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# Pleased to meet you

AS I HAVE MADE THE ROUNDS DURING my first few days as the Editorial Director for InMaricopa, I've been impressed with the sense of community among the leaders and citizenry of Maricopa.

In my new role here at InMaricopa,
I'm coming into a magazine and an online
publication where the mission has been to inform
— and that will not change under my stewardship.

First and foremost, I feel our mission here is to print the news, free of any filters or agendas. It's to apply the disinfectant of sunlight to issues that have been overlooked. We will tell the stories of our citizens' successes, while informing of our collective struggles.

Another important aspect of our role in this community will be to highlight the different voices in one of the most diverse communities in the state of Arizona.

Maricopa has a small-town feel, but when you realize it has a population of a tick over 62,000, it's anything but a small town.

The growth of this city in the last 20 years is nothing short of astounding when you consider that

its population was less than 2,000 people around the year 2000.

While the nation seems pre-occupied with the goings on in Maricopa County to the north, the city of Maricopa, and Pinal County in general, seems to be the real epicenter of activity.

And while it may seem like Maricopa is flying under the radar, the secret of this city is getting out in a big way.

Every day, a new business seems to open. Houses are consistently being built to accommodate this exponential growth.

It's truly an exciting time to be here in Maricopa. There are many stories to tell about this area's rich history and many others to document the story of growth as we move forward into what's sure to be a prosperous future.

I feel fortunate to be along for the ride.

JAK JAK

JUSTIN GRIFFIN | EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Justin@InMaricopa.com

# CONTRIBUTORS



KRISTINA DONNAY

Medical director at Maricopa

Wellness Center, she is
the mother of two.



AL BRANDENBURG
With a background in corporate
and educational facilities, he
now advocates for seniors and
puts his green thumb to use.



ANGEL RAYMOND
A graduate of Arizona State
University, she practices
criminal defense law.

#### ON THE COVER

Carlos and Genevieve Rodriquez (and two of their Maids team members) were photographed at home by Victor Moreno.



#### Publisher

SCOTT BARTLE

Advertising Director
VINCENT MANFREDI

#### Advertising

DEBORAH COATES
JAIME HARRISON
MICHELLE SORENSEN

#### Writers

AL BRANDENBURG
C.M. CURTIS
KRISTINA DONNAY
JUSTIN GRIFFIN
CAROL HOWERTON
JOAN KOCZOR
BOB MCGOVERN
DAYV MORGAN
RAY NIEVES
ANGEL RAYMOND
MURRAY SIEGEL
RON SMITH
JAY TAYLOR

#### **Photographers**

VICTOR MORENO BRIAN PETERSHEIM JR. IAN ROBERDS

#### Designer

CARL BEZUIDENHOUT

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- The success of deserving businesses.

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- Prosperity for clients, community, company

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#### **HISTORY**

## Old-school memories

This aerial photo from 1958 shows the original Maricopa High School with its gymnasium, right, and two wings of classrooms. The school had only 28 freshmen when it opened in September 1955 in a rented building on the elementary school grounds. Previously, all students were bused to Casa Grande to attend high school classes, but parents then demanded a school in town. When Maricopa High School opened to freshmen, older students continued to take the bus to Casa Grande until 1958, when the decision was made to end busing. Some seniors decided to use their own transportation to finish up in Casa Grande. In 1959, the first graduating class was 10 students. The campus has grown remarkably to meet rising attendance numbers over the decades.



## THIS MONTH BACK IN...

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



NASCAR driver Robby Gordon raced into town on Nov. 11 to deliver a new Chevy van to the city's first Meals on Wheels program. The \$40,000 vehicle was provided by Harrah's Ak-Chin. Gordon did some spins in his race car before driving off to personally deliver meals. Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano and Maricopa Mayor Kelly Anderson also declared November Meals on Wheels Month.



Ace Hardware, now a Maricopa staple, kicked off its grand opening weekend on Friday, Nov. 10. The store offered 22,000 square feet of merchandise. Then-owners Tom Bechtel and Frank Polimene presided over a ribbon cutting featuring a performance by Kiana Campbell of Maricopa Dance Academy. The store is now owned by David Karsten.



The power can go out for many reasons — lightning strikes, monsoon winds, equipment glitches. A decade ago, some Maricopans woke up to an outage, only to find out later the old adage is true - curiosity does, indeed, kill the cat. ED3 reported 4,000 customers lost power due to an unlucky feline that got a little too close to a transformer near Porter and Honeycutt roads. It did not survive.



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# The Oatman **Massacre: Rescued** by the Mojave

BY C.M. CURTIS

This is the second in a series about the massacre of the Oatman family in 1851 after leaving Maricopa Wells.

OU WILL RECALL THAT TWO girls in the Oatman family, 13-yearold Olive and 7-year-old Mary Ann, were left alive and taken as slaves to the village of the men who slaughtered their family. For a nightmarish year, the two girls suffered mistreatment and deprivation at the hands of their captors.

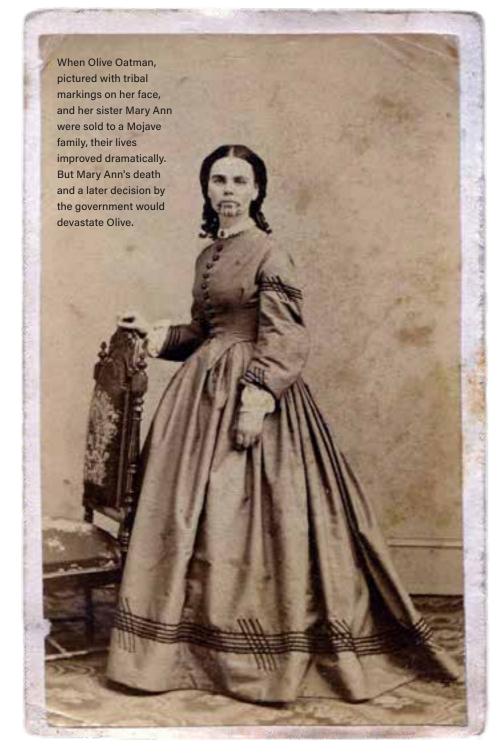
We will relive the next chapter in the Oatman girls' history from Olive's perspective.

You are Olive Oatman. You are now 14 years old. You have been a slave in the village of your captors for a year, suffering abuse, overwork and hunger, still carrying fresh in your mind the horror of the slaughter of your parents and siblings, which you and your little sister, Mary Ann, now 8 years old, were forced

Each new day brings the prospect of more labor as you and Mary Ann are forced to perform the most arduous tasks. You pray constantly for rescue from this nightmare existence, but white men never visit this remote village and as the days, weeks and months pass, your hope fades.

One day, a group of people belonging to the Mojave (Mohave) tribe visits the village where you and Mary Ann are being held. The Mojave tribal leader, Espaniola, and his wife are among the group. Espaniola's wife, Aespano, asks her husband to buy you and your sister from your captors. Initially he is told you are not for sale, but, at his wife's insistence, he increases the offer until a deal is struck. You are traded for some vegetables, a few blankets, miscellaneous trinkets and two horses.

There is no tearful farewell when you and Mary Ann leave the village of the men who butchered your family and enslaved you.



You now have to walk with your new owners to their home, several hundred miles away, on the banks of the Colorado River near what is now Needles, California. Topeka, the daughter of Espaniola and Aespano, shows you kindness - something you have grown unaccustomed to. She gives you blankets to sleep on and makes some leather soles to protect your feet.

Rather than abusing and enslaving you, the Mojaves celebrate your arrival and give you a small lodge to live in. The family adopts you

and Mary Ann. Espaniola tells the people, "Let everyone help raise them. If they are sick, tend to them. Treat them well."

The tribe prospers and you are given a plot of land to farm and accepted as members of the tribe. They give you the name "Aliutman," a derivation of your real surname, and they tattoo your lower face with the blue markings

You and Mary Ann become very close to your adoptive parents and sister, and you

master the Mojave language quickly. Your new life is a striking contrast to the life of slavery and abuse endured for the past year. You have plenty of food, you play games and swim in the Colorado River. Even though you work your little plot of land, you enjoy hours of rest and freedom every day.

But despite the pleasantness of a new life, Mary Ann is unable to release the trauma of her family's slaughter. She cannot stop grieving. She is frequently ill and often too weak to work. Her poor health is a constant concern to you.

In 1855, four years after the massacre, there is a season of drought. Crops fail and many of the Mojave tribe die of starvation. It is a time of great suffering. You are now 18 and Mary Ann is 11. You have clung to each other and formed a bond of love and mutual dependence that few people could ever understand.

Mary Ann's health worsens, and despite all you and Aespano do to try to save her, she dies of starvation. Before dying, she tells you she knows that caring for her has been a great burden to you and she believes you will be better off after her death. Your grief over her loss can only be imagined. Kind-hearted Aespano is nearly inconsolable.



Olive Oatman, left, mourns the death of her sister Mary Ann in this 1857 illustration.

dead, but you are allowed to lay your little sister to rest after the manner of your own people. You bury her in the little garden you have tended together.

The famine becomes more severe. More people die. You are suffering from advanced malnutrition and with the loss of Mary Ann, you long for death. Aespano is determined she will not lose you like your sister. In an act of unselfish love that probably saves your life, she unearths a stash of cornmeal she has been hoarding and It is the Mojave custom to cremate their gives it to you. Your strength returns and soon

you are able to resume working in your garden.

But, once again, your life is about to change. A man named Francisco, who is a member of another tribe, tells the post commander at Fort Yuma that he knows your whereabouts. The commander accepts his offer to act as a representative of the U.S. government and negotiate for your return to White society.

At first Espaniola resists, but in days of talks Francisco makes threats of retaliation by the army. Espaniola, who had heard stories of how troops from Fort Yuma attacked a neighboring tribe, killing the men and burning the village, fears for his people and is forced to accede.

You, Olive Oatman, have accepted your new life. You have become part of a family — part of a tribe. You have nearly forgotten how to speak English, and now, when you learn that once again your future has been decided by others, you burst into tears. •

#### To be continued in the December edition of InMaricopa magazine.

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.











# Community artists get spotlight

The works of some 20 local artists were on display during an exhibit on Oct. 12 at the Maricopa Community Center. The show was organized by the Maricopa Friends of the Arts. Before the show, representatives of Exceptional Community Hospital selected artwork to purchase and install in the new facility, which is nearing completion. The community was also able to purchase the artists' works.

- **1.** Robin Holland poses with one of her favorite handmade dolls.
- 2. Don Knox of "Knoxlandings" presents a collection of decorative wood items.
- 3. Artist Stephanie Schwarzen poses with her oil on canvas piece entitled "A Peaceful Afternoon".
- **4.** Local multimedia artist Herman Neuberger proudly displays his work.

