



Maricopa

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November 2022

He knows the drill

Veteran helped thousands
become Marines



VETERANS • BUSINESS • EDUCATION • SENIORS • MORE

GOODYEAR
FACTORY
SPECIAL BUYS

All work guaranteed at 2000 locations nationwide

***BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE**
FACTORY DIRECT

SIZE	BUY 3 PRICE
23575R15 Wrangler Trailrunner AT	\$128.99
26570R16 Wrangler AT Adventure	\$233.99
27560R20 Wrangler SRA	\$216.99
27555R20 Eagle LS-2	\$227.99
24565R17 Fortera HL	\$172.99
26550R20 Fortera HL	\$222.99

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE

GOODYEAR
ASSURANCE ALL-SEASON
65,000 Mileage Warranty

***BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE**

SIZE	BUY 3 PRICE
18565R15 Assurance All-Season 86T BLK.....	\$136.99
19565R15 Assurance All-Season 91T BLK.....	\$146.99
20555R16 Assurance All-Season 91H BLK	\$149.99
20560R16 Assurance All-Season 92T BLK.....	\$166.99
21560R16 Assurance All-Season 95T BLK.....	\$169.99
21555R17 Assurance All-Season 94H BLK	\$198.99
23555R17 Assurance All-Season 99T BLK.....	\$212.99
23545R18 Assurance All-Season 100H BLK ..	\$241.99

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE

***BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE**
YOKOHAMA PERFORMANCE RADIALS

SIZE	BUY 3 PRICE
20555R16 YOKOHAMA ASCEND LX 91H BW.....	\$149.99
22565R17 YOKOHAMA ASCEND LX 102H BW.....	\$185.99
21560R16 YOKOHAMA ASCEND LX 95H BW.....	\$146.99
21555R17 YOKOHAMA ASCEND LX 94V BW.....	\$183.99
18565R15 YOKOHAMA ASCEND LX 88H BW.....	\$119.99
19565R15 YOKOHAMA ASCEND LX 91H BW.....	\$121.99
22550R17 YOKOHAMA ASCEND LX 94V BW.....	\$194.99
22555R17 YOKOHAMA ASCEND LX 97H BW.....	\$188.99
23545R18 YOKOHAMA ASCEND LX 94V BW.....	\$230.99
21555R16 YOKOHAMA ASCEND LX 97H BW.....	\$158.99

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE. 85,000 Mileage Warranty

NO DEALERS • NO WHOLESALERS • NO CARRYOUTS
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FREE FLAT REPAIRS

Whether we sold you the tire or not,
it is free on repairable tires up to 20".
See store for details.

GOODYEAR
ASSURANCE MAXLIFE
85,000 Mileage Warranty

All work guaranteed at 2000 locations nationwide

***BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE**

SIZE	BUY 3 PRICE
19565R15 Assurance Maxlife 91H BLK	\$160.99
20555R16 Assurance Maxlife 91H BLK	\$178.99
20565R16 Assurance Maxlife 95H BLK	\$176.99
21560R16 Assurance Maxlife 95V BLK	\$170.99
22560R16 Assurance Maxlife 98H BLK	\$145.99
21545R17 Assurance Maxlife 87V BLK	\$190.99
21555R17 Assurance Maxlife 94V BLK	\$202.99
22565R17 Assurance Maxlife 102H BLK ..	\$209.99

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE

***BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE**
PERFORMANCE RADIAL

SIZE	BUY 3 PRICE
19565R15 Performance Radial 91H BLK	\$95.99
20555R16 Performance Radial 94W BLK ...	\$100.99
20565R16 Performance Radial 99H BLK ...	\$111.99
21560R16 Performance Radial 99H BLK	\$98.99
22560R16 Performance Radial 98H BLK ...	\$123.99
21570R16 Performance Radial 87V BLK ...	\$119.99
21545R17 Performance Radial 91W BLK ...	\$106.99
21555R17 Performance Radial 98W BLK ...	\$120.99

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE. 40,000 Mileage Warranty

***BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE**
YOKOHAMA LIGHT TRUCK RADIALS

SIZE	BUY 3 PRICE
23575R15 YOKOHAMA GEOLANDER AT G015 108T OW	\$189.99
26570R16 YOKOHAMA GEOLANDER AT G015 111T OWL.....	\$231.99
24565R17 YOKOHAMA GEOLANDER AT G015 105T OWL.....	\$246.99
24570R17 YOKOHAMA GEOLANDER AT G015 108T OW	\$240.99
26570R17 YOKOHAMA GEOLANDER AT G015 113T OW	\$238.99
24560R18 YOKOHAMA GEOLANDER AT G015 109H BW	\$266.99
26565R18 YOKOHAMA GEOLANDER AT G015 114H BW	\$284.99
27565R18 YOKOHAMA GEOLANDER AT G015 116H BW	\$290.99
26575R16LT YOKOHAMA GEOLANDER AT G015 E 123R OWL...	\$275.99
27560R20 YOKOHAMA GEOLANDER AT G015 115H BW	\$291.99

