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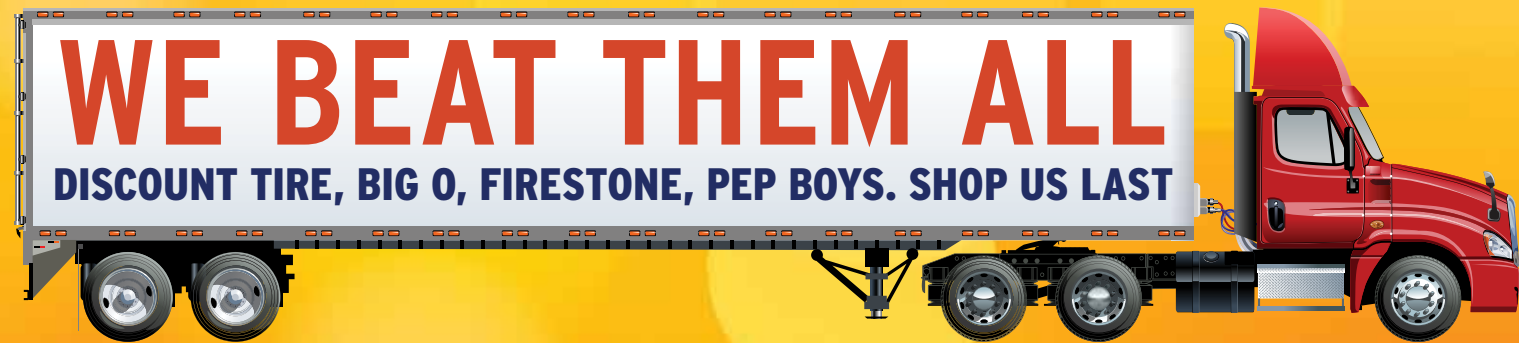
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## Love will find a way

February is the perfect time to celebrate love for friends and family.

And it's an appropriate time to feature Mike Otis, who shares his story about how a \$69 DNA test changed his life and opened the door to an expanded family it took him decades to discover. His search for truth was told as part of a recent HBO documentary about a fertility doctor who was "a genius on one hand and a morally bankrupt character on the other," as he puts it.

Two businesses just getting underway in town are hopeful they can help others.

The Healing Hearts agency helps families who would like to provide temporary foster care to special needs children. "I'm their advocate," says Sheila Sudano, a city resident since 2007 and cousin of Grammy-winning singer Donna Summer. "I'm by their side holding their hand through the process."

Troy Talmadge and Brit Zane came to the desert last April to open Satyr Moon, a tattoo shop specializing in vivid color. For years, they have helped breast cancer survivors with hyper-realistic nipple and areola tattoos that can provide another step in their recovery. A tattoo artist with decades of experience, Talmadge also creates works of art on display in their shop.



Pearle Robertson is the face behind another new business in town. A U.S. Navy veteran, she has opened Minuteman Supply, the city's second gun shop which also sells survival gear and emergency preparedness accessories.

A recent Futures Planning session presented to City Council offered a chance to gaze into a crystal ball and reimagine Maricopa. From transportation to athletic facilities to family fun, we offer a visual look at some of the projects that could be pursued as part of leaders' aspirations to become a destination city.

And read Ron Smith's column about his son's battle with COVID-19 and the impact it had on the entire family.

We also deliver the skinny on recent restaurant inspections, the latest business and development activity, and the most expensive house of the month. Plus, lots of photos from goings-on around town, including Copa Glow and a party to celebrate the kids who worked hard to bring home a state championship.

Enjoy the magazine.

BOB MCGOVERN | Editorial Director

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An aging-in-place advocate, he retired from careers in college administration and software implementation.



**RITA BRICKER**  
A Master Gardener and long-time Maricopan, she is a retired database administrator.



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

**ON THE COVER:** Mike Otis, who appears in the HBO documentary "Baby God," was photographed at his Homestead home while his mother appeared on television in a scene from the film. *Photo by Victor Moreno*



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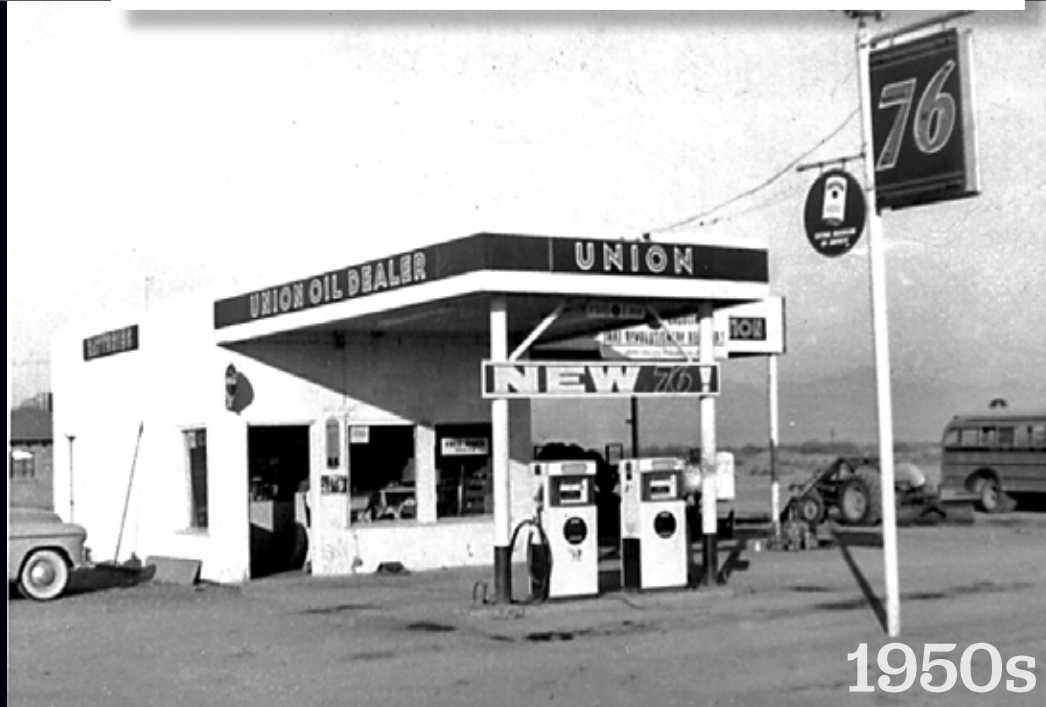
2021

Bob McGovern

## History

### Old-time filling station

Fred Baker's Union 76 station served motorists at Maricopa Road and Garvey Avenue, just north of the Union Pacific railroad tracks. This photo is from the 1950s. In later years, the location became a Shell station and then a Chevron, which remains today in the shadow of the State Route 347 overpass.



1950s

Maricopa Historical Association

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1

1. Judge Lyle Riggs, left, presided over the Change of Command ceremony on Jan. 5 installing James Hughes as the city's new police chief. *Victor Moreno*
2. "This isn't about me," police Chief James Hughes told a small gathering at City Council chambers. "This is about service to the community. It's about duty and responsibility." *Victor Moreno*
3. Retiring police Chief Steve Stahl thanked his wife, Liz, for her support over the years in his remarks at the ceremony. *Victor Moreno*
4. An Electrical District No. 3 crew works on lines as part of a utility project that closed White and Parker Road between Bowlin Road and Maricopa Casa Grande Highway the last two weeks of January. *Bob McGovern*
5. Personnel with the Maricopa Fire/Medical Department and Maricopa Police Department work to rescue a motorist after a Jan. 11 accident along Maricopa Casa Grande Highway at Senita. *Bob McGovern*



2



3



4



5

# MARICOPA



## Continuing to Invest in the Heart of Our City

### City of Maricopa

### Economic Development

In the year 2000, before incorporation, Maricopa had about 1,000 residents. Today, 20 years later, and with a population of nearly 60,000, many of the original residents are still here. They have seen Maricopa grow from when there was one road and one gas station to the city that it is today.

Some of the oldest neighborhoods in Maricopa are located in the Heritage District. During the past year, neighborhood meetings were held with members of the community to develop a plan for the district. A vision was put into place to enhance the neighborhood while simultaneously honoring its history and character.

The vision for the area is a walkable district, with existing homes intertwined with small shops and boutiques. It will be an active area with public markets and events. To help brand the district, the residents of the Heritage District were invited to nominate new street names in the neighborhood between John Wayne Parkway and the Maricopa Unified School District Administration Building. Classic street signage highlights the new Main Street, Cesar Chavez Lane, Mercado Street, and more. Other enhancements to the neighborhood include new sidewalks, street lights, fencing, re-paved roads, and other safety and beautification efforts.



The City of Maricopa and Heritage District residents are continuing to invest in the heart of our city, to create an area that pays homage to history and create a destination for residents of today.



*"After living in Maricopa for 18 years, I have seen the strides the City has made towards streamlining the development process. The growth of Maricopa as a result of these changes has been astounding."*

Wendy Webb, Executive Director and Founder of F.O.R. Maricopa

**If you are looking to be a part of this project, contact**  
**Adam Shipley,**  
**Economic Development**  
**Coordinator,**  
**520-316-6990,**  
**adam.shipley@maricopa-az.gov**

**For a list of everything happening in Maricopa, visit**  
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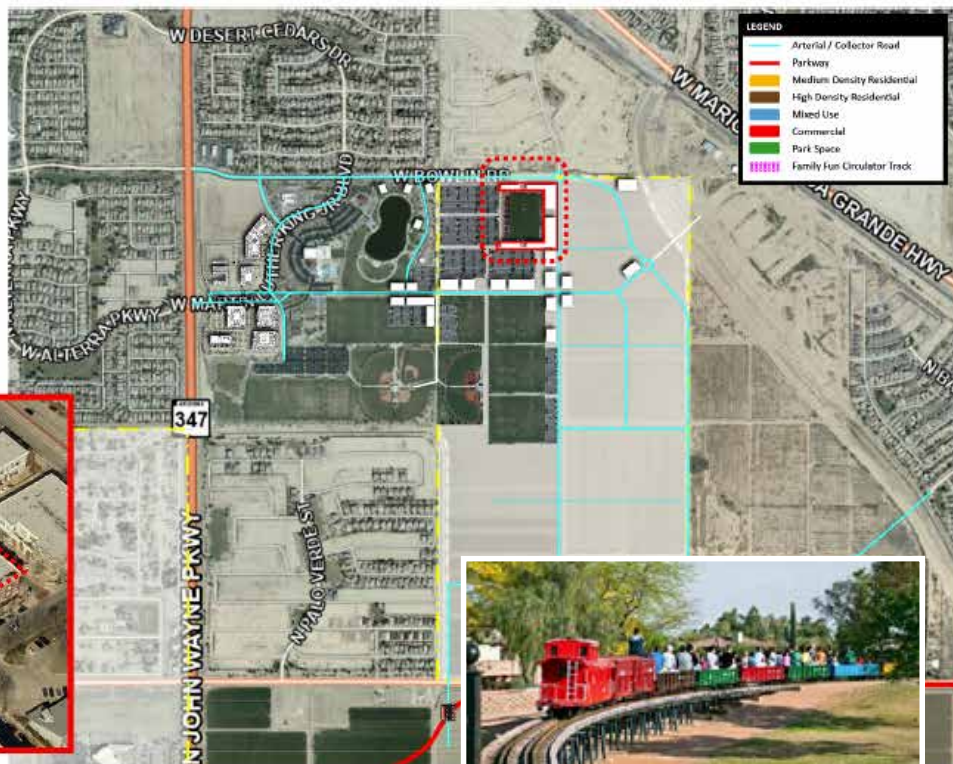




### Sports + Mixed Use in Copper Sky Extension



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### Copper Sky / Family fun

A multi-use stadium as part of the park's eastward expansion could host athletic tournaments, concerts and other activities.

