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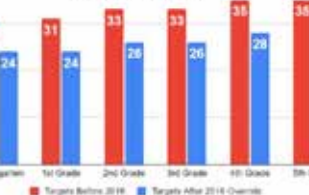
COST PER
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**LOCAL SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS
ATTRACTS AND RETAINS QUALITY TEACHERS**

THE OVERRIDE FUNDS


LOWER CLASS SIZES

Class Size Targets



| Grade | Targets Before 2014 | Targets After 2014 Override |
|--------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kindergarten | 29 | 24 |
| 1st Grade | 31 | 24 |
| 2nd Grade | 33 | 28 |
| 3rd Grade | 33 | 26 |
| 4th Grade | 33 | 28 |
| 5th Grade | 35 | 29 |


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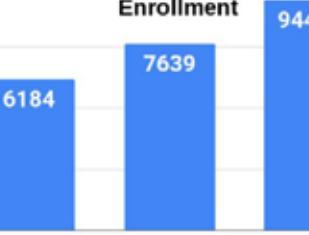
Graduation Rate



| Year | Graduation Rate |
|------|-----------------|
| 2015 | 69% |
| 2019 | 80% |

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

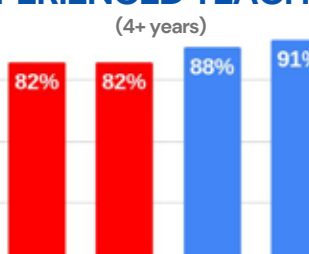
Enrollment



| Year | Enrollment |
|---------|------------|
| 2015-16 | 6184 |
| 2020-21 | 7639 |
| 2025-26 | 9441* |

EXPERIENCED TEACHERS

(4+ years)



| Year | Percentage |
|------|------------|
| 2017 | 82% |
| 2018 | 82% |
| 2019 | 88% |
| 2020 | 91% |

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Memories

OUR EDITOR AND FRIEND BOB

McGovern recently moved to our nation's capital. As a result, I was tapped to be editor on an interim basis. It's a role I have not filled in several years, and being forced back in the saddle of managing the newsroom on a daily basis has brought back wonderful memories of how our company, and my role in it, has changed since we started in 2004.

Memories seem to be a theme in this edition.

Our cover story is a group of teachers who bring a global perspective to their Maricopa students. Sharing memories of growing up in their homelands is an integral part of the education they provide our youth.

The fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban last month conjured up memories of what started the War on Terror two decades ago. It's hard to believe it's been 20 years since Sept. 11, 2001. A generation has passed, but the memories never will. Find reflections from fellow Maricopans inside.

August 2021 will bring painful memories for our neighbors in Gila Bend who experienced



catastrophic flooding, but many Maricopans stepped up in real-time to help those in need. That story is told, predominantly in pictures.

We have a Q&A with Sgt. Hal Koozer, the first police officer hired by the city. We test Sgt. Koozer's memory of serving our citizens as early as 2007.

We have a gallery of what undoubtedly was a memorable event for our veterans and seniors, the grand opening of the Maricopa Community Center.

Also making Maricopa memories are our high school students, and we feature many in their pursuits in academics and athletics – even those sports played in front of a computer screen.

And while none of us remember the Battle of Pima Butte, C.M. Curtis offers a really cool history lesson about the land most of us traverse daily.

Thank you for reading *InMaricopa*.

Enjoy,

SCOTT BARTLE | PUBLISHER

Scott@InMaricopa.com

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C.M. CURTIS

An American Western author and historian, he takes us back to 19th-century Maricopa.



KRISTIN GRAMANDO

She shares her thoughts on a gift we should provide our loved ones.



BRIAN PETERSHEIM JR.

The MHS grad and CAC frosh shares his love and talent for photography.

ON THE COVER

Photographed by Ian Roberds are a few of Maricopa Unified School District's 65 foreign-national teachers. Top row: Abigail Villavicencio, Deva Manuel Kothandapani, Dindo Soco, Danria Sabellon, Irey Soon Middle row: Jessica Ribeiro, Niel Pableo, Karen Casel, Girlie Banalo Bottom row: Smitha Jacob, Marck Albiso, Sherry Jaura, Ronnie Lamboso



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Flooding nothing new

Floodwaters inundate the backyard of Dallas and Susie Smith in September 1946. Their home was just south of today's Business Barn. Dallas Smith was a telegrapher for the Southern Pacific and M&P railroads for many years in the 1900s. His wife, Susie, was a great historian for the area, preserving much of Maricopa's history and photos for future generations.



THIS MONTH BACK IN...

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



2005

Fifth-graders at Maricopa Elementary School were on a mission — to help fellow kids displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Directed by teacher Nancy Rollins, the class set out to collect school supplies. Every year, Rollins' class would perform a community service project. "This year we've decided to expand our 'community' to the 135,000 Louisiana children who no longer have schools to attend," she told InMaricopa.



2007

In late September 2007, the Maricopa Police Department was preparing to add a second shift. After taking over the 6 a.m.- 4 p.m. shift from the Pinal County Sheriff's Office two months earlier, the force was ready to assume the 3 p.m.-1 a.m. shift as well. At the time, the department had 43 actual employees, including 35 sworn police personnel. MPD would go full time on New Year's Eve that year.



2015

The day finally arrived for Maricopa Mercantile. The Maricopa landmark since the 1930s was razed to widen Honeycutt Road. Originally owned by the Brown family, the building was sold in 1952 to William Jay and Golden Baldock, whose family operated the store. A fixture in town for decades, John Wayne was an occasional visitor. The City purchased the site in 2006 with the intent to demolish it, following a lengthy negotiation.

Maricopa Historical Society/ Brian Petersheim Jr.



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Battle of Pima Butte made history

BY C.M. CURTIS

LIKE MOST MARICOPA RESIDENTS, I have driven past Pima Butte (“M” mountain) many, many times. But only recently did I learn that a significant event in American history occurred on and around that landmark.

I believe the best way to study human history is to put ourselves in it. After all, though we may think those people back then were different from us, they weren’t. True, their lifestyle was different, and they had different customs, but all human beings are essentially the same. There is no reason why we can’t relate to what they felt and how they were affected by events in their lives.

So, let us begin. Let us experience vicariously the famous Battle of Pima Butte.

As with many historical events, there’s a good deal of backstory about the event we don’t know. One thing we know is the two tribes — the Yumas and the Maricopas — had a long history of mutual hostility.

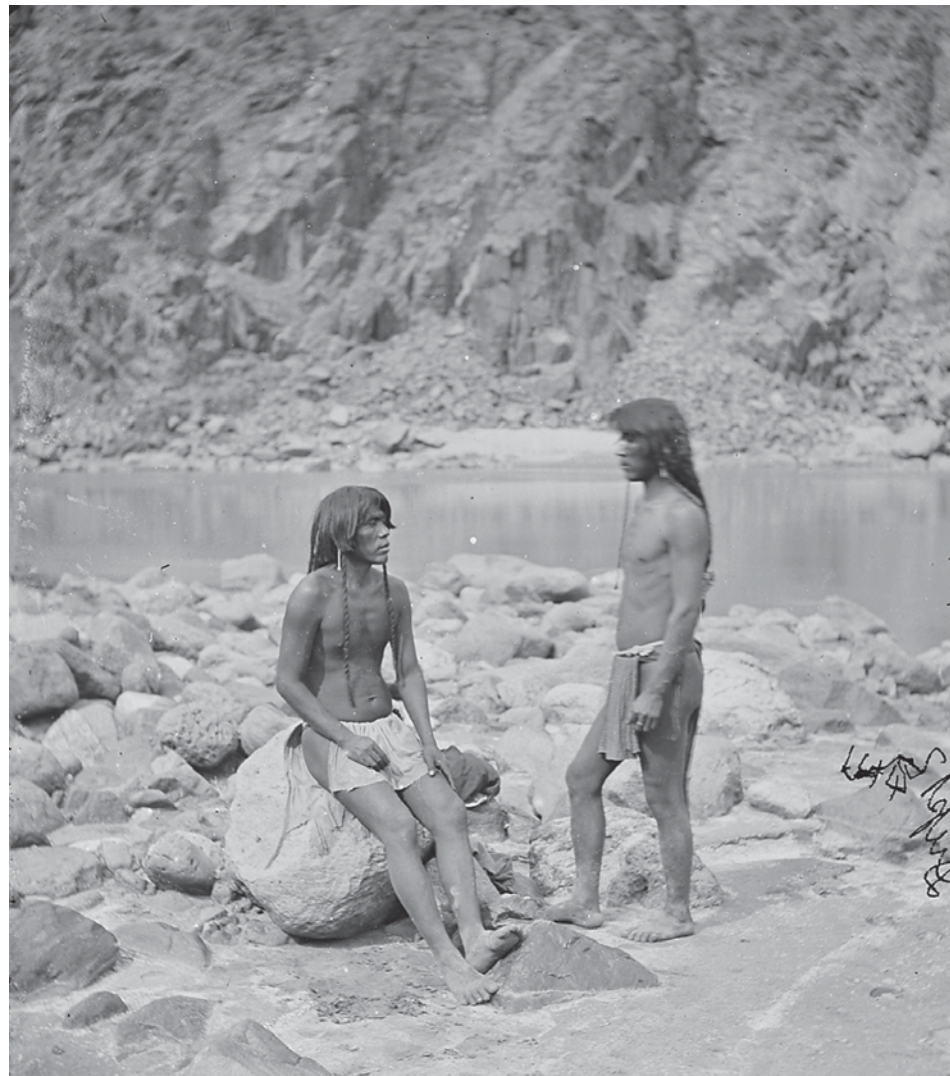
Sources disagree on the date of the event. Some say it occurred June 1, 1857, while others put it on Sept. 1 of the same year. My thinking is it happened in June because mesquite beans were being gathered. These ripen in early June and need to be harvested before the July monsoon storms. Either way, June or September, it was summer in the Arizona desert. Enough said.

The man who planned the attack chose his season poorly.

His name was Francisco. He had recently been made chief over the Yumas and — it is believed — was eager to prove himself to be a great war chief. He assembled a battalion of about 300 Yumas, Apaches, Yavapais and Mojaves and in eight days these allies walked nearly 200 miles, arriving at Maricopa Wells weary and hungry.

Things were about to get worse.

As is generally the case in human events there are different, and sometimes conflicting,



This 1871 photo by Timothy O’Sullivan shows two Mohave warriors in western Arizona.

versions of what happened over the next two days, but on some points most accounts agree. I will stick to those points.

The first act of war of the invaders was to kill a group of Maricopa women who were away from their village gathering mesquite beans. The women and children who had remained in the village heard the Yumas coming and fled to viva’vis, the mountain we now call Pima Butte. They climbed to the top, hoping they would be safe there.

The Yumas spared one of the mesquite bean gatherers to use her as a guide. Her brother was a well-known warrior, and she was forced to lead them to his dwelling, whereupon she was immediately killed.

Her brother fled. The invaders chased him, but he was fleet of foot and they were still weary. They shouted at him to stop and die like a man, but he was no fool. He told them if they were able to overtake him, he would show them how to die like a man.

The Yumas burned the village. Then, Chief Francisco made another blunder. He and his men remained in the village, resting and eating the food they found there. No doubt they needed both the rest and the nourishment, but a good general must think beyond such things and assess the larger picture.

Before proceeding, allow me to state that I am not taking sides. True, the Yumas were the invaders in this case, but it is claimed this raid was done in retaliation for a raid the Maricopas had previously made on the Yumas. I suspect those raids had been going on back and forth for longer than anyone in either tribe even remembered, irrationally perpetuating ancient and deeply entrenched hatreds.

Kind of like the rest of the human race.

Here’s where we insert ourselves into the story. Let’s step into the moccasins of the Maricopas. It goes without saying we are plenty honked off. We are determined not to allow these enemies to go unpunished. For the



The Battle of Pima Butte, the last major battle fought solely between Native Americans in North America, took its name because it occurred near the mountain most Maricopans know as “M” mountain.

rest of that day and throughout the night we send messengers to all the Maricopa villages roundabout as well as to those of our allies, the Pimas, gathering men to fight the invaders.

Now, let’s put ourselves in the moccasins of certain members of the attacking host; specifically, the Apaches, the Yavapais and the Mojaves who are accompanying the Yumas, but whose fight this is not really.

Let’s face it, we are not having fun yet. There was all that walking, and the hunger, and now we are just hanging around this village, giving the Maricopas plenty of time to assemble a body of warriors large enough to wipe us out. This Chief Francisco is not all he was cracked up to be.


So, we leave. Problem solved — at least for us.

Now, all that remain are the Yumas and a few Mojaves. By morning they are surrounded by a host of very angry Maricopas and Pimas, whose strategy is to keep them from breaking through to the river — oh yes, and to kill them all.

Think of the pitiable state of the Yumas — still weary from their long march, still in need of food, surrounded and outnumbered and desperately thirsty as the fight rages all through the blazing summer day.

The battle took place on a flat area somewhere south of Pima Butte and, except for one wounded warrior who was thought to be dead, but who, when night came, slipped away in the blessed darkness, all the Yumas — including Chief Francisco — were slaughtered.

Their bodies — an estimated 160 of them — were never buried, just left where they had fallen.

It was the last great battle fought on North American soil between native tribes. 

C.M. Curtis, American Western author and historian, is the best-selling author of 11 books, including eight westerns. His books can be found on Amazon.com and atcmcurtisauthor.com.

Brian Petersheim Jr.

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Brad Pitassi at Ground Zero with his friend's father's name at the South Tower memorial.

Submitted

9/11 Reflections

September 11 marks two decades since America was attacked on its own soil after Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners. The deadliest terrorist attack in history resulted in the loss of 2,977 lives when the planes crashed into New York City's Twin Towers, the Pentagon and a rural Pennsylvania field. Heroic passengers stormed the cockpit of United Flight 93 causing it to crash in Shanksville, Pennsylvania — and preventing what experts believe was intended to be the destruction of the White House or U.S. Capitol. Maricopans share their memories of that fateful day, 20 years ago.