- **5.** Peg Chapados and Tina Frank man an arts-and-crafts display table for the Maricopa Main Street Marketplace.
- 6. This work by photographer Richard Sovis, showing a natural bridge at Bryce Canyon National Park, was purchased for display in the upcoming Exceptional Community Hospital.
- **7.** Amanda Bridgewater stands next to a collection of her nature prints.

- **8.** Artist Susan Cameron shows some of her desert-themed works.
- 9. The top two acrylic paintings made by Kristal C. Coles "Aspire Higher I" and "Aspire Higher II," respectively are designed to be one continuous piece when put together, even in reverse order.
- **10.** Works by Cindy Marlar Koontz were full of color.













-

# Snider's memory to live on through scholarship for vets

BY JUSTIN GRIFFIN

ROWING UP IN A MILITARY family, David Snider always wanted to make a difference in veterans' lives.

And thanks to a donation by his family and the efforts of the Central Arizona College Foundation to fund the David Snider Veterans Scholarship Endowment, he will be able to accomplish that goal posthumously for years to come.

Snider, a former member of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, and all-around public servant, unexpectedly died in January. Those who knew him felt the best way to honor his memory would be to start a scholarship aimed at helping veterans or their family members.

"That was absolutely an important cause for him," said Adam Hawkins, a member of the CAC Foundation's board of directors. "He grew up in a military family and had a deep understanding of what veterans go through."

Jackie Guthrie, the board's president, said that while Snider never served in the armed forces, his life was shaped by the military experience.

"His parents were both in the armed services," Guthrie said. "He attended American University in Beirut. He felt that because his education and his father's was provided through the military, that made a difference in people's lives.

"That's why his family wanted the scholarship to be supportive of veterans, their children and spouses and partners."

Snider's parents both served in World War II. They met in London during the German airstrikes. Snider's father went to college and the couple bought their first house using benefits from the GI Bill.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVANT**

Snider first moved to Arizona in the 1970s, when he started working for the Parks and Recreation Department Library Division in

the City of Mesa. In 1977, Snider moved to Casa Grande, where he lived the rest of his life.

Over the course of his career, Snider emerged as a subject expert in municipal government and water resources, which he used to assist Pinal County and the State of Arizona.

For 26 years, Snider served Casa Grande as library director, expanding its reach and service. During this time, the library took on a larger and more central role in the community.

He had the distinction of being the youngest president of the State of Arizona Library Association, and for three years, served on the executive board of the American Library Association based in Chicago.

David Snider, a former member of the
Pinal County Board of Supervisors
and longtime community servant, died
unexpectedly earlier this year. His memory
War
will be honored through a scholarship
for veterans and their families at Central
and Arizona College.

Also serving as acting interim city manager on occasion, Snider was elected in 2002 to the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, leading it at a time when Pinal County was among the fastest-growing counties in the nation.

Snider grew quickly into that leadership role, guiding the county to landmark decisions on water use and management. His in-depth knowledge of water issues included serving as the vice chair of the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority, where he was known throughout Arizona.

Snider was an active consultant on water, serving on several statewide water resource commissions and boards after being nominated by successive Arizona governors.

#### **BUILDING AN ENDOWMENT**

Throughout his life, Snider remained heavily involved in the community. At the time of his death, he was president of the Casa Grande

Elementary School District Board and was active with Against Abuse, a local organization that assists victims of domestic abuse.

Guthrie described Snider's role with the group.

"He was on that board for at least 20 years," Guthrie said. "He donated hams and turkeys to the shelters every year. He always did a lot for the families at the shelters and for the staff who worked there."

Margaret E.C. Dooley is executive director of institutional development at Central Arizona College, helping to oversee the college Foundation. The veterans scholarship, she explained, will provide four semesters of tuition to a student who is a veteran or a

spouse, partner or dependent of a veteran.

Dooley said the goal is to raise \$65,000 for the endowment. So far, the college has raised \$32,000, which means it will likely be another year before the first scholarship can be awarded, she said.

Donations to the David Snider Veterans Scholarship Endowment can be made out and mailed to: Central Arizona College Foundation, 8470 Overfield Road, Coolidge, AZ 85128, or online at CentralAZ.edu/give.

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# How American Legion, VFW differ

BY JUSTIN GRIFFIN

N NOV. 11, COMMUNITIES nationwide, in observance of Veterans Day, will take time to honor servicemen and servicewomen who have fought to secure freedom and liberty for the United States.

But there are two groups here in Maricopa that work to support veterans year-round: the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American

Both are different organizations with similar values and offer some of the same services to veterans and to the community. Both groups lobby for legislation benefiting veterans in Washington, D.C.

There is a difference between the two organizations in their membership requirements and outreach programs.



#### **AMERICAN LEGION**

The American Legion offers outreach to veterans and the community alike. It assists veterans with a range of issues — from attaining medical help for injuries sustained on the battlefield to applying for medical benefits. The group also is known for its community outreach programs that include Boys State, Girls State and American Legion Baseball.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: Haven Hull,

a board member of Bernie G. Crouse American Legion Post 133 in Maricopa, which numbers 140 members, pointed out the Legion's membership requirements were once tied to wartime participation. But when Congress started adding so many different war times to the list, the group decided to simplify its requirements.



"Anyone who has served in military and served at least one day of active duty since 1941, and had an Honorable Discharge is eligible to be a member," Hull said.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** The Boys State and

Girls State programs help youngsters in high school learn how the legislative process works at the local, state and federal levels. And the baseball program also keeps many youngsters busy after the high school season ends.

The American Legion also sponsors a "Law Enforcement Academy," which helps to educate youngsters interested in a career in law enforcement and the military service. "It's almost like a boot camp," Hull said.

**HISTORY:** Following World War I, the American Legion was founded in 1919 as a result of a charter by Congress to create a patriotic veterans organization. Its charge was to focus on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities. The Legion has grown into an organization of more than 2 million members and 13,000 posts worldwide.



#### **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW)**

Applying for and attaining federal benefits due

to veterans can be a daunting challenge with a prodigious amount of paperwork required. But Frankie Hall, commander of the Tracy P. MacPherson VFW Post 12043 in Maricopa, said his chapter, which has around 100 members, is available to offer a helping hand.



Frankie Hall

"We assist veterans in any way possible," Hall said. "We have a service officer at the post who helps veterans file paperwork for VA claims and benefits."

It's also not uncommon for veterans to be part of both the VFW and the American Legion," Hall said.

"We have members that belong to both groups. We have different membership requirements."

**MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars has two major requirements. The first is that an applicant must have served in the armed forces of the United States and received a discharge of Honorable or General standing, or may still be serving.

The second requirement includes the stipulation of service in a war, campaign or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

Members are required to produce documentation by way of a campaign medal or a receipt of Hostile Fire Pay or Imminent Danger Pay, as verified by a military pay statement.

Those not eligible for membership in the VFW, but with an eligible spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent or grandchild can apply for membership in the VFW Auxiliary.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** The VFW sponsors a youth essay contest, called "Patriot's Pen" for students in grades 6-8 to encourage youngsters to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in America. The national winner earns \$5,000 and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Each state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level. Each year more than 132,000 students participate.

Older students in grades 9-12 can participate in the VFW's Voice of Democracy audioessay program, which provides students an opportunity to express themselves in an essay. Each year, nearly 40,000 students compete to earn a share of \$2.1 million in scholarships. The overall winner gets a \$30,000 scholarship at the American university, college or technical school of their choice.

The first-place winner from each state wins a scholarship of at least \$1,000 and an all-expense paid trip to the nation's capital.

HISTORY: The VFW was founded in 1899 by veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) who came back sick and wounded from their service without any infrastructure in place for medical care or any kind of pension. Those veterans started local organizations to secure rights and benefits for veterans. Chapters started to spring up in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania. Membership now numbers 1.5 million.

#### **MEET UP**

**AMERICAN LEGION: The Bernie G. Crouse American Legion Post 133** meets the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Left Wing of the Maricopa Community Center at 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road.

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS: The** 

**Tracy P. MacPherson VFW Post 12043** meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Left Wing of the Maricopa Community Center at 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road.



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# Vietnam vet shares memories with JROTC class at MHS

BY JAY TAYLOR

HE AIR FORCE JUNIOR RESERVE Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program at Maricopa High School is thriving, with about 130 students, or 5% of the MHS student body, enrolled in its

The students had a treat on Sept. 20 when they got a visit from Capt. Bob Allen, U.S. Army, Ret., who visited them to share stories of his time as a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War.

The Air Force JROTC commander at MHS, Lt Col. Allen Kirksey, knew Allen through Maricopa Unified School District governing board member Jim Jordan, who is Allen's brother-in-law. After meeting, Kirksey invited Allen to speak to a JROTC class and he enjoyed it.

"It was a controversial time when he joined, but he joined anyway," said Kirksey of Allen. "It shows the kind of commitment to making the world better that he has, and that a lot of veterans

have. He had a lot of combat experiences, and he was happy to share those with our cadets. What he was trying to convey is the idea of service before self, and where is your place in the world, and how you can find that through service."

Allen said he uses these kinds of speeches — he does them frequently as part of his job as the veteran care coordinator for Ohio's Hospice in his home city of Columbus — as a cathartic experience. And having come home from Vietnam when he did, there was plenty of trauma to get over.

"I don't want Afghan vets to go through the same psychological trauma and same what-ifs that we had when those of us who served in Vietnam returned," he said. "I don't want them to have the same feelings of helplessness, emptiness and nothingness I had when I returned home. When I returned home wearing my uniform after experiencing what I did and losing friends and I am yelled at and called baby killer.

"The second time I came home, I took my uniform off as soon as I could and put on civilian clothes so I wouldn't be harassed going through the airport," he continued. "Those were the times; that was the culture. During the Vietnam era, we as an American population couldn't just hate the war and love the warrior; we hated the war and the warrior and that's something most Vietnam veterans just can't get over - that their own people turned against them."

For their part, the cadets in the Maricopa High School program got a lot of benefit from hearing Allen speak, regardless of whether they are planning on an enlistment or career in the military.

Kristine Heckadon, the Corps Commander of the Air Force JROTC unit at Maricopa High is "absolutely not" planning to enlist, but got a lot out of Allen's talk by applying the lessons of his service to everyday life.

"It was Bob Allen who told us that if we ever saw a Vietnam War veteran to be sure to tell

them 'welcome home' because they never got that when they returned," she said.

During one of his visits to MHS, the grandson of one of the men Allen rescued on the Christmas mission came to him and thanked him for saving his grandfather's life.

Allen remembered the incident fondly, saying "in a personal way, you never know how your current acts of kindness or thoughtfulness, or selflessness will come back later in the form of a thank you. That's not why you do those things — but when they do it's an extra special time."

Eriyanna Corona, the Executive Protocol Officer at MHS, took something different from Allen's experience.

"I plan on enlisting," she said, "and to see that he was able to make light out of this dark situation, when it (military service) wasn't that well liked back in the states, was amazing. Even in a heavy situation, there's a way to see her above the others. the good."

in the service and its effects on the balance of his life.

