Alton Polacek Abigail Poland Kaivon Pross



Timothy Quiroz Richard Raffaele Elijah Rayford Jordan Reed Troy Reiling Cindey Reyes Matthew Reyes Josiah Reynolds



Kiyoni Rickords Makaila Robbins Symantha Roberts Jared Robinson Valeria Robledo Ortiz Abel Rodriguez Eduardo Rodriguez Jr. Kaila Rodriguez



Marc Rodriguez Matthew Roman Jose Romero Dylan Romo Anthony Ross Alexander Ruiz Matthew Sabetta Ibrahim Salah



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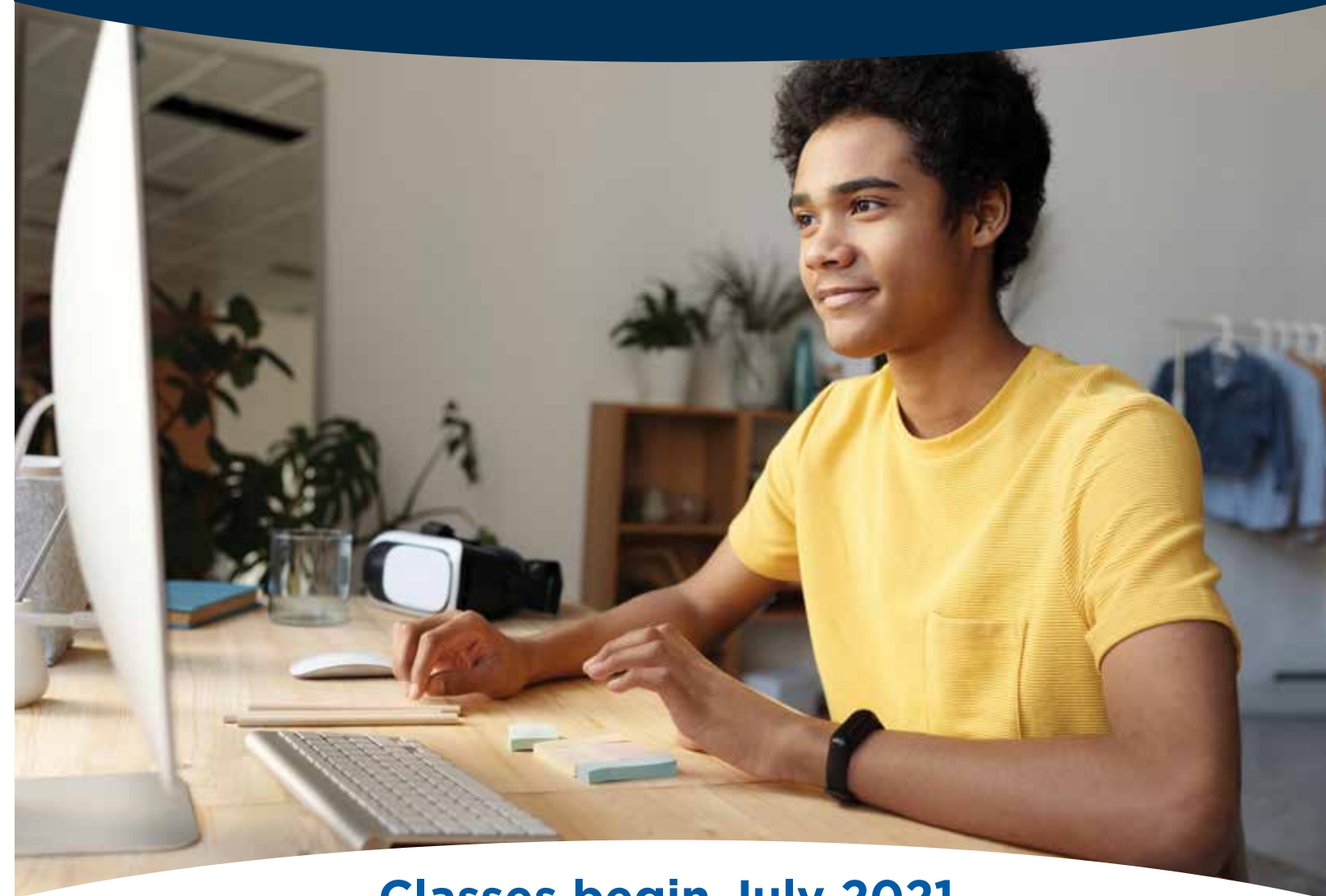
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-every senior