A ride-on train for kids could attract more families to Maricopa.

## DREAMING of the FUTURE

When City Manager Rick Horst looks into his crystal ball, he sees economic opportunity all over the city. From development of Heritage District and South Bridge to expansion of Copper Sky to grander visions (think: multi-use stadium, light-rail to Phoenix and a waterpark), here is the 30,000-foot view of the city's future he recently presented to City Council.

### Transportation

It might not happen for 20 years, but a light-rail system between Maricopa and metro Phoenix would require planning to start long ahead.



A "ring road" would give motorists more routes and divert traffic from the most congested parts of John Wayne Parkway. It also could help lessen noise concerns in some communities.



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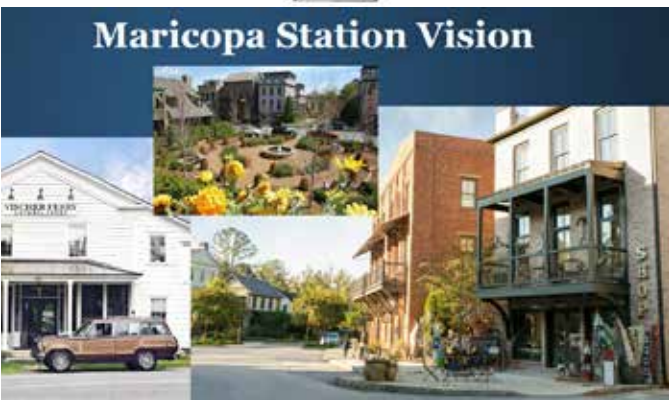
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### Heritage District / South Bridge

The Heritage District and South Bridge areas would be connected by one of two pedestrian bridges over the Union Pacific railroad tracks.



Buildings in the Heritage District redevelopment are conceived as two or three stories with retail at ground level and apartments and/or offices on the floors above.



The redevelopment of the Heritage District off Honeycutt Road would be vibrant and pedestrian-friendly, perhaps with a marketplace that could accommodate food trucks at roll-up doors.



One concept floated was a modern rebuild of the city's former train station and perhaps changing the aesthetic of the iconic water tower to match.



GoogleEarth

Copper Sky Regional Park has much acreage to grow on its eastern border. This Google Earth image predates the ongoing construction of the La Quinta Inn on a site at top left.



Jay Taylor

City Manager Rick Horst invited City Councilmembers to dream big.



### City Center

An open-air town center developed around City Hall might feature "Main Street Maricopa." The gathering place could include retail, dining and leisure uses.

The current police headquarters might be transformed into a civic building with some city offices and a space devoted to the arts.



A two-story, 20,000-square-foot police station would be built adjacent to the Pinal County Court House complex on Wilson Avenue.





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1. The Good2Go market and 76 gas station at North Maricopa and Honeycutt roads closed in mid-January. A fence has been constructed around the site. The State Route 347 overpass, which opened in July 2019, directed traffic away from the business.
2. Scaffolding covers much of the new La Quinta Inn rising near Copper Sky. The entranceway is seen in this view.
3. Construction continues at Oasis at the Wells, a multi-family community of 120 apartments in five three-story buildings off Porter Road near Walmart. A clubhouse and pool are planned.
4. Construction workers are busy on the roof of a home being built in Sorrento Park. *Photos by Bob McGovern*

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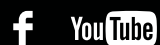
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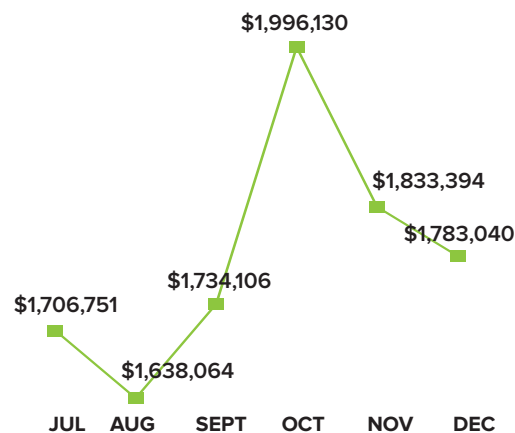


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## How money is spent in Maricopa

Maricopa businesses paid nearly \$1.8 million in transaction privilege taxes, also known as sales tax, in December, according to the Arizona Department of Revenue.



**From July through December,  
businesses paid nearly \$10.7 million.**

Here's where people spent money during those six months based on the amount of sales tax collected:

Contracting/construction	<b>\$3,135,855</b>
Retail (non-food)	<b>\$2,492,783</b>
Retail (food)	<b>\$1,191,353</b>
Utilities	<b>\$944,757</b>
Restaurants and bars	<b>\$702,208</b>
Remote sales	<b>\$590,191</b>
Use tax (out-of-state purchases)	<b>\$343,809</b>
Commercial rental, etc.	<b>\$237,746</b>
Residential rental, etc.	<b>\$216,000</b>
Rental leasing and licensing	<b>\$96,011</b>
Communications	<b>\$69,038</b>
Maintenance, repairs, etc.	<b>\$6,487</b>
License fees	<b>\$956</b>
Other	<b>\$664,791</b>

## Global Water rate hike could gain approval mid-year

By Jay Taylor

The proposed rate hike requested by Maricopa's primary water utility, Global Water Resources, could be approved in mid-2021.

Jon Corwin, the utility's vice president and general manager, called the proposed hike minimal, noting any rate increase would be phased in over three years.

He said bills for combined water and sewer service would increase by \$4.93 per month in the first year for typical users. Increases of \$4.39 per month and \$4.57 would follow in the second and third year, respectively, he said.

For the entire rate application across all Global Water users, Corwin said the request is for a 12.6% increase over the three-year period. Those percentages may be smaller or larger for some users based on meter size and consumption, he said, and take into account all customers including residential, commercial, sewer, recycled water and irrigation.

According to Nick Debus, a legislative liaison for the Arizona Corporation Commission, the ACC and the Residential Utilities Consumer Office are evaluating Global Water's requests and developing their relative positions. Their direct testimony to the legislature is due March 17, with rate design due a week later.

A hearing is tentatively scheduled for May 24 but any approved rate increase would not take effect until January 2022, according to Debus.

The rate increase application filed by Global Water, its first in eight years, was requested by the ACC, Corwin said.

### How your bill may be impacted

City customers get water service from the Santa Cruz Water Company and wastewater service from Palo Verde Utilities Company. About 93% of Global Water customers get service from those two companies.

Here is a breakdown of the proposed increases for Maricopa customers by both average dollar amount and percentage for each of the three years for the proposed phase-in. The ACC provided figures.



**Global Water technician  
Scott Williams flushes a  
hydrant in Homestead.**

### RESIDENTIAL WASTEWATER


For Palo Verde Utilities Company, residential and commercial wastewater service rates would increase from \$69.53 to \$70.07 per month in the first year, an increase of 54 cents or 0.78% from current rates. In the second year, rates would rise to \$73.03, an increase of \$2.96 or 4.22% over the first year. In the third year, rates would increase to \$79.87, an increase of \$6.84 or 9.37% over year two. Total increase over three years: 14.3%, or \$10.34 monthly.

### RESIDENTIAL WATER

For Santa Cruz Water Company, which provides potable water service, a residential customer using an average of 7,765 gallons per month would see monthly rates increase from \$48.63 to \$50.53 in the first year, an increase of \$1.89

or 3.91%. In the second year, rates would rise to \$52.58, an increase of \$2.05 or 4.05% over the first year, then \$54.64 in the third year, an increase of \$2.06 or 4.08% over year two. Total increase over three years: 12.04%, or \$6.01 monthly.

### COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

For commercial customers, ACC said the increase is based on usage of 50,000 gallons per month (though the average Santa Cruz commercial customer's usage is actually less, about 43,000 gallons). In the first year, rates would increase monthly from \$487.44 to \$534.72, an increase of \$47.28 or 9.7%, and then in the second year to \$539.95 an increase of \$5.23 or .98% over the first-year rates. In the third year, rates would climb to \$545.17, an increase of \$5.22 or 0.98% over second-year rates. Total increase over three years: 11.66%, or \$57.73 monthly. 



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# Business, development around town

A permit was issued for construction of **Exceptional Healthcare's** 20,750-square-foot office building valued at \$6.5 million at 19060 N. John Wayne Parkway, for Desert Cedars Equities. It will be constructed by BMH As-Built of Texas, a Dallas company specializing in medical, commercial and multi-unit residential construction. In addition, a permit was issued for a wet fire sprinkler.



Kroll Contractors will build a 5,400-square-foot, 8-bay automotive repair facility for **Brake Masters** at 20400 N. John Wayne Pkwy., a project valued at \$900,000. The project will be in Sonoran Creek Marketplace on lots 2 and 3. In addition, the company was granted a permit for \$125,000 in tenant improvements.

**Walmart**, 41650 W. Maricopa Casa Grande Hwy., was granted a permit for a permanent fence/wall around a storage container area to be installed by Rohm Building and Development.

The **Maricopa Unified School District** will replace a fire pump at Maricopa High School, 45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Permits were issued to erect two flagpoles in Tortosa: a 30-foot-tall pole at 18490 N. Los Gabrieles Way for **Starlight Tortosa** and a 50-foot-tall pole at 36341 W. San Clemente Ave for the **Ashton Woods** model home. The installations for CW-Tortosa will be done by ALB Industries.

**MPC Residential** submitted a request to amend the general land use plan for 493 acres at Anglin Dairy, 22292 N. Green Road (at State Route 238) from a mix of low- and medium-density residential, mixed use and agriculture to master planned community. The **City of Maricopa** was granted a permit to haul about 28,000 cubic yards of fill material for use in the Estrella Gin project development at 45654 W. Edison Road, a \$65,000 project to be done by T&K Contracting.