"It starts with a passion for something that's greater than yourself," Allen said. "I think people are hungry for the opportunity to make Allen, he learned a thing or two as well. "It

Military service, says Capt. Bob Allen (Ret.), veteran, veteran care coordinator for Ohio's Hospice, "starts with a passion for something that's greater than yourself."

a difference in the world and I can tell you that veterans never have to answer that question, 'have you ever made a difference in the world?' because every one of them have."

Heckadon said there was one lesson from Allen's combat experience that has stuck with

"He said it's OK to show emotion but don't Allen shared Kirksey's view about his time let it overcome you in the field," she said. "You'll see a lot of things you normally wouldn't see in civilian life, but you have to put it aside and keep moving forward."

And as much as the cadets learned from

keeps one young," he said. "It allowed me the opportunity to restore my faith in the coming generation and I was especially proud of the ROTC program there at Maricopa High School."

But given what he has seen and done through his time in the Army and beyond, Allen had some poignant words during his presentation to those who don't like America or what it stands for.

"They can go to whatever socialist country they believe is utopia for them and knock their hearts out. I know from my experience and from my heart that this country is the greatest







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# Husband-wife veterans get clean start with new business

BY BOB MCGOVERN

HARLES AND GENEVIEVE RODriquez were leading comfortable

The U.S. Army veterans and Maricopa residents seemed to have it all — a happy marriage, a loving family and successful

But Charles, who goes by Carlos, recently stepped down from his job with a wealthmanagement firm and Genevieve will likely give up her bank consultant position soon to become entrepreneurs and small-business

Carlos, 39, in February capped a 21-year military career that included two tours in Iraq and one tour in Afghanistan. He retired as a chief warrant officer 3rd class.

"I was really lucky to be part of a really small group of people that got to pioneer data science in the Army, so it was really cool," he said.

A holder of two advanced degrees — a master's in human resources and an MBA he has always aspired to start and operate his own business.

Genevieve, who also has a master's degree in human resources, finished her military career in January 2020 as a major after 12 years of military service before becoming a consultant.

But now they are headed in a new career direction — in a relatively crowded service industry with great potential in a rapidly growing city — as new owners of a Maids residential cleaning franchise.

#### **CHANGE IN PLANS**

The Rodriguezes put down stakes in Maricopa in 2017, buying a home in Rancho El Dorado even as they worked at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina, the Army's main center for basic combat training.

At Fort Jackson, Carlos worked at the out their home until their move west. Soldier Support Institute, which trains, educates and grows professional human resource and financial management leaders, while Genevieve served as a reception company commander.

The original plan was to retire from the military sometime in 2022 and bring their



Carlos and Genevieve Rodriguez, the new owners of The Maids franchise in Maricopa, are both U.S. Army veterans with master's degrees in human resources. Carlos also has his MBA.

family — they have four children ranging in age from 2 to 13 — to Maricopa. They were renting

But that timeline shifted, and they moved in November 2019.

Genevieve went on retirement leave and Carlos, with the help of "a lot of amazing people," was able to get a job at the Army Recruiting Center in Tempe, where he worked for a year

before retiring from the Army and taking a job as a knowledge manager for the Advisor Group

Until recently, Maricopa wasn't even on the couple's radar as a place to settle, raise a family and start a business. When Carlos, who grew up in Casa Grande, joined the Army at age 17, the then-little town up the road didn't figure into

"I never would have thought Maricopa would be a place to live when I was older, but it's a place that I'm excited to live," he said. "The community here is amazing.

"It was a big decision to leave and to come here, but this was obviously the best choice."

#### SATISFACTION — ON TWO FRONTS

Launched about two months ago, The Maids of Maricopa has eight employees — six full-time cleaners, plus Genevieve, who is also out in the field, and Carlos, who handles administration and staffing. They have mostly hired women with families.

Residential cleaning — for the healthy home — is the company's focus, though Maids also has the flexibility to branch out to small professional offices. Services include windows, steam cleaning of grout, cooktops and ovens, and garage cleaning to deal with the pervasive desert dust.

said. "We remove it."

The Maids use four-member teams to increase efficiency and speed their visits to clean about 8-10 homes a day. And unlike many of their competitors, they will travel out

"People look forward to coming into work in the morning. That's always my attitude. I'm not getting ready to deploy. I didn't just get back from a deployment and I am not on a deployment, so it's really hard to say anything that you're doing is that tough. I just try to

CARLOS RODRIOUEZ

keep that perspective."

to Hidden Valley for customers, they said.

Part of the reason they went with the Maids "We don't just move the dust," Genevieve franchise was the quality of the equipment and the level of training provided by the Omaha, Nebraska-based corporation, Carlos said. All equipment is sanitized between appointments and a 100% satisfaction guarantee is offered.

"We have the best technology and support

of any cleaning company," Carlos said. "Maids is not the cheapest cleaning franchise to buy, but it feels like the best one to buy. It feels right for us."

Jamie Smith, a Maricopa resident, decided to try Maids after using other house cleaners in the past. She said she tries to patronize veteranowned businesses in town.

A major appeal was the use of the fourperson team. She said it can take a cleaner working alone most of the day to clean her 3,500-square-foot home.

"They got it done in two hours," Smith said. "The team was really friendly, and I felt totally comfortable with them being in my home. I was really impressed because they did things I hadn't even thought of cleaning."

For example, she said, the team vacuumed dusty vents about 12 feet off the floor. Impressed by their thoroughness, she said she will use Maids again.

Already, Genevieve is focused on ensuring satisfaction to both customers and employees.

"Our customers are incredibly important us," she said. "We service a lot of people who want to be able to clean their own homes and they just can't. Either they don't have the time, or they no longer have the ability. So, it's really

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important to us to leave a spotless home that they can enjoy and feel a sense of pride."

She understands some people may feel funny about hiring help to keep a clean home.

"I think everyone deserves a housekeeper and nobody should ever be embarrassed," she said. "It is an honor that people invite us into their homes and trust us to clean for their health."

Happy employees make for happy customers, Genevieve knows.

Building — and working with — a team is the thing she misses most about the military.

"Having people be important to you has probably been the best part so far about building the business," she said.

She believes strongly in a good work-life balance for employees, including working for a livable wage, which is rare in the industry, health benefits, no nights and weekends and paid time off. In addition, The Maids corporation offers free community college for employees.

Plus, employees can earn bonuses for excellent reviews.

"We're hoping they can work with us, and if they stay with us forever, that would be great," Genevieve said. "If we can help them move up, that would be even greater. We've been really blessed with six amazing employees. We want to support them and their families. That is a top priority."

Jessica Pablo of Maricopa, who turns 25 this month, joined the team about a month ago as a stay-at-home mom and has no regrets.

"It's been a really great experience. This is probably the best job I've ever worked," she said. "They're really easygoing people. (Genevieve) doesn't treat you like a worker or an employee, she treats you like family. She understands sometimes things come up and she's willing to change course and work with us. She really does go above and beyond for all her employees."

Pablo said she hopes to work with the Maids for a long time.

"I want to grow with this company. I have a lot of faith in them," she said. "I see all the hard work they're putting in and it makes me proud and motivates me to want to do something like that in the future. It's inspiring to see them grow their business."

"It's a cheerful work environment," Carlos acknowledged. "People look forward to coming into work in the morning. That's always kind of

my attitude. I'm not getting ready to deploy, I didn't just get back from a deployment and I am not on a deployment, so it's really hard to say anything that you're doing is that tough. I just try to keep that perspective."

#### SPARKLING FUTURE

Before launching The Maids business, Carlos conducted market research ahead of reaching out to potential franchises. He found plenty to inspire confidence about a home-cleaning

"My peers understand, especially like the younger generation understands, you can go and make another dollar, but you can't go and make another hour," he said. "If you're spending all your time cleaning, it's hard, but you can't make that time up. If you're working all week and then you're spending your Saturday or Sunday cleaning, it's kind of gone."

His research included a review of demographics and recent census figures, as well as an unrelated project about the California exodus to Arizona.

"If (the exodus) keeps happening, and it still is happening, the market is going to be good and it's going to continue to grow," Carlos said, adding many of those new residents to Maricopa and other Arizonan cities are retirees and young professionals, both groups with a need and desire for housecleaning.

With the rapid population growth in the city - and tens of thousands more homes on developers' drawing boards in the near and distant future — Carlos said ample opportunity for The Maids and other home-cleaning businesses, despite the occasional mean- face emoji they get on their Facebook posts.

"There's plenty of houses to be cleaned," he said. "I don't think we need to fight each other. We just need to provide good services, and I think there's enough (work) for everybody.

He said The Maids only needs to clean 1% of the homes likely to hire a cleaning service to be

To get the word out about their business, the couple is using a marketing team that works with Maids franchisees to handle its Google ad campaign and social media advertising.

Most of its business so far has come from word of mouth - with a "big boost" from ad-

have my MBA, but it's different when you

actually know the community. InMaricopa

Still, the Rodriguezes are well-prepared to

"We're trying to put our money where our

"Like my wife said, we're trading all this to

run a small business with the organizational

skills, ingenuity, determination and ability

to take strategic risks gleaned in part during

mouth is," Carlos said. "We're both leaving

really knows the community."

their long military service.

pretty comfortable positions.

Carlos and Genevieve Rodriguez pose

for a photo with Kumar, a third-party national

from India, in Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2011.

#### **RODRIQUEZ** "We both have our masters' in HR and I Ages: 39 and 35, respectively

Maricopans since: 2019

Neighborhood: Rancho El Dorado

**CARLOS AND GENEVIEVE** 

Occupation: New owners of The Maids of Maricopa

Military service: U.S. Army, combined 33 years of service

Family: Four children - Charles, 13, Eva, 9, Ezekiel, 5 and Benjamin, 2

Other pursuits: Biking and Bible study group, which they lead together at Passion Church in Casa Grande

Family vacation spot: Lake Roosevelt, northeast of Phoenix

clean toilets. I said it just feels right." vertising in InMaricopa magazine, Carlos said. The Maids of Maricopa, 602-805-0300 Fis the Season! Sell with us, Buy with us, SAVE with us! Starting now to December 31st, When you buy and sell with the 21 x Team, you'll receive a credit toward your closing costs! **Call for more details!** 520-759-3055 | 21xteam.com 20046 N John Wayne PKWY STE106 A Maricopa, AZ 85139



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# Parade lets veteran groups shine together

BY IAY TAYLOR

HE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THAT HAS PLAGUED THE NATION since early 2020 has changed the way we do a lot of things. Put the staging of the Maricopa Veterans Day Parade on that list. Since the first parade in 2017, the annual event was planned and run by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 133. But in 2020, with the virus shutting down large gatherings everywhere, the city was not inclined to issue a permit for a parade for public health reasons. Nor was the Auxiliary anxious to hold one.