DREW DIGRAZIA Resident



★ At first I couldn't really understand what I was seeing, because I was still in the mindset that it was an accident. When that other jet went through and there was a huge explosion, what really came to mind for me was "Yeah, we're under attack." ★ I didn't feel angry. Quite frankly, I was shocked — dare I say a little scared. As I continued to watch it unfold, I was late for work.

★ Watching the way the country came together in reaction to the situation, to me, it was like a shining moment for my generation.

TIM WHITMAN Resident, USAF Veteran



★ I was in my office in Fayetteville, North Carolina at Pope Air Force Base, and I was on the phone ordering some computers when the attacks happened. Being a history major, I thought of Pearl Harbor right away.

Within 10 or 15 minutes, I started getting mad because I knew this was deliberate. As a military guy, I knew that my job was going to change. ★ Right away, people started saying, 'Oh, this is not good,' and 'We're going to be going to war, I guarantee it.' And it was true. Especially with the Pentagon being attacked, we knew that they were trying to take out our military. ★ I had the sense then, just as I do today, that I am so happy that I am in the military and that I do have a role that helps defend the actions of that day.

There have been a few times over the last 20 years where I wished I was signed up again.

AMBER LIERMANN Councilmember



★ I felt shocked. I grieved, and I wondered what the future would be like for my child, for our youth, and for America. I have family members in the military and immediately considered what deployment would look like for our family. As the day went on, I felt the strength, bravery

and resolve of our country. It wasn't fear; it was the building of courage I was feeling. ★ I was not surprised by the way our country, states, cities, communities, businesses and places of worship came together to support one another. ★ The memory of 9/11 motivates me to make every effort to preserve and protect the rights and freedoms of every American.

RODNEY DATOR Resident



★ I was in shock, more so in disbelief. How could an accident like this happen in the busiest city in the U.S.? I was sad when I found out at first. I became angry and wanted the full uncensored wrath of the U.S. to be unleashed on those responsible for these atrocious acts. ★ I loved that we came together as a country. For once, we put aside our differences and united together as one nation! ★ It's still sad to reminisce on the event that took place 20 years ago. So many families were affected by 9/11, whether it be the loss of loved ones, others debilitated due to the conditions at Ground Zero or permanently injured during rescue efforts. At the same time, it was a period of unity and pride to be an American, because we put aside our differences and worked together helping one another.

BRADY LEFFLER Fire/Medical Chief



★ I was a battalion chief for the City of Mesa and saw it unfold on TV. First, I was in disbelief. I became angrier as the day went on and felt the need to head to New York and help in any way I could. ★ I was really proud of the emergency services response, but also concerned about the intelligence failures. I think we're more prepared today due to lessons learned. Just wish it never happened!

LARRY SCHROEDER Resident



★ I knew in my heart on that day that we were attacked. I knew from watching the first plane that it wasn't a fluke. Those buildings were not in the flight path. ★ We were, quite honestly, literally asleep. Now, we have become a way more protective society because we are more vulnerable. ★ 9/11 has taught me to be more aware of what's going on. If you feel like you need to say something to someone, say something. Don't be afraid to live, but be aware.

RICH VITIELLO Councilmember



★ That's where I was born and raised, so it really hit me hard. I started calling all my friends who worked in the Twin Towers, and thank God they all either didn't go into the office that day or were on vacation. ★ All I can say is 9/11 is a very special day for me, and my heart bleeds for the people who lost family and friends that day.

BRAD PITASSI Fire/Medical Assistant Chief



★ The father of one of my close friends growing up was murdered that day, Garnet "Ace" Bailey. Ace was an amazing man and was on United Flight 175 which hit the South Tower. Every time I watch the footage of that day, I watch my close childhood friend's father killed. It is personal. ★ I would not be doing what I love today if it wasn't for that day. 9/11 changed my trajectory from trying to get into law school to public safety. A lot of people say that being a firefighter is a calling. I agree, but for me, it took 9/11 to see what I was destined to do. ★ As I approach the 20th anniversary of one of the darkest days of my life, I'll do what I always do: make a few phone calls to check in with my friends, take time to reflect on

the 343 firefighters murdered that day and the rapidly growing number of ones who have died since from 9/11-related illnesses. I'll remember the pain and sadness from the day, and then at one point, I think about the positive that has come from it; the relationships I've made, the experiences I've had, and the positive things in my life that have occurred from that pivotal day.

JAMES HUGHES Police Chief



★ I was a patrol Sergeant in Northern New Jersey (25 miles west of NYC). I had just gotten off my shift when it occurred. I was shocked. My concern was about subsequent attacks in the surrounding NYC area including North Jersey. I called my PD and asked if we were needed to respond. ★ Having training in counter-terrorism and 15 years as a police officer, I understood it was an act of terrorism. My bigger fear was what the next location would be after D.C. and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. ★ I was confident our country would respond appropriately to ensure the safety of its citizens. I was impressed how everyone came together as a team. I recall in the days following the incident it was the first time in my career ever being thanked for my service to the community.

Comments edited for clarity.

Q&A

Maricopa Police Sgt. Hal Koozer

How does policing Maricopa today compare with when you started in 2007?

When we got here, PCSO was patrolling and taking all calls. We started with day shift and PCSO would cover the rest. Then as time went on, MPD took over the remaining shifts as more officers were hired. The beginning days were difficult as everyone came with their own way of doing policing. It took time for everyone to do things the "Maricopa way."

What is your favorite part of the job?

The citizens of Maricopa have always welcomed us with open arms. They have made us feel welcome and supported us from day one. We have watched citizens do heroic things. We have laughed with them, and we have cried with them. The people make the city, and they have helped us make Maricopa one of the safest cities in Arizona.

Also, I love seeing my coworkers show amazing compassion for our citizens. I have seen them purchase bikes for children whose bikes had been stolen and the parents could not afford a new one.

What do you enjoy least?

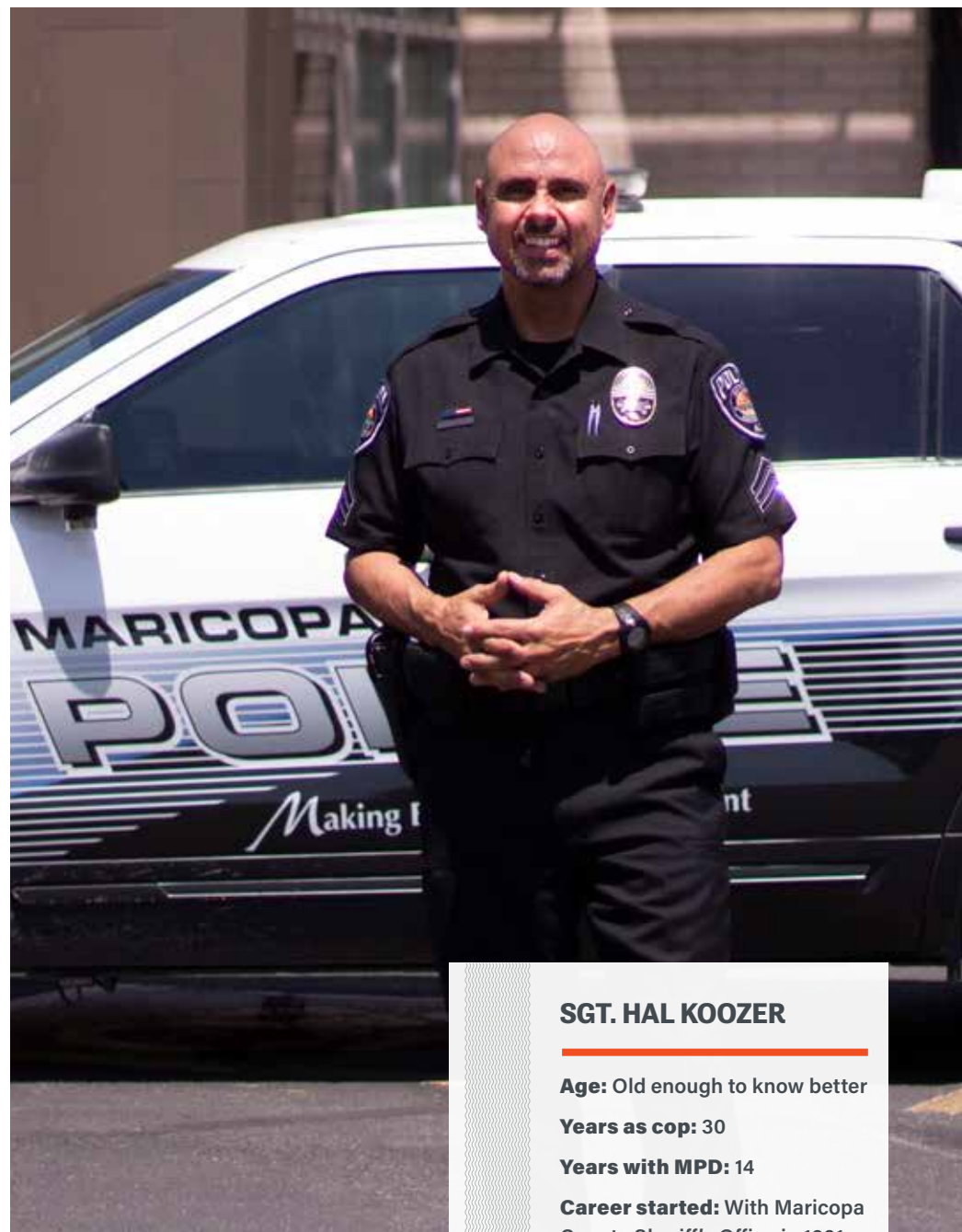
My least favorite part of the job is seeing people hurt. It's hard not to take some of that home with you. I have an extremely supportive wife and family who take very good care of me. I owe them everything!

What do you wish all Maricopans knew?

I want them to know that we care. I want them to never feel alone with their problems. I want them to know there is always help available. The employees of the Maricopa Police Department are top notch; you won't find any better people on this planet.

Favorite anecdote from your days in the department?

When we started, we were using maps provided by the Chamber of Commerce. Addresses were difficult to find as most of us



were used to finding addresses based on a grid system. Radios were terrible as antennas had not been set up yet. We could not get out in most areas of Maricopa. Our police station was created from four old Phoenix Police Department single-wide mobile homes that were in shambles upon delivery.

SGT. HAL KOOZER

Age: Old enough to know better

Years as cop: 30

Years with MPD: 14

Career started: With Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in 1991

Hometown: Broken Bow, Nebraska

Hobbies: Hiking and camping

Interesting fact: I was the first person hired as an officer for the city.

Brian Petersheim Jr.



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Maricopa population tops in Pinal

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU'S RELEASE of 2020 data shows Maricopa is the most populous city or town in Pinal County with 58,125 residents. And as growth would have it, the just-released population figures are already outdated.

City Manager Rick Horst pegs Maricopa's current population at over 63,000.

"This population number, coupled with the outlying population who travel to Maricopa for shopping and service needs, equates to approximately 95,000," Horst said. "This number begins to draw the attention of the retail, commercial, office, medical, restaurant and entertainment industry."

Mayor Christian Price said the Census "fell flat a little bit when it came to door-knocking" due to the pandemic, but the results are a "fairly true reflection of our growth rate."

"We are the largest incorporated city in Pinal County. I don't see that changing soon, with so many people wanting to come here and experience what we have." 

| Pinal County | 2020 | 2010 | Net change in population | |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Queen Creek ^{1,2} | 9,329 | 449 | 8,880 | 1978% |
| Maricopa | 58,125 | 43,482 | 14,643 | 34% |
| Saddlebrooke ³ | 12,574 | 9,614 | 2,960 | 31% |
| San Tan Valley ³ | 99,894 | 81,321 | 18,573 | 23% |
| Gold Canyon | 11,404 | 10,159 | 1,245 | 12% |
| Coolidge | 13,218 | 11,825 | 1,393 | 12% |
| Casa Grande | 53,658 | 48,571 | 5,087 | 10% |
| Apache Junction ¹ | 38,499 | 35,840 | 2,659 | 7% |
| Florence | 26,785 | 25,536 | 1,249 | 5% |
| Arizona City ³ | 9,868 | 10,475 | (607) | -6% |
| Eloy | 15,635 | 16,631 | (996) | -6% |

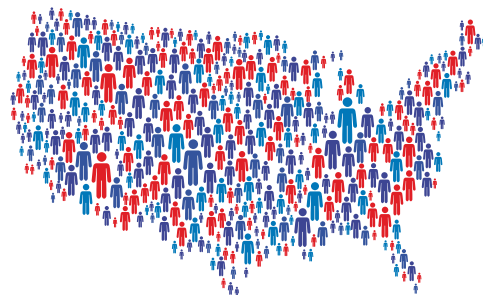
¹ Population in Maricopa County excluded

² Most of Queen Creek's Pinal County growth was result of annexation.

³ Unincorporated area

| Select other communities | 2020 | 2010 | Net change in population | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Buckeye | 91,502 | 50,876 | 40,626 | 80% |
| Ak-Chin Indian Community | 1,070 | 1,001 | 69 | 7% |
| Chandler | 275,987 | 236,123 | 39,864 | 17% |
| Gila Bend | 1,892 | 1,922 | (30) | -2% |
| Gila River Indian Community | 14,053 | 11,712 | 2,341 | 20% |
| Gilbert | 267,918 | 208,453 | 59,465 | 29% |
| Maricopa | 58,125 | 43,482 | 14,643 | 34% |
| Phoenix | 1,608,139 | 1,445,632 | 162,507 | 11% |
| Queen Creek | 59,519 | 26,361 | 33,158 | 126% |

2020 Populations



331,449,281

7%

Increase from 2010



7,151,502

12%

Increase from 2010



425,264

13%

Increase from 2010



58,125

34%

Increase from 2010

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Councilmember Bob Marsh, Vice Mayor Nancy Smith, Joan Koczor and Councilmember Rich Vitiello



Councilmember Amber Liermann

Community Center opening

The Maricopa Community Center opened July 24 with a pair of ribbon cuttings drawing about 200 people on a rainy Saturday morning. An \$80,000 renovation of the former library at 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road provides dedicated space for seniors and veterans. The central room of the 8,000-square-foot building is also available for other community events. Attendees of the grand-opening celebration included members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Blue Star Mothers of Maricopa, Age-Friendly Advisory Committee and Maricopa City Council.