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE. 60,000 Mileage Warranty

NO CREDIT CHECK
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Up to 1 year no interest.
Ask for details. OAC

BUY 3 TIRES
GET 4TH
FREE

KELLY K Tires
EDGE ALL SEASON
55,000 Mileage Warranty

All work guaranteed at 2000 locations nationwide

***BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE**
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19565R15 Kelly Edge A/S 91H BLK	\$109.99
20555R16 Kelly Edge A/S 91H BLK	\$119.99
20560R16 Kelly Edge A/S 91V BLK	\$129.99
21560R16 Kelly Edge A/S 95H BLK	\$139.99
21555R17 Kelly Edge A/S 94V BLK	\$142.99
23555R17 Kelly Edge A/S 99H BLK	\$131.99
23555R18 Kelly Edge A/S 100H BLK	\$175.99

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE

***BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE**
LIGHT TRUCK RADIALS AT

SIZE	BUY 3 PRICE
23575R15 Light Truck Radials AT 104S BW	\$151.99
26570R16 Light Truck Radials AT 112T BW	\$201.99
24575R16LT Light Truck Radials AT 120Q BW ..	\$177.99
26575R16LT Light Truck Radials AT 123S BW...	\$191.99
24570R17 Light Truck Radials AT 110T BW	\$196.99
26570R17 Light Truck Radials AT 115T BW	\$206.99
24560R18 Light Truck Radials AT 106V BW	\$169.99
27565R18 Light Truck Radials AT 116T BW	\$239.99

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE. 40,000 Mileage Warranty

WE BEAT THEM ALL

DISCOUNT TIRE, BIG O, FIRESTONE, PEP BOYS. SHOP US LAST

THANK YOU VETERANS

For the month of November, any active or retired military will receive a free oil change with filter and tire rotation at NO CHARGE (show active or retired ID card).
UP TO 5 QUARTS OF OIL, OIL FILTER AND FREE TIRE ROTATION UPON REQUEST. Includes: 0W20, 5W20, 5W30 synthetic blend or full synthetic oil up to 5 quarts, new oil filter and disposal fee. Diesel is extra.
Valid 11-01-2022 thru 11-30-2022.

Price Match Guarantee Bring us your best quote on tires or services, and we will beat it. We won't be undersold.

Must be on current merchandise and services. Must be same warranty and full-service. See store for details.

We service
R1234YF
systems

BUY 3 FLUID EXCHANGES AND RECEIVE THE 4TH FLUID EXCHANGE SERVICE FREE

TRANSMISSION FLUID EXCHANGE
COOLING SYSTEM FLUID EXCHANGE
POWER STEERING FLUID EXCHANGE

*Receive either a Brake Fluid Exchange
at no charge or a Fuel Injection Service
at no charge.*

With coupon only, disposal fees extra, trans fluid full synthetic fluid up to 10 quarts, up to 2 gallons of new antifreeze flush kits used on trans, power steering, radiator and fuel injection service.
Most cars and trucks. Expires 11/30/22.

OIL CHANGE

FREE TIRE ROTATION
Upon request • See store for details

\$19⁸⁸*
Reg. \$29.99
*with coupon

LUBE-OIL-FILTER Prod#01C5
INCLUDES: Battery check, lubricate your car's chassis (if applicable). Drain old oil & add up to 5 quarts of new 5W30 or 5W20 oil synthetic blend. Install a new oil filter. (Special oil filters slightly higher).

Includes hazardous waste fee. If your MFG. Requires 20W50, or full synthetic oil, or other special weights, there's an additional charge for other weights of oil. Price is for 5W20 or 5W30 synthetic blend oil up to 5 quarts. With coupon only. Expires 11/30/22.