**Santa Rosa Springs** was granted an at-risk grading permit for parcel 4 of its residential community. The \$240,960 project will be done by Rhino Contracting.

Permits were issued to Metro RED 1 for mass grading of four sites in **The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado**. Projects were valued at \$1.3 million at 22461 N. Rummler Road, \$94,498 at 22461 N. Rummler Road, \$54,432 at 22837 N. Rummler Road and \$27,276 for parcels 49 and 50 at 21929 N. Rummler Road. **Meritage Homes** was issued a permit for a \$94,498 mass grading project at 21929 N. Rummler Road. All four projects will be done by Otago Development.

**DR Horton** was granted permits for three office conversions: 44398 W. Palo Cedro Road, lot 28, from garage to construction office; 44420 W. Palo Cedro Road, lot 27, from garage to sales office and 16765 N. Palo Azul Road, lot 143, from garage to sales office.

**Meritage Homes** will convert a garage at 40617 W. Sunland Dr. to a construction office in The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado.

A permit for 9-12 attention flags was granted to **Meritage Homes'** model home complex re-plat of parcel 15 at Homestead North, 18490 N. Los Gabrieles Way.

## 2 eateries written up by inspectors

Two Maricopa eateries were marked down by Pinal County health inspectors from Dec. 11-Jan. 11.

The internal temperatures of scrambled eggs being held in double pans in the hot holding display case at Bashas' Deli were found to be between 109-119 degrees F, instead of 135 degrees or more. The manager said the eggs were in hot holding for about three hours. They were discarded. The inspector discussed the use and policy requirements for holding eggs.

The internal temperatures of cooked menudo and green chili being held in deep, covered metal pots in the reach-in cooler at Francisco's Mexican Food were 62-65 degrees. The manager told the inspector the items were cooked and placed in the cooler the night before. The manager discarded the chili and soup and the inspector reviewed and provided a handout on cooling methods.

Also, a food thermometer was not present at time of the inspection. The manager bought a new thermometer by the end of the inspection.

### EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Bahama Buck's
- Bashas'
- Bashas' AFC sushi
- Children's Learning Adventure
- Circle K (21212 N. John Wayne Pkwy.)
- Dutch Bros.
- IHOP
- Papa John's Pizza
- Plaza Bonita
- The New HQ
- Starbucks

### SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- Bashas' Deli
- Francisco's Mexican Food

### 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



Extracurricular Activities

GRADES 7-10

11<sup>TH</sup> – 2021-2022

12<sup>TH</sup> – 2022-2023

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# Navy veteran opens gun shop at The Wells

By Bob McGovern

A Navy veteran is behind the city's second gun shop. Pearle Robertson opened up Minuteman Supply in mid-January at The Wells, signing a three-year lease at 41620 W. Maricopa Casa Grande Hwy.

"We are here to provide supplies for the modern minuteman," she said.

The store sells firearms, ammunition, survival gear and emergency preparedness accessories like a bug out bag designed to survive the first 72 hours of evacuation, with tent, gallon water bag, food, water purification tablets, fire starter and first aid kit.

Robertson, 41, is a mother of four who specialized in cryptographic communications for the U.S. Navy, spending time in South Korea. Before joining the military, she was a candymaker, a craft she resumed when she left the service. After moving to Las Vegas, where she lived for about a year, she took a job at The Gun Store, a shooting range a few miles off The Strip.

"That got my foot in the door of the firearms industry," she said. She earned her instructor certification and specialized in teaching women and children how to handle guns.

She moved to Maricopa six years ago, working at gun shops and shooting ranges in metro Phoenix. After listening to people tell her for years to go into business for herself, she said she was finally ready in August. "I just said, 'Alright, let's do this.'"

With 12 years in the firearms industry, Robertson first started selling body armor and other survival accessories online last summer as she worked to get the proper licensing to open the shop.

One early challenge will be a national shortage of handguns and ammunition resulting from record-high sales of guns in the United States in 2020. She has been told by dealers the shortage will get worse before it gets better.

She plans to resume firearm instruction at some point after hearing interest from other soccer moms.

Robertson's shop has competition from Arizona Law Dawgs, but Robertson said she feels Minuteman Supply is in a good location with the southern and eastern parts of town expected to see considerable growth in the coming years.

"This town is definitely big enough for another gun shop," she said. "I have a good spot."

Bob McGovern

**Pearle Robertson has 12 years of experience in the firearms industry. She has taught women and children how to handle guns.**

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# Satyr Moon offers colorful twist on traditional tattoo parlors

By Jay Taylor

The images from the past of a tattoo parlor may be a bit of a cliché, but those sometimes come from a place of reality. Past visions tended toward that of a dark room, mysterious shopkeepers and a seedy crowd of bikers and other rough customers patronizing the establishments. But the times, as they say, are a-changin’.

The newest tattoo parlor in Maricopa, Satyr Moon, combines custom-designed skin art with a use of color not found from most artists, a creative and supportive environment, a hint of mysticism and even some faerie dust.

The owners, Troy Talmadge and Brit Zane, moved from Massachusetts to be closer to family in the region.

“We had been looking at Maricopa for quite a while since we have family in Mesa and Sun Lakes, and we wanted to be close to both,” Zane said. “Maricopa seemed like a great combination of a growing city and rural environment. We moved here in April and really like it. We wound up staying with parents for a while then got into our own place in June, and we just love it.”

Talmadge, a tattoo artist with decades of experience, and Zane, who handles business operations, opened their new shop at Stage Stop Marketplace in late November. According to Talmadge, demand has been strong.

“A lot of people were curious about who we were and there seems like there’s lots of word-of-mouth through the marketplace,” he said.

Zane said he believes there is good reason for the notice they are getting.

“Our website showcases a lot of Troy’s art and makes it apparent how our work is different from most other artists,” Zane said. “We use a lot of color in our work; lots of others seem to use a lot of black and gray in their work. With 30 years’ experience, Troy has the colors down.”

## ‘I WANT EVERYBODY’S TATTOO TO BE THEIR OWN’

But Talmadge said it’s more than color that sets his work apart. Many clients come in with an idea of what they want in a design but have difficulty bringing that idea to fruition. Others



Brit Zane, left, and Troy Talmadge moved to Maricopa from Massachusetts in April 2020 to be closer to family. Talmadge has been tattooing for close to three decades.

simply ask for suggestions based on a theme they have in mind. Either way works for Satyr Moon, he said.

“The final work is usually a combination of their idea and suggestions we make,” Talmadge said. “Most people have a basic, raw idea in mind of what they want, but if they don’t have images for us to work from, I can create something custom for them. I don’t like to copy artwork to put on someone — it makes it less personal and seems more retail-oriented. I want everyone’s tattoo to be their own.” That level of customer care permeates all that Satyr Moon does. For years they have been helping breast cancer survivors in their recovery by offering areola and nipple tattoos as part of their healing process. Indeed, when a woman has a mastectomy, the reconstruction does not include a nipple, so a realistic tattoo can provide another step in their recovery.

“The way we work is helpful in this area as well,” Zane said. “We’re private — there is only one client in the room at a time since we work by appointment only. It’s very Zen-like and calm. The studio has bright colors, and really helps put people at ease.”

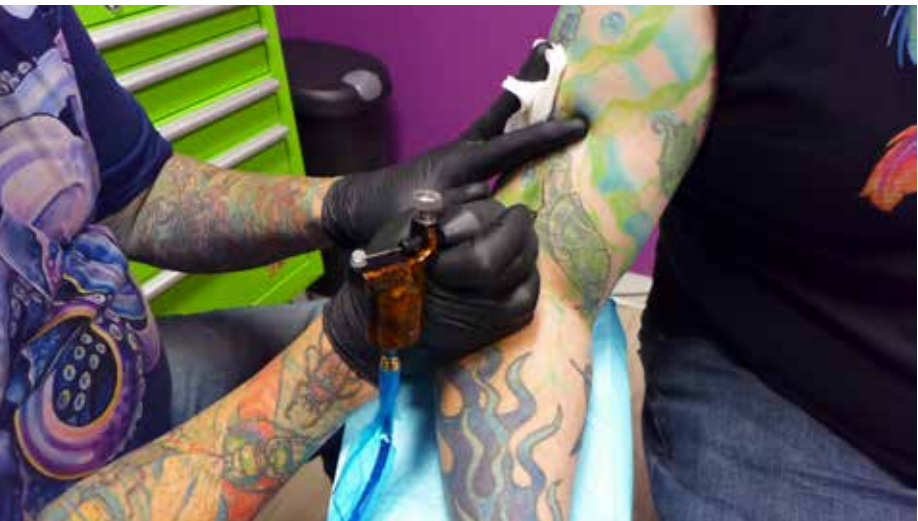
He said the feeling of helping those recovering from a traumatic event like a mastectomy is extremely rewarding.

“We love being able to use tattoos to help someone reclaim themselves,” Zane said. “We love having the ability to help people with self-harm scars, or mastectomy scars for breast cancer survivors. Troy uses flesh tones and shading in his tattoos to create illusion of a 3D nipple. It’s just amazing the effect it can have on people to see that.” It really is personal for both of us. We both have friends and relatives who have suffered from breast cancer, and we’ve witnessed their struggles.” **MADE ME FEEL PRETTY AGAIN**

Their work definitely helps, according to Lindsay Northrop, a customer who worked with Satyr Moon to have tattoos done on her breasts after a double mastectomy. She didn’t want traditional areola and nipple tattoos, she wanted seashells, and Talmadge and Zane helped her get the results she wanted.

“When my doctor told me that saving the nipples wouldn’t be a priority, it was pretty deflating,” Northrop said. “After the surgery, every day I was looking at these scars and feeling defeated. ....

I didn’t really understand how transformative it would be for me to get this done. It made me look at my body in a different way and made me feel pretty again. It was very healing, and frankly it was the last



### TROY TALMADGE

**Age:** 50

**Hometown:** I grew up on the shoreline in Branford, Connecticut.

**Family:** Small, close family; I am the youngest of three. My parents are deceased.

**Years as a tattoo artist:** I have been drawing tattoos since my young, teenage years and tattooing for close to 30 years.

**Artistic inspiration:** Being more of a visual artist I tend to be inspired by many different creative people throughout time from Renaissance artists through the modern age.

**Most common tattoo I do:** My most common

tattoos are memorials, designs that speak to someone of a loved one, a pet portrait or paw prints, and ribbons for awareness.

**Favorite tattoo color:** I have to laugh because some people would joke and say I tend to match the colors that they wear while I’m tattooing them. But typically, I find a person’s chosen colors also reflect what they wear!