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These May chores can help your garden thrive

BY HARRIET PHELPS

MAY DAY COULD BE A PLEA FOR help in the yard or a fond memory of making a basket for taking cut flowers to surprise the neighbor. Here in the low desert, it is a time to prepare the garden for the high heat that will hit us in June. Enjoy the beauty of the blooms on cacti,

TYPICAL WATERING SCHEDULE

PLANT	FREQUENCY	DEPTH
Potted cacti and plants	cacti every 5-7 days; plants every 1-3 days	to the bottom of the pot
Seasonal flowers, vegetables	every 2-5 days	12-18 in.
Cacti, agave, yucca (in-ground)	every 10-14 days	12-18 in.
Desert trees, shrubs	every 14-21 days	24-36 in.
Palms	every 5-10 days	36 in.
Citrus trees	every 7-10 days	36 in.

wildflowers in the fields and in your own yards before they wilt.

Temperatures are rising as our gardens are giving up the fruits of the growing period. We are going into this monsoon season, from June to September, under extreme drought conditions from last year. Our area is facing the dryness and low humidity that provides conditions for fire season to start as well.

So, first on the to-do list is to plan the maintenance of existing plants and planting of new ones. Adequate water is the top priority. While we have cooler temps, check your

irrigation system for any maintenance needs or decide where you want new plants. During the summer months of May to September, plant groups have varying requirements. New plants need daily watering for the first few weeks and then lengthen the time between as the plants establish.

To fertilize your plants, follow the product label for directions. Remember these dates to fertilize citrus trees: Valentine's, Mother's Day and Labor Day, following the product recommendations. Generally, cactus and native desert plants don't require fertilizer. They are adapted to the soil conditions and nutrients. Should a plant fail to thrive, consult with a professional for a recommendation. For general-purpose fertilizer for cactus, a blend of 20-20-20 at half or weak strength is sufficient.

May to September months is rest time for our area. Our plants may go dormant and slow production until cooler temperatures return. Do not prune plants during the hot season except to remove damaged or dead limbs or leaves. Some plants survive and love the heat; others will fade and die to be replaced next season.

All plants, flowering or vegetable, can decorate your yard in containers. They are low maintenance and can be moved to accommodate conditions during the heat. When planting a container think "thriller," a plant that is tall and striking in texture or color; "spiller," a plant that trails over the edges and complements the thriller; and "filler," a plant that will fill in the spaces of the container.

Enjoy your yard in the cooler moments of the day in May. 🗣️

Harriet Phelps is a Pinal County Master Gardener.

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With soaring demand, homebuyers whittle down wish lists

BY DAYV MORGAN

TRADITIONALLY, PROSPECTIVE HOMEBUYERS HAVE A WISH list of features and amenities in mind as they conduct their search for a new residence. Perhaps quartz countertops or a three-car garage or maybe even a backyard pool.

Those looking to build a new home might have incorporated upgrades or extras by the builder to get their dream house.

But the white-hot real estate market has changed all that. With super-low inventory of resale homes and homebuilders across the country struggling to keep up with demand, homebuyers are being forced to abandon their wish lists just to get in a home.

“People have definitely started compromising their wish lists” just to live in Maricopa, said Jillian Welker, sales associate for Gehan Homes in The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado. “A 10-item wish list is now two.”

“I wish I could give you more about the trends,” she added, “but people are saying, ‘Do you have a house, great, I’ll take it.’”

“I’ve never seen it this way,” agreed Zach Garcia, a Meritage Homes sales counselor at The Lakes. “I can release 10 different homes with all different upgrades — good or bad — and they all sell within an hour.”

Two factors are at work.

The competition for the few existing homes on the market means buyers have to adjust their expectations just to remain competitive with their offers. A longer wish list means fewer homes under consideration and hurts chances for having a successful offer in a hyper-competitive market.

The inventory is so tight in Maricopa many prospective homebuyers are looking to new builds, but builders can’t keep up with the demand. The demand is exacerbating ongoing construction delays due to COVID, including a shortage of HVAC and other equipment and the tradespeople who install it.