BATTERY AND COOLING SYSTEM PERFORMANCE TEST

FREE

- Battery tests include (electronically hand-held test).
 - Cooling system test includes pressure testing the cooling system with tester and visual inspection of cooling system.
- Expires 11/30/22

AIR CONDITIONING PERFORMANCE CHECK

FREE

ORIGINAL PRICE
\$59⁹⁹

- Identify Freon Type
- Visually Inspect System for Leaks

We verify all A/C systems
Does not include R1234YF systems.
Expires 11/30/22

COMPUTERIZED ALIGNMENT

THRUST ANGLE **\$15^{OFF}**
PROD#29858

COMPENSATE 4 WHEELS

- For non-adjustable rear suspensions
- Computer precisely aligns front wheels to rear
- Ensures straight steering wheels
- Necessary for accurate alignment of newer cars

ASK ABOUT
OUR 5-YEAR
& LIFETIME
ALIGNMENTS

4-WHEELS **\$15^{OFF}**
PROD#29866

- Computer precisely aligns front and rear wheels
- Ensures straight steering wheels
- Necessary for accurate alignment of newer cars
- Adjust all 4 wheels for accurate alignment
- Shims extra

Most cars & light trucks with coupon only. Expires 11/30/22

FULL SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE

\$53⁹⁹ Includes up to 5 quarts of full synthetic oil (not Mobil 1 oil)

0W-20, 5W-20 or 5W-30. Includes a new oil filter (some specialty filters extra). Includes disposal.

Most cars & light trucks with coupon only.

Expires 11/30/22

FRONT OR REAR BRAKE SERVICE

\$30^{OFF} 2-WHEEL

\$60^{OFF} 4-WHEEL

Prod. #21814/21830

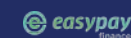
Special! Save \$60 on Lifetime Brakes! Free brake inspection

Most cars & light trucks with coupon only. Expires 11/30/22

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extended
warranty
programs.



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If paid in full
within 6 months
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We beat Discount Tire, Big O, Firestone & Pep Boys ... Make us your last call!

* Buy 3 select tires and get 4th free. Select tires only. Must purchase tire protection plan and nitrogen package, which includes valve stems, lifetime balancing, free tire rotations, free alignment checks, free flat repairs and free replacement for the first 25% of tread wear on a tire that is not repairable (with the nitrogen and tire protection plan purchased). Restrictions and exclusions apply. See store for complete details. Offer may not be combined with any other discounts unless otherwise stated. No dealer or carryout. Offer ends 11/30/22.

State or local taxes or surcharges for Environmental protection will be an extra charge.



BLACK FRIDAY NOW EVENT NOVEMBER 16-30



YOU'RE INVITED!
THINK OUTSIDE THE OVEN
THIS THANKSGIVING
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19,
11 AM-2 PM

THANKS
GRILLING
NO PARTY AT ACE

REG. \$1,599.95
SALE
\$1,399.95

Traeger® Ironwood 885
Wood Pellet Grill
885 sq. in. total cooking area
5037442
Ironwood 885 Wood Pellet Grill
885 sq. in. total cooking area
5037442
SALE \$1,399.95

SAVE
\$200

REG. \$999.95
SALE
\$849.95

Traeger® Pro 780
Wood Pellet Grill
8016760, 8016774
Pro 780 Wood Pellet Grill, 8016761,
8016779, Reg. \$999.95, SALE \$849.95
SALE \$849.95 each

SAVE
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SAVE \$2 ON SELECT TRAEGER®
SAUCES, SEASONINGS, RUBS & PELLETS

ACE
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Cherry BBQ Rub
or Sweet Apple
BBQ Sauce
8080952, 8080953
Original Hot Sauce, 9 Oz.
8074668, SALE \$7.95



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\$17.95
each

Traeger® Reserve
Blend Hardwood
Pellets, 20 Lb.
8015887
Turkey Blend Wood Pellets
with Brine Kit, 18 Lb.
8068343, SALE \$17.95



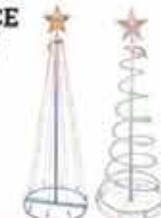
169.00 - \$70 ACE REWARDS EXCLUSIVE
\$99.00

Milwaukee® M12®
Lithium-Ion
Impact Driver &
Drill Driver
Combo Kit
2302040
Limit 4 at this price.



YOUR CHOICE
SALE
\$59.99
each

4' Pre-Lit LED
Color-Changing
Straight or Spiral
Ribbon Tree
9081105, 9081024
RED HOT BUY



SAVE \$180 BEST PRICE
EVER!