**Before coming to Maricopa:** I’ve wanted to be in the desert since I was a small child, so I believe I was always heading toward Maricopa. I started my career nearly 30 years ago along New

England ocean towns. Starting in Connecticut, my home state, I moved north to work with my dear friend and spiritual sibling Juli Moon. We worked closely together, finding we made a fantastic duo with corny jokes and great personalized tattooing. We shared a wonderful work ethic and pulled inspiration from each other. We worked a lot in New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts for 20 years.

**Tattooing philosophy:** Tattoos for me are alive, a living piece of body armor that we get to wear. They tell a story, we can hold them close to us, they can protect us and guide us.

piece I didn’t even know I was missing. It was transformative and helped me take back my body a little bit.”


Northrop runs a support group for young women in her area and shares her experience with them and how it helped in her recovery, and many of them have gone on to have this kind of work done at Satyr Moon.

Talmadge and Zane also do a lot of what their customers refer to as tattoo therapy — especially for those looking for memorial tattoos.

“Lots of people (look) to us for those types of tattoos because we present a very safe and

nurturing environment where they can be OK with their grief,” he said.

To further explore the mystical angle and learn more about the origin of the shop’s name, customers can visit the website and find artwork, clothing and home décor featuring a variety of Talmadge’s original art.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Satyr Moon is not taking walk-in customers; all visits are by appointment. 

 **520-213-3412**  
**SatyrMoonTattoo.com**



# RF microneedling improves tone, texture of face, body

By Kristina Donnay, FNP-C

During the aging process, our skin slowly starts to lose the healthy supply of collagen, hyaluronic acid and elastins we once had when we were younger. This results in the appearance of wrinkles and a reduction of skin volume and elasticity causing our skin to sag. As we get older, most of would like to slow this process and continue to enjoy smooth skin and defined contours.

Many non-surgical techniques have been developed in recent years to address skin-related concerns for patients who are not yet ready or willing to consider surgical solutions. Microneedling treatments create tiny punctures, or micro lesions, in the superficial layer of the skin to stimulate a healing response causing an increase in the production of collagen, elastin and new skin cells. Radio-frequency (RF) treatments, like Forma and Fractora, are proven to generate collagen remodeling with their use of thermal energy.

Morpheus8 by InMode is the newest and most innovative microneedling device on the market. It is a revolutionary technology that will dramatically tighten lax skin, improve the appearance of facial lines and wrinkles, smooth rough or uneven texture, treat hyperpigmentation and acne scarring and even reduce unwanted fat.

Morpheus8 delivers the thermal energy of radio-frequency waves to deeper layers of the skin and tissue with adjustable microneedles, allowing RF energy to reach both the dermis and epidermis for maximum results.

The Morpheus8 is FDA approved as a Subdermal Adipose Remodeling Device, or SARD, unlike standard microneedling treatments. The Morpheus8 treatment can adjust the ultra-fine microneedles to a depth of up to 6 millimeters, deeper than any other microneedling device currently available. This fractional treatment penetrates deep into the skin and fat for a smoother and sleeker appearance.

Morpheus8 is a minimally invasive treatment that is most popular to treat the face, jawline and neck, it can also be used anywhere on your body, including the arms,

abdomen, above the knee, thighs or buttocks.

The treatment is safe and effective for use on all skin types and tones. Unlike other resurfacing methods, the Morpheus8 has minimal risk of post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation. Patients should expect little to no thermal damage to skin.

Our patients' comfort during treatment is a top priority. Prior to treatment a topical anesthetic is applied to the skin. After 45 minutes the patient is ready to receive treatment. The patient will experience

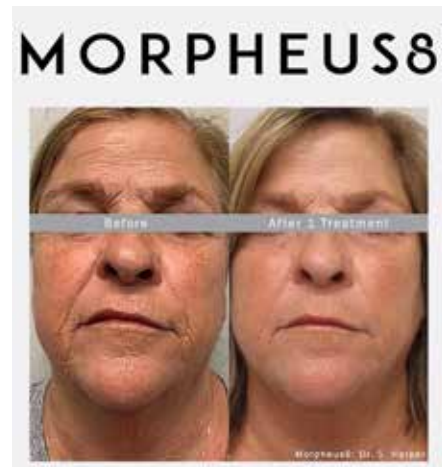
a warming sensation to the skin with little discomfort. We also offer complimentary ProNox if needed.

Morpheus8 can cause permanent and lasting results that withstand the test of time. With the proper treatment plan and annual maintenance treatments patients can sustain ongoing collagen production and major reduction in skin laxity.

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# Global Water helped community with \$140K for COVID relief in 2020

Global Water Resources continued to be a strong supporter of Maricopa community initiatives during 2020, including contributing more than \$140,000 to area programs.

"Due to the widespread impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was an especially challenging year for our local Arizona communities," noted company president and CEO Ron Fleming. "So, we've been working to do our part to support local businesses and families in need during these trying times."

As businesses began to lock down due to the pandemic, resulting in layoffs and unemployment, Global Water implemented a revamped customer assistance program that offers financial assistance for customers who are having difficulty paying their water bill. The program increased available assistance from \$250 annually to up to \$700 annually, while adjusting the qualification criteria so



more customers qualify for assistance. This resulted in more than \$100,000 in financial assistance since the revamped program was implemented. The utility also suspended disconnections for nonpayment and eliminated late fees.

A combination of the company, its board of directors and several shareholders also

contributed \$20,000 to the City of Maricopa's Copa Cares 2020 campaign. Copa Cares is focused on facilitating emergency services for seniors and individuals who require special assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Global Water donated an additional \$20,000 to support several other City of Maricopa community programs developed to overcome challenges presented by COVID. Global Water sponsored the Afterschool CONNECT educational support program, which was developed to help parents and children navigate the challenges of distance learning. The company also made a \$2,500 donation to the Tonopah Valley Food Bank in Maricopa County.

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BUSINESS



# Tax time: Stimulus checks, PPP loans for small business

By Chris J. Scoggin, CPA

As we head into tax season, your partners at CS CPA Group want to help you prepare for the largest refund possible. To say that 2020 was an unusual year is a gross understatement. These once-in-a-lifetime circumstances have had just as large of an effect on your tax situation as well. One of the most frequently asked questions is how will the two rounds of stimulus affect your tax return.



Chris Scoggin

## Did you receive your Stimulus Payments?

The IRS issued stimulus payments of \$1,200 in April and then \$600 in December/January for

every taxpayer that had filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return. If these payment amounts were correct, there is nothing else that needs to be done. But if you did not receive the proper amount of stimulus payments or it never arrived at all, there is a way for you to still receive the stimulus on your 2020 tax return.

The IRS will be issuing two new forms, 1444 and 1444-B, to report the stimulus payments paid to each taxpayer. If there is a discrepancy between what was paid and should have been received, you will reconcile this difference on your 2020 tax return. This difference will be paid as an additional amount on your tax refund or used to reduce

any amount of taxes owed. Keep a sharp eye out for your 1444 and 1444-B forms as they will be necessary to correctly complete your 2020 tax returns.

## IRS Delays E-filed returns

The IRS just announced it has delayed the traditional date to accept e-filed returns until Feb. 14. The IRS said that it needed the additional three weeks to update and prepare its systems due to the second round of stimulus being authorized and paid so late in the year. We are still accepting and preparing returns, so don't let the IRS delay slow you down. We will get your return completed as soon as possible and have it ready to transmit within 24 hours of the IRS portal opening.

## PPP2 Loans for Small Business

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has reopened the PPP loan program that was immensely popular with business owners last year. This second round of loans is available to companies with the following criteria:

- Previously received a First Draw PPP Loan and will, or has used, the full amount only for authorized uses
- Has no more than 300 employees
- Can demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts between comparable quarters from 2019 to 2020.

All other requirements for the PPP second draw remain the same. These loans will be limited to 2.5 times average monthly salary and must be used for paying wages, rent, utilities or commercial building mortgage interest. If you are interested, we recommend reaching out to your original PPP lender to apply by March 31, 2021.

## About CS CPA Group

CS CPA Group (formerly Chaston Tax and Accounting) is a full-service accounting and tax firm that has served Maricopa for 17 years. With over 100 years of combined experience, we are the local experts in finance, business and taxation. With all of this experience and knowledge, our primary focus is providing exceptional accuracy and value to our clients. With CS CA Group, you will find better service at a lower price than any other firm in Maricopa. So, give CS CPA Group a try this year, and learn what it means to have a firm centered on your Success.

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# Never put these things down your garbage disposal

By Terry Leamon, My Maricopa Plumber

A few common things can cause backed-up drains. Here's a few tips on stuff that you should NEVER put down your garbage disposal.

**1. Coffee grounds.** When finishing the morning coffee and cleaning the filter out — STOP! — do not pour the grounds down your garbage disposal. Although they seem finely milled, they are dense and paste-like and will end up in a pile of gunk in your sediment trap.

**2. Pasta, rice and bread.** All of these starches absorb water and expand. In general, keep out of the disposal, but don't stress if a little amount goes down the drain. Run the cold water for 30 seconds to flush your pipes before those foods can expand.



Terry Leamon

**3. Animal bones.** Garbage disposals are not meant to grind up hard items. Over time, bones will gradually ruin your garbage disposal.

**4. Pits and seeds, nuts and shells.** Similar to bones, these food items are hard and can damage your disposal. General rule: if something can't be cut with a knife, it probably isn't safe putting down your garbage disposal.

**5. Onions.** These may go down your drain easy, but can get caught in the trap and act as a net and catch things that go down your drain.

**6. Eggshells.** If you've heard that eggshells sharpen the blades of the garbage disposal. WRONG! That is a popular misconception. Garbage disposals don't have blades. They

have impellers, that are blunt. These impellers grind food down, not chop them up. Eggshells also have membranes that can get caught around the grinders and over time cause disposal problems.

**7. Fruits and starchy vegetables.** Some have fibrous strands that can get stuck and tangled around the grinder. Starches can build up overtime and turn to paste, clogging parts; for example, potatoes.

**9. Grease, oil and fat.** Again these go down easily, but become a big factor when a kitchen drain has to be cleared. In liquid form, oil and fats would seem to go down the drain easily, but they congeal and can cause major blockages.

Never treat your garbage disposal like a garbage can and dump food or nonfood items. It will slowly damage and shorten the life of your garbage disposal. It can also lead to leaks and water damage. Keeping these things out of your garbage disposal will save you money and headaches under the sink.