At one local community, where 2-3 houses are being completed monthly, the sales associate has a list of 50 prospective buyers. Another community is holding raffles every month. People show up on a Saturday morning, and hope their name is one of the few selected to buy a home.

To speed house construction, many builders are exclusively building spec homes, or move-in-ready homes. That means potential buyers who want the latest home trends — white kitchen cabinets, quartz or granite countertops, vinyl plank flooring and oversized showers remain popular — may not be able to get them or have to make changes after they move in.


Some builders may offer some of those standard options, but there is generally little customization being offered right now. The trade-off is that homebuyers know exactly what they are getting, how much they are paying and when they can move in. And that move-in date should arrive sooner.

At Santa Rosa Crossing, 10-13 spec homes are being completed a month, according to Morten Damm, a sales consultant for Centex Homes, one builder selling homes via drawing.

“Our goal is to be about two months out prior to close and then we sell them at that point,” Damm said. “It gives the buyer a more predictable timeframe.”

Several sales associates at different communities reiterated the same reality: price is king right now in Maricopa, and that makes it very likely homes here — both new and resale — will be in demand for a long while. 

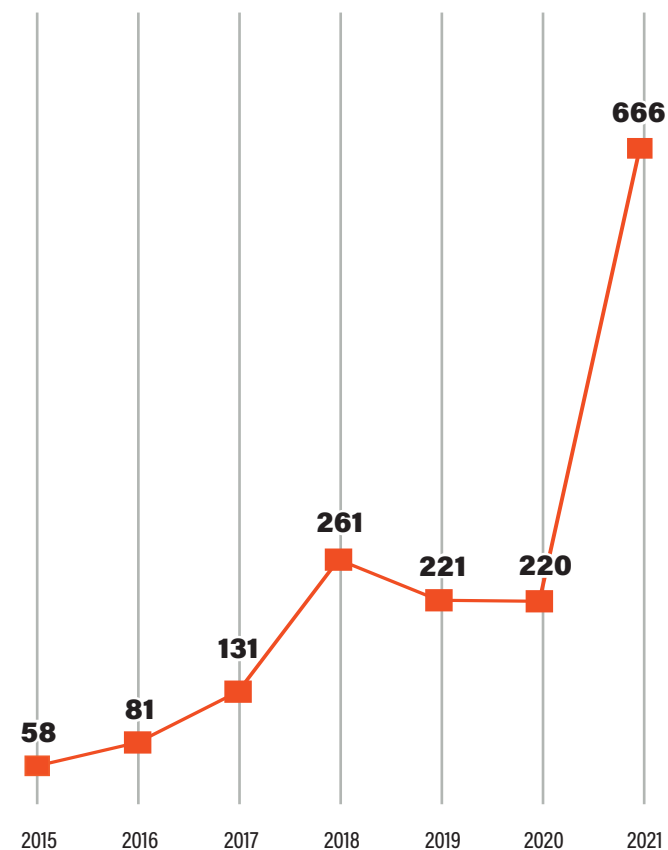
Dayv Morgan is a Maricopa Realtor and owner of HomeSmart Success.

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Source: City of Maricopa

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HOME

most expensive HOME SOLD	18103 N. Tara Lane, Glennwilde	March 31	\$ \$549,876
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The most expensive home sold in Maricopa March 13 — April 12 was a single-story in Glennwilde. This former model has a five-car garage with epoxy floor, built-in cabinets and three garage doors. The first floor has three bedrooms and three bathrooms, including the master suite. The upgraded cabinets throughout the home feature undercabinet lighting. The great room features a large fireplace with inset for TV. The 9-foot double sliding patio doors show a beautiful view of the backyard, with paver patio spaces, artificial grass and water fountains. On the second level is a loft, two bedrooms and a fourth bathroom. This highly upgraded home was on the market for only 11 days.

Square feet: 3,093
Price per square foot: \$177.78
Days on market: 11
Builder: Fulton Homes
Year built: 2017
Bedrooms: 5
Bathrooms: 4

Community: Glennwilde
Features: Five-car garage, paver driveway, upgraded tile, gourmet kitchen with shaker-style cabinets and quartz countertops, upgraded handrail and upgraded bathroom faucets.