LIMITED TIME
SAVINGS



FINAL RETAIL
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Weber® Genesis® II
E-310® Gas Grill
• 3 burners
• 669 sq. in. total cooking area
• 10 year 100% Weber Guarantee
8016584, 8016676
RED HOT BUY



BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

\$14.99
each



YOUR CHOICE
SALE
\$19.99
each

DEWALT® Saw Blade, Bit Sets or
Right Angle Attachment
• 10" Framing Circular Saw Blade
• Impact Driver Right Angle Attachment
• 40 Pc. IMPACT READY® Screwdriver Bit Set
• 20 Pc. Black Oxide Drill Bit Set
2033376, 2393213, 2401966, 2137305
Limit 4 each at this price.
RED HOT BUY



YOUR CHOICE
SALE
\$9.99
each

Saw Blades, Bit Sets or Pry Bar
• DEWALT® 6.5" Circular Saw Blade
• DEWALT® 6 Pc. Reciprocating Saw Blade Set
• DEWALT® 4 Pc. Magnetic Nut Driver Set
• DEWALT® 34 Pc. Magnetic Drive Guide Set
• DEWALT® 31 Pc. Screwdriving Bit Set
• 8" x 3" Pry Bar
• Stanley® Wonder Bar® Pry Bar
2001906, 2106621, 2896645, 2294932, 2396869,
2468849, 2139491, 2106982
RED HOT BUY



\$399.00

Milwaukee® M18
FUEL® Lithium-Ion
Brushless Drill &
Impact Driver
Combo Kit
2824357, 2026543
RED HOT BUY



BUY THIS
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FREE

M18® Lithium-Ion Power
Tools (bare tool) or Battery
2548998, 2802023, 2808962, 2837862,
7790231, 2023252
Limit 4.



Milwaukee® PACKOUT®
2 Pc. Modular Tool
Storage System
3-Drawer Tool Box, 200840E, *169.99
Rolling Tool Box, 2800530, *139.99
RED HOT BUY



BUY BOTH OF THESE
GET THIS
FREE

PACKOUT® Large Impact-
Resistant Tool Box
2800514
NO LIMIT.



Milwaukee® PACKOUT® 3 Pc.
Modular Tool Storage System
Compact Tool Box, 2006874, *99.99
Tool Bag, 2837680, SALE *59.99
Tool Box, 2800522, *79.99
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GET THIS
FREE

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Storage Organizer
2800420
NO LIMIT.



YOUR CHOICE

SALE
\$19.99
each

Milwaukee® Tools
& Accessories
• 38 Pc. Impact Driver Bit Set
• 6-in-1 Combination Pliers
• 10 Pc. Screwdriver Set
• 2 Pc. Folding Utility Knife Set
• 2/Pk. 25" Tape Measure
2015589, 2365443, 2802643,
2811511, 2007442
RED HOT BUY



YOUR CHOICE

SALE
\$14.99
each

Milwaukee® Saw Blade Set
or Bit Sets
• 8 Pc. SAWZALL® Blade Set
• 10 Pc. SHOCKWAVE® Impact Magnetic Bit Holder Set
• 18 Pc. SHOCKWAVE® Impact Duty® Impact Driver Bit Set
2199784, 2814218, 2363315
RED HOT BUY



YOUR CHOICE

199.00 - \$50 ACE REWARDS EXCLUSIVE
\$149.00
each

Milwaukee® M18® Compact Drill
Driver & Impact Driver Combo
Kit, Drill/Driver Kit or Impact
Driver Kit
2837771, 2837847, 2306868
Limit 4 each at this price.
RED HOT BUY



SALE
229.00 - \$50 ACE REWARDS EXCLUSIVE
\$179.00

Milwaukee® M18®
REDLITHIUM® Brushless
Compact Drill & Impact
Driver Kit
2837854
Limit 4 at this price.
RED HOT BUY



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Maricopa
ACE Hardware

Ace Rewards Members Exclusive
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\$10 ACE GIFT CARD**
When You Buy a \$50 Ace Gift Card*
Between 11/25-11/27
*LIMIT 2 FREE GIFT CARDS.
**Offer valid in-store at participating Ace stores and online. Although additional gift cards are available for purchase, limit one free \$10 gift card. Gift cards cannot be used to purchase other gift cards, while supplies last. No cash back. By purchasing using or accepting a gift card, you agree to Ace Card Terms and Conditions, which are available at <https://www.acehardware.com/customer-service/gift-cards>.

Wrap it in RED
from: **ACE** to: *you*

SALE \$9⁹⁹ Feit Electric Smart Wi-Fi Plug <small>3003931 RED HOT BUY</small>	SALE \$14⁹⁹ Feit Electric Smart Wi-Fi Dual Outlet Outdoor Power Plug <small>3003939 RED HOT BUY</small>	SALE \$29⁹⁹ Feit Electric Smart Wi-Fi 6-Outlet Power Stake <small>3003956 RED HOT BUY</small>	SALE \$19⁹⁹ each Feit Electric Smart Wi-Fi LED Bulb 3/Pk. <small>60 watt equivalent. Lasts 22+ years. Color-changing, daylight or soft white. 3004570, 3004002, 3004001 RED HOT BUY</small>	SALE \$54⁹⁹ Feit Electric Smart Video Doorbell <small>Photo notification motion detection, 1080p HD video, 2-way audio. Control through your smart phone. 3008074 RED HOT BUY</small>
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BRIGHT IDEAS FOR HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