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### City gets a lift from Copa Glow

1. The colors from hot air balloons during Copa Glow on Jan. 15 are reflected in the lake at Copper Sky Regional Park. The event, held for the second time, drew hundreds of spectators. *Victor Moreno*
2. A blast of flame sends hot air into a balloon. *Victor Moreno*
3. The event featured a Night Market for vendors and food trucks to feed the masses. *Victor Moreno*
4. A couple basks in the glow of balloons. *Bob McGovern*



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- A single individual may contribute up to \$200.



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Donations can be made online at [musd20.org/taxcredit](https://musd20.org/taxcredit)

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khyde@musd20.org



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Jaime Buchholz

# Past princess moves from pageant lines to front lines

By Kyle Norby

Back in 2015, Jaime Buchholz, then 24, was finishing her star-studded run as Miss City of Maricopa. Aging out of the program and fulfilling her dream of being a princess, she continued to remain a part of the local Miss City of Maricopa/Miss America organization until it dissolved in November 2020 after the national organization headed in a different direction.

“It’s not just the crown, it’s finding out who you are. I was given lots of opportunities, like learning to (public) speak and being a good role model,” she said. “Some of my girls that are current title holders I’ve known since they were 5. It’s been fun to grow up with them.”

During her time as a crown holder, Buchholz, now 29, made lifelong friends and continued her work as a nurse, bringing awareness to working with veterans in health care. She now works as an infection prevention and control professional at the Phoenix VA Hospital.

With COVID-19 cases still rising in Arizona, Buchholz said she works every day to keep her co-workers safe. She has already received her second round of the coronavirus vaccine as it rolls out to health care workers.

“I’ve had a pretty unique experience. I’m not doing direct patient care; the hospital and



Jaime Buchholz was Miss City of Maricopa in 2015.

## JAIME BUCHHOLZ

Age: 29

Residence: Gilbert

**Occupation:** Infection prevention and control professional, Veterans Administration Hospital, Phoenix  
**Education:** Master of Nursing degree with an emphasis on leadership  
**Family:** I have an extensive family and support system that spans from New York, Hawaii, Minnesota, North Dakota and Arizona. I can’t wait for COVID to calm down so I can see all of my out-of-state family.

**Favorite Maricopa memory:** Mentoring and spending time with all of the Maricopa princesses and our titleholders. Merry Copa and the Salsa Festival are still some of my favorite activities to come to Maricopa.

the staff have been my patients,” she explained. “My team has been the ones educating our staff on how to stay safe. We’ve been helping create the policies and procedures for COVID for the VA hospital as a whole.”

She described the frustration of educating people who debate the dangers of the virus, or those who don’t practice proper precautions in public. To illustrate the ease with which the virus spreads, she uses the analogy of COVID as fine glitter, especially when not properly cleaning hands and face masks. (She asks people to check out the CDC’s handwashing protocol.)

“Think about where glitter would be if you got it on you. In your house, your car? Your wallet, your phone, your cash!” Buchholz said. “The PTSD in our health care workers after this pandemic is going to really be hard. I know nurses that have zipped up more body bags in one month than they have in their entire career.”

“For the people that don’t believe it’s a real thing, I can tell you as a health care worker, it’s real.”

These days, Buchholz is mostly working and educating — she has even taught nursing

programs at Arizona State University — but loves spending time with her dog, Sulley. Before the pandemic, she continued to make her way down to Maricopa to meet up with old friends and grab a bite to eat.

“I’m still addicted to Cilantro’s,” she laughed.



Submitted

Buchholz educates staff at the Phoenix VA Hospital on COVID-19 safety protocols.



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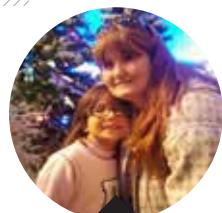
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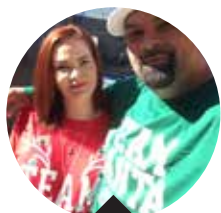
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Crystal Marie Yubeta



Faye Hardy



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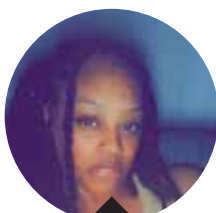
Kitty Kidd



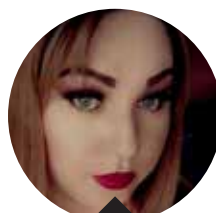
Leander Martin



Marie Moreno



Mears Sarah



Rafaela Almaguer



Ryan Portee



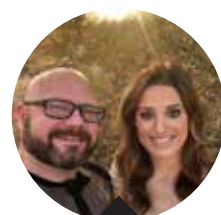
Toni Johnson



Amy Hagedorn



Andy Juarez



Bryan Lemon

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This gallery features the work of Maricopa High School photography students.

**Briana Coronado**  
"This photo was taken in front of natural light with a stencil to create the fun lighting pattern."



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**Mason Clayton**

"The inspiration behind this photo was just winter fun. It was taken in Canada."



**Katelyn Owens**

"My inspiration was my cat and how much he loves being outside in the sun. This picture was taken in my backyard."



**Lanova Morris**

"I wanted to create an illusion that you are going into another world or feel like you're somewhere else other than Arizona."





## Mambas celebrate championship season

The state champion Maricopa Mambas 12u team poses for a photo with Mayor Christian Price during a Jan. 9 celebration at Copper Sky. Quarterback Brody Rastad puts his arm around the championship trophy while his teammates received medals marking their achievement.



1. The Denver Broncos defense pulls the flag of a Houston Texans runner during flag football league action at Copper Sky.
2. Two players go high for the football during flag football competition.
3. Adeline Dion, 4, hits a golf ball during the Itty Bitty Open golf tournament held by the City in conjunction with the Junior Golf Association at Copper Sky. Her father, Matthew, offered her coaching tips and encouraging words.
4. Justin Clark, right, and Brad Kasni of SmithCraft Custom Architectural Signs install a new sign at A+ Charter Schools on Alan Stephens Parkway.

Photos by Bob McGovern



# Healed Hearts seeks families to provide foster care in Maricopa

By Jay Taylor

Maricopa residents are a giving bunch, eager to help those in need and rise to the occasion when neighbors are in distress. That makes Sheila Sudano an ideal fit here in town, where she moved from New York with her husband George in 2007.

Sudano founded Healed Hearts LLC in 2018 to find foster families for children who need care for a time. It's a difficult process — and one that Sudano thrives on — but she knows it's not for everyone.

“Not everyone is cut out for fostering,” she said. “That’s why it’s important to have someone like me with an agency who can weed out those who aren’t prepared for what it’s going to take.”

Despite a tremendous affinity for children throughout her life, she wasn’t quite sure how to have the greatest impact on them. “But I liked that I loved,” she said. “I knew I had the capacity to love these children and help make their lives better, and that’s what got me started.”

Prior to helping children, Sudano was an actress, working in New York and chasing the dream of stardom. But just when it looked like she was about to capture that success, she realized it wasn’t really what she wanted.

“I got into show business and started being seen,” said Sudano, a cousin of multiple Grammy Award-winning singer Donna Summer. “I became an understudy off Broadway and started getting noticed and I realized I didn’t like it. I didn’t like what it did to me, so I stepped away.”

### How to become a foster parent

**Successfully complete training.** Pre-service training consists of 11 online courses and 15 hours of in-class instruction on the roles and responsibilities of team members.

**Pass criminal checks.** Prospective parents must pass local and FBI criminal background checks.

**Be medically qualified.** You will receive a form that will need to be completed by a doctor, physician’s assistant or nurse practitioner. If you regularly see more than one doctor, you will likely need all to complete the form.

**Meet your living expenses.** Foster parents frequently have to pay for clothes and other items and wait for state reimbursement, which may not

cover all the costs. There is a financial background check.

**Extensive interview process.** Select a DCS-contracted licensing agency to complete interview, which is also known as a home study. A licensing worker will ask very personal questions about past and current relationships to assess the ability to parent children who have experienced trauma.

**Pass a home safety inspection.** The Life Safety Inspection is a vital part of the licensing process. DCS has to guarantee the home situation will be safe for the children.

**Be lawfully present in the U.S.** “Lawfully present” means prospective foster parents are United States citizens or national or aliens authorized by an appropriate federal entity or court to be present in the United States.



Sheila Sudano was chasing a career in entertainment when she decided to step away. She started the Healed Hearts foster care agency in 2018.

She set out in 2018 to begin the process of starting a foster care agency in Maricopa and received her Division of Developmental Disabilities license that year.

It took about three months to get a contract with the state. Then she went to work to get her state license, writing programs for the services she wanted to provide. Assessments and behavioral plans were completed before approval and licensing. It was an 18-month effort.

“They gave me the information and I did my own training — that was hard,” Sudano said. “Once I got to know the people in the system, they were tremendously helpful and now I have great relationships there.”

**‘I’M BY THEIR SIDE’**

But getting the license is just the beginning. According to Molly Mesaros, a supervisor in the foster and adoption division of the Arizona Department of Child Safety, one of the biggest obstacles to recruiting families is overcoming the misconceptions about fostering.

“A lot of the difficulty in recruitment of families lies in dispelling some of the unknowns,” Mesaros said. “People see our ads and reach out but may not understand that the goal is always reunification with the family. They don’t understand the difference between foster care and adoption.”

Getting certified as a foster family is a difficult and time-consuming process. Families

interested in securing a foster-care license start with a five-part orientation video on the DCS website that explains the difference between foster care and adoption. Then the family works with Mesaros’ team to select one of about two dozen agencies, including Healed Hearts.

“The agency becomes the family’s guide throughout the process,” Mesaros said.

Agencies like Healed Hearts work with families and smooth the road to their foster-care licenses.

“I’m their advocate,” Sudano said. “I’m by their side holding their hand through the process.”

**A FOCUS ON SPECIAL NEEDS**

Sudano’s agency will emphasize placing special needs children, she said. One of her programs prepares children with autism to go to kindergarten in traditional school and another teaches families to identify and manage different levels of autism.

A child’s care can also be furnished by a kinship provider, someone with a relationship such as a relative, teacher, coach or family friend. Sudano and her husband adopted three nieces who came to her as kinship foster kids.

Sudano and Mesaros agree the fit between children and family is the most important element.

“We really need families for young adults. It’s similar to families who want kids with disabilities,” Mesaros said. “Just being removed from family is a traumatic event, so we want to be sure we get them with the right family.”

She said the idea is to turn what could be a really scary experience into something really positive.

“Most of the time it isn’t a situation where the parents don’t love their kids,” she noted; “it’s just that circumstances occurred that brought us into the picture. We do our best to get them back to their home environment. Those are our success stories.”

For someone who is so dedicated to helping other families, Sudano uses her own family as a reference point for all she is doing to help others.

“My husband and my kids are 100%behind this,” she said of her mission with Healed Hearts. “My husband is a man who has always allowed me to step ahead of him while he holds up the pillars for me to do what I need to do for others. I use the same framework of support that I get from my own family and put it to work for these foster kids.”