Another group, Maricopa Veterans, still wanted a parade, however, and its members were ready to make it happen. They worked with the city to plan a safe march down Porter Road that gave residents a chance to honor their veterans. The Auxiliary had its own separate, safe event— a car caravan through Province.

This year, the two groups are working together on a bigger, better event to honor veterans and their families, with Gabby Potter of the Auxiliary and Joseph Harvey of Maricopa Veterans co-chairing the event.

This year's parade is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6 at 9 a.m., with Major Gen. Kerry L. Muehlenbeck, commander of the Arizona National Guard, serving as grand marshal. It will start at the Central Arizona College main parking lot, head west on Bowlin Road to Porter Road, then turn north on Porter to end at Leading Edge Academy.

A post-parade luncheon at Leading Edge will honor veterans, their families and first responders at 11:30 a.m. to cap the day's events. According to Harvey, that is the focus of the day.

"The whole event is just to honor veterans," he said. "This parade is a way to honor different veterans and every aspect of what being a veteran means." A distinguished veteran from every conflict from World War II to



the war in Afghanistan will be recognized.

The parade is resilient. It was one of just two in the state— Casa Grande being the other — to be held live last year. All other live events were canceled, or held virtually or in cars.

Potter said that last year notwithstanding, the parade continues to

"Our first year, in 2017, we had about 800 participants, and last year there were a little over 1,200 participants," she said. "Every year we see growth. It's a tradition now for the city."

#### 2 ORGANIZATIONS, 1 VISION

With that growth, and with two organizations now involved, there are inevitably differences about how things should run, but both Potter and Harvey said they are working through those.

"With different people involved, like anything else, people have different opinions and different solutions," Potter said. "We focus on the mission and why we're doing it."

In the past, some veterans had not been permitted to promote their businesses in the parade, according to Harvey, an eight-year veteran of

According to Harvey, one disagreement centered on who can participate in the parade. In 2020, Harvey, Scott Dillman, Jason Martin and others from Maricopa Veterans opened the parade to a broader range of participants, including veteran-owned businesses.

"Maricopa is special, and we want this event to show that," Harvey said. "There are about 7,000 veterans in Pinal County, and we want to be able to reach all of them."

About 300 veterans participated in last year's event, and Harvey hopes to increase that number this year by inviting veterans from the Ak-Chin and Gila River Indian communities.

"We are including groups from other parts of the state this year," he said. "We don't want to have the same parade very year. We want to grow each year and make it bigger and better.

"This is a great chance for vets to get out and meet other vets, and talk to other vets they can relate to, who have had the same experiences," he added. "I did tours in Iraq and Afghanistan— it never occurred to me to be scared of COVID for an outdoor parade."

That same goal led Martin to create the Maricopa Veterans group in 2018 to provide veterans with a place to find and offer support to other veterans. After a local veteran died from suicide in 2019, the group began holding "SIX" meetings to give veterans an opportunity to connect with other veterans who may have a better understanding of what they experienced. The name comes from the military term "watch your six" and first responders o'clock, or one's back). More than 450 veterans share their camaraderie in the group, which has the motto "Family, Honor, Community: Semper Simul" (Always Family).

"When we started organizing the participants, we reached out to groups that weren't involved in the past," he said. "Groups like Gold Star Mothers and veteran-owned businesses. The veteranowned business part was contentious in 2019; it was a huge part of why I got involved. We have people who have served their country in the service and now they are serving the community now that they are out of the service, and we felt like they had to be involved."

Harvey said his group wants to highlight the active role of veterans in the

Maricopa community. He said they are much more than just former military— they own and operate businesses and provide other vital functions in the community.

Despite differences in approach, Potter said the two groups share

"In the end, we both believe in the same thing," she said. "We want to honor the veterans who have served our country and show them how much we appreciate all they have given."

#### **IF YOU GO**

What: 5th annual Maricopa veterans parade and post-parade luncheon to honor veterans, their families

When: Saturday, Nov. 6 at 9 a.m.; luncheon follows at 11:30 a.m.

Where: The march stages at the Central Arizona College main parking lot, heads west on Bowlin Road, then north on Porter Road to the Leading Edge Academy parking lot.

**Grand marshal:** Major Gen. Kerry L. Muehlenbeck, commander of the **Arizona National Guard** 

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# How to maximize your 'NEWTOX' treatment

BY KRISTINA DONNAY, FNP-C

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Here at Maricopa Wellness Center, we prefer Jeuveau or "NEWTOX" as it has been shown to be equal or superior to Botox in clinical trials. It was released on the market in 2018 by Evolus.

Botox will typically last 3 to 4 months,

depending upon varying factors. Stress, body metabolism, your activity level,

and illness can all determine Botox efficacy.

With the relatively high cost of treatments, we would all like to see our investment perform better and last longer.

#### What to do after a Botox treatment?

Follow the following tips and tricks below to maximize your treatment:

- Wear sunscreen. Sun damage is one of the leading causes of wrinkles and other signs of premature aging.
- · Keep upright for the first 4 hours, absolutely no lying down.
- Sporadically move your facial muscles following your treatment to encourage movement of the product to the desired
- Avoid, if possible, sleeping on your face the first night.
- Avoid strenuous exercise for 24 hours after treatment.
- · Avoid alcohol the day before and after treatment to minimize adverse reactions.
- Maintain a regular treatment schedule for Botox. This will keep your muscles functioning without hyperactivity and lead to atrophying the muscles making your wrinkles milder and milder over time.

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Studies have shown that Zinc Lozenges can extend the life of any type of Botox treatment

up to several weeks. 92% of patients who participated in a clinical trial reported that their treatment took effect faster and lasted longer when using a Zinc Lozenge. For best results, take your Zinc four days prior to treatment with a (1) lozenge in the morning and (1) at night. Continue taking Zinc after treatment, but (1) pill in the morning or night will suffice. We recommend you find a high quality, pure zinc Lozenge with no added fillers.

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Bill Day and Kristina Donnay.

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EXCEPTIONAL professionals can inject Botox. These RESULTS. include physicians, nurse practitioners, dentists, nurses, and PA's. A couple tips to find a great injector are to look at online reviews and for advanced certifications in Botox techniques. Red flags include no medical director

In Arizona, various trained medical

on site, deep discounts, many negative reviews, and Botox Parties. Botox is only allowed to be injected in medical facilities and is illegal inhome based settings.

Questions to ask your injector:

1. Can you personally fix any complications or mistakes?

- 2. What advanced training do you have?
- 3. What are the risks involved?
- 4. Before and after photos?

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5. What will this treatment realistically do

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> has performed thousands of Botox injections and was recently awarded "Best Physician" of Pinal County

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# 2 DUI law facts every driver should know

BY ANGEL RAYMOND, ESO.

#### There is no "legal limit."

When it comes to DUI laws, Arizona is a "zero tolerance" state. Many people believe the "legal limit" of alcohol allowed to be in one's system while operating a vehicle is 0.08. This is a common misconception. When determining criminal culpability, the key is not blood alcohol concentration, but instead a driver's impairment. Zero tolerance means, if you are impaired, even just slightly, you can still be arrested, charged, and convicted of DUI, even if your blood alcohol concentration is less than 0.08.

The 0.08 "legal limit" is relevant in determining whether the trier of fact (the Judge or Jury) may presume a person is impaired or if the prosecutor must present evidence of such. Actual impairment is often a point of contention for defendants as many people "feel okay to drive," before getting behind the wheel.

Most adults agree that a person is safe to drive if they consume one glass of wine with dinner. However, this is not always the case. Arizona's zero tolerance policy means one glass, may be one glass too many.

#### Just say "no, thank you."

Field Sobriety Tests ("FSTs") are optional. You absolutely can, and should, say "no" to FSTs. Typically, an officer will pull over an individual for committing a traffic infraction such as speeding or making an improper lane change. Immediately upon making contact, officers will use their extensive DUI training to quickly identify signs and symptoms of impairment and begin an investigation.

Law enforcement officers do not ask for your permission before beginning a DUI investigation. The first and most common FST is the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus ("HGN") test. The HGN test will begin by an officer shining a flashlight in your eyes. This is the perfect time to inform the officer that you "will not be performing ANY field sobriety tests." Another common FST is the Walkand-Turn test, in this test the officer will ask you to take nine heel-to-toe steps and do an awkward turn. Finally, preliminary breath tests, which are small, wireless, handheld devices used to calculate your breath alcohol



concentration, are also optional. None of these tests are mandatory and a law enforcement officer cannot base their decision to arrest you on your refusal to participate. Your license to drive cannot be suspended or revoked for refusal to participate in FSTs.

NOTE: Your license will be suspended for a refusal to consent to a blood and/or breath test after the Admin Per Se Advisory has been read but this only happens after an officer has determined probable cause to place you under

Attorney Angel A. Raymond is well versed in DUI representation and litigation, if you or someone you know is in need of a criminal defense attorney, call 520-208-2274.



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# What exactly is a water heater flush?

BY MOHAMMED NAZEEM, OWNER

WATER HEATER FLUSH IS performed by a professional, who drains your water heater tank of all its water. It may sound pointless, but the real benefit behind draining the water is to flush out all the sediment that accumulates at the bottom of the tank.

#### What is this sediment and where is it coming from?

The sediment is part of your water, and as your water heater raises the temperature of the water, the minerals, like calcium and magnesium are released into the bottom of the tank. Water with these elements is often referred to as "hard water." You see, many areas in Arizona have hard water.



Over time, the minerals in hard water settle to the bottom of your water heater, creating "sediment buildup."

Now, a small amount of sediment buildup isn't necessarily harmful. But over the years, if your water heater doesn't get flushed, that sediment can cause your tank to burst (among other costly problems).

## How often do I need to flush my water heater?

The frequency depends on how hard your

Three problems you'll avoid with a water heater flush:

#### A premature breakdown

As sediment starts to build up on the inside of your tank, it insulates the water from the burners. This forces your water heater to eventually overheat the water. And as water heats, it expands. So, the hotter the water gets, the more pressure builds up inside the tank until it bursts a leak, or worse, explodes.

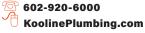
And the worst part? Before your water heater dies, you'll likely see frequent, expensive repairs due to sediment buildup. For example, if sediment collects on your water heater's heating element, it can cause it to overheat and require replacement.

#### Hot water shortage

This problem is simple: if you have a 30-gallon water heater with 10 gallons of sediment, you now have a 20-gallon water heater. Which is a drastic difference in hot water supply, especially if you have several people in your household.

#### Noise from water heater.

If a water heater has a good amount of sediment build up inside the tank, it will start making loud popping or knocking noises. Those popping noises are caused by overheated water and steam that jostles the sediment at the bottom of the tank as it tries to rise.



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# Business, development around town

MOD Pizza, the fast casual dining pizza restaurant set to open in the Sonoran Creek Marketplace, is making improvements at 20320 N. John Wayne Pkwy, Suite 100. The first-time buildout includes non-structural partitions, interior doors, suspended ceilings, lighting, finishes, furniture, casework and equipment installation, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, gas and telecommunications systems, pizza oven exhaust system, door and fire sprinkler modifications. The \$550,000 project is being done for owners John Wayne Parkway AZ, LLC by Mitchell Contractors LLC.