2. 22384 N. Balboa Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$532,900
3. 41563 W. Barcelona Drive, Glennwilde.....\$530,000
4. 43335 W. Little Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$526,000
5. 21836 N. Olson Court, Rancho El Dorado\$509,900

least expensive HOME SOLD	44924 W. Balboa Drive, Acacia Crossings	March 19	\$ \$210,000
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The least expensive home sold in Maricopa March 13 — April 12 was a one-story, two-bedroom home in Acacia Crossings. The eat-in kitchen features stainless steel appliances and opens to the great room. The master bathroom has been upgraded with a new tile shower with stone-look flooring and sliding glass door. The spacious backyard features a covered patio and fire pit. It sold in just under two months for \$10,000 over asking price.

Square feet: 981
Price per square foot: \$214.06
Days on market: 56
Builder: Unknown

Year built: 2004
Bedrooms: 2
Bathrooms: 2
Community: Acacia Crossings

2. 40321 W. Novak Lane, Homestead North.....\$220,000
3. 36571 W. Mallorca Avenue, Tortosa.....\$230,000
4. 37763 W. Capri Avenue, Sorrento.....\$237,000
5. 20301 N. Oxbow Lane, Province.....\$239,900

Bob McGovern

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The dangers of depression in aging adults


BY AL BRANDENBURG

DEPRESSION IS NOT A NORMAL part of aging, but it can develop in later years— and it can be dangerous.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that up to 5% of independent, older adults experience major depression, 11.5% of whom are hospitalized. In addition, 13.5% of seniors requiring home care live this form of treatable mental illness.

The senior years bring unique changes and challenges that can contribute to declining

health. Health problems and aches and pains can limit activities and lead to isolation, both possible causes of major depressive disorder. It sometimes occurs along with a serious illness like heart disease, diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's disease or Parkinson's. It can also be a side effect of medications taken for those illnesses and others, which worsen with age, as well as vision and hearing loss, according to the CDC.

The changes that come with aging, while not always negative, often result in a feeling of loss: the death of friends and family members, retirement, losing one's sense of purpose, moving out of a lifelong home or loss of mobility and independence. Depression in older adults can not only make existing illnesses more severe, cause disability and loss of freedom, but suicidal behavior and death by suicide. 

Al Brandenburg, Maricopa Senior Coalition

 **Sources: AARP, National Institute on Aging, aginginplace.com, HealthyPlace.com, CDC.gov**

 **InMaricopa.com/Columnists**

Signs and support

Signs of depression can be mistaken for typical aging. Here's what to look for:

- Aches and pains
- Fatigue
- Irritability
- Despair
- Helplessness
- Hopelessness
- Lack of motivation

Depression in older adults is treatable with medication, therapy and lifestyle intervention. Families and friends helping an aging adult regain connection and a sense of importance goes a long way toward easing depression. Purpose and independence can be encouraged by:

- Fostering meaningful contact with others
- Volunteering
- Caring for a pet
- Learning a new skill
- Traveling with support and companionship



Steps toward a more meaningful, enjoyable life


BY RON SMITH

AT SOME POINT AFTER retirement, we may start questioning what to do with our free time. We may have accomplished some anticipated travel and hobby plans and crossed a few items off our bucket lists.

But now we sense a need to do something more and may need to develop a new perspective on our world and how we fit into it. What's our purpose? Pre-retirement experiences may help provide some focus, but they may be inadequate to incorporate new ideas and opportunities into our lives. We may need a new vision — helped by gratitude and mindfulness — to guide us through this stage.

A good way to start this process is to reflect on our gratitude for what we have, and not focus on what we don't. "Appreciating the world around us from the moment we wake up until the moment we go to sleep is a skill to be learned and incorporated into daily living," James Firman, Ed.D. and Susan Stiles, Ph.D. wrote in their 2018 "Aging Mastery Playbook." "It is the starting point of aging both masterfully and gracefully."

Gratitude has shown to have a strong correlation with good health and wellbeing, not only for ourselves but for those around us. People with higher levels of gratitude are typically more socially connected and better able to handle stress. It can help us develop better attitudes in good times and bad.

Mastering gratitude and mindfulness techniques help us build positive habits, reverse negative habits, improve our decision-making ability and gain more autonomy over our lives. These steps can start us on the path to better control the direction of our lives so that every day can be more meaningful and enjoyable. 