SALE \$9⁹⁹ each LED Light Sets <small>Available in assorted styles and colors.</small>	SALE \$12⁹⁹ each 300 Ct. Mini Light Set <small>Clear or multi-color. 9239560, 9239708</small>
---	--

YOUR CHOICE SALE \$19⁹⁹ each Gold LED Light Sets <small>Available in assorted colors and styles. RED HOT BUY</small>	YOUR CHOICE SALE \$24⁹⁹ each 300 Ct. LED Light Sets <small>Available in assorted colors and styles. 9467598, 9467531, 9045581, 9045580 RED HOT BUY</small>	YOUR CHOICE SALE \$24⁹⁹ each Gold LED Light Sets <small>Available in assorted colors and styles. RED HOT BUY</small>
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YOUR CHOICE
SALE
\$49⁹⁹ each
Pre-Lit LED Decorated 30" Wreath
Assorted varieties.
9070902, 9080657, 9070914
RED HOT BUY

YOUR CHOICE
SALE
\$99⁹⁹ each
7' Pre-Lit LED Slim Winchester Tree
Warm white or multi-color.
9071641, 9070917
RED HOT BUY

SALE
~~\$99.99~~ **\$20 ACE REWARDS EXCLUSIVE***
\$79⁹⁹
Werner® 8' Type I 250 Lb. Capacity Fiberglass Stepladder
18971
Limit 2 each at this price.
16' Aluminum Extension Ladder.
1062918...SALE \$119.99 - \$20.00
Ace Rewards Exclusive.* You Pay \$99.99. Limit 2 at this price.
RED HOT BUY

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SALE
\$49⁹⁹ each
8' Inflatable Santa or Snowman
9069528, 9069540

20% OFF
Select Command® Clips, Hooks & Hanging Strips
Assorted varieties.
Store stock only. Sorry, no rain checks.
RED HOT BUY

*See page 6 for Ace Rewards Instant Savings details.

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ON THE COVER

Maricopa resident Sgt. Major Billy Zinnerman, photographed by Victor Moreno, served 25 years in the United State Marine Corps. Page 14

 **The EVENTS CENTER**
AT HARRAH'S AK-CHIN CASINO

TRACY LAWRENCE

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
RANDY ROGERS BAND

Friday, December 9

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TRACY LAWRENCE CONCERT: The Events Center Box Office will open 3 hours prior to the show start time and close 30 minutes after the event starts. The Events Center Box Office is located on the first floor of the casino, next to the Oak & Fork Restaurant. Will Call tickets can be picked up during the Box Office hours of operation on the show day. Customers must present the actual credit card used to purchase tickets, a valid photo I.D. and the confirmation number. Free garage parking. Our casino facility is ADA compliant. There is accessible seating available for all shows. The Events Center is located at the Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino in Maricopa, AZ. Photo I.D.s are required to enter the facilities. Cameras and recording devices are never allowed at concerts unless otherwise notified. Outside food or beverages are not permitted inside the building. Guests wearing obscene or indecent clothing are not allowed to enter the building. Guests using foul or abusive language or gestures will be escorted out of the venue. Laser pens and pointers are not permitted. Policies subject to change depending on the nature of the event. No refunds, no exceptions. Harrah's Ak-Chin is a casino facility, therefore, all minors must be accompanied by adults 21+ at all times.

*Must book by 12/22/2022. Minimum two consecutive night stay required or full rate applies. Discount will be applied to the lower priced night. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Rates are subject to change based on availability. Restrictions apply. Room type and location not guaranteed. Valid credit card must be provided during reservation and check-in and guarantees reservation until midnight. Please have your Caesars Rewards card available when making your reservation. If cancellations are not received at least 24 hours prior to arrival date (no later than 6PM Arizona time), a \$50 charge will be applied to your credit card. Pre-paid credit cards, Arizona unemployment debit cards and cash deposits will not be accepted. Upon check-in, a hold will be placed on the credit card for incidentals in the amount of \$50 per night. Hold release time varies from bank to bank, but is typically between 3 - 10 business days. Offer is based on availability. Room type and location not guaranteed.

Management reserves the right to change or cancel these promotions at any time without prior notice. Valid only at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and must have a Caesars Rewards card and valid photo ID to participate. Must be 21 or older to gamble. Know When To Stop Before You Start.® Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700 or 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2022 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards Center for complete details.

November a time to reflect

I've always loved November.