**Sequoia Pathway Academy** will spend \$140,000 to install pre-manufactured metal bleachers for the school's new athletic field at 19265 N. Porter Road with work to be done by Willmeng Construction, Inc.

Omni Maricopa Land Acquisition LLC is building 2,892-square-foot of office space and manager's quarters at a cost of \$195,411 at its new storage facility, **Omni Maricopa Self Storage** at 18000 N. Stonegate Road, Building E, with work being done by James A. Campbell Construction LLC. The business will feature traditional and RV storage at Stonegate Road and Alan Stephen Parkway.

A new metal office/warehouse shell is being built at 40521 W. Magnolia Road for **Kooline Plumbing** at a cost of \$30,000. The 2,400-square-foot building in the Seven Ranches area is owned by Nazeem Mohammed and Farzana Afroza.

A shade structure is being added by **A+ Charter School** at 41735 W. Alan Stephens Pkwy. at a cost of \$14,080. Arizona Recreation Design Inc. will perform the work.

Tenant improvements will be made at **Duke Plaza**, 19756 N. Maricopa Road, Suites 101 and 104, at a cost of \$25,000. Work will include a new wall between a new suite with a total of 2,580 square feet. The property is owned by Maricopa Manor Business Center with work being done by Johansen Interiors LLC.

**Rancho El Dorado** Phase III will install a \$4,500 flagpole at its model home complex at 40280 W. Chambers Dr. The parcel is owned by K. Hovnanian at Rancho El Dorado, and work will be done by American Flag and Pole Co.



A 50-foot American flagpole with electrical capability will be erected at 40457 W. Rio Grande Dr. for **Richmond American Homes** in The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado, Phase III at a cost of \$6,500. Impact Sign & Graphics LLC will do the work.

Improvements to off-site roadway, portable water, sanitary sewer, landscape, roadway lighting, and dry utilities will be done at the southeast corner of State Route 238 and Loma Road. T&K Contracting LLC will perform the work at the future site of

the West Maricopa Village single-family homes for rent community being developed by **Maricopa 35 LLC**. Construction also will begin on improvements to Loma Road by T&K Contracting LLC.

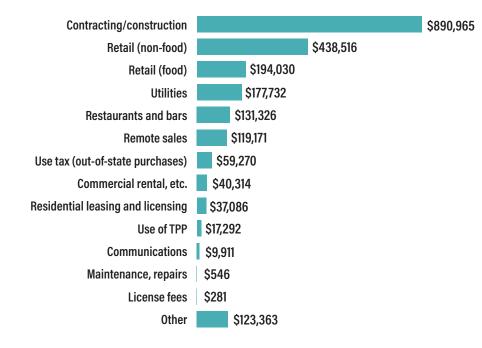
The city has re-zoned about 19.95 acres at 36351 W. Honeycutt Road from CB-1 (commercial) to RM (mixed use). Located at the southeast corner of Honeycutt and Hartman roads, the property is owned by **Tortosa NW Levine Investments LP**.

Roadway improvements will be done on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, from Honeycutt Road to Porter Road, and on Murphy Road from Honeycutt Road to Farrell Road by **Sunland Asphalt & Construction Inc.** 

The **City of Maricopa** will perform highway maintenance at Murphy and Farrell roads near the future site of the Maricopa Unified School District's second high school with work being done by Sunland Asphalt & Construction Inc.

# Maricopa Sales Tax Collections

In September, businesses paid more than \$2.2 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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Cleaning procedure; when to wash; where to wash Employee finished cutting raw fish, then continued working throughout the kitchen without removing the soiled gloves. Employee was immediately stopped and instructed to remove soiled gloves and wash their hands. Reviewed glove use limitations and when to wash. Manager was instructed to sanitize soiled items. Employee then rinsed hands at food prep sink and continued with food prep. Manager asked to stop employee immediately and instruct them to wash their hands in the hand sink. Reviewed hand washing procedures.

#### Time/temperature control for safety food, hot and cold holding

Internal temperatures of cooked fish held in a pan at the sushi prep station were 74-76 degrees F. Temperature-controlled foods must be held at/above 135 degrees F or at/ below 41 degrees F or through the use of an approved Time As A Control Policy. Reviewed time policy requirements with manager. Re-inspection by Oct. 15 to verify operator has submitted a written time policy to the Department.

Operator has existing Time Policy for tempura fish and vegetables cooked and held in the kitchen. Per policy, items must be labeled with date and time they are made. Fish and vegetables were not labeled at time of inspection. Reviewed Time Policy with manager. Items were labeled. Failure to adhere to approved policy may result in the approval being revoked.

#### Time/temperature control for safety food, hot and cold holding Internal temperatures of cooked chicken held on the counter

were 65-67 degrees F and cooked shrimp held above the chill line in the prep cooler was 55-57 degrees F. Foods in cold holding must be maintained at 41 degrees F or below. Items were relocated properly into cold holding units.

Observed chemical spray bottle and large handheld sprayer in the kitchen in unidentified containers. Manager stated contents were cleaning agents and marked the sprayers accordingly. All chemicals not held in their original containers must be labeled/

#### Insect control devices, design and installation; outer openings, protected

Internal temperatures of rice, beans and soup held in deep, plastic containers in walk-in cooler 47-52° F. This is the third consecutive cooling violation. A Risk Control Plan meeting must be scheduled to address proper cooling of temperature-controlled foods.

#### Wiping cloths, use limitation

Observed wet wiping cloths under cutting boards being used to cut raw meat and raw chicken. Reviewed potential for microbial growth and cross contamination. Manager instructed to remove wet cloths and provide antislip/



#### Manual and mechanical warewashing equipment, chemical

Observed employee wash, rinse and sanitize knife then immediately place knife in storage. Knife was in contact with sanitizer solution for about 10 seconds. Food contact surfaces must be in contact with quat based sanitizer for at least one minute. Reviewed sanitizing procedure with manager and employee. The knife was then sanitized properly.

#### Time/temperature control for safety food, hot and cold

Internal temperatures of raw steaks held in the meat cutting room were 46-47 degrees F. Per the manager, the steaks had not been cut recently/ were not in a cooling phase. Manager confirmed ambient air temperature of the cutting room at 51 degrees F. Temperature controlled food in cold holding must be kept at or below 41 degrees F.

#### Cooling, heating, and holding capacities-equipment

Ambient air temperature of the meat cutting room was confirmed by manager to be at 51 degrees F and resulted in a cold holding violation. Manager instructed staff to keep temperature-controlled foods in the main walk-in cooler until the cutting room air temperature is repaired to hold internal food temperatures at or below 41 degrees F. Re-inspection by Sept. 28 to confirm correction.

#### **EXCELLENT**

- Frv's Marketplace Sushi
- Heritage Academy
- Jack in the Box
- Maricopa High School Maricopa Wells Middle School
- · Molly's House of Little Feet
- Oumi Sushi (at Sprouts Farmers Market)
- Raceway Bar & Grill
- Saddleback Elementary
- Sprouts Farmers Market Bakery
- · Sprouts Farmers Market Deli

#### **SATISFACTORY**

- · Li's Garden
- Sav Sushi
- · Sprouts Farmers Market

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





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#### Teri Romero-Dominguez M.Ed.

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#### **EDUCATION**









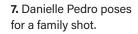


- 1. Maricopa High School junior defenders lan Palm, top, and Caleb Garcia, right, help a teammate tackle Cesar Chavez High running back Damien Scott during an Oct. 15 game at Ram Stadium.
- **2.** Alexis "AJ" McKinney plays flute for the Maricopa High School Marching Band.
- **3.** The varsity and junior varsity cheerleading squads gather for a portrait during an Oct. 15 football game.
- **4.** Rachel Grubbs, a freshman swimmer for Maricopa, celebrates during a recent meet.
- **5.** Members of the Maricopa High School swim team pose for a photo on the pool deck.









- **8.** Victoria Richardson celebrated with her parents.
- **9.** Setter Kylee Foster and her parents smile for a Senior Night photo.





#### **EDUCATION**



# Enhancing elementary school learning

BY MURRAY SIEGEL

HE WORD "ELEMENTARY" has two seemingly conflicting definitions. For some, elementary means basic or simple as when Sherlock Holmes said, "Elementary, my dear Watson." Yet, elementary can also mean foundational such as the periodic chart of the elements, which contains the fundamental substances which are used to create all matter. In many school districts the first definition is used to develop K-5 curriculum, keeping it simple.

The Maricopa district (MUSD) has joined with districts who see the foundational definition dictating what happens in elementary school classrooms.

In the elementary grades, students are not only introduced to content but learn how to learn through life. To that end, MUSD hired Dr. Mona Berry as director of elementary and early childhood curriculum, who said she took the job because she shares the district's goals and its emphasis on a team concept to provide necessary enhancement of the elementary grades.

What are those goals and how will they be enhanced? The goals are:

- Graduates are ready to innovate and succeed.
- Needed resources are available for every student.
- Investments are made to support students and staff.
- The community is well informed about the district's performance.
  The planned enhancement of curriculum
- focuses on language arts and mathematics.

   Enhancements in the implementation of

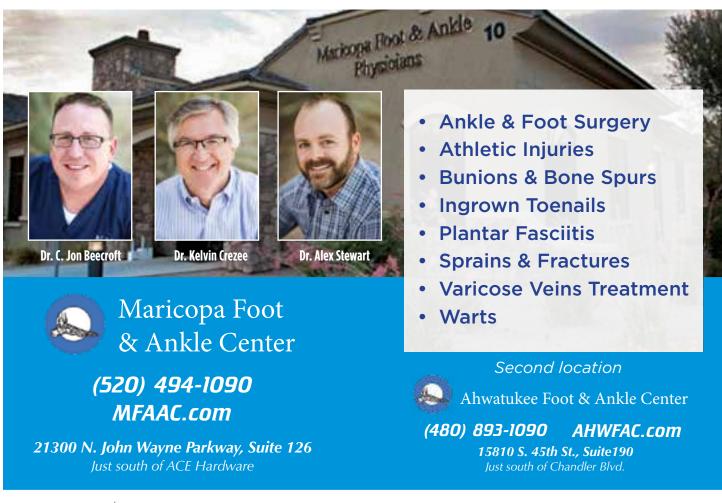
- the literacy curriculum develop student proficiency in the six language arts: reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing and language.
- Students engage in mathematics learning aligned to rigorous expectations that prepare them beyond isolated skills and procedural knowledge to pursue authentic, conceptual mathematical understanding and skills.

Dr. Berry perceives the MUSD effort as combining the work of school staff and district administrators to develop an elementary program that will educate the whole child while engaging students in real world concepts and problems. She sees the MUSD elementary program providing an engaging and "rich" classroom with a rigorous curriculum, and allowing students to think, collaborate and be challenged to learn to their full potential.