**Healed Hearts, 646-250-2092; AZDCS foster/adoption line, 877-543-7633, option 3.**

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# DNA test reveals a father – and a family

Mike Otis is among the many offspring of a fertility doctor who secretly impregnated his patients

By Jay Taylor

It's said life can turn on a dime. For Mike Otis, it changed on a \$69 DNA test.

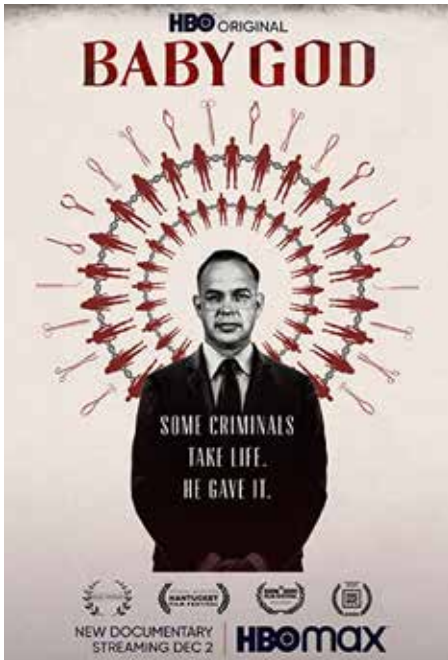
Otis, a retired technical writer, did what thousands of people do every year — he took a genetic test to find out more about his family heritage. The results led to a shocking discovery and a prominent role in the recent HBO documentary, “Baby God.”

Otis, 71, and his wife came to Maricopa in 2017, buying their retirement home in Homestead. That's about the same time he found out about, as he puts it, “my nefarious beginnings.”

“A few years ago, I was trying to find out what tribe my grandmother on my dad's side was from, because we suspected she was most likely Native American,” said Otis, who ordered a DNA test to delve into his genealogy. “When I got the information back, I looked at the chart and said, ‘Who are all these Fortier people?’”

He knew of no one named Fortier in his family history. That launched a quest to find out more about his history and to the earth-shaking realization that those names were his half-siblings, or “the sibs” as they now call themselves. His biological father was a man he did not know.

The search for that man led Otis to a doctor working in a former Nevada mining town in the 1950s.



## ‘BRILLIANT’ AND ‘MORALLY BANKRUPT’

Dr. Quincy Fortier was a pioneer in the practice of fertility medicine in the United States, opening his practice in the tiny town of Pioche, Nevada in 1945 and eventually founding Women's Hospital in Las Vegas in the 1960s. But the success of his practice may have had less to do with his medical skill than it did

with his methods. He used his own sperm to impregnate an untold number of women.

“Fertility doctors at that time were very rare,” Otis said. “He was by all accounts a brilliant doctor and published papers at that time that are still used today. He was a genius on one hand and a morally bankrupt character on the other. I think there was just a little too much science and not enough morality in his life.”

Otis is the oldest in a group of at least two dozen half-siblings secretly fathered by Fortier. And the circumstances around Otis's conception are startling.

“My mother went in to see Dr. Fortier because she wasn't feeling well; she thought she had an infection,” he said. “Dr. Fortier did a gynecological exam and gave her some ‘medicine’ and I was the result of that ‘medicine.’”

His mother was living in Pioche at the time.

In one of the most poignant moments of the HBO documentary on Fortier, Otis travels to the California home of his mother, Dorothy, now 94, to break the news to her.

“First thing you think of, ‘I didn't have sex with him,’ she tells her son.

Dorothy Otis noted her shock at becoming pregnant.

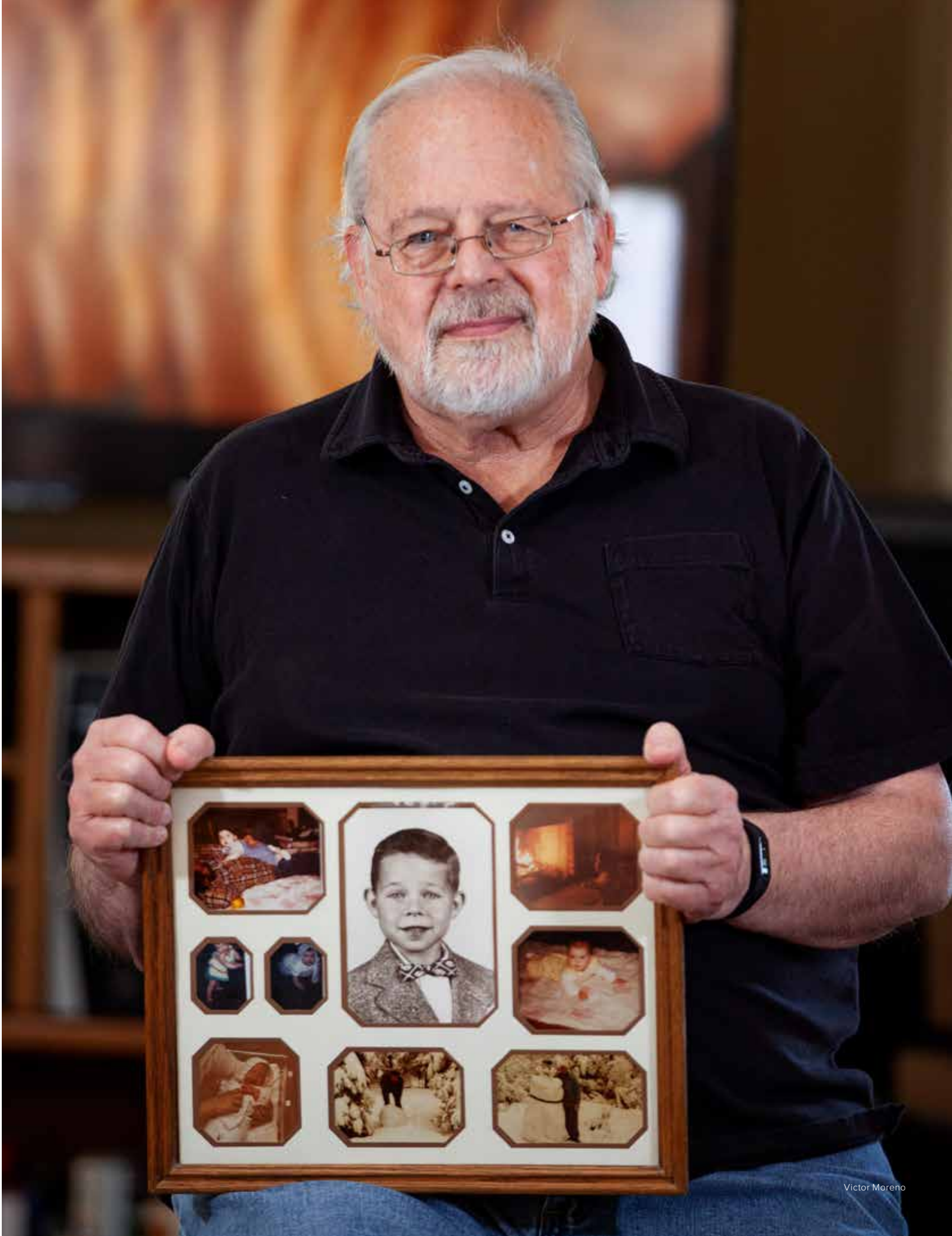
“I wasn't even looking to have a baby. I wasn't wanting a baby at that time,” she said in the film. “Doctors in those days, you took them as almost next to a priest, you know? Whatever they said, you'd think they were a good doctor and knew what they were talking about. You just took them at their word.”

## ‘MAYBE I'M A GIFT’

Finding out the man he thought his father for most of his life was not his biological father — he is now referred to as his “not father” — set off a series of emotions in Otis and many of the children fathered by Fortier.



Top left: A biography box for Dr. Quincy Fortier appears on Mike Otis's computer screen in a scene from the documentary film. Top right: A family photo shows Otis as a baby with his mother, Dorothy, in another scene.





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“Well, I naturally assumed I was the product of the marriage between my mother and her first husband since they were married at the time I was conceived, so I always felt like something ‘other,’” Otis said about his feelings for the man he believed was his father. “As a child I often wondered if I was evil, or would be morally bankrupt, because he was. I was diminishing who I was because of who I thought my father was and that didn’t do anyone any good.” As a child, those feelings were reinforced by some in his family, who were upset with his mother when he was born. After all, his father was olive-skinned, dark-haired and possibly of Native American descent, but Otis had blond hair and blue eyes. (Many of the Fortier’s secret offspring shared his blue eyes).

Otis, a father of two and grandfather of three, mused that “perhaps the doctor saw she was married to an ‘imperfect specimen,’ shall we say. He saw that the father had olive skin and dark hair and he wanted to give her a gift. Maybe I’m a gift.”

Many of the children Fortier fathered have grappled with their beginnings. On one hand, they would not be alive if it weren’t for what Fortier did. On the other hand, there are moral questions about the way they came into the world. Others wonder if Fortier simply wasn’t concerned with being caught.

Wendi Babst, one of Otis’ half siblings, put it this way in the film:

“I don’t know if he ever cared that he’d get caught. I don’t think he could foresee that for \$69, you could send in a sample and connect yourself with people all over the world. I don’t think he could see that coming.”

Regardless of Fortier’s reasons for his actions, he left many of his offspring, including Otis, with haunting questions through their lives about why they felt different or fail to meet expectations.. Brad Gulko, one of the half siblings, said he knew early on he was vastly different from the man he thought was his father.

“My father was quite socially adept, very comfortable socially, extroverted, and I was never like that,” he told the filmmakers. “From the time I was a kid I was interested in chemistry, physics, mathematics, and I’ve never been all that socially comfortable. I was always kind of closed, egg-headed; I always felt there was something wrong with me. People who don’t share DNA with their parents may feel that they’re not just different but somehow wrong.”

Otis echoed that sentiment.

“All of us wander into the blackened field of anger because of this,” he said. “I had certain abilities that were discounted because of who I was and who everyone thought I was based on who they thought my father was. I get angry sometimes that I wasn’t able to pursue those talents. It was wrong to stick my mom with a child that she wasn’t always able to understand. You can always in your mind wonder what could have, should have, might have been, but that’s a losing battle.”

**“I was trying to find out what tribe my grandmother on my dad’s side was from .... When I got the information back, I looked at the chart and said, ‘Who are all these Fortier people?’”**

*Mike Otis*

**‘MY FATHER WAS REAL BUSY’**

Fortier, who was renowned in the Las Vegas area for his work, died in 2006 at 94 and was never charged with any crimes, nor did he ever admit to any wrongdoing. He never lost his medical license while delivering thousands of babies. Incredibly, there were no laws in Nevada that made what he did illegal. He was even named physician of the year by the state medical association in 1991. He even circumcised himself, two daughters adopted and raised by the doctor told filmmakers.