The crisp days of autumn and the smell of burning leaves — it was legal then — are pleasant memories from my youth in Ohio. Nothing better than November in the Midwest. Except, maybe, October. But only because the colored leaves were still on the trees.

We looked forward late in the month to Thanksgiving with relatives, and more food than anyone could, or should, eat. I understand now how fortunate we were, because not everyone had that.

And, for me, November is special because about halfway through is my birthday. As a kid, I couldn't wait. Now, it's more of a "meh," and if someone were to place the correct number of candles on a cake, the fire marshal would be there.

Maybe the most important event in November, though, is the least celebrated. People blow past Veterans Day with an eye on Thanksgiving the way vacationers blow through Maricopa with their eye on San Diego.

And that is sad.

In this issue, we attempt to do our part to heighten awareness of those who have served us, highlighting the sacrifices they made and, just as important, the sacrifices their families made, sometimes going years without seeing their duty-bound loved ones.



Our Justin Griffin has pieced together a splendid Veterans Day package, telling the stories of several Maricopans who have served us.

Don't ignore Veterans Day.

These men and women fought to preserve our way of life. Many of them carry scars to this day that are visible and some that are not. They've protected our

right to . . . complain about everything.

The right to vote and the right to free speech are among our most precious.

We haven't always been the best stewards and practitioners of these rights and so many others that separate us from the rest of the world, but we still have them because men and women for generations put on the uniform of the United States of America and fought to protect and preserve them.

Please exercise your precious freedom and vote on Nov. 8. Anything less is a slap to our veterans of the armed forces.

And if you encounter a veteran on Nov. 11, don't forget to thank him or her for their service.

LEE SHAPPELL | EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Lee@InMaricopa.com

CONTRIBUTORS



JUSTIN GRIFFIN

If ever there was someone you'd want on your team, it is Justin. He expanded his usual outstanding behind-the-scenes magazine duties and wrote a stellar Veterans Day package.



VICTOR MORENO

Few people have the eye to capture the perfect image, so we're fortunate to have Victor Moreno working his photographic magic. Check out his dramatic portrait on our cover this month.



PAUL SHIRK

It took years but the Maricopa Museum and Visitor Center opened Oct. 22 thanks to Paul's passion and drive. He tracked down rare items that tell Maricopa's story.

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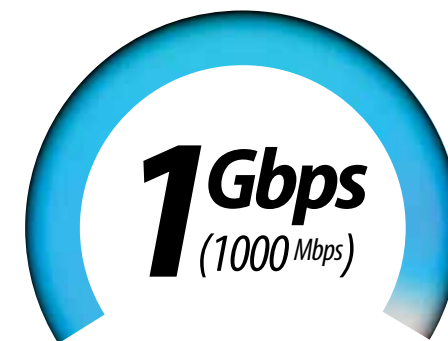
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Changing times

The Maricopa and Pima tribes farmed the lands adjacent to the Gila River and raised beans, corn, pumpkins, watermelons, muskmelons, cotton and their principal crop, wheat, in the 1800s. Father Bonaventure Oblasser described the Pima fields from

Florence to the Estrella Mountains as a continuous agricultural scene with one field following another. He states that it "presents the appearance of one immense garden... and all under irrigation."

The mode of bringing these crops to market in the 19th century consisted of horse- and mule-drawn wagons. Today, those wagons have turned into 18-wheel transfer trucks.

THIS MONTH BACK IN...

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



2007

The history committee of the Friends of the Maricopa Library recognized those whose donations made possible re-publication of Maricopa's definitive history, Patricia Brock's "Reflections of a Desert Town, Volume II, at a reception at the Maricopa Agriculture Center. Maricopa's story began in 1857, after Congress authorized the San Antonio & San Diego Mail to establish an overland route from the Mississippi River to San Francisco. The reception featured current and former Maricopans, who shared early experiences. Brock, who passed away in August, was present for book-signings.



2012

The Ak-Chin UltraStar Multi-tainment Center opened next to Harrah's Ak-Chin, offering visitors bowling at Ten Pins Down, two-story Urban Arena Laser Tag and Play 'n Win arcade. Dining options included the 347 Grill, Luxe Lounge and Cones Café ice cream and coffee shop. In addition to 12 digital movie screens and D-Box seats that rumble with the action, moviegoers 21 and older enjoyed the VIP balconies, featuring full bar service and in-seat food ordering. The theater opened with a "Twilight" marathon, culminating with the 10 p.m. premiere of "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2." In 2020, owner Ak-Chin Indian Community removed UltraStar Cinemas as the manager and renamed the facility Ak-Chin Circle Entertainment Center.