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



InMaricopa.com/Columnists



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# Plan ahead for multiple generations under one roof

BY DAYV MORGAN

**HILE THE STANDARD** homebuyer may be looking for a three or four-bedroom for their nuclear family, American culture in the 21st century is turning more and more toward multigenerational housing.

Whether it's grandparents moving in,

relatives needing temporary living space, the need to accommodate other adults who need reasonable independence and privacy has become a trend.

A recent study by advocacy group Generations United pointed out that 51.4 million Americans live in multigenerational households, which represents a 10% increase since 2007.

Richmond American Homes is bringing the gem of multi-generational living to Maricopa.

In the Seasons at The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado II the new Emerald floor plan will be continuing the trend of multi-generational homes to arrive in the city. At approximately 2,090 square feet, the Emerald floor plan has a 3-car garage, with 4-5 bedrooms and 3

When buying a home, it is wise to think into the future about what your extended family's needs will be in five or 10 years. If your house does not have a built-in suite, are there existing living spaces that can be converted to have a second kitchen, maybe a second laundry, just in case?

In some areas of the country, it is common adult children coming back home or other to convert garage space into living quarters, but

this is not recommended in Maricopa. Almost every home is on a post-tension slab, making it difficult to put in extra plumbing after the home is built. You also don't want to lose parking and storage space, as that will hurt resale value.

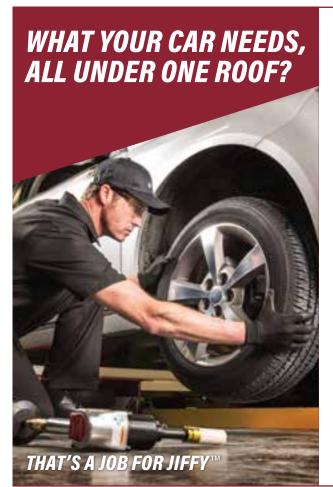
Even if you don't have a current need for a multi-gen home, having a private suite with a private entry opens up, the opportunity to rent a room in your house. In this market, that could turn into a nice little windfall.

The reasons for bringing adult generations under one roof can range from economic pressures to aging or special needs. And while no one anticipates their family having an accident or health issues impacting the way they live in their home, it has become the reality for many, and it's good to consider such possibilities when buying or updating a home.

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

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# Maricopa to offer more housing diversity!

Our entry-level professionals including our teachers, firefighters and police officers will soon have more options for housing. Currently there is a lack of workforce housing for our community, with more than 99% of the housing inventory consisting of single-family, detached homes. Maricopa will now offer housing diversity with a wide range of multi-family developments. Increasing housing diversity will provide a greater range of affordability and attractive housing choices to meet the needs of current and future household types, fostering a multigenerational and diverse community.

The City is fortunate to have a variety of projects already in the works that not only fit the needs of young professionals and retired couples wanting to downsize, but also with their innovative designs break the mold of the traditional three-four-story apartments. These single-family, for rent communities provide options for employees to live and work in this great city.

For details on these projects visit:

www.whatsnewmaricopa.com

The city is great. It's a lot of fun working with a city where the people and the city staff have a positive attitude about what you're trying to do. Many cities don't have that. We have enjoyed a really good relationship with the city and we think that Maricopa has really great growth potential.

Ron Smith, Site Developer at Matrix Equities





Hampton Edison



REV @ Porter

Our experience with the City of Maricopa to develop our next community, Hampton Edison, has been excellent. The City's attention to detail and consistency with standards have made and will continue to make Maricopa an ideal place for residents, businesses and developers.

- Scott Turkington, Excutive VP at Paragon Development Group

of Maricopa is committed to continuously assess the city's current and future housing needs to develop a comprehensive plan for the future!





# Keep poinsettias bloomin' and beautiful through holidays

BY CAROL HOWERTON

**OINSETTIAS ARE ONE OF THE** most symbolic plants of the holiday season. So popular, they account for about one-quarter of all flowering potted plant sales.

With more than 100 varieties, they come in a wide range of colors, red being the most popular. California is the largest producer of poinsettias, which are named for Joel Robert Poinsett, an amateur botanist from South Carolina and the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, who introduced them in 1825.

Native to Mexico, poinsettias bloom in December in response to the shorter days. And contrary to most flowering plants, we love them for their colorful modified leaves called bracts and not for the little yellow flowers at their center. In nature, the bracts attract pollinators to the plant's very unassuming small flowers.

#### **KEEPING THEM FRESH**

Here are a few tips for keeping your poinsettia looking beautiful throughout the holiday season and beyond:

- Before purchasing, look at the true flowers at the center of the colorful bracts. Plants giving the longest show of color will have tight yellow, white or green buds. If you see yellow pollen, the bracts won't last long.
- Place the plants near a window but away from direct sunlight. A foot away or so is just fine. Make sure they get 6-8 hours of indirect sunlight per day.



#### **IS THE POINSETTIA POISONOUS?**

If you said no, you'd be right.

The plant has been repeatedly tested and cleared of this charge by the **National Poison Center and American** Medical Association, But that does not mean they can or should be eaten.

If ingested, they can cause stomach irritation and discomfort. And those with sensitivities to latex will want to take care when handling, since the white sap that oozes from broken leaves or stems can irritate the skin.

By the way, the plant is only mildly toxic to cats and dogs. Reactions are rarely serious or fatal.

- Poinsettias thrive in temperatures between 60-70 degrees. Plants can suffer damage when below 50 degrees.
- Keep soil evenly moist but do not overwater. Water when the soil feels dry to the touch or the pot feels lightweight when picked up. Remove the outer decorative foil pot before watering. Set your poinsettia in a sink and water thoroughly and allow the plant to drain completely. Never allow your poinsettia to sit in excess water.
- While they don't like to be overwatered, poinsettias do prefer a humid environment. You can mist the foliage providing them with a little humidity to make their color last
- Generally, we consider poinsettias to be disposable plants, keeping them just during the holidays. But you can keep you plant growing and thriving well beyond the holidays.

Carol Howerton is a member of Maricopa Master

InMaricopa.com/Columnists

#### **HOME**

# most expensive HOME SOLD

40738 W. Parkhill Drive

**\$** \$600,000

This two-story waterfront home in The Lakes features wood-look tile flooring throughout the first floor. The dining room is near the entry way with wallpaper feature wall and butler's pantry walk through into the large kitchen. The kitchen has stone countertops, stainless steel appliances, and butcher block island. The first floor also has a bedroom, full bathroom, and laundry room with sink and cabinets. Upstairs is a large loft space, 3 more bedrooms and the master bed/ bath with large walk-in closet. The backyard features travertine tile decking, a large pool with baja deck and pool table, plus a spa. There is artificial grass, putting green, and steps leading down to a large paver patio right up to the waterfront. The home was on the market for just over a week and sold for \$29,000 under asking price.

**Community:** The Lakes Square feet: 3,306 Price per square foot: \$181.48 Days on market: 8

**Builder:** Meritage Homes Year built: 2012 **Bedrooms:** 5 Bathrooms: 3

2.	42625 W. Sandpiper Drive, Province	\$589,060
3.	41872 W. Monteverde Court, Glennwilde	\$585,000
4.	44576 W. Vineyard Street, Cobblestone Farms	\$525,000
5.	44562 W. Garden Lane, Cobblestone Farms	\$525,000

#### **least expensive** HOME SOLD



35991 W. Seville Drive



Oct. 3

The least expensive home sold is a new build home in Tortosa. This single-story home sits on an oversized lot and features tile flooring, large kitchen with island, granite countertops, and stainless steel appliances. It sold for

the asking price.

**Community:** Tortosa Square feet: 1,881 Price per square foot: \$140.35 Days on market: 25

**Builder:** DR Horton Year built: 2020 Bedrooms: 3 Bathrooms: 2

2. 42040 W. Morning Glory Way, Province. \$264,400 3. 36011 W. Madrid Ave., Tortosa \$265,460 4. 36033 W. Seville Drive, Tortosa . \$266,995 5. 35953 W. Seville Drive, Tortosa \$268,320



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# Don't ignore **HVAC, the MVP** of your home

BY RAY NIEVES, 911 AIR REPAIR

EXTREMELY HOT temperatures in summer and mild temperatures in fall and winter, the last thing on people's minds this time of year is preventative maintenance of their HVAC system on their homes. Most people don't even think about their system until it breaks down. Don't be one of those people! We always tell our clients that being proactive is much better than being reactive.

So, what does that mean exactly? Just like you change the oil in your vehicle on a regular basis or get annual checkups from your primary care physician, your home's HVAC system should get some attention before problems can develop.

Fall is here and everyone is relieved to turn their thermostats to the OFF position and watch electrical bills shrink in time for the holidays. Sometimes we have to turn on the heat, so that side of the system needs attention, too. Parts of our city have subdivisions that are all electric and others have natural gas. That to help your HVAC system.

means there are different types of heating systems and most folks don't know the difference.

All-electric homes have heat pumps. These units use electricity and refrigerant to transfer heat to and from the home depending on whether the COOL or HEAT mode is being used. That means all components are used in the cooler months as well so getting preventative maintenance from a professional will not only ensure your system runs quietly and efficiently but will extend the life of your system. Defrost mode, auxiliary



heat and overall performance are some of the functions checked during the service.

For those with natural gas, your homes have furnaces. These use the gas as a fuel to heat the air that gets recirculated in your home. Preventative service on these types of systems include checking for carbon monoxide levels, ensuring proper flame ignition and checking all of the other safety aspects of the system.

During our maintenance checks on the heating system, we are always looking out for clients, bringing to their attention any problems we spot that could potentially snowball into something bigger. We want to avoid any disruptions in comfort for you and

There are also some DIY items you can do

Changing your air filters. This is something we recommend you do monthly. This will make sure the air you breathe is clean and not recirculating dirt, dander and pollen throughout the home.

Keep debris and shrubs away from your AC condenser in the back yard. This will help your unit be able to "breathe" properly and prevent overheating due to lack of air flow.

Keep furniture and items from **blocking vents**. For clients with floor vents, this helps ensure all rooms are getting air to keep you comfortable.

If your system limped along this summer and barely made it to the finish line, now is a great time to plan for next summer and install a new comfort system in your home. There are some awesome new rebates from Electrical

> District No. 3, plus federal rebates you could potentially qualify for. For those with allergies or sensitive noses, an air purifier can bring extra comfort to the home for you and your loved ones.

> We hope everyone has a safe holiday season and enjoys the cooler weather! Feel free to call or email us with any questions regarding your HVAC system and we will be glad to help in any way we can.



SPONSORED CONTENT



# **Local Realtor** pays for homeowner upgrades

Dayv Morgan takes risk to ensure clients sell homes quickly, for maximum value

HEN IT'S TIME TO SELL OR invest in a home, Maricopans have a unique opportunity to benefit from using a local agent who is so committed to selling a home that he's willing to pay out of his own pocket for improvements. Dayv Morgan of HomeSmart Success offers to cover the costs of renovating and updating a home before putting it on the market, in order to increase its value and marketability.