Fortier was later sued by at least two patients for using his own sperm to artificially inseminate them without their permission. Both cases were settled, and confidentiality agreements prevent anyone involved with the case from speaking about their case.

Quincy Fortier Jr., Otis’ half brother who was the product of Fortier’s marriage, speculates in “Baby God” that his “sibs” could number in the “hundreds. Lots and lots. My father was real busy.” More half siblings have come forward since the movie was released.

Otis believes there is a lesson in this story. “This is a good example to all parents,” he said. “We have preconceived notions and they’re mostly a product of our own perceptions and not reality. My mother’s and my relationship has improved since we found out because now, she can see me for who I actually am, not who she expected me to be.”

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## Expanding STEM success: 2 simple steps

By Murray Siegel



Murray Siegel

Last month's column looked at how the teaching of math in the elementary grades has reduced the number of students taking advanced math classes in middle and high school and limited the number of Americans educated to fill STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) jobs. The two primary problems are the use of mixed-ability groups in elementary math classes and the lack of proper experience for college faculty who prepare future elementary teachers.

So, what can be done to overcome these two problems?

Few college faculty who teach math to future elementary teachers have ever taught math in an elementary classroom. We expect those who teach surgical methods to have recent experience performing surgery, and marketing faculty should make contributions to current marketing campaigns, yet we do not require relevant experience for faculty preparing students to teach math in the elementary grades. This can easily be overcome.

The simple answer is for colleges to mandate that all faculty who teach mathematics courses for future elementary teachers actually teach one class each day for one semester every three years in a real elementary classroom. This will allow these faculty to offer a more realistic understanding of the dynamics of the elementary classroom.

To excite students about mathematics and steer them toward STEM careers, each elementary school should hire a well-qualified teacher of advanced math classes (AMC). This teacher would conduct AMC by grade level, to accelerate mathematically able students and prepare them for challenging classes in high school and beyond. This teacher can also be a mathematical resource for all teachers in the school building.

The AMC students can then take calculus in high school, which has been proven to enhance success in college calculus courses and lead to successful completion of STEM degrees.

The second method, assigning an elementary math specialist to each elementary school, has been used successfully in Texas. Qualified teachers could be provided with appropriate professional development. The specialist would teach an advanced math class in grades three, four and five. All classes in a particular grade would have math at the same time.

For the remainder of the school day, the specialist would work with individual students or small groups, especially in remediation. The specialist would work with teachers via conferences, classroom observations and lesson demonstration.

Besides having a qualified teacher responsible for teaching mathematics to the most able students, using a specialist would reduce the size of other math classes since some students would attend the advanced class. Concerns may be raised before either method is adopted but the overriding concern must be to develop the math skills of more American children who will be the scientific leaders of the next generation. ☞

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

 [InMaricopa.com/Columnists](http://InMaricopa.com/Columnists)

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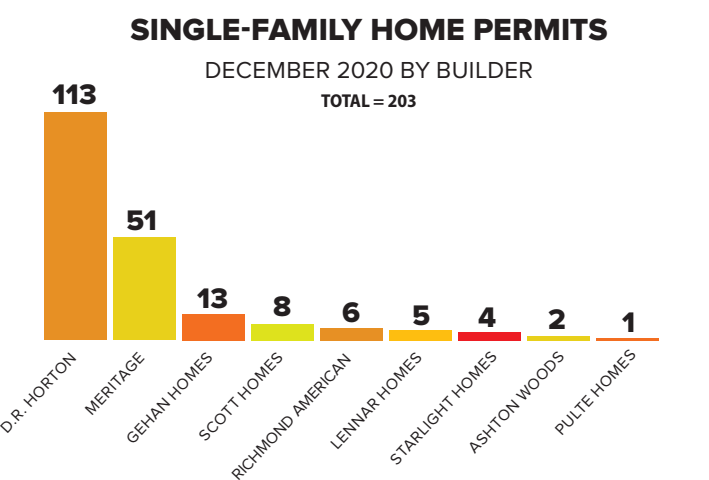
Bob McGovern

1. 41909 W. Barcelona Drive, Glennville

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa Dec. 16, 2020 – Jan. 15, 2021 was a two-story home in Glennville. This upgraded home features a double-door entry into the grand foyer with custom tile inlay and plantation shutters and custom window coverings throughout the home. A large kitchen has an island and plenty of upgraded cabinetry. First-floor master bedroom overlooks a backyard oasis with a pool, artificial turf and oversized paver patio. The upstairs has a large loft and three additional bedrooms. Listed for only two days, the home sold for over asking price.

**Sold:** Dec. 21  
**Purchase price:** \$460,000  
**Square feet:** 3,507  
**Price per square foot:** \$131.16  
**Days on market:** 2  
**Builder:** Richmond American  
**Year built:** 2006  
**Bedrooms:** 4  
**Bathrooms:** 2.5  
**Community:** Glennville  
**Features:** Open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, master on first floor with custom tile shower, built-in sound system throughout house and patio area, heated pool with swim jets and built-in spa.

2. 19538 N. Crestview Lane, Glennville	\$425,000
3. 44609 W. Canyon Creek Drive, Cobblestone	\$415,000
4. 20152 N. Madison Drive, The Villages	\$412,500
5. 42056 W. Rosewood Lane, Province	\$375,620



Bob McGovern

1. 45193 W. Zion Road, Alterra South

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa Dec. 16, 2020 – Jan. 15, 2021 was a single-story, three-bedroom new build in Alterra South. Entry foyer features a large coat closet and kitchen has a large pantry area. All three bedrooms include oversized closets. The home also has a large laundry room. This home sold in six days for the list price.

**Sold:** Dec. 24  
**Purchase price:** \$210,990  
**Square feet:** 1,700  
**Price per square foot:** \$124.11  
**Days on market:** 6  
**Builder:** Wade Jurney Homes  
**Year built:** 2020  
**Bedrooms:** 3  
**Bathrooms:** 2  
**Community:** Alterra South  
**Features:** New construction included range/oven and dishwasher, and front desert landscaping.

2. 37130 W. Amalfi Avenue, Sorrento	\$215,000
3. 46152 W. Sheridan Road, Maricopa Meadows	\$217,000
4. 45188 W. Zion Road, Alterra South	\$220,990
5. 17947 N. Vera Cruz Avenue, Alterra South	\$221,990

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

# In Maricopa, building backyard pool worth the investment

By Dayv Morgan

With the summer heat soon to return, thoughts of a backyard pool are enticing.

But many homeowners are hesitant to add one, thinking the cost is high and the return on investment will be low when it's time to sell. In Maricopa, however, neither assumption seems to be accurate.

In some parts of the Valley, pools are quite common. In the last 30 days, 155 of the 367 homes sold (42.2%) in Chandler had a pool. In the Maricopa market, however, only 22 of 168 home sold (13.1%) had pools.

As of Jan. 17, the MLS shows just six of the active 80 listings have pools.

With the inventory of pool homes so low in Maricopa, there are certainly people not getting the pool they want when they buy their home. But purchasing a home without a pool and adding one later may be more cost effective, and give buyers a much greater inventory of homes to make their selection.



Dayv Morgan

Indeed, the number of properties with pools continues to grow, meaning many of the pools are new. In 2019, the city issued 183 permits for residential pools. That number climbed to 279 permits in 2020, a 52.5% increase.

That increase is likely spurred by COVID-19, as people are at home more and less comfortable with community pools, which may be subject to closure.

If you are hoping to have a pool in time to beat the summer heat, you might as well get started now. The process — from permitting to construction — can take 7-9 weeks, with most of that time for construction.

So, what does it cost to keep cool?

A basic 80-foot perimeter pebble-tec pool, with a maximum depth of 5 feet, should cost about \$30,000, depending on access to the yard. The resale value is at least \$30,000 and often more due to low supply.

If you add other pool features such as a waterfall, spa, in-floor cleaning system or heater, the price will jump quickly and the overall return for the pool investment will decline.

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

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# Tomatoes come in all shapes, sizes, colors

By Rita Bricker



Everybody loves tomatoes.

Ninety-three percent of all American gardening households grow their own tomatoes.

Tomatoes didn't arrive in the United States until the 1820s, but they were thought to be poisonous and originally grown only as ornamentals. In fact, they are part of the nightshade family which does include deadly belladonna. But, as we know, tomatoes are edible, thankfully.

Tomatoes come in all shapes and colors. There are the well-known, red globe tomatoes like Celebrity. But have you tried Yellow Pear, the chili pepper-like Opalka or the Cherokee Chocolate? You can also find pink with green shoulders, crimson, orange, light green with dark green stripes, blue, ivory, white, black, and purple tomatoes, as well, among the estimated 25,000 varieties worldwide.

Tomatoes range in size from the pea-size Red Currant to the giant Beefsteak. The largest tomato ever recorded was grown in 2019 in Clinton, New York, according to Guinness World Records. Weighing in at a whopping 9 lb. 10 oz., it was grown by Steve and Jeanne Marley.

Biologically, tomatoes are a fruit; a mature ovary containing eggs (seeds). But legally, tomatoes are a vegetable. That was decided in an 1893 Supreme Court case. At that time there was a 10% tariff on imported vegetables, but not on fruits. The plaintiff wanted reimbursement on tariffs paid on tomatoes, claiming them as a biological fruit. But the Court ruled tomatoes are a vegetable

based on their function and use (as in salads, soups and main dishes).

Tomatoes are highly beneficial. They are high in Vitamins A and C, provide a good source of potassium and contain antioxidants to increase protection from the aging effects of the sun. Tomatoes also contain lycopene, a proven cancer preventative, which is best absorbed in processed form such as tomato sauce or canned tomatoes.



Rita Bricker

Unfortunately, the Master Gardener group in Maricopa will not hold its annual plant sale in March due to public health concerns. But be assured we are testing some exciting new tomato varieties in our greenhouse to offer next year.

Rita Bricker is a Master Gardener.

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## TOMATO TIDBITS

The Southern Arkansas Vine Ripe Pink tomato is both the Arkansas state vegetable and the state fruit.

In Spain, 30,000 people throw ripe tomatoes at each other at the annual LaTomatina festival.

When it comes to tomatoes, what is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? Knowledge is that a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in your fruit salad!

# Son's COVID illness was crash course on misery of isolation

By Ron Smith

Recently, my family had occasion to experience the world of isolation, one of the biggest challenges for seniors, especially in pandemic times.

Our older son was hospitalized in a month-long battle with COVID-19. For more than two weeks of his hospital stay, there was very little communication possible between us due to hospital restrictions and treatment protocol. For our family, these were the scariest weeks of our lives. We had no idea if our son would live or die and were unable to learn if his condition was improving or degrading.