2017

Third-grade students received new classroom technology after Fiesta Bowl Charities surprised Santa Cruz Elementary teacher Stephanie Arturet with a \$5,000 check. More than 4,200 educators in Arizona applied for the Wishes for Teachers grant in the second year of the program and Arturet was among 150 chosen. "It means so much. It's so exciting, and I still can't believe it. My heart is still pounding," Arturet said. Fiesta Bowl spokesman Jose Moreno said Arturet and the other 149 winners were chosen randomly. Arturet hoped for a new SMART Board and flexible seating for her classroom.

Maricopa Historical Society and Brian Petersheim Jr.

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Maricopa's new museum reflects a city on the move


PHOTOS BY BRYAN MORDT

REFLECTING A 21ST-CENTURY city on the move, it is only fitting Maricopa, which has moved from several sites to its current location, unveils a museum that also has covered some ground.

The Maricopa Museum and Visitor Center, operated by the Maricopa Historical Society, opened on Oct. 22 at 44240 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, in a building that in the 1940s was part of Williams Field, where pilots were trained for World War II.

In the 1980s, the building was purchased by private parties and moved to Maricopa as the city's first library and cultural center. It became a veterans' center in 2009, and more than a year ago remodeling began to transform it into the museum.

Inside, the story is told of the city's series of short moves in the area — from Maricopa Wells to Maricopaville to Maricopa today.

It is loaded with history and memorabilia of the city we call home. 



Memorabilia from Maricopa's days in the Old West, including a scale model of the railroad station (left), are on display in the new Maricopa Museum and Visitor Center.



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The Marine-maker

Drill instructor trained thousands of recruits during 25-year career in the Corps

BY JUSTIN GRIFFIN

PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME OF ANY MARINE'S life is "The Crucible," a 54-hour test of endurance at the end of a 99-day training camp that concludes with a 9-mile hike back to the parade field, where recruits receive an eagle, a globe and an anchor pin, which signifies they've earned the title of Marine.

Sgt. Major Billy Zinnerman, who was a drill instructor for part of his 25-year career in the Marines, has led nearly 4,000 recruits to this validating challenge.

Each November, we thank those who have given service to our country on Veterans Day. There can be no greater example of valor in the U.S. Armed Forces than Maricopa's own Zinnerman, whose story is compelling.



Sgt. Major Billy Zinnerman inspects incoming Marines while serving one of his multiple terms as a drill instructor at the San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

Training for Marines recruits takes place at one of two Marine Corp Recruit Depots. West of the Mississippi River, it's in San Diego; east of the Mississippi, it's on Parris Island, South Carolina.

Zinnerman was a drill instructor in San Diego.

"You're taking these raw recruits from Iowa; Oregon; Washington state; Midland, Texas; Oklahoma, just from all over, and when you get them off the bus, they're brand new," Zinnerman said. "They haven't had their hair cut or anything.

"Then you are able to turn them into Marines over a 99-day period.

That's what it's about."

Training to become a Marine isn't easy. And it was never supposed to be.

While the culmination of training is called the Crucible, the entire 99-day training session is, itself, a crucible.

The job of a drill instructor is to give recruits a thick-enough skin to get through tough situations, Zinnerman explained, adding that while the physical part of training is challenging, the mental part is at least equally important.

"That's the lesson," he said. "You know you can do this. You've been through tougher things before. This is why you are going through this, so you can have the mental capacity to do it. You're going to have the physical ability to do it."

While a 54-hour challenge like the Crucible might seem like the final weeding out for the Corps, Zinnerman said that wasn't the case in his experience.

"Once recruits get to the Crucible, the graduation rate is about 90 percent," Zinnerman said. "If they get that far, they're going to make it. They are already there in their head."

Most recruits who quit already have by then. Each group starts with 80 recruits and by the end, Zinnerman said, 50 to 55 typically graduate.

Drill instructors work around the clock.

"Every night, when (recruits) are in bed, you are in the office, writing different notes about each of the recruits," Zinnerman said.

A drill instructorship is a three-year assignment. After it's over, it's back into a unit.

"The question is ... whether you would want that recruit in your unit," Zinnerman said. "That's how you evaluate them."

Zinnerman estimates he had 3,500 to 4,000 under his tutelage. He pushed them hard.

They remembered when he would run into them later.

"They'd say, 'You remember me? My name is...You were my drill instructor,'" Zinnerman said. "And my answer was 'no,' but my thought was, 'You're still here, you must have done a good job.'"

After leaving the Marines, when Zinnerman took a job driving trucks, he ran into a past recruit who told his wife, Rhea: "We used to call your husband the devil!"

That interaction still makes Zinnerman and his wife chuckle.