Joan Koczor and Bryan Ott



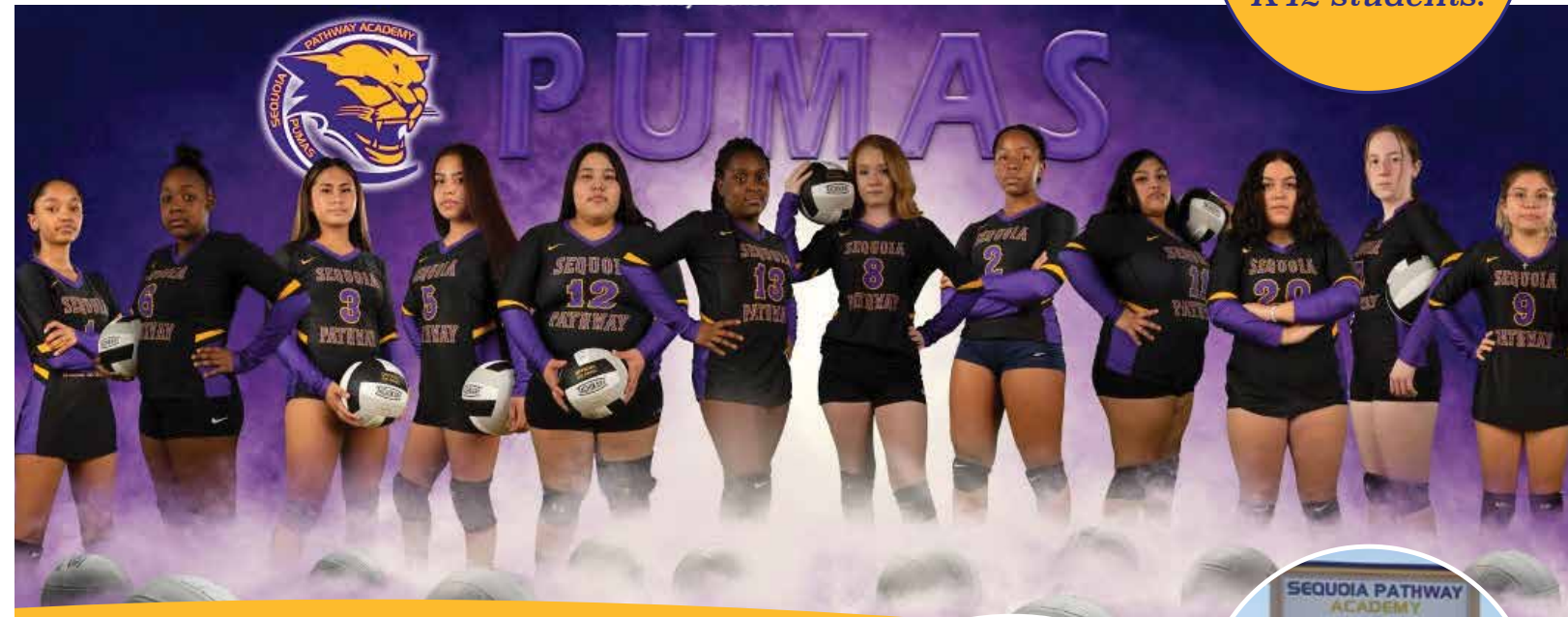
Bob McGovern



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Business, development around town

Lennar plans 640-acre development

Lennar Homes is planning to develop the 640-acre Anderson Farms in southeastern Maricopa.

The property is bordered by Bowlin Road on the north, Farrell Road on the south, Murphy Road on the east and Hartman Road on the west. The Sorrento community is directly west of the proposed development.

The preliminary site plan submitted to the city shows home lot sizes ranging from 4,500 square feet to 7,800 square feet.

The application designates the southeast corner of Bowlin and Hartman roads and the northeast corner of Farrell and Hartman roads for mixed-use commercial, service or office uses.

The existing Anderson Farms residence and agricultural buildings on the north side of the Farrell Road alignment will remain as part of the initial land plan.

Century Communities to build 1,600 homes

Century Communities, the developer of Alterra, is applying to rezone 326 acres at the southeast corner of Murphy and Farrell roads from General Rural to a Planned Area Development. Approval by the Maricopa Planning & Zoning Commission would allow Century to develop a mixed-use project with more than 1,600 homes directly east of Maricopa Unified School District's new high school.

The preliminary plan for the initial phase calls for 456 homes on 111 acres with a density of 4.3 homes per acre. The second phase would yield 1,152 homes on 215 acres.

P&Z approves RV, boat storage

The Maricopa Planning & Zoning Commission unanimously approved plans for an 11-acre RV and boat storage facility on Cowtown Road east of White and Parker Road. The development will have 335 covered parking stalls, 72 uncovered stalls, a 950-square-foot office, a 1,300-square-foot wash/service bay and a fully enclosed vehicle storage area of 8,600 square feet.

The primary entrance will be on Cowtown Road with another entry/exit at the south end of the facility onto what is now vacant land. Both access points will have automatic gates.



Hospital group expanding to hotel, condos, office at Copper Sky

Developers of the city's planned second hospital have doubled the size of their project after buying more land at Copper Sky, with an eye on even more.

City Council approved the sale of 4.7 acres at the southeast corner of West Bowlin Road and John Wayne Parkway to Copper Sky Hotel and Residential Group LLC for \$1.47 million. The company shares principals with S3 BioTech LLC, the entity planning to build the city's second community hospital on four adjacent acres. It purchased that land from the city in June for \$1.38 million.

The specialty ER hospital will be operated by Nutex Health of Houston. Construction is expected to start by the end of the year.

Conceptual sketches of the development, which are preliminary and subject to change, show a hotel and condos on the four-acre plot. As currently conceived, a 125-bed hotel and 70-unit seven-story luxury condominium building would sit atop a covered "smart parking" structure for about 280 cars.

At the same Aug. 3 meeting, the council heard discussion about the potential sale of 12 acres of city-owned land at Copper Sky to Copper Sky Innovation Group LLC for \$1.46 million. The company, which shares principals with S3 BioTech LLC and Copper Sky Hotel and Residential Group LLC, plans to build an Innovation Center along the east side of John Wayne Parkway, between the new La Quinta and Palo Brea, a move that would displace the city's 3-acre dog park.

Discount Tire has been issued a permit to begin the \$1.4 million construction of its garage at **Sonoran Creek Marketplace**, 20240 N. John Wayne Pkwy., lots 2 and 3. Tenant improvements valued at \$100,000 will be made for a nail salon and Doege Development LLC will make \$40,000 of improvements to The Joint Chiropractic's suite.

Silver Fern Companies LLC will construct two \$24,750 ramadas at The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado – one for **Gehan Homes** of Arizona LLC at "Cogburn Park" at 22455 N. Powers Pkwy. E. and one for **Meritage Homes** of Arizona in "Little Pardner Park," 40085 W. Carey Drive.

Construction Solutions Company LLC will provide new construction and tenant improvement work at **Estrella Gin Business Park**, 45700 W. Edison Road. A single-story, multi-tenant office building will be built at a cost of \$843,581. Tenant improvements for the **Maricopa Chamber of Commerce** and **Maricopa Economic Development Alliance** will be done for \$183,178.

Tenant improvements in the amount of \$75,480 will be made to Suite 110 at **Maricopa Towne Plaza**, 19975 N. John Wayne Pkwy. The 1,258-square-foot suite will be renovated by Absolute Remodeling and Construction Inc.

Milling and paving work will be done at the **Maricopa Power Center** at the Wells, 41620 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy., leading to traffic-control changes.



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Teri Romero-Dominguez M.Ed.
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR



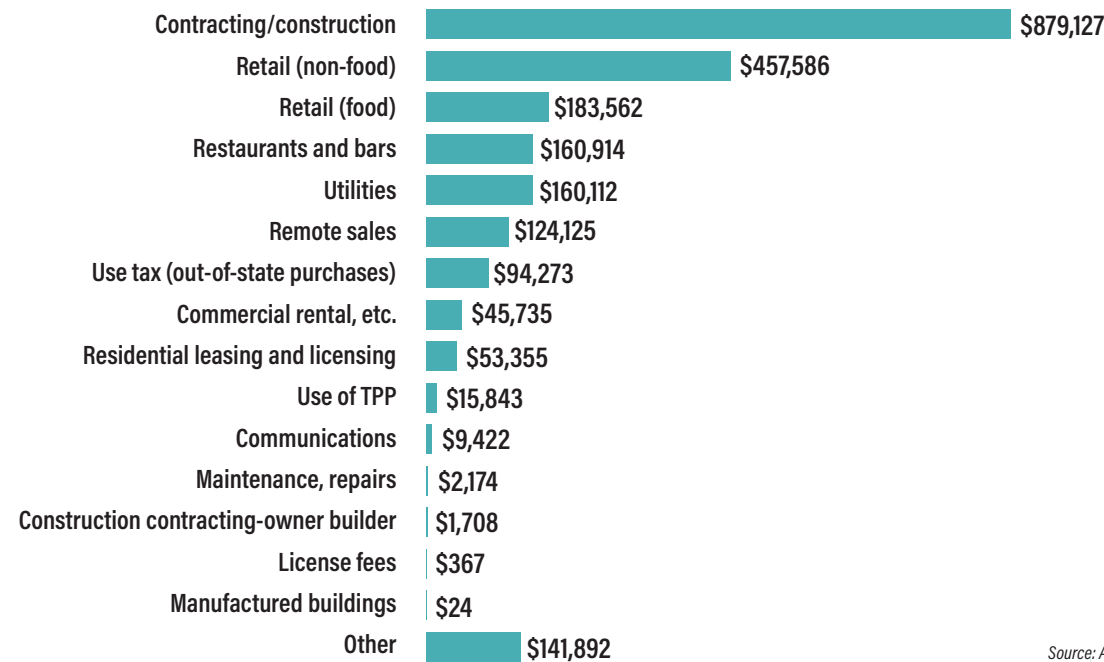
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Maricopa Sales Tax Collections

In July, businesses paid more than \$2.3 million in transaction privilege taxes. Here's where people spent money based on the amount of sales tax collected:



Source: Arizona Department of Revenue

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| 4 |  Copacetic Magazine | 38 | 2 | 2 |

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Salsa Night Market is Back!
Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021 from 6-10 p.m.
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The City of Maricopa is thrilled to announce the return of the Salsa Night Market! The event has been rescheduled to September in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. We're bringing back public salsa sampling and have revamped our popular salsa contest to include both "Amateur" and "Ultimate" salsa categories and have more than doubled the grand prize to \$2500!

For more information, or to sign up to be a vendor or salsa contestant, visit www.copanightmarket.com today!

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The missing milestone

BY KRISTIN GRAMANDO
J. WARREN FUNERAL SERVICES

THE ROAD OF LIFE IS FILLED WITH important milestones — major events and achievements that help to define who we are and what's important to us. Events such as graduation, marriage, childbirth, and retirement are universal moments that bring families together to celebrate those significant accomplishments that required careful planning and financial commitment.

But what about funerals? Where do they fit on the list of life's milestones?

Many people are hesitant to include funerals when discussing other important life moments because talking openly and honestly about death may be considered taboo. As a result too many well-intentioned friends and family die unprepared, leaving their loved ones with a painful emotional and economic burden.

A funeral service is a reflection of a person's legacy and an opportunity for bereaved friends and family to come together to begin the healing process. By taking the time to prearrange all the details of their funeral, one can ensure that it will be an event that truly represents their life and also serves as a responsible, thoughtful gift to their loved ones.

Funeral preplanning is the missing milestone and should be an important part of everyone's long-term blueprint.

In addition to prearranging, many people also opt to prefund their funeral because it locks in today's prices and saves family members from financial burden. With inflation causing funeral prices to nearly double every 10 years, prefunding is a smart, economical choice. Multiple payment plans exist to fit a variety of needs.



The immediate benefit of preplanning is the peace of mind that comes with being prepared. Your wedding wasn't planned overnight and neither should your final wishes. Prearranging and prefunding your funeral is a smart investment for your family that they'll always remember.

You're never too young or too old to make preplanning the next milestone in your life.

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Board-certified docs expert in wound care, trauma, more

BY DR. C. JON BEECROFT, DPM, FACFAS

AT MARICOPA FOOT AND ANKLE, WE encounter many types of pathologies. Two of them are wound care and trauma.

Wound care, especially for the foot and ankle, is a specialty that takes years to become an expert. I often tell patients wound care is forever changing. No two patients are the same, and that is where training, certification and expertise are key to success.

What is wound care exactly? It is the treatment of an open wound in need of assistance to complete healing. This can be from a simple laceration or cut done on the playground to open wounds caused by diabetes.

Proper wound care is tailored to each patient and could involve a team of doctors, including Primary Care Physicians, Vascular Specialists, Cardiologists, Endocrinologists,

Internal Medicine, Podiatry and Radiologists. Knowing how to organize and collaborate with other specialists is just one part of the treatment.

If you have a foot or ankle wound, diabetic or not, that is not healing, our doctors have been trained and certified over the years to assist in treatment. We understand it can be a scary time to have an open wound and we give care, compassion and education to help patients heal.

Trauma. I get asked a lot if we treat trauma and do surgeries. The answer is yes to both. The doctors at Maricopa Foot and Ankle have been trained and certified to treat all forms of trauma, including fractured bones, lacerations or cuts, falls, sprains, tendon pain and any kind of sporting injuries.

Trauma is inconvenient and causes a lot of chaos in one's life. At Maricopa Foot and Ankle, we have in-office X-rays the doctors are

trained to read and get you a diagnosis quickly. We also have Ultrasound Unit to look at all musculoskeletal ailments. We work closely with radiology to get further information like CT scans and MRIs. If the trauma is bad enough, we are trained surgeons and prepared to do what it takes to treat you.

Maricopa Foot and Ankle treats all types of pains and injuries. Every patient is different and needs to be treated as an individual. Wound care and trauma of the foot and ankle are just two of the ailments we treat. We are trained and certified to assist with whatever foot and ankle problems we see. We love that we can be a local podiatry office and are proud to have served Maricopa for over 13 years.