For our son, the isolation was even worse. He was in a medically- and COVID-induced fog, not able to discern the real and imagined. He had no reference points he could trust. One day, he asked to speak with someone from the

Security Department because he works in the security industry and trusts people in the field. In isolation, our minds can play awful tricks on us!



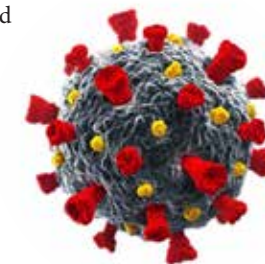
Ron Smith

Before my son's illness and his recent discharge from the hospital, I thought I had a good understanding about isolation, but our brush with COVID proved I wasn't even close. With the pandemic forcing many of us into isolation and loneliness, even at home, there are two important points to remember. COVID is very real and isolation is very scary, if not incapacitating.

But we can all help. If you know someone going through COVID or just living alone,

reach out to them. Make contact periodically to see how they are doing and bring a friendly, comforting voice to their daily routine. Share a piece of your life with them and make sure they are doing OK.

I ask you to reach out, not just because of COVID but on an ongoing basis to those living on their own, in nursing homes or otherwise living apart from their families. If you personally cannot make the contact, try to connect the person with a local organization that can help. Isolation is extremely disabling regardless of the cause, and we need to seek out those caught in such situations.



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 (CAPS).

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# 2020 tax implications for seniors

By Al Brandenburg

Well, 2020 is finally over and, God-willing with the new vaccines, the COVID virus will be trending downward. But there is something new to worry about in 2021, namely last year's income taxes.

**New tax form for seniors:** For 2020 taxes, seniors can use the two-page 1040-SR form, which uses a bigger font than the standard 1040 form, has more spacing and is better at contrasting colors. Taxpayers who turned 65 on or before Jan. 1, 2021, can use the new form for their 2020 returns. For married couples filing jointly, only one of them needs to be 65 to use the form.

**No alimony deduction:** If you are recently divorced and paying or receiving alimony, the IRS will no longer factor those payments into your taxes. That could make a big impact on your payment or refund.



Al Brandenburg

**No ACA individual mandate penalty:** The Affordable Care Act's individual mandate expired this year, so if you didn't get health insurance in 2019, you no longer have to pay a penalty.

**Medical expense deductions:** Congress and the IRS made it harder this year to deduct medical expenses. If you itemize deductions, you won't be able to write off eligible, out-of-pocket health care expenses unless they exceed 10% of your adjusted gross income. For some families with big medical bills, qualified medical and dental expenses will remain deductible. You can only deduct "unreimbursed" medical expenses to the extent they exceed 7.5% of AGI.

**Increased standard deductions:** On the positive side, standard deductions are a bit higher again, \$12,800 for single tax filers



and those married but filing separately. For married couples filing jointly, the standard deduction is \$24,800. Individuals over the age of 65 get an additional \$1,300 on top of the standard individual deduction.

**Tax preparation fees:** You cannot write off costs for tax preparation assistance through 2025 under new tax law changes, unless you're a self-employed worker.

Sources: *The balance.com, CNBC.com, AARP, IRS.gov, Aging.com*

Al Brandenburg, Maricopa Senior Coalition.

[InMaricopa.com/Columnists](https://www.maricopa.com/columnists)

# American Heart Month: Taking care of your ticker

By Joan Koczor

The first American Heart Month was marked in February 1964 following President Lyndon B. Johnson's proclamation on Dec. 30, 1963. At that time, more than half the deaths in the United States were caused by cardiovascular disease.

Since February 2004, February has been the signature month for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign and the message that heart disease is not only a man's problem.

Cardiovascular disease, which includes heart disease and stroke, causes 17.9 million deaths each year and remains the leading global cause of death.

The heart does more physical work than any other muscle in the body, pumping 2,000 gallons of blood per day. Over the course of a 70-year-old's life, the heart beats more than 2.5 billion times.

Most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort, and occur when there is not enough blood flow to the heart due to narrowed or blocked arteries.

Arteries can become blocked when there is a buildup of fat, cholesterol or other substances that can form plaque. Often people experiencing these symptoms aren't sure what is happening and may wait too long before getting help.

One in five heart attacks occurs without the person knowing they had one. AHA advises people to learn the signs of heart attack and remember, even if you're not sure it's a heart attack, have it checked out. Minutes matter. Calling 911 is almost always the fastest way to get lifesaving treatment.

A few lifestyle changes will make you healthy and fit and may prevent a heart attack or stroke, including eating more whole



Joan Koczor

grains (to help lower cholesterol), fruits and vegetables, poultry and fish; eating less red meat; using less salt; exercising regularly; and not smoking.

National Wear Red Day is Feb. 5. Join AHA in wearing red to raise awareness about heart health.

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

[InMaricopa.com/Columnists](https://www.maricopa.com/columnists)

The American Heart Association (AHA) has issued these heart attack warning signs:

- Discomfort in the center of the chest lasting more than a few minutes. You may feel an uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- Discomfort in other areas of the body such as arms, back, jaw or stomach
- Shortness of breath
- Breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness

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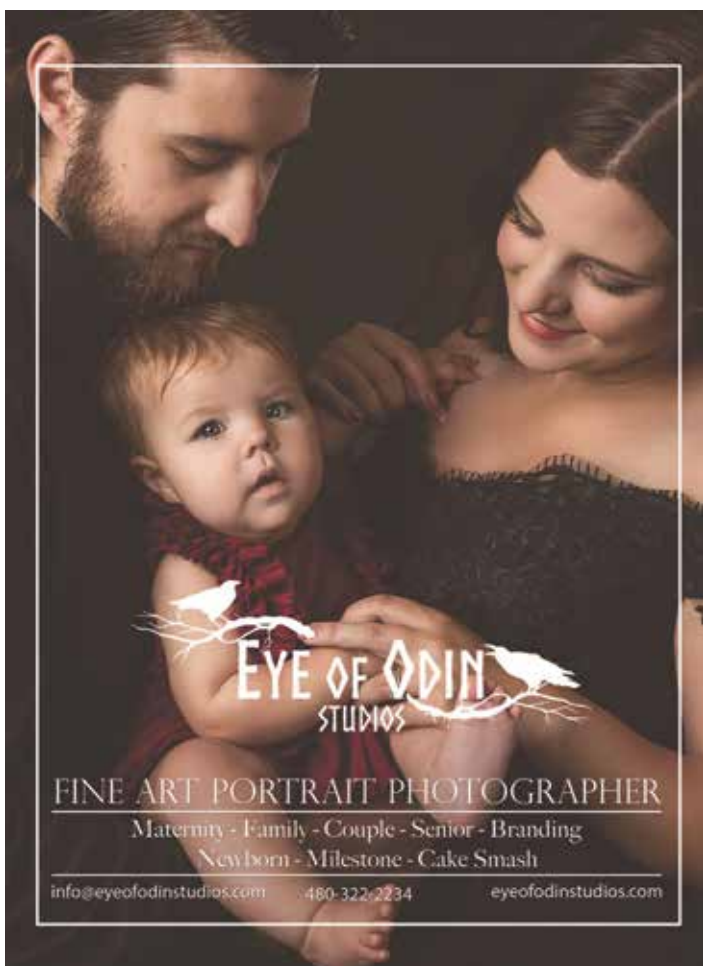
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# Calendar

## February

**2**  
**Maricopa City Council Meeting**  
 7 p.m.  
 City Hall  
 39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

**7**  
**Cragun Family in concert**  
 8 a.m.  
 Maricopa Community Church  
 44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

**10**  
**MUSD Governing Board Meeting**  
 6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified  
 School District Office  
 44150 W. Maricopa-  
 Casa Grande Hwy.

**16**  
**Maricopa City Council Meeting**  
 7 p.m.  
 City Hall  
 39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

**24**  
**MUSD Governing Board Meeting**  
 6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified  
 School District Office  
 44150 W. Maricopa-  
 Casa Grande Hwy.

**27**  
**Shred-a-Thon and  
 Canned Food Drive**  
 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.  
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**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

**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.

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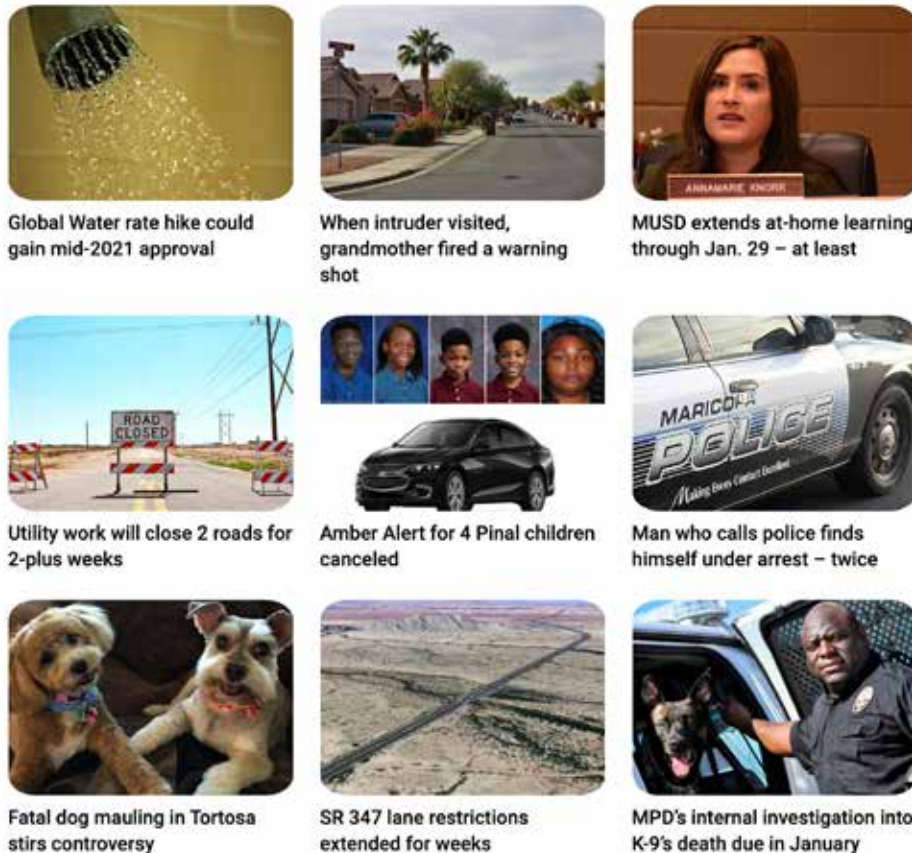
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