All homes experience wear-and-tear over the years, and Dayy counters that by installing new carpet, fresh paint and even full kitchen remodels when necessary. The selling price can then be increased to cover, and usually exceed, the cost of the improvements.

"Move-in ready homes sell much faster and for a significantly higher amount." he commented. "When a buyer walks into a home that looks and feels like it was just built, because it has new paint, flooring, and appliances, they will pay a premium."

Dayy, who sells over 100 homes annually, advised that such improvements not only help the seller make more money but also benefit the buyer as well. "Most buyers in Maricopa don't have the money, after they buy a house, to fix it up. They would much rather pay a slightly higher price and finance the upgrades through the mortgage. If they paid \$10,000 for





whom he has negotiated reduced fees, or sellers

can use their own referrals to make the repairs.

Regardless of who completes the work, he pays

up front for the improvements and is reimbursed

The idea came to him after seeing companies

like Open Door and HomeVestors "low-ball"

sellers to buy their home as-is, and then after

making a few cosmetic improvements they

would list the home on the MLS and resell it

for a profit. He was surprised to see how much

equity owners were giving away by selling their

home direct to an investor. As a listing agent he

created a process that allows sellers to "flip their

own house" and keep the profit themselves. "It

any interest to the seller.

doesn't cost the owners anything out of pocket, and it increases their return," Dayy noted. "It's a win-win for everyone involved — the buyer, the seller, myself as the Realtor, and even the from the proceeds of the sale, without charging city of Maricopa as it helps the neighborhood values to increase."

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



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# Eagle lands in Maricopa: former NFL star Carl Hairston

BY TOM SCHUMAN

N 15 SEASONS AS AN NFL defensive lineman, including a final season in 1990 for the Phoenix Cardinals, Carl Hairston attributed his success to a simple formula — prepare, play hard, outwork the man across the line of scrimmage and never, ever quit.

Hairston, 68, also coached professionally for 20 years following his playing days. His final stop as a coach was with the BC Lions of the Canadian Football League, from 2012-2014.

Following his coaching days, Hairston returned to the Phoenix area, moving to Maricopa earlier this year. He and his wife, Cynthia, have been together since his final season as a player with the Cardinals.



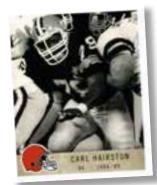
Above: Former NFL
Pro Bowl defensive end
Carl Hairston at home,
with his Philadelphia
Eagles jersey. He was
drafted by the Eagles in
the 7th round of the
1976 NFL draft.

Left: A display of game balls recalls Hairston's playing days with three NFL teams, including the then-Phoenix Cardinals. "I enjoy being home and enjoy retirement," Hairston said. "We fell in love with the model home here (in Province) and the community. The hardest part about retiring initially is the body starts to slow down, but the brain does not and keeps going."

Hairston "kept going" throughout his underdog career. The Martinsville, Virginia native didn't play football until his junior year of high school. Upon graduation, he worked as a chef and truck driver, among other jobs, to support his family before he was approached about going to college at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES).

Hall of Fame offensive tackle Art Shell was among the previous players at Eastern Shore before it dropped its program in 1980; both he and Hairston wore No. 78.

Not in football shape, Hairston quit after the first day of training camp at UMES but was enticed to return. When the coach worked him hard to make him pay for his initial decision to leave, it rounded Hairston into condition and formed the basis for his future success.



Hairston averaged an astounding 20 tackles a game as a senior. In both his junior and senior campaigns, he finished runner-up as conference player of the year to future Hall of Fame Giants linebacker Harry Carson.

"Our last two years, we were 0-20," he recalls. After playing linebacker and tight end early in his career, he became a fixture at defensive end. "I just tracked the ball wherever it went. That's what caught the Eagles' eye — how I worked and never quit."

Ironically, the Giants selected Carson in

the fourth round of the 1976 draft and intended to take Hairston in the seventh round before the Philadelphia Eagles moved up.

#### POUND FOR POUND

The 6-foot-3, 260-pound Hairston was the final player to make the team. When first-year coach Dick Vermeil told Hairston he was going to take a chance on him, the player replied: "You won't regret it."

Hairston went on to play or coach in all 240 games of Vermeil's career and the two remain very close to this day.

"Carl could win a game ball every week," Vermeil has said of Hairston. In his eight years with the Eagles, he started 106 of the 116 games he played. Quarterback sacks were not an official NFL statistic until 1982, but Hairston recorded an NFC-leading 15.5 sacks in 1979 and 57.5 sacks overall. In the 1980-81 season, Philadelphia defeated rival Dallas in the NFC Championship game before losing to the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl XV.

"We only had two first-round picks in the starting lineup, but we jelled as a team," Hairston recalled of that special Eagles squad. "We were over-hungry and just went flat (in the Super Bowl). In my heart, I wish every player could experience (playing in that game) as the whole world is watching those two teams."

Hairston was traded to Cleveland (after Vermeil retired in 1982) for a ninth-round draft choice despite having his leg in a cast at the time following a serious knee injury. "I almost retired after they cut off the cast and I saw how long the scar was," he said.

Old friend Marty Schottenheimer (who wanted to draft Hairston while with the Giants) was the Browns coach. He told Hairston to rehab and then help teach the younger players. The defensive end went on to start for most of his six years and record another 37.5 sacks. His 15-year career then ended in Phoenix.

The secret to his longevity?



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"The one thing you've got to do is work harder than the guy across from you. You've got to outwork your opponent for four quarters," he explained, adding that many of his sacks came in the final period of games as he outlasted the other team.

#### **COACHING FRONT**

Hairston said he played for outstanding coaches through his career — from Vermeil and Schottenheimer to defensive gurus Bud Carson and Marion Campbell. "I was in a system that always depended on defensive linemen making plays," he said. "We practiced hard to make that happen."

Too many teams today, he said, have defensive linemen who "can't run; they just occupy blocks. They get knocked back, then can't make plays."

Seattle and Tampa Bay are two exceptions, he noted.

The day after he retired, Hairston became a college scout for the Cardinals. His initial coaching role was with Kansas City (the first of two stints) in 1994, working for Schottenheimer. When Vermeil returned after a 15-year retirement, Hairston joined him in St. Louis in 1997 as the defensive line coach.

The Rams, with quarterback Kurt Warner, were known as the "Greatest Show on Turf" for their fast-paced offense. Hairston admitted "we used to get mad at the offense because they scored so quickly," but all four defensive linemen reached double figures in sacks in 1999. The Rams defense made a tackle at the 1-yard line to preserve a 23-16 win over Tennessee in Super Bowl XXXIV.

(Hairston would go on after retirement to coach with Warner for a year at a Scottsdale high school.)

In 2001, he returned to Kansas City as defensive line coach and then went to Green Bay from 2005-2008 before spending time in the United Football League and Canada.

No matter the coaching stop, Hairston carried over many of the lessons learned from his playing days.

"I worked them hard, but I treated them like men," he said. "We would have two game plans: mine and theirs. I would look at both and see which was going to work best (in that game). I gave them responsibility. It didn't matter who you were — whether you made \$6 million or were a rookie — you had to work hard for your job."

Pro Bowl defensive end Kevin Carter, one of the sack leaders on the Super Bowl champions, signed a free agent contract with Tennessee in 66

"I worked them hard, but I treated them like men. We would have two game plans: mine and theirs. I would look at both and see which was going to work best (in that game)." CARL HAIRSTON

2001, the same year Hairston returned to coach in Kansas City.

Hairston had a package waiting for him when he arrived. He opened it to find a Rolex watch and note from Carter saying, "Thanks for teaching me how to make \$12 million a year."

Hairston earned \$18,000 during his rookie year in 1976.

#### **WORKING FOR A LIVING**

While Hairston touted hard work on the practice field and in games, he said it really comes into play regardless of profession. "Every job has work habits; you've just got to apply them."

The game has changed dramatically since Hairston entered the NFL 45 years ago. Full contact practices of 2-3 hours were common. There were six preseason games and very few of the wholesale substitutions that take place today. (He recalled being on the field for all 91 defensive plays one Sunday in Miami).

There is no doubt in his mind that the

increase in injuries in recent years are one of the unintended consequences.

"Our bodies were used to contact going into the regular season," he said. Thursday night games are not a benefit either as the "body has not had time to recuperate."

When Hairston tunes into games today, he's watching for technique.

"I watch offensive linemen a lot — their footwork to see if they can move their feet. You can see how they are taught."

Even in retirement, Hairston remains an excellent student of the game, teacher and ambassador for the sport of football.

#### **CARL BLAKE HAIRSTON**

Age: 68

Maricopan since: 2021

**Neighborhood:** Province

Occupation: Retired after 15 years as defensive end for three NFL teams (Philadelphia Eagles, 1976-1983, Cleveland Browns, 1984-1989, and Phoenix Cardinals, 1990) and 24 years as coach for four NFL teams.

NFL stats: Player — 184 starts in 224 games. 1,141 career tackles, including 94 sacks. 15 post-season games, including Super Bowl XV for the Eagles. Coach — St. Louis Rams, Super Bowl XXXIV title

**Gridiron nicknames:** Big Daddy, Hurricane, Nugget



Former Eagles defensive end looks into the face of Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Doug Williams after knocking him to the ground.

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# Are your end-of-life affairs in order?

BY AL BRANDENBURG

E'RE NOT GETTING ANY younger. So, you may want to make end-of-life decisions to protect your loved ones. Among the issues to consider:

- Is my will still valid?
- Should I have a trust instead of a will?
- Will my family be forced to deal with PROBATE when I die?
- Attorney out of date?

- How will my family be able to make medical decisions for me if I get sick?
- How can I protect assets from being taken by the state if I go into a nursing home?

Decisions on these and related matters should be made now and not at end of life with both with your family and a reputable estate attorney. If you are 55 and older, plan now for what may occur in the next 20 years. Even people with modest assets can benefit from end-of-life planning.

#### **Execute a last will and testament.**

A will is one of the most important estate planning documents. It details who gets your property after your death. Unless you make a will, you are leaving assets up to your state's intestacy laws, which apply when someone dies without a will. Do not assume the state will make the same choices you would. Name an estate administrator or executor (a person you trust to handle the distribution of your estate). You can also name a legal guardian for minor children and their property, as well as leave instructions for the care of your pets.

Complete a living will. This legal • Is my Medical and Mental Power of document names someone to communicate

treatment preferences should you be unable to express your preferences. Establish another advance directive, a durable power of attorney, to name someone to make decisions in the event of end-of-life incapacitation.

Update your beneficiaries. If you have life insurance, retirement accounts, pensions or pay-on-death or transfer-on-death accounts, make sure your beneficiaries are up to date. These accounts transfer according to beneficiary designations; your last will does not control them.