"They never forget you," Zinnerman said.

Small-town upbringing

Zinnerman grew up on a farm in Crowley, a small town in northwest Louisiana, where his family raised chickens and hogs.

He was taught hard work always paid off.

"I was told that coming up as a child, you could be anything you want to be," Zinnerman said. "You just put your mind to it and work hard, and you could do that and accomplish anything.

Continued on page 16

Victor Moreno, Submitted

★ A brush with fame

It was a natural question.

What did Sgt. Major Billy Zinnerman think about the late actor R. Lee Ermey's portrayal of a drill sergeant in Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece, "Full Metal Jacket?" "Ermey was about as dead on as you could get," Zinnerman said. "I attended his funeral a few years ago."

"Full Metal Jacket" is one of my favorite movies."

While Zinnerman acknowledges the two didn't have a longstanding friendship, he said he talked with Ermey from time to time at social gatherings and was always impressed by his sense of humor.

"He was a practical joker," Zinnerman said. "I really enjoyed being around him."

Ermey was cast as a First Air Cavalry helicopter pilot in another war classic, "Apocalypse Now," for which he served as a technical director. For the next few years, Ermey landed a few minor film roles. In 1987, he was cast as drill instructor Gunnery Sgt. Hartman in "Full Metal Jacket." At first, he was only a technical adviser, but after Kubrick watched an instructional tape that Ermey put together, he cast him in the movie.

Kubrick allowed Ermey to write or edit his own dialogue and improvise on the set, which was rare for Kubrick. Most of the time, Ermey needed only

two or three takes to get a scene completed.

Ermey went on to appear in 60 films, including "Mississippi Burning," "Dead Man Walking," "Se7en," "Fletch Lives," "Leaving Las Vegas," "Saving Silverman," "On Deadly Ground," "Life," "Man of the House," "Toy Soldiers," "Willard" and two of the "Texas Chain-saw Massacre" films.

★ Not all deserts are alike

While Arizona is a desert, it's not the same as the Middle East desert, as Zinnerman explained.

"You think Maricopa has bad dust storms?" Zinnerman said. "The sand (in the Middle East) just envelopes you and blows for 20-30 minutes and then it's gone."

Despite having many advantages, Zinnerman said American forces lacked familiarity with haboobs.

"You had to be aware of it," he said. "The enemies would be waiting to attack during one of those storms. You'd hear shots but you wouldn't know where (the gunfire) was coming from.

"I still hear those shots in my head sometimes."

The U.S. Armed Forces now provides training on haboobs at Fort Irwin in Barstow, Calif.

"They use big wind blowers to re-create the dust storms to help train soldiers for it," Zinnerman said.



“

We were the boots on the ground. Intelligence would tell us where it was, tell us these are the buildings that need to be hit... We'd get the job done and get out of there.”

SGT. MAJOR BILLY ZINNERMAN



Above: Sgt. Major Billy Zinnerman with fellow Marines in Iraq during the early 1990s.

Left: Zinnerman speaks with Gen. Robert B. Neller (Ret.), who served as the commandant of the Marines Corps from 2015-2019.

“If your mind could conceive it, your heart will achieve it.”

At 17, Zinnerman stood 5-foot-8. He was eager for a challenge.

He enlisted in the Marines in 1977. He wanted to learn more about himself.

“I knew that it was the most challenging — physically, mentally and spiritually — of all the military branches,” Zinnerman said. “And with me being short in stature, I just wanted to challenge myself and see if I had the mettle to be a Marine.”

While no one really knows what to expect at basic training, Zinnerman knew it wasn't going to be easy. His older brother, Lou, was a Marine and his oldest brother, Manuel, served in the Army.

A long way from Crowley

The Marines took Zinnerman on an odyssey around the world, and far beyond his experiences as a drill instructor.

He saw time in Iraq, Afghanistan and Grenada, among other international posts.

Zinnerman was deployed to Grenada as part of the Marine Amphibious Unit for Operation Urgent Fury on Oct. 25, 1983. The invasion of Grenada at the time was the largest U.S. military operation since the Vietnam War. The 22nd MAU conducted helicopter and surface landings over three days and occupied 75% of the island, even though the Marines made up less than 20% of the total invasion force.

Following his return from Grenada, Zinnerman enrolled in underwater combat training at Coronado Island near San Diego, where

Navy SEALs undergo their training. Zinnerman later was appointed to the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group, a brigade-size unit that provides security at American embassies and personal protection for high-ranking diplomats.

Zinnerman also was a high-level reconnaissance Marine, who worked on missions that were on a need-to-know basis.

“If I had a copy of my military personnel records, a