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5 tips for healthier skin

BY KRISTINA DONNAY, FNP-C

YOUR SKIN IS YOUR FIRST LAYER OF defense against the outside world. Learn to take good care of your skin, so your skin can keep taking good care of you.

1 Protect your skin from the sun.

The best way to prevent early signs of aging is to protect yourself from sunlight. The sun can damage and age your skin quickly. Ninety percent of fine lines are caused by sun exposure, which makes sunscreen the ultimate ingredient for younger-looking skin. Use an SPF 30 or higher daily. Apply the sunscreen 15 minutes before heading outdoors, as it takes a while for sunscreen to activate. Up to 80% of UV light can penetrate clouds, so sunscreen is still important on a cloudy day.

2 Stay hydrated.

Staying properly hydrated is necessary for your overall health. Not only does water play an important role in your digestion and circulation, but it's also vital for your skin's health and beauty. Without adequate water intake, skin appears duller, and wrinkles and pores more prominent. Proper hydration helps the skin become plump and improves its elasticity, meaning it's less likely to crack and have irritations and blemishes.

Most people should drink half their weight in ounces daily.

3 Don't smoke or drink.

When we talk about skin aging, we're really talking about collagen or, more accurately, a lack thereof. Pretty much every desirable characteristic of healthy skin comes down to collagen content. The more collagen protein we have, the firmer, plumper and healthier our skin looks. But as we age, our collagen production drops off, and the collagen we already have starts to break down. Smoking, drinking and UV exposure causes the collagen production to decline even faster causing wrinkles, loss of plumpness and loss of fullness. Taking collagen peptide powders daily can also help decrease collagen loss.

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4 Don't skip the serums.

If there's one step in our daily skin-care regimens we dare not skip, it's applying serum. Serums are the best way to deliver a highly-concentrated, potent dose of active ingredients to the skin. Whether it's antioxidants, hyaluronic acid, peptides, botanical agents or any number of other ingredients, serums can carry smaller molecules deep into the skin, where they exert the most benefit.


5 You are what you eat.

Your diet is important to healthy skin. Eat plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins. Research suggests a diet rich in fish oil or fish-oil supplements and low in unhealthy fats and processed or refined carbohydrates can promote younger-looking skin. Once you make changes to your diet, don't expect an overnight miracle. It takes 6-8 weeks for new skin to emerge, so the visible benefits from dietary changes will take time.



At Maricopa Wellness Center, we care about your health and skin. We offer collagen peptide, collagen serum and sunscreen, and our skin-care products and supplements are professional-strength and medical-grade resulting in higher efficacy and ingredient concentrations. Our products are produced in the United States with no added fillers.

Maricopa Wellness Center sunscreens contain zinc oxide. Zinc provides the skin physical broad-spectrum coverage from UVA (aging rays) and UVB (burning rays).

Maricopa Wellness Center's collagen peptide contains a unique blend of three patented collagen peptides supported by clinical research showing their efficacy for supporting collagen production to help strengthen bones and joints, and improve skin elasticity.

MW Skincare's Liquid Collagen Serum is clinically proven to deliver equivalent results to one injection of collagen filler in just two weeks of regular use. It delivers an 85% increase in hyaluronic acid synthesis and a decrease in skin laxity of 50% after four weeks. 

For persistent skin conditions, talk to your provider. This article is provided for general information only and should not be treated as a substitute for the medical advice of your health-care professional. If you have any concerns about your general health, you should contact your health care provider.

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SPONSORED CONTENT

CubeSmart brings 'Class A' storage to town

MOST OF US HAVE DEALT WITH A storage unit at some point — during a move, as a place to store excess stuff or for additional workspace. Well, for those of us who have had to unload a trailer in the summer heat or during a monsoon storm, there is good news — a new storage facility opened in Maricopa, and it will change the way you look at them forever.

CubeSmart, located at 20215 N. John Wayne Pkwy., offers storage with the enormous benefit of being indoors and fully air-conditioned. It has more than 900 units in the three-story facility, 95% of which are air-conditioned. It boasts state-of-the-art security including 75 cameras, individual exterior-gate and building-entry codes, and 24-hour security monitoring.

The facility is a joint venture development by Hawkins Companies and Noblewest Development and it is operated by CubeSmart, a national company with more than 1 million satisfied customers and one of the most trusted names in storage.

"Our objective was to bring something to Maricopa that just wasn't available here," Noblewest Development's John Badura said. "We wanted to offer residents a Class A storage option, and this definitely fits the bill. It's just so different from anything else available in Maricopa."

Forty-nine outdoor, drive-up units complement 867 air-conditioned lockers. Features include an air-conditioned drive-through loading area that can accommodate a 26-foot moving truck. There, customers can load and unload in air-conditioned comfort while taking their belongings directly from the drive aisle to their unit via one of the three large elevators.

General Manager Jenna Poole said one of the benefits she hears customers talking about is the easy, secure, automated access.

"All our units are clean and new, and we have a variety of safety and security features like 24-hour video recording and bright lights throughout the facility," she said. "People feel very secure coming in here any time of the day."

Another benefit of CubeSmart is its fully-automated building, allowing access, if required and necessary, at any time of day or night. When customers lease a unit, they get a key code specific to their account. That



code tells CubeSmart who is in and out of the building and grounds at any given time. The interior doors and elevators also require code access, so when a customer enters their code at the elevator, they only get access to their floor. Visitors also must key out of the building, giving them confidence they know who's in the facility at any time of the day.

Those with COVID concerns can take comfort in CubeSmart's available contactless rental process through CubeSmart.com, or the CubeSmart app. Individual units are secured with padlocks, for which only the unit owner has the key, providing an additional layer of security.


Demand has been through the roof since CubeSmart opened this year, with customers raving about the variety of sizes available to accommodate about any storage need. They


run from as small as a 5'x5' space that can hold the overflow from a hall closet or bathroom to a 10'x30' unit that can hold the contents of a 3-bedroom home.

Poole said Maricopa was the perfect location for a facility like this.

"The owners and operators saw the development in Maricopa and saw a need for this," she said. "With Sprouts coming to town and bringing Class A retail, they felt there was an opportunity to bring the residents of Maricopa a Class A, automated, storage facility. I know they are very happy with their decision and hope the residents are happy to have us there as well."

Pricing for the units begins at \$98 per month, and promotions include 35% off or a free month for InMaricopa readers (see page 63 or visit CubeSmart.com). The site also offers helpful tips on how to choose the ideal size unit for your needs.

CubeSmart also offers moving and storage supplies like boxes, tape, bubble wrap, mattress covers, dollies and push carts. 



















 **520-582-0479**
CubeSmart.com

SPONSORED CONTENT

BUSINESS



Summary of July 14-Aug. 15 food inspections by Pinal County Environmental Health Services.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|
|  | Proper cold holding temperatures (≤41°F) Internal temperatures of cut tomatoes and cut greens/cabbage in retail produce cooler and in reach-in display case 49-51°F. | Proper cooling methods used; adequate equipment for temperature control Ambient air temperature of produce cooler and reach-in cooler 45°F (≤41°F required). | | | | | | | |
|  | Proper cold holding temperatures (≤41°F) Internal temperatures of roast beef, turkey, cut tomatoes, cheese and chicken salad held in "left" prep cooler 50-53°F. Ambient air was recorded at 54°F. Internal temperatures of cheese, cut lettuce, cut tomatoes, chilis and roast beef held in "right" prep cooler 57-60°F. Ice buildup on bottom of upper compartment. Air temperature recorded at 34°F. | | | | Proper cooling methods used; adequate equipment for temperature control Ambient air temperature of "left" prep cooler recorded 54°F and air temperature of "right" prep cooler 34°F with visible ice forming. | | | | |
|  | Food-contact surfaces cleaned and sanitized Buildup of grease, food debris on pizza oven and fryer baskets. | Toxic substances properly identified, stored, used Seven chemical spray-bottles in kitchen and bar area without labels. | Proper cooling methods used; adequate equipment for temperature control Internal temperatures of cooked pasta held in deep, plastic, closed container 60°F. | | Thermometers used and accurate Food probe thermometer not present. | Food and non-food contact surfaces cleanable, properly designed, constructed and used Gaskets, inside door panel and front panel on reach-in cooler at pizza prep line damaged. | Ware-washing facilities installed, maintained, used; test strips No testing device/strips for in-use quat sanitizer. | Plumbing installed; proper backflow devices Wall-mounted chemical dispenser directly connected to potable water supply at the prep sink water inlet pipe. Approved backflow device/air gap required. | Physical facilities installed, maintained and clean Buildup of debris on walls, floors and drains. Stagnant water in bottom of beer cooler. |
|  | Proper hot holding temperatures (≥135°F) Deli: Internal temperatures of fried chicken held in mounded fashion in hot holding display case approximately three hours 125-128°F. | Non-food contact surfaces clean Buildup of debris on window rails of meat display case. | Non-food contact surfaces clean Deli: Buildup of debris on window rails of deli display case. | Physical facilities installed, maintained and clean Buildup of debris under meat display case. | | | | | |
|  | Toxic substances properly identified, stored, used Can of insecticide in kitchen storage closet. Staff said it is used for anything that comes under the door. Insecticides are not to be stored in the kitchen and are to be applied only by a licensed professional. | | Compliance with variance, specialized process, HACCP Plan Using reduced-oxygen packaging for frozen fish without required thawing instructional label. Reinspection by Aug. 6 to verify correction. | | Ware-washing facilities installed, maintained, used; test strips Using a quat-based sanitizer without testing device/strips. | | | | |
|  | Toxic substances properly identified, stored, used Two unlabeled spray bottles held in kitchen. Staff stated water was in the bottle. Contents tested to be solution of chlorine at 200 ppm. The other bottle confirmed to be a soap solution. In-use wiping cloth on food-prep table. Wiping cloth solution tested at 200 ppm (versus required 50-100 ppm). | | | | | | | | |
|  | Food-contact surfaces cleaned and sanitized Employee picked measuring spoons off floor, then spray-rinsed spoons in three-compartment sink and returned spoons to service on cook line. Manager instructed to remove spoons from service and provide wash, rinse and sanitize steps. | | | | | | | | |
|  | Food-contact surfaces cleaned and sanitized In-use chlorine-based sanitizer tested to be at least 200 ppm instead of required 50-100 ppm. | Non-food contact surfaces clean Using chlorine-based sanitizer without testing strips. | | | | | | | |
|  | Proper cooling methods used; adequate equipment for temperature control Internal temperatures of cooked chicken wings held in deep, plastic, covered containers in walk-in cooler 119-129°F. Reviewed cooling methods to include shallow, metal uncovered pans. | | Non-food contact surfaces clean Buildup of debris on non-food contact surfaces of warmers and hot plate. | | Physical facilities installed, maintained and clean Damaged wall tiles above back prep table. surfaces of warmers and hot plate. | Adequate ventilation and lighting; designated areas used Damaged wall tiles above back prep table. surfaces of Buildup of debris on air vent in kitchen. Excessive amount of grease and debris on ceiling and walls above and around fryer on countertop. Fryer must be positioned with adequate ventilation (under hood). | | | |
|  | Certified Food Protection Manager No employees with a certified food manager card. | Proper date marketing and disposition Open packages of turkey, ham, roast beef and nacho meat in walk-in cooler with expired date marks. | Food and non-food contact surfaces cleanable, properly designed, constructed and used Duct tape holding walk-in window together. | | Hot and cold water available with adequate pressure Damaged wall tiles above back prep table. | | | | |
|  | Hands clean and properly washed Employee picked up cardboard box off floor then washed hands in rinse basin of three-compartment sink instead of hand-washing sink. | | | | | | | | |
|  | Proper hot holding temperatures (≥135°F) Internal temperature of chili held in warmer seven hours 125-129°F. | Food and non-food contact surfaces cleanable, properly designed, constructed and used Insulation panel on hamburger prep-cooler lid damaged, held together with tape. | | | Hot and cold water available with adequate pressure Hot water not available, recorded at 88°F. Required temperatures ≥100°F at hand sinks and ≥110°F at three-compartment sink. | | | | |
|  | Hands clean and properly washed Employee left restroom, took order at register, then began food prep. | Proper reheating procedures for hot holding (≥135°F) Internal temperature of commercially pre-cooked chicken wings removed from oven for hot holding 100-118°F. | | | Physical facilities installed, maintained and clean Black organic matter on three-compartment sink backsplash and mop area walls. Buildup of debris on walls around mixer and back food prep table area. Coving behind mixer damaged/missing. Floor tiles around walk-in cooler damaged. | | | Non-food contact surfaces clean (20700 N. John Wayne Pkwy.): Buildup of debris on non-food contact surfaces of ice-cream machine, coffee drink machine and prep coolers. damaged. Top of prep cooler damaged. Door on prep cooler on make line broken. | |
|  | Proper reheating procedures for hot holding (≥135°F) (41710 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.): Internal temperatures of commercially pre-cooked/ready-to-eat folded eggs removed from reheating unit for hot holding 77-127°F. | Proper cold holding temperatures (≤41°F) Internal (20700 N. John Wayne Pkwy.): Internal temperatures of cheese, cut lettuce and cut tomatoes held in make-table prep cooler 50-51°F. | | | Proper cooling methods used; adequate equipment for temperature control (20700 N. John Wayne Pkwy.): Ambient air temperature of prep cooler at make table 53°F. | Food and non-food contact surfaces cleanable, properly designed, constructed and used (20700 N. John Wayne Pkwy.): Upright freezer severely dented, door held closed with duct tape and gaskets damaged. Top of prep cooler damaged. Door on prep cooler on make line broken. | | | |
|  | Proper cooling methods used; adequate equipment for temperature control Internal temperatures of cut lettuce held in deep, plastic, covered, stacked containers in walk-in cooler 52-64°F. | | | | | | | | |
|  | No bare hand contact with ready-to-eat foods or approved alternate method properly followed Employee used bare hands in contact with ready-to-eat onions for salads. | Proper cooling methods used; adequate equipment for temperature control Cooked pasta held in individual, sealed, plastic bags in the walk-in cooler. Internal temperatures of the pasta 57-63°F. Pasta removed from bags and placed on flat sheet in walk-in cooler. | | | | | | | |
|  | Proper reheating procedures for hot holding (≥135°F) Internal temperatures of green beans held in upright hot holding unit 55-100°F. | | | | | | | | |
|  | Time as a public health control; procedures, record Cut lettuce, cut tomatoes and cheese held on make line not identified with required time stamp/markings. Internal temperatures of | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| EXCELLENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">AFC Sushi (inside Bashas')Aliberto'sBahama BucksBashas' BakeryCircle K (18141 N. John Wayne Pkwy.)Dairy QueenDenny'sDesert Wind Middle SchoolDickey Barbecue Pit (41650 W. Maricopa-CG Hwy.)Domino's Pizza | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dunkin' DonutsFrancisco's Mexican FoodIHOPJersey Mike's SubsKFCMaricopa Head StartPapa John's PizzaPapa Murphy's PizzaPima Butte Elementary SchoolSanta Rosa Elementary SchoolShell Food MartSonic Drive-in | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Starbucks (inside Bashas')SubwayTaco BellWalgreensWalmartWalmart BakeryWalmart DeliWater and Ice | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bashas'Bashas' DeliThe Box Meat ShopChildren's Learning Adventure Childcare CentersChipotle Mexican GrillDickey's Barbecue Pit (20924 N. John Wayne Pkwy.)The Duke at Rancho El DoradoDutch Bros CoffeeFreddy's Frozen Custard & SteakburgersLittle Caesar's Pizza | <ul style="list-style-type: none">McDonald's (20700 N. John Wayne Pkwy.)McDonald's (41710 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.)Native Grill & WingsRosati's PizzaSanta Cruz Elementary SchoolWendy's |
|--|--|---|---|---|

Source: Pinal County

EXCELLENT No violations found. **SATISFACTORY** Violations corrected during inspection. **NEEDS IMPROVEMENT** Critical items noted during inspection cannot be corrected immediately requiring follow-up inspection. **UNACCEPTABLE** Gross, unsanitary conditions necessitating the discontinuation of service.



Desert Wind teachers, from left: Nerwin Balilu, Michaela Banate, Jan Mark Perales, Kelle Agsib, Rosemarie Ybanez and Louie Oceja.

Foreign teachers make world of difference at MUSD

BY JAY TAYLOR

FINDING GOOD TEACHERS IS tough. An already stressful job has become more difficult with the COVID-19 pandemic, increased politicization and the pressure for students to achieve in the classroom.

A nationwide shortage of teachers has been felt in Arizona for several years. School districts across the state, including Maricopa Unified School District, have scrambled to find qualified teachers.

The profession is going through a metamorphosis, according to Tom Beckett, MUSD’s human resources director. A career in teaching is exciting for some, challenging for others.

“You almost have to be on a mission to do it and feel good about it,” he said. “It’s a highly

competitive market, and there are lots of jobs out there where people can make more money with fewer challenges.”

Like many other districts, MUSD has gotten creative in its effort to hire more teachers. One component of its strategy is attracting foreign teachers to Maricopa classrooms.

It’s not a new initiative. The district has brought high-quality teachers from other countries since 2015. But the strategy is highly successful and gaining steam.

“I’m not sure what we would have done if we didn’t have these 50 teachers,” Beckett said.

A GROWING NUMBER

The district benefits by attracting certified teachers with experience and expertise in their disciplines.

The number of foreign-national teachers in the district rose this year to an all-time high of 65 — there were just two in the program’s first year — about 10 percent of all faculty positions in the district. In fact, their ranks in the district have grown more than 60% in just the last year.

Superintendent Dr. Tracey Lopeman is proud of the program.

“Positions in high-need areas such as math, science, special education and the arts are always challenging to fill,” Lopeman said. “This year, foreign-national teachers are a significant addition to all the new recruits at MUSD, and they help fill many of those high-need positions.”

In addition to filling a huge need — there are 30 teaching at Maricopa High School this year — foreign teachers are an excellent fit, according to principal Deana McNamee.

Ian Roberts

“This is my first year working with the foreign-national teachers,” she said. “I find it very exciting. They are great employees who are eager to learn and eager to collaborate with the staff and their colleagues. They are grateful to be here in the United States and that spills over into their job and their enthusiasm for the job.”

As a rule, McNamee added, they are enthusiastic about extracurricular activities and immersing themselves in the MHS culture and the Maricopa community.

CULTURAL BENEFITS

At Maricopa Elementary School, there are nine foreign teachers this year.

Principal Jennifer Robinson said she’s getting more and more inquiries from foreign teachers looking to learn about the school and inquire about open positions. She believes the program is helping the district attract quality teachers.

“We’re very open to having the best qualified candidate and exploring different options with teachers from different countries,” she said. “The most important thing is ensuring that the students get the quality education they deserve.”

Part of that quality education is the ability to learn about other cultures from their teachers.

Most of MUSD’s foreign teachers are in the United States on a J-1, or non-immigrant cultural exchange visa, which mandates they share elements of their culture with students, faculty and staff at their school — and also learn about United States and Arizona culture. The visas are for three years but may be extended



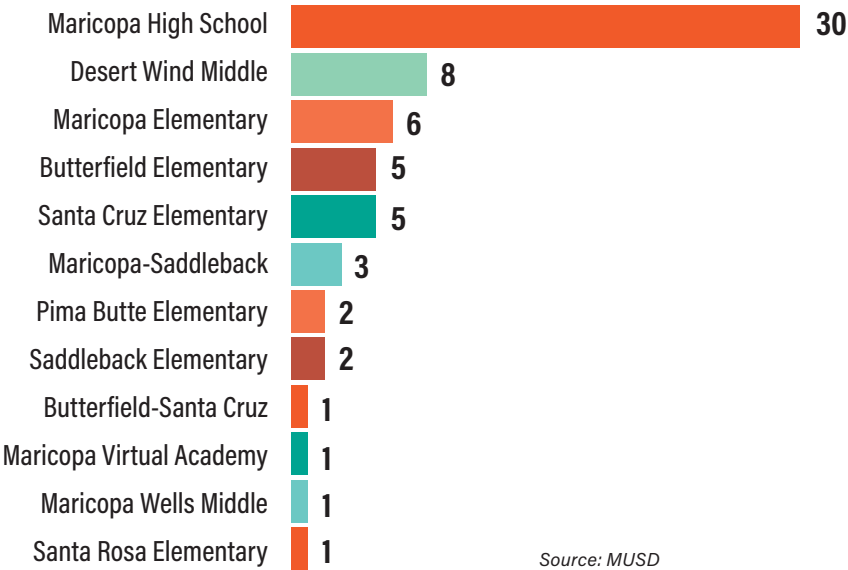
Freshman Ava Lawrence is all smiles as a student in Mr. Giner’s math class.

for up to two additional years. When the visa expires, the teacher must leave the country.

Michaela Banate is a science teacher in her first year at Desert Wind Middle School. Like the majority of the district’s foreign teachers, she is from the Philippines. She taught there for seven years prior to coming to the U.S. After participating in a cultural exchange program at her school in the Philippines, she wanted to immerse herself even more in this country. So, she applied at DWMS and was hired.

WHERE ARE THEY TEACHING?

There are 65 foreign-nationals in MUSD schools teaching elementary, secondary and special education, with significant numbers in math, science and ESS. Here’s a school-by-school breakdown. (Four schools share teachers.)



Source: MUSD

“Part of the program is for us to share our culture, our tradition and our knowledge,” Banate said. “One of things I incorporate into those lessons is some of our language. And Filipinos love food, so I share that part of our culture as well.”

Kim Giner, a math teacher in his sixth year at MHS, came to Maricopa after teaching two years in the United Arab Emirates. He uses technology to share his culture.

“I try to show them YouTube videos of my country, what it looks like, and where it is,” he said. “The kids sometimes don’t know where the Philippines is, so we start there. The best way I’ve found to make it work is to get an information exchange going. We’ll play some games and do informal things like that. I’m amazed sometimes at how open the kids are and fascinated sometimes by the results we get.”

“Personally, I love Mr. Giner,” freshman Ava Lawrence said of her teacher. “It’s so cool to learn about a variety of places he has taught and how it’s different there versus here. I think having a foreign teacher should be modernized in every school because they really open your eyes to how school in other countries works.”

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Beckett has a slightly different take on how exposure to diverse cultures can benefit students. In the increasingly global economy, it’s very possible students will work for bosses from other countries. Learning from foreign teachers will give them experience working with others from different cultures.



EDUCATION

MHS math teacher Kim Giner enjoys introducing his native Philippines to students.

Victor Moreno



“We gain value from having them here,” Beckett said. “It gives the students an international and global perspective they wouldn’t otherwise get.”

Part of that perspective is helping local students gain an appreciation for what they have here. Nerwin Balilu, a Filipino who teaches Exceptional Student Services at Desert Wind Middle School, put it this way:

“I hear from kids, ‘I hate going to school.’ I tell them they should feel grateful. To be in school with free food, free laptops, pencils, everything they need. When I was their age, I came to school with nothing in my pockets. I didn’t eat. I just stayed in the library and read books. We didn’t have bookbags, we just had plastic bags to put our notebooks and things in.”

He does not want students to feel bad but rather help them “appreciate what America has given you, what MUSD has given you. These privileges are something you should take advantage of. Once you’re older and you’ve traveled the world a bit, you will have a different perspective, not just this one.”

Kiran Satyavarapu is a geometry teacher from India in his second year at MHS. He tries to get to know his students, and that pays dividends in many ways. Building a personal relationship with a student helps them learn better, he said. By the same token, in his native India, everyone participates in class, and he finds it harder to get kids to do so here.

Satyavarapu had a specific reason for wanting to come to Maricopa.

“A lot of it was the smaller community,” he said. “In India, you never see these kinds of things, like running into students or parents in the grocery store and having them say hello. Those connections matter a lot.”

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT TEACHING IN MARICOPA?

Michaela Banate

“For me it’s the kids saying ‘thank you,’ ‘have a good day.’ At the end of the day when I hear, ‘Bye, Miss B., have a good day,’ I get a great feeling from that. It’s the little things.”

Jude Basiga

“I am happy serving here and working with our students with special needs. They need that kind of personal attention. They long for someone who understands them and their situation and is generally taking care of them. They can feel that we are sincere in our desire to take care of them. I can see that, and it makes me feel very good.”



Nerwin Balilu

“If ever we are given the chance to stay here, I will definitely grab that opportunity because this is a good country, and it has a good educational system. I can share more of my talents and teaching ability if they are being honed here.”

Kim Giner

“I get to experience American culture. I get to travel all around the U.S. I have been to 49 states out of 50. During our breaks I just love to travel. Traveling is my thing. It’s easy to travel here; it’s easy to move around the country.”



Chastren Soon

“Every Filipino dreams of being here. It’s wonderful when you have students coming up to you from previous years asking if they can be in your class.”

Kiran Satyavarapu

“(I) wanted to work at a school where there’s a close tie between the school and the community and a diverse school, and I found both of those here. I also wanted to be at a Title I school. When Dr. Lopeman said she was looking for us to have a long-term relationship, I was so happy, because there are so many opportunities to grow here.”

Claudine Canoneo

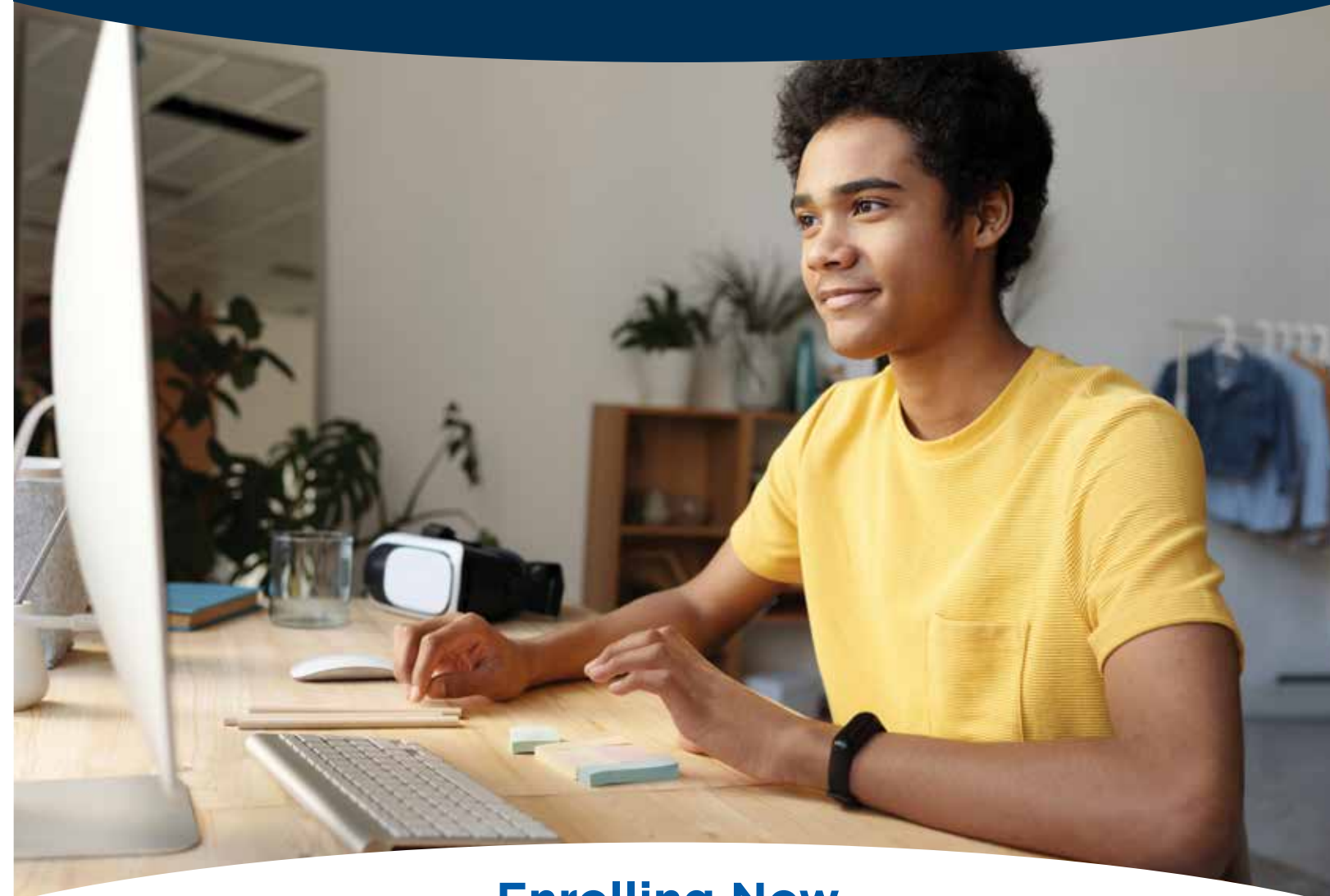
“It’s the experience. I came from a third-world country, and it’s totally the opposite here in a first-world country. When I first got to the U.S., in Albuquerque, I got culture shock — it was rough. But here in Maricopa, I love it; especially teaching at Pima Butte. It’s an A-Plus school.”



Ian Roberts

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Maricopa Esports coaches work one-on-one with students in an after-school practice at A+ Charter School.



Esports trend hits A+ Charter School

BY JAY TAYLOR

ESPORTS IS GROWING IN popularity around the country and the world. In 2019, the video-game competitions boasted an estimated 454 million worldwide viewers and revenues over \$1 billion.

A+ Charter School is in on the action, fielding its own team. The school's dean of students, Justin Price, doubles as its esports coach.

"Esports does a lot more for kids than just playing a game and mashing buttons," Price said. "It does teach them teamwork, collaboration, patience. What we see in game lab is a lot more than a game at home."

There is some debate about whether esports rise to the level of a "sport," and even some who participate aren't sure.


"It is and isn't at the same time," said Alex Rickert, a member of the A+ esports team. "It is because it's played on a professional level and there are tournaments around world playing for thousands of dollars in prize money. Some don't consider it a sport because

there is no running and jumping; there's no physical attributes involved. But it's definitely competitive."

A+ athletic director and math teacher Nate Wong said esports looks a lot like traditional sports to him.

"To me, when I walk in it looks a lot like a training session," he said. "It's a different kind of training session; you don't have to run suicides or anything like that, but these kids are learning fundamentals, working with coaches and learning about competition. And competition is what makes people great."

Price believes esports have come a long way from their infancy and have become more mainstream.

"It's more than just gaming now," he said. "It is a legitimate team for your child to be on, where they can grow and learn valuable skills. Colleges are starting to give scholarships away for esports if they are a good player with good academics, and more important a good teammate." 

JOIN THE FUN

The A+ team is hosting a Super Smash Brothers Ultimate tournament Sept. 11. Teams from all over Arizona will compete for prizes in middle school, high school and college divisions. Prizes will be awarded to the top five finishers in each age group with first place winning \$700. Inaugural Versus Challenge

Who: 6th grade to 24 years old

What: Youth, teen and college esports championship

When: Sept. 11; 11 a.m. middle school, 3 p.m. high school, 7 p.m. college

Where: A+ Charter School, 41735 W. Alan Stephens Pkwy.

How: tinyurl.com/466basef

How much: Free for Maricopa Esports members; \$15 pre-registration, \$20 day-of for Maricopa residents; \$20 pre-registration, \$25 day-of for non-residents



Ian Roberds

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Ad design: Matea Bernales, MHS Senior

MHS class plugs students into computer-tech careers

BY JAY TAYLOR

IF THE PRIMARY ROLE OF HIGH school is to prepare students for the future along multiple career paths, the 24PinTech class at Maricopa High School is succeeding.

Part of the Career & Technical Education program and run by teacher Brad Chamberlain, the class teaches students about networking, computer maintenance, other tech services and gives them hands-on experience repairing devices. 24PinTech provides tech support for the entire CTE network at MHS — and at times the rest of the school and district — and is fully student-run.

24PinTech started as a club about 10 years ago with a small group of students and has grown to 30 students today. They are among the 110 students in the tech program, with about 80 kids learning the basics of computer maintenance and 18 in Chamberlain's advanced networking course. Just three of his students are girls.



24PinTech students break out into small groups for more focused discussions.

'JUST ABSOLUTELY CRAZY'

24PinTech came from humble beginnings.

Chamberlain, a 12-year resident of Maricopa Meadows, was teaching computer maintenance and had several students who wanted to continue in that area rather than move into networking, the next step in the CTE curriculum.

"I sat them in a room and asked them how we could teach the class and what they wanted to learn," Chamberlain recalled. "That's where it started, and over the years it has just grown and grown, and what it has turned into now is just absolutely crazy."

The fruits of that initial session are still being borne. After students wrote a business plan and came up with the 24PinTech name, which derives from the adapters that connect many tech devices, the club took off.

Today, students come into the tech program as freshmen or sophomores, taking a basic computer maintenance course. In just the first year, they learn how to take a computer apart, put it back together, install operating systems,

fix laptops and mobile devices, and determine the security history of a device.

Chamberlain said if students do well in the entry-level class and prepare properly, they will be ready to take the Comp TIA+ test, a PC tech certification of professional-level skills. Passing the test means students become certified computer technicians.

And that leads to the next step — entry into 24PinTech, which is now a credited class at MHS.

"It functions as both a class and a club," Chamberlain said. "If you're in Computer Maintenance 2-3 you're basically automatically a member of 24PinTech."

Some kids who can't get into the class can join the club, which allows Chamberlain to get to know them and ultimately try to get them into the class.

STUDENT-RUN BUSINESS

The students also work for real customers — kind of.

"We primarily do work for the schools and the district, but parents and others hear about us, and we'll do things for them as well," Chamberlain said.

Customers pay only for components — no labor fee is charged. 24PinTech advises customers what parts are needed for a repair and where to buy them. Since it is a student-run business, clients sign a waiver protecting the group should anything go awry — but Chamberlain said that is rare.

Students seek to educate customers with a clear and simple assessment of the repair and how the device works. He and the students have developed their own work-order system and website, and students even punch in and out when working on a project to track their time.

Brian Petersheim Jr.

But as much as Chamberlain has done for the program and its apprentices, he turns the credit right back to the students.

"The kids have built all of this," he said. "And we really get to see it morph and grow from year to year. It's becoming a multi-generational type of thing. The group from one year leaves their mark and the kids coming in have to pick up and carry it forward. They've done a really good job with it. Some of them I have to slow down, they work so hard."

They didn't do it alone. Chamberlain raves about the MUSD administration and how it has "been terrific about working with us and helping us grow and supporting our needs." He said MUSD technology director Christine Dickinson has been particularly helpful and supportive.

But Chamberlain is really the glue that holds the program together. MUSD superintendent Dr. Tracey Lopeman recognizes his role and the juice he gives 24PinTech.

"He's such a champion for giving these kids the experiences that set them apart from their peers around the state and, really, around the country," Lopeman said. "He's fantastic. There are high expectations in these CTE programs, and he's providing relevant experience and that's kind of the key to the whole thing, and it's exciting."

INFLUENCING FUTURE CAREERS

24PinTech is a labor of love for the students, many of whom credit the program for helping them identify a career path.

Lorena Casto, a senior in her third year in the program, has been around computers her whole life, a product of her father's interest in technology. Her focus has changed over time.

"When I was younger, I was really more into coding," Casto said. "As I got older and the school offered the IT program, that's what I joined, and I've enjoyed that a lot. But I've realized that I don't want to go to school for networking and that I'm more into the physical and hardware stuff, the actual repairs. So, as of right now, I plan to go to school for computer systems engineering."

Senior Ashton Owen said 24PinTech has had a huge influence on his future.

"I already had a love for computers when I got into high school," he said. "24PinTech was the way for me to go. I came in here and saw the program and said this is what I'm going to start doing. This has influenced what I want to do with my future more than anything else has."

Classmate Charles Liermann has directed his energies toward competitions — and a military career.



24PinTech teacher Brad Chamberlain shares his expectations for the day with his students.

"I was always into video games," he said. "I built my own computer when I was 14 in middle school. I found out the high school had IT class and it sounded awesome."

Liermann, who has been volunteering in the district's IT department for three years, was awarded "Gold" level at the nationwide Skills USA info tech competition. He also placed first in Arizona and competed at nationals. He entered the Cyber Patriot security program



Senior Charlie Liermann hopes to leverage his cybersecurity experience into an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

competition run by the U.S. Air Force, a competition for high schools and colleges to develop cybersecurity products, and now hopes to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs next year.


Chamberlain's goals are to help students learn a trade and create career options for them. The program is achieving that — and then some.

"We're getting fabulous results," Chamberlain said. "24PinTech has done really great. We're pushing 150 students who have been professionally certified. We've had multiple award winners at the local, state and national levels of IT competition. And the kids are enjoying it."

It is obvious students get value from interacting with Chamberlain — and not just from his technical knowledge. Junior Georgia Nickens, a first-year 24PinTech student, spoke about an even stronger bond.

"I see him as my second dad almost," she said. "He's really cool. He's very supportive of what we do, and he helps us out a lot with what we want to do."

There is room for everyone in the 24PinTech tent.

"I get all kinds in here," Chamberlain said. "I tell everybody, it doesn't matter what your level is, you have something to offer. Let's find out what that is." 

Leading Edge expands academic, extracurricular programs

LEADING EDGE ACADEMY PROVIDES a well-rounded educational experience for 800-plus students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Here's what's new for the 2021-22 school year.




STILL ENROLLING!

- Community Garden with many of the plants and supplies donated by Karsten's Ace Hardware
- Outdoor sensory and art space funded by a grant from the Leading Edge Academy District office
- Growth of athletic program including Girls Basketball, Girls Softball, Girls Volleyball, Boys Basketball, Cross Country, Flag Football and Coed Soccer for students in grades 5-8 as well as FIT



programs for students in grades 3-6 in Basketball, Flag Football and Kickball.

- Character development programs and Chapel/Religious instruction option for all students
- Art fair highlighting student-artist accomplishments
- CloseUp educational trip to Washington, D.C.
- Championship level and nationally recognized Robotics and ESports programs
- Growth of chorus, drama and band programs including performances open to the community
- 1-to-1 computer/technology
- State-of-the art curriculum from Envision Math and Houghton Mifflin Reading

Contact us if you would like to support or sponsor one of these or another program at Leading Edge Academy. 

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Algebra a tough equation to solve

BY MURRAY SIEGEL

ALGEBRA (SPECIFICALLY, HIGH school algebra) truly is a gatekeeper to a student's future.

Non-technical college degrees generally require completing a college algebra course, which might be called Algebra III. Technical programs require at least one year of calculus. Success in many vocational/technical post-secondary programs certainly depends on skills developed in high school algebra.

Educators, researchers and publishers have struggled for six decades to find a means of delivering high school algebra classes successfully completed by most students. The

New Math, Saxon Math repetition, the use of technology and project-based approaches have not been the answer. This year, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awarded 15 grants of \$100,000 each to organizations claiming to have an answer to effective algebra instruction.


A significant number of incoming college freshmen must take "developmental" math, which are non-credit courses covering the curriculum of Algebra I and II. At Central Arizona College and Maricopa County Community College, Elementary and Intermediate Algebra courses require students to finally learn what they could not get in high school. A few years ago, more than 1,000 of the 10,000 incoming freshmen at ASU had to take Intermediate Algebra (Algebra II).

Recently, several journals have published articles investigating high school algebra. The Hechinger Report in a July article recommended the teaching of Algebra I be "slowed down" rather than have failing students repeat the course. A report from St. Louis University offered a program that gave students a "double dose" of Algebra I. Education Week reported an algebra support class taught along with the standard class appeared to benefit students.

Two school districts in Georgia created a sequence for students who struggled in math, replacing Algebra I with a two-year "stretched" approach so concepts are developed slowly. An applied geometry course follows, then Algebra II for Seniors. This latter course is only for 12th graders and the class text is a standard Intermediate Algebra book.

Students are told they can learn it now or pay for the same course when they do not pass the math assessment in college.

Students heading for college tend to be more focused when they understand the consequences of not learning the material. Students who struggled during math class for three years react positively to the Algebra II for Seniors course and many avoided developmental math in college.

Is this something local schools should investigate? 

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

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For more information or to reserve the next available opening call:

- Butterfield Elementary - 520-568-6100
- Santa Cruz Elementary - 520-568-5170
- Santa Rosa Elementary - 520-568-6150
- Webpage: musd20.org/preschool



2 DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

The Dual Language Immersion Program introduces preschool and kindergarten students to a second language. The world of bilingualism, biliteracy and cultural competency comes alive as students receive instruction and delve into content in both English and Spanish. Dual Language Immersion develops the building blocks that will prepare students to be fluent speakers of a second language.

For more information contact Santa Rosa Elementary School at 520-568-6150

- Webpage: musd20.org/duallanguage

3 MARICOPA VIRTUAL ACADEMY (K-12)

Scholars who thrive in independent and online learning models are ideal for Maricopa Virtual Academy. The program balances rigor and flexibility to capture a complete online experience. Because MVA is part of the Maricopa Unified School District

we offer a unique online experience taught by certified MUSD teachers. This model allows for personalized instruction and guidance by teachers and guidance counselors right here in Maricopa.

For more information contact Maricopa Virtual Academy at 520-568-5196 ext. 1072

- Webpage: musd20.org/mva

4 BLENDED LEARNING

Blended Learning classes are available at Maricopa Wells and Desert Wind Middle Schools. The program offers a learning environment that blends traditional instruction and self-paced project-based learning steeped in rigor and relevance. Students put their problem-solving, forward-thinking, and creative skills to the test by collaborating in projects to solve real-world issues.

For more information contact Desert Wind Middle School at 520-568-7110 or Maricopa Wells Middle School at 520-568-7100

- Webpage: musd20.org/blendedlearning

5 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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- Engineering:

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- Education Professions
- Agriscience

For more information contact Maricopa High School CTE at 520-568-8100 ext. 4015

- Webpage: musd20.org/cte



6 AP CAPSTONE

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- Webpage: musd20.org/advancedplacement

7 ARIZONA STATE SEAL OF ARTS PROFICIENCY

The Arizona Arts Proficiency Seal was adopted to celebrate students who demonstrate high levels of proficiency in the Arizona Arts Education Standards through personal expression and creative experiences in arts education programs.

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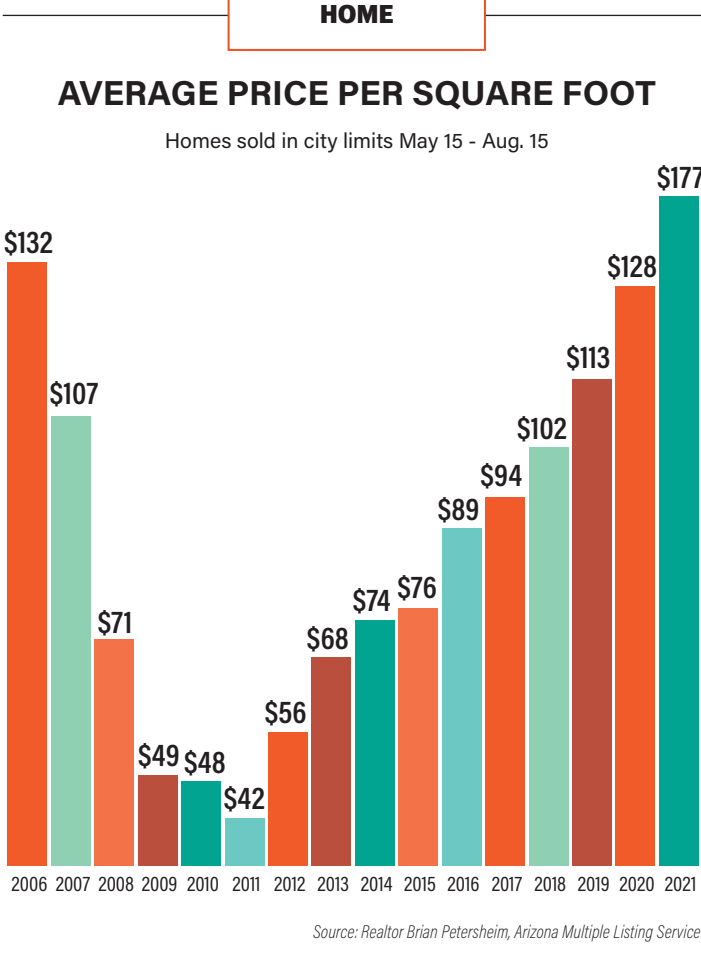
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HOME



4 new-home buying myths debunked

BY DAYV MORGAN

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET IN Maricopa is as hot as it's been in more than a decade. To land the home you want, you need to have a strong knowledge of the market and move fast. It is especially important to work with a Realtor when looking to buy in a "seller's" market like we have today.

A Realtor can advise you of local market conditions, pull records on comparable sales ("comps") in the area to see how prices are trending, and provide you with expert knowledge of the local community.

It is wise to take your Realtor along when you begin looking at new homes as builders typically will not allow you to have an agent once you completed a registration form.

3 It is not necessary to have a Realtor when you buy a brand-new home.

The sales agents at the model homes are employees for the builder. They represent the builder's interests, not yours. A local agent can point out things about the community, its location and details such as HOA fees, amenities offered, the home's orientation and exposure to the sun or proximity to the train tracks, road noise, and other factors only an agent with knowledge of the local community has.

4 It's a brand-new home. It's perfect!

When I moved to Maricopa in 2006, it was a housing boom and a strong seller's market, very much like it is today. When I decided to buy a new home, I was at the mercy of the builder and had to agree to all their terms. Waiving a home inspection was one of the requirements. The sales representative convinced me everything would be fine because the home came with a builder's warranty. Twelve months later, the builder was bankrupt, corporate offices were closed, and any possibility of making a warranty claim was gone.

Fortunately for my family, the house had no structural issues, and we dodged that bullet. But I have heard countless stories of home inspectors finding major problems such as missing insulation in walls or attics, disconnected A/C ducts and missing roof tiles. Even national builders and licensed contractors can make mistakes, so it is important not to assume there will be issues.

Anything installed incorrectly, if not caught during the warranty period, could end up costing you hundreds or even thousands of dollars when it's time for you to sell. The average home inspection costs only about \$400 and it's one of best insurance policies you can buy; it's worth every penny for the peace of mind it will give you.

Dayv Morgan is a Maricopa Realtor and owner of HomeSmart Premier. He is a 15-year resident of the city.

480-251-4231
DayvMorgan@gmail.com
MaricopaHomeSmart.com

New-home Buying Myths

1 I will have to pay a commission if I am represented by a Realtor.

That is not the case. It is *cost-free* to use your own agent. Your agent's commission is paid by the seller or builder.

2 I can get a lower price by not using a Realtor.

Sellers will not lower their asking price because a buyer purchases without an agent. In fact, the opposite can be true, as sellers or their agents see a buyer without a Realtor representing them and look for ways to take advantage. Your Realtor will provide expertise and services such as researching how long a home has been on the market and helping you negotiate the best possible price, allowances or concessions. Your Realtor may help you get additional upgrades, such as appliances or landscape packages.



Realtor Dayv Morgan at the D.R. Horton model homes in Palo Brea.

SPONSORED CONTENT



Meet the Maricopa Master Gardeners — and become one

BY RITA BRICKER



The Master Gardener program is an adjunct of the Cooperative Extension Service along with other groups such as 4-H. Our mission as Master Gardeners is to provide the public with horticultural information through educational programs and projects. We are all volunteers.

Our local group is fortunate to have the Maricopa Agricultural Center (affectionately known as MAC) as our home base. MAC is a University of Arizona experiment station known for its research on cotton, small grains, alfalfa and new specialty crops. At MAC, our Master Gardeners maintain a demonstration garden and a new orchard plot. We utilize these areas as teaching platforms to introduce local homeowners to new plants and planting techniques, as well as best practices in planning, cultivation, irrigation, and garden and tool maintenance.

Another vital service we provide is plant diagnostics. In that capacity, we are responsible for logging and resolving plant and insect questions and issues tendered by home gardeners from all corners of Pinal County. We have a diagnostic lab and comprehensive library in our office, which is also located at MAC.


Becoming a Pinal County Master Gardener requires time and dedication, but it's well worth it; not only for one's personal knowledge but for the opportunity to share that learning with others.

First, one must complete a specialized course in gardening in the low desert. The 50-hour course covers topics such as botany, soils and plant nutrition, problem diagnosis, irrigation, pest management, desert-adapted plants and vegetable gardening.

Upon completion, Master Gardener applicants must complete 50 volunteer service hours to obtain full certification. Typical volunteer projects include hosting our annual plant sale, introducing school children to outdoor gardening, staffing the plant diagnostic office and presenting information at citywide events. These volunteer opportunities are fun and gratifying, and they can open up a whole new network of acquaintances and contacts.

We don't want you to miss out on any of this — so join! The Maricopa Master Gardeners welcome you. 

Rita Bricker is a Master Gardener.




 **The next Master Gardener training will be offered via Zoom Oct. 6 through Feb. 16.**

 **520-374-6263 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**
MacMasterGardener@gmail.com

 **InMaricopa.com/Columnists**

most expensive HOME SOLD



 22362 N. O'Sullivan Drive  July 15  \$620,000




The most expensive home sold in Maricopa last month was a two-story on a quarter-acre, corner lot on The Duke at Rancho El Dorado. A gourmet kitchen with granite counters, upgraded cabinets and large island looks out to the beautiful backyard and golf course. The home was on the market two months and sold for \$10,000 under asking price.

Community: Rancho El Dorado
Square feet: 4,066
Price per square foot: \$152.48
Days on market: 62
Builder: Hacienda
Year built: 2005
Bedrooms: 4

Bathrooms: 2.5
Features: 3-car garage, travertine floors, plantation shutters, wrought-iron railings, main floor master suite, pool, jacuzzi, built-in BBQ, artificial grass, palapa

2. 42773 W. Misty Morning Lane, Province.....\$570,000
3. 44564 W. Garden Lane, Cobblestone Farms.....\$565,000
4. 44565 W. Granite Drive, Cobblestone Farms.....\$563,000
5. 44547 W. Granite Drive, Cobblestone Farms.....\$545,000

least expensive HOME SOLD

 42399 W. Chambers Drive  July 14  \$225,000



The least expensive home sold was also in Rancho El Dorado. The home sold for asking price.

Community: Rancho El Dorado
Square feet: 2,096
Price per square foot: \$107.34
Days on market: 0

Year built: 2004
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 2

2. 21187 N. Evergreen Drive, Province.....\$269,570
3. 39963 W. Crane Drive, Homestead North.....\$269,990
4. 42396 W. Colby Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$270,000
5. 19320 N. Toledo Avenue, Tortosa.....\$270,000

Brian Petersheim Jr.

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Locals help Gila Bend neighbors recover from flooding

BY SCOTT BARTLE



Brian Hoffman

Top: Loss of life from catastrophic flooding in Gila Bend included livestock.
Above: Volunteers load donated supplies in trucks at the LDS church on Honeycutt Avenue.
Right: Chris Abercrombie helped at another Maricopa collection site, Heritage Academy.

MONSOON STORMS BROUGHT heavy rains and flash floods to Gila Bend last month, killing two people and forcing rooftop rescues for dozens more, according to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. Maricopans were among those who helped the town of about 2,000 people 40 miles west of Maricopa.

Mayor Christian Price was among them. "I was one of many," Price said. "I know several of the churches here in Maricopa put together a real (big) effort to help these folks." Price said volunteers would "walk up to people's homes and say, 'Hey, how can we help?'" "It is eye-opening," he said. "You think, what's a little mud; I can shovel that, no big deal."



Brian Petersheim Jr.



Houses and streets alike were covered in mud. Maricopa residents went door-to-door offering help.

He said he worked on a front porch with his wife and son for more than an hour and "barely made a dent."


Another church volunteer was Maricopa business owner and Realtor Dayv Morgan. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and Heritage Academy charter school

Dayv Morgan

collected water, food, diapers, cleaning and other supplies, he said, before delivering them the next day.

"Probably 150 or more people there helping, just cleaning out the homes," Morgan said. "Everything on the south side of the town was pretty much wiped out."

Morgan said volunteers shoveled water and mud from inside homes and moved furniture to the street for removal by bulldozers. "There was mud everywhere."

A state of emergency was declared by the Town of Gila Bend, Maricopa County and State of Arizona. 

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Keep your heart healthy, live longer

BY AL BRANDENBURG


OUR HEART IS THE HARDEST-working muscle in our body, and heart disease is a leading cause of death. So, it's important to adopt a healthy lifestyle sooner rather than later.

Some risk factors can't be changed, like family history, age and sex, but there are still some key things you can do to improve your overall heart health.

If you are worried about your heart disease risk, visit your doctor. Knowing your "good" cholesterol (HDL) and "bad" cholesterol



(LDL) levels, as well as your blood pressure, weight and body mass index (BMI) is the initial step to improving heart function.

Adopt a healthier lifestyle today to avoid heart problems in the future. Get out and have some fun. Stay safe and stay healthy. 

Al Brandenburg is a member of the Maricopa Senior Coalition.

 **Sources:** AARP, NIA, NIH.gov; SeniorHealth365.com, LiveStrong.com

 **InMaricopa.com/Columnists**

Tips for a healthy heart

LIVE HEALTHIER. Eating a heart-healthy diet and getting regular exercise are key to a stronger heart. Studies show women who eat lots of fruits and veggies, whole grains and lean proteins, as well as maintain a healthy weight have a 92% decreased risk of a heart attack. Getting your heart rate up for 30 minutes every day by walking, biking or swimming can help, even if you start in small steps — literally or figuratively.

QUIT BAD HABITS. If you smoke, it's time to quit! Smoking tobacco puts you at far more risk of developing heart disease. Talk to your doctor about how best to go about kicking this bad habit once and for all.

UNWIND A LITTLE. Learn how to relax and unwind for a while every day. If this means turning off the TV or electronic devices, so be it. When we get stressed out, our bodies increase production of adrenaline, which can overwork the heart. De-stress by talking to friends, exercising, doing yoga, gardening or just sitting quietly looking out the window. Get some Zs. Getting plenty of sleep is good for your heart and your whole self. Sleep allows our bodies to shut down and recover, which is good for all aspects of our health. One of the things I don't do well is get enough sleep. As we sleep, our blood pressure and heart rate decrease, giving our hearts a break. Research shows people who don't get enough sleep are more than twice as likely to die of heart disease.

STAY SOCIAL. For better heart health, exercise with a friend. Having a good social support system helps you stay motivated to continue with your workout regimen and can lower your risk of heart disease. Studies have shown people who stay socially active have significantly lower blood pressure and other factors for heart disease. I can attest, however, that golf does not necessarily remove stress, but it's still fun.



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Nonprofit offers variety of services to seniors

BY JOAN KOCZOR

THE NONPROFIT PINAL-GILA Council for Senior Citizens was incorporated in 1974 and designated an Area Agency on Aging. It is part of a national network of more than 650 organizations established under the Older Americans Act. It receives state and federal funding to offer a broad roster of services.

Over the last decade, Region V (Pinal and Gila counties) had the fastest growth rate for older adults in the state, according to the



PGCSC. Since 2010, the senior population (60 and over) in Pinal County grew by 91%, from 38,858 to 74,125, and now comprises 20% of the county's total population.


The organization's focus is assisting seniors and people with disabilities in both counties

by providing resources and a wide variety of services.

One such resource is Bridges of Care, a 30-day program for adults 60 years and older, or disabled adults 18 or older, who have personally been impacted by COVID-19. Participants are assigned a personal transition coach to help them take advantage of a variety of services and resources.

Another program, the Caregiver Resource Center, provides many community-based services, including personal care and educational workshops. A Caregiver Support Group meets virtually the second Wednesday of each month.

These resources — and many others — are available to the residents of Maricopa, mostly at no charge.

Our residents are fortunate this organization is available and will do whatever it can to provide seniors with the help they need to allow them to remain in their homes. 

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

 **520-836-2758**
PGCSC.org

 **InMaricopa.com/Columnists**

More PGCSC resources

- Aging, disability and caregiver support resources
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren programs
- Behavioral health services, including substance abuse and suicide prevention
- Case management
- Home care (housekeeping, personal and respite)
- Health care insurance and benefits counseling
- Ombudsman services for nursing home advocacy
- Legal services and helpline
- Mature workforce development through senior employment and training programs
- Multipurpose Senior Centers, with social, nutritional and wellness support services
- Home-delivered meals through Meals on Wheels
- Transportation coordination and senior rides transit program training
- Volunteer services



Short on retirement savings? *You are not alone; it's not too late to plan*

BY RON SMITH

A 2019 REPORT FROM THE Government Accounting Office indicated 29% of households with at least one person age 55 and over have no retirement savings and no defined benefit program or pension. For those with some retirement savings, the median amount of savings at age 65 was only \$148,000. With Social Security providing most of the income for many households age 65 and older, good money management is an essential skill in the process of aging well, particularly with our “gift of time.”

Money-management skills include being able to construct a realistic budget that not only includes your monthly average expenses and income, but also incorporates your retirement plans such as travel, family activities and charitable contributions. Future medical expenses are a major concern since, on average, a couple over the age of 65 should anticipate \$300,000 in medical costs over their retirement. Make sure your budget provides for a six-month emergency fund and annual home maintenance. Ramsey Solutions and your local bank can provide you with tools to guide you through the budgeting process.

Understanding your financial personality — how you like to use your financial resources, for example — is important in developing a realistic financial plan. Will your spending habits support your budget? Is your spending impulsive or disciplined? Your financial plan needs to be compatible with your financial personality to stay on course.



Retirees need to shift their thinking from savings or accumulation to an income or spending plan. The biggest financial fear is running out of money during retirement. Tapping into available government programs or finding a side gig might help augment a retirement income if the budget indicates possible shortfalls. Understanding how to best utilize or preserve your resources becomes paramount to your financial planning.

Managing your retirement also includes planning for other facets of your life, like housing, and formulating a plan to prepare for those needs when they occur. Even though the planning process appears to be addressing long-term needs, an unexpected change in your health might precipitate an urgent need. Anticipating possible bumps in the road will make it easier to adapt.

Several legal documents should be executed, including a will or a trust that can formalize your desires regarding the distribution of assets. Advanced directives, such as, a living will or a durable power of attorney for health care, can help define wishes for a person responsible for

your care when you are ill. For legal matters, you may want to execute a general power of attorney or a durable power of attorney. You should work with your attorney to set up the appropriate documents for your needs according to Arizona law and family needs.

Advance directive documents can be registered with the Arizona Secretary of State Office to provide easy access by medical professionals when needed. A trusted member of your family or a friend should also be informed of your choices and documents.

Get your affairs in order

One of the most important tasks for retirees is to get your affairs in order. Many feel end-of-life planning is depressing and morbid. But not making such plans transfers the responsibility to your family or friends. Without an understanding of your wishes, some necessary and otherwise easy decisions

can be difficult for people mourning your loss. It can also result in unintended consequences and legal problems with your estate. The National Institute on Aging recommends the following steps:


- Put your important papers and copies of legal documents in one place. Check annually to see if there's anything new to add.

- Tell a trusted family member or friend where you place your important papers. If you don't have a relative or friend you trust, ask a lawyer to help.
- Discuss end-of-life preferences with your doctor, who can help ensure your wishes are honored.
- Give advance permission to doctors and lawyers to talk with caregivers as needed.

Finding a good financial adviser

To better understand the components of a good financial plan, retirees may want to consider getting help from a professional financial planner or from online financial planning tools available from organizations like AARP, National Council on Aging, National Institute on Aging or a local college. To find a capable, trustworthy financial adviser, make sure you:

- Ask for referrals.
- Check industry databases.
- Make sure they are a fiduciary, or advisers who put their clients' interest ahead of their own, with a duty to preserve good faith and trust.
- Avoid putting too much trust in titles.
- Meet them in person and, most importantly, ask questions to ensure you understand the advice being given.

Planning is a process. It is not an end in itself. Life is always changing and sometime those changes will affect your plans, but hopefully retirement planning helps you deal with the realities of life when they occur. Because life is always changing, it is never too late to plan. 

Source: National Institute on Aging

Ron Smith is an aging-in-place advocate and a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist.

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Salsa celebration in September

The Maricopa Salsa Festival has a new date and name. The event, traditionally held in the spring since its founding in 2004, has been moved to Sept. 25 and combined with the city's Copa Night Market series.

The event is dubbed Salsa Night Market and features salsa-tasting, live entertainment, market/artisan vendors, food trucks and cervezas. It will be held 6 to 10 p.m. at Copper Sky Regional Park.

City event manager Ellen Buddington said the event was moved to honor Hispanic Heritage month. The theme is Dia de los Muertos "to celebrate the traditions and offer cultural awareness," according to Buddington.

 CopaNightMarket.com



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Victor Moreno

calendar 09.21

7

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

Maricopa Historical Society meeting

5 p.m.
Maricopa Library and Cultural Center
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

9

Maricopa Flood Control District meeting
6 p.m., via Zoom
MaricopaFCD.com/Notices

9-10

Maricopa Junior Golf Tournament
4 p.m., The Duke Golf Course
42660 W. Rancho El Dorado Pkwy.
Inaugural, two-day event for middle and high school boys and girls. Trophies awarded in four divisions. Just \$40 per golfer. Call Jon at 937-269-9950 to register.

11

An Evening of Worship & Recognition
7 p.m.
Discover Community Church
18600 N. Porter Road

13

Friends of the Library meeting
5:30 p.m.
Maricopa Library and Cultural Center
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

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

15

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

18

Friends of the Library Book Sale
10 a.m.
Maricopa Library and Cultural Center
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

21

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

22

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

25

Salsa Night Market
6 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
45345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

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 Pkwy.

American Rhythm & Social Latin Dance Class

7 p.m., The Indigo Ballroom at Copa Craze
20928 N. John Wayne Pkwy., Suite C3

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.

Thursdays

Maricopa Police Cadets meeting
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

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

Saturdays

Social Dance
7:45 p.m., The Indigo Ballroom at Copa Craze
20928 N. John Wayne Pkwy., Suite C3

ALL EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE



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

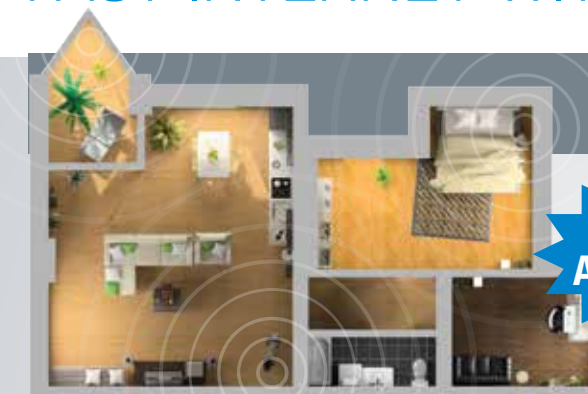
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THINGS TO DO

M Maricopa High School Fall Sports Preview

FOOTBALL

Coach Rick Skinner: "We are a young team with some very good players who work extremely hard. We are expecting to have a very exciting season. Over time, we expect players to develop and be contributors. The foundation is great, and this year we expect to come together as a family."

Players to watch:

| | |
|-------|------------------------|
| WR/RB | Caleb Garcia (Jr.) |
| OLB | Devon Dryden (Sr.) |
| DE/RB | Sebastian Deucer (Sr.) |
| WR | Kyree Washington (Jr.) |
| LB/RB | Chris Hayes (Jr.) |
| LB | Ian Palm (Jr.) |
| OT | Nate Leon (Jr.) |
| WR | Keire Earl (Jr.) |
| WR | Jaylin Morris (Jr.) |
| QB | Damian Logan (So.) |
| DT/OL | Dashawn McDaniel (Sr.) |

BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Coach Corey Nelson: "The MHS cross country programs are expecting a competitive, successful, fun-filled cross-country season. We look forward to creating a positive environment for our student-athletes to excel in this fall season."

Runners to watch:

Harrison Brenden (Jr.)
Elizabeth Coles (So.)
Lauryn Dillard (Fr.)
Filimon Kednmary (So.)
Tanis Palmer (Sr.)

BOYS VARSITY GOLF

Coach Donald Gordon: "We continue to play in the very competitive Division 1 with all the 6A schools in the state. The team has been learning and growing. The great thing about golf is that you can always improve and that is our main goal this year — to be better than the day before."

Players to watch:

Nathan Diedrich (Sr.)
Kenton Wilson (So.)

GIRLS VARSITY GOLF

Coach Jeremy Basham: "I'm excited for the leadership the upperclassmen offer to the young girls who are learning the game. We are going to work hard to have some of these young ladies compete for a spot at state. We will take one day at a time, one match at a time and one swing at a time."

Players to watch:

Alysaa Chavez (Jr.)
Jaidence McAdams (Jr.)
Lorena Casto (Sr.)

BOYS & GIRLS SWIM & DIVE

Coach Laura Logan: "Our depth has greatly improved as well as our overall top swimmers. We expect to represent MHS at the DI State Champ Meet, putting swimmers in with top 10 individual performances. Additionally, we plan to represent MHS at the AIA Meet of Champions."

Swimmers and divers to watch:

MacKenzie Fair (So.)
Nolan Ford (Sr.)
Rachel Grubbs (Fr.)
Benjamin Hames (Fr.)
Dorianne Hames (Sr.)
Santiago Moreno (Fr.)
Katelyn Owens (Jr.)
Luis Sanchez-Quiroz (Fr.)
Connor Schrader (Sr.)
Sidney Stolle (Fr.)



“I think everyone is excited to get out there and have a relatively normal season after last year.”
MHS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR CHRIS DRIVING HAWK

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Coach Tia Kannapei: "This season we are hoping to reset mentality and competitiveness as a program. We are expecting to see a change in things we can control like effort, teamwork and competitive attitude."

Players to watch:

Haylee Brown (Jr.)
Kylee Foster (Sr.)
Brianna Pino (Fr.)
Isabelle Spudich (So.)

CHEER

Coach Kaitlyn Mundell: "This season we have some of the most dedicated kids this Spiritline program has ever seen. Covid really took a toll on these athletes, and they are determined to make the most of this year and grow the program, Cheer and Pomline to the largest it has ever been."

Cheerleaders to watch:

Tia Litton (Jr.)
Aubry Pick (Jr.)



calendar September

MHS HOME SPORTS

- 1
- Girls Volleyball vs. Queen Creek | 6 p.m.
- 2
- Girls/Boys Swim & Dive vs. Mesquite, North | 4 p.m.
- 7
- Boys Varsity Golf vs. McClintock, Tempe | 3 p.m.
Girls Volleyball vs. Trevor Browne | 6 p.m.
- 8
- Boys/Girls Cross Country vs. Combs, McClintock | 2 p.m.
Football vs. Mesa Skyline | 7 p.m.
- 9
- Girls Volleyball vs. Cesar Chavez | 6 p.m.
- 13
- Girls Varsity Golf vs. Eastmark, Marcos de Niza | 3 p.m.
- 15
- Girls Varsity Golf vs. Combs, Estrella Foothills | 3 p.m.
- 16
- Girls/Boys Swim & Dive vs. Casa Grande, Gila Ridge | 4 p.m.
- 17
- Football vs. Casa Grande | 7 p.m.
- 23
- Girls Volleyball vs. North | 6 p.m.
- 28
- Boys Varsity Golf vs. Chandler, Mountain Pointe | 3 p.m.
- 29
- Boys/Girls Cross Country vs. Youngker | 2 p.m.
Girls Varsity Golf vs. Barry Goldwater | 3 p.m.
Girls Volleyball vs. Westwood | 6 p.m.
- 30
- Girls/Boys Swim & Dive vs. Dobson, Valley Christian | 4 p.m.



Volleyball and football games at Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
Swim & dive meets at Copper Sky pool
45345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Golf matches at The Duke at Rancho El Dorado
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Cross country meets at Copper Sky Regional Park
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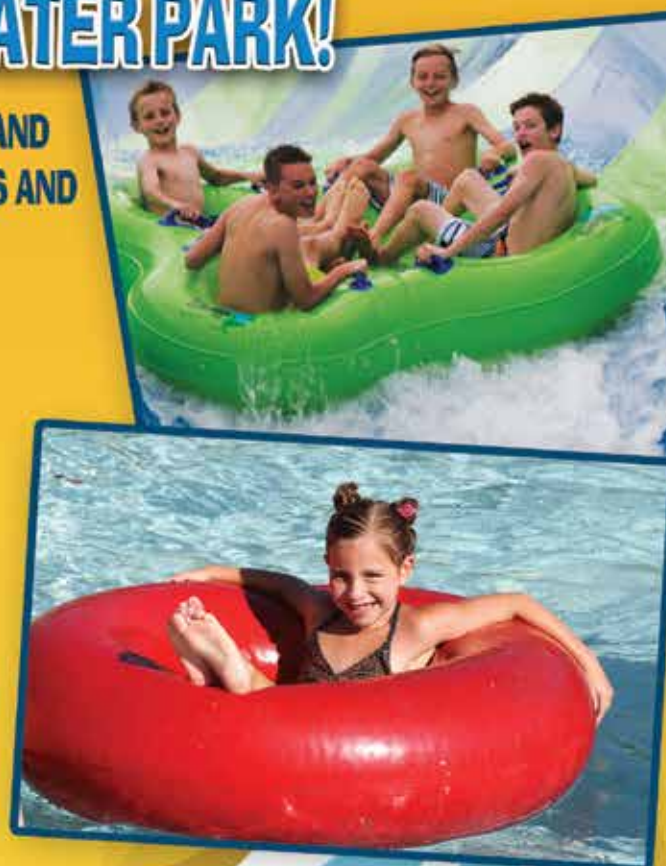
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parting shot



Bhen Johnson

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