Plan final arrangements. Among them: organ donation and funeral plans, including how they are to be paid for. When you have gathered all your estate planning documents, make copies and store the original and copies in a safe place. 🗓

Al Brandenburg is a member of the Maricopa Senior Coalition.

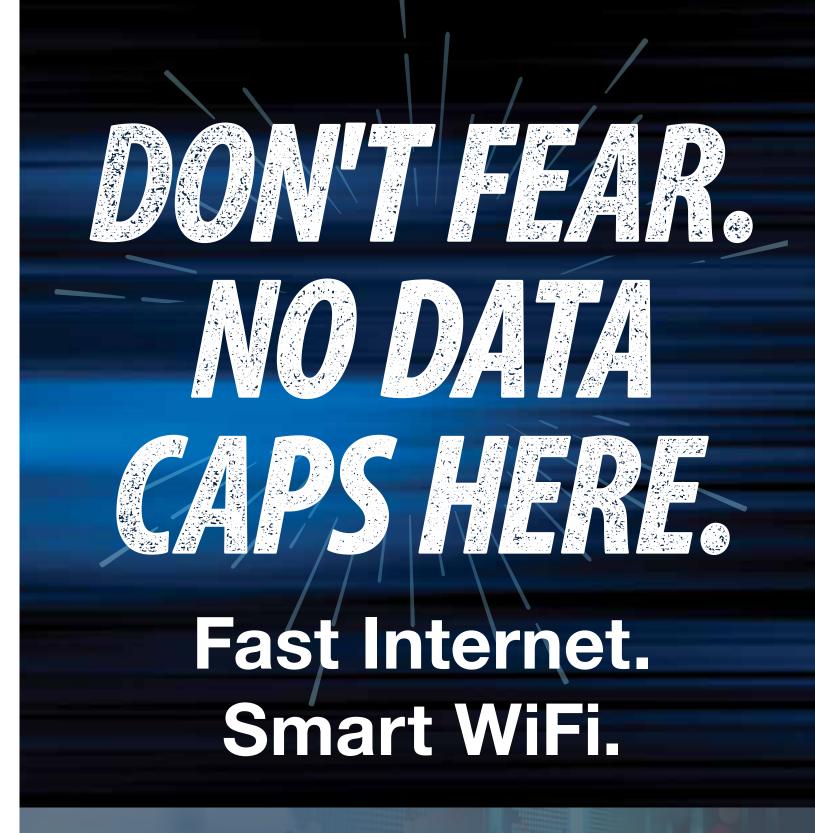
Sources: investopedia.com, legalzoom.com, lawinfo.com,

An extended version of this column can with medical personnel regarding your be found at: www.inMaricopa.com/opinion

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# West Nile virus – what you should know

BY JOAN KOCZOR

**EST NILE DISEASE IN HUMANS** was first detected in Uganda (hence the virus' name) in the 1930s and first appeared in the U.S. in the late 1990s. And was first detected in Arizona in 2003

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Arizona has had more confirmed cases of West Nile virus

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than any other state in 2021. As of Sept. 21, Arizona reported having had 97 infections this year and four virus-related deaths. The 2021 Monsoon season brought more rain to the state then we've seen in recent years, which has proven to be a contributing factor to the increase in mosquitoes.

According to the experts, the beginning stages of West Nile virus symptoms are similar to COVID-19.

People are infected with West Nile through a bite from an infected mosquito.

"Mosquitoes don't respect city lines or district lines or county lines so we need to really think of it beyond geographic boundaries," said Dr. Aiman Halai, an epidemiologist for the LA County Department of Public Health.

"COVID-19 is primarily a respiratory virus," Halai said in an online interview with ABC. "It affects the breathing system which causes cough, shortness of breath, and in severe illness, a lung infection or pneumonia which is then very different from severe illness caused by West Nile virus."

Severe symptoms of West Nile involve confusion, blurry vision, drowsiness, and limb weakness, as it affects the nervous system. Mild cases of West Nile often go undiagnosed, meaning there are far more cases than we know of. West Nile is not contagious; you can only get it from mosquitoes, which is another huge difference when compared to the coronavirus. But those at risk are in the same category.

"It's our elderly, people with underlying medical problems, hypertension, diabetes, chronic heart and lung conditions those are the people we need to protect and they're the ones that should be prioritizing preventive action for both these viruses," Dr. Halai said.

Here are a few basic things you can do to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes:

- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent and make sure windows and doors that you may leave open have insect screens.
- Repellents containing picaridin or DEET are the most effective.
- Long-sleeved shirts and long pants help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- Wear loose fitting clothes that cover your
- Try to limit outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about (usually dusk and
- Protect your home by eliminating standing water where mosquitoes lay their eggs. 🗓

Source: betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Maricopa.gov/2423/Fight-the-Bite

InMaricopa.com/Columnists



# **Dealing with** uncertainty: Leave them laughing!

BY RON SMITH

ACK WHEN I WAS HIRING employees, I would always add a couple of extra desired skills to the job description— the ability to deal with ambiguity and a sense of humor. Most of my reasoning was based on observations of employees who seemed to work well in a team environment.

Another contribution to my early management skills came from a retired Navy commander who I was fortunate to have working with me. He had three sage pieces of

- · Ask yourself what's the worst that can happen and can you deal with that?
- Don't ever back somebody in a corner without leaving them a way out, and
- If you can, leave them laughing!
- I found asking the question about the what's the worst that can happen resulted in finding manageable solutions in most of my predicaments. It is a great tool I still use today.

Little did I know at the time that I was learning about stressors in life and how to successfully deal with them. These were great life lessons that helped to shape my current style of living and coping with the trials of life.

For successful aging, we need to be able to deal with uncertainty. We can plan for some of the more predictable issues and be prepared to ask ourselves whether we can deal with the problem if necessary. It's a great question because it provides focus and allows us to think more clearly. It also helps reduce the feeling of being overwhelmed. Once the problem has been defined, we can call upon

friends, family or our spiritual beliefs to work through it. In addition, developing personal skills helps us to build confidence and comfort in our ability to deal with future uncertainty.

The advice to try to leave them laughing is no joke! Laughter not only relieves stress, but provides many other health benefits.

Mayo Clinic says laughter can improve your immune system, relieve pain, increase personal satisfaction and improve your mood. It can also induce physical changes, such as stimulating organs by enhancing your intake of oxygen-rich air, stimulating circulation and muscle relaxation, and relaxing your heart rate and blood pressure. An Indiana State University research study concluded laughter can boost the immune system by up to 40 percent.

Remember, when you can, to "always leave 

Ron Smith is an aging-in-place advocate, a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS) and a Certified Living in Place Professional (CLIPP™).



InMaricopa.com/Columnists



#### **GET THE SCOOP:**

# Veterans Aid and Attendance Program

Friday, November 19 • 9:30am-10:30am

Learn how this tax-free VA benefit can help you, veterans and spouses, get reimbursed for the costs of senior living. Kimberly Skelton, VA Benefit Counselor with Arizona Department of Veterans' Services will discuss who qualifies and how to enroll, as well as present other resources that may reduce the cost of Assisted Living and home care.

Seating is limited. Call 520-477-3166 to RSVP by November 16.



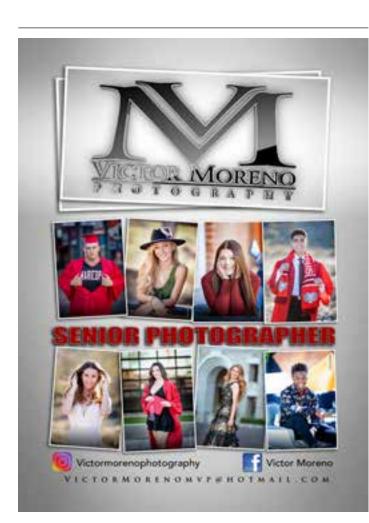
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# **Copa Shorts Film Fest** goes COMEDY!

Copa Shorts Film Fest's 5th Annual & ALL COMEDY-festival will be available via stream Nov. 6-7.

There will be 15 new short comedy films, plus 15 stellar comedy shorts from our previous four years. See them anytime starting at 10 a.m. Nov. 6 through 11:59 p.m. Nov. 7.

Yes, we all need a laugh. Find them at CopaShortsFilmFest.org, connect to xerb.tv, our streaming channel. Tickets, which are available now, cost \$10 and include the entire festival



# calendar 11,21

#### Maricopa Historical Society meeting

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

## **Maricopa City Council meeting**

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

#### The Mark Dubbeld **Family Concert**

7 p.m., Maricopa Community Church 44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

#### **Grand opening**

Electrical District No. 3 office 41664 W. Smith-Enke Road

#### **MOPS - Moms of Preschoolers**

9 a.m., Copper Sky 44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

#### Justin Moore in concert

8 p.m., Events Center at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino 15406 Maricopa Road

#### Veterans Day Parade

9 a.m., Porter Road between Bowlin Road and Legacy Traditional School

#### 6-7

#### Copa Shorts Film Fest

10 a.m., CopaShortsFilmFest.org

#### Maricopa Flood Control District meeting

6 p.m., via Zoom MaricopaFCD.com/Notices

#### Maricopa Planning & Zoning Commission meeting

6 p.m., City Hall 39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

#### Friends of the Library meeting

5:30 p.m., Maricopa Library and Cultural Center 18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

#### **MUSD Governing Board meeting**

6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District Office 44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

#### Wilburn & Wilburn Concert

7 p.m., Maricopa Community Church 44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

#### Maricopa City Council meeting 7 p.m., City Hall

39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

#### **Facebook Live with Council Member Vincent Manfredi** 6 p.m., Facebook

#### **MOPS - Moms of Preschoolers**

9 a.m., Copper Sky 44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

#### **Relay For Life Fall Family Festival** 2:30 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park

44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

#### Maricopa Main Street

Marketplace Arts & Crafts Sale 10 a.m., Leading Edge Academy 18700 N. Porter Road

#### 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.

#### **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

#### **Teen Support Group**

6:30 p.m., Northern Lights Therapy, PLLC 21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 103

#### **Fridays**

## Al-Anon

7 p.m., Community of Hope 45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

#### **Alcoholics Anonymous**

open meeting 7 p.m., 50881 W. Papago Road

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

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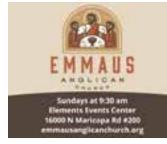
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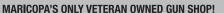
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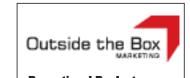


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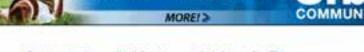


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TRENDING



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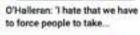


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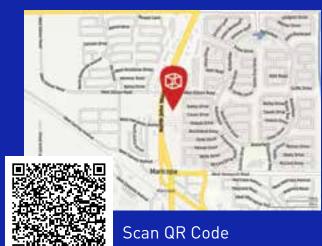






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# parting shot



# Sara Alexander

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