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

 **InMaricopa.com/Columnists**

Achieving mindfulness

Most of us know to take care of our bodies, but we may not think so much about exercising our minds beyond daily crossword puzzles and memory-boosting games. Mindfulness can contribute many health benefits, including reducing isolation, depression or pain. So, how do we achieve it?

▪ Through meditation, focus on being intensely aware of what you're sensing and feeling in the moment, without interpretation or judgment. Get absorbed in daily activities, like cooking or working on a hobby.

▪ Practice mindfulness by paying attention, living in the moment, accepting yourself and by focusing on your breathing. Techniques can be easily repeated, become automatic and improve your memory.

▪ Physical activity offers an opportunity to spend time fully engaged and promotes carrying that mindfulness into other areas of life.

Source: Mayo Clinic

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May: a month to celebrate older Americans

BY JOAN KOCZOR

EVERY YEAR IN MAY, OLDER Americans are recognized for their contributions to our communities and nation.

A meeting in April 1963 between President John F. Kennedy and members of the National Council of Senior Citizens led to designating May as Senior Citizens Month. At the time, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthday. The designation was later renamed Older Americans Month.

2020 U.S. Census Bureau estimates show the nation's 65 and older population has grown rapidly to about 54 million people. About 55% are female.



In 2016, there were 82,000 Americans, about 80% of whom were women, age 100 or older, according to Statista.com.

Older adults have built resilience and strength in their lives by their successes, failures, joys and difficulties. Their stories and contributions help support and inspire others.

While raising families and building careers, older Americans gave back to their communities in a variety of ways and continue to do so today, giving their time and knowledge in many ways.

Every president beginning with Kennedy has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May asking the nation to pay tribute in some way to the older persons in their community.

Older Americans Month is a time to celebrate the strength of older adults, with special emphasis on the power of connection and engagement in building strong communities.

There are many things we all can do to nurture ourselves, reinforce our strength and continue to thrive. Connecting with others is one of the most important. It plays a vital role in our health and well-being, and of our communities'.

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

SeniorLiving.org

InMaricopa.com/Columnists

calendar 05.21

3
Maricopa Historical Society Meeting
5 p.m., Maricopa Library and Cultural Center
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

4
Maricopa City Council Meeting
7 p.m., City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

12
MUSD Governing Board Meeting
6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District Office
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

Maricopa Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
6 p.m., City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza



16
Lonny Martinez Memorial Golf Tournament
6:30 a.m.
Southern Dunes Golf Club
48456 W. State Route 238

18
Maricopa City Council Meeting
7 p.m., City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

26
Maricopa High School Commencement
7 p.m., Rams Stadium
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

27
Heritage Academy Commencement
7 p.m., 41000 W. Heroes Way

28
Sequoia Pathway Academy Commencement
6 p.m., 19265 N. Porter Road



29
Maricopa Memorial Day 5K
6:30 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Bowlin Road

CONTINUING

Sundays
Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., 45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Mondays
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

Alcoholics Anonymous
6:30 p.m., 50881 W. Papago Road

Celebrate Recovery Small Group Meeting
7 p.m., Maricopa Community Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

Wednesdays
Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting
5 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt 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.

Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meeting
7 p.m., 50881 W. Papago Road

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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Maricopa Police Department promotes 3 officers



P&Z approves zoning change to allow rental community



MHS Theatre Company returns with farcical 'Clue'




City OKs \$1M for East-West Corridor right of way




Rams softball team plays Senior Day game (GALLERY)


TRENDING




A+ Charters Schools hires Nate Wong as athletic director




It's official! MOD Pizza coming to Sonoran Creek




City council delays decision on recreational marijuana




City, Seven Ranches water district in early talks for takeover




Maricopa holds onto a place on 10 Safest Cities list




5 conjoined kittens born at Maricopa shelter



Home inventory in city dwindles to 15-day supply




MUSD names principal for new high school



First responders get tool to calm people with autism

POLL



Is an overpass at Riggs Road a good first step in fixing State Route 347?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Results

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Moe Franco

This photo of Moe Franco, an Arizona State University student, was taken by his brother at the skateboard park at Copper Sky in early March.



Have a great photo of Maricopa?
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consideration as next month's "parting shot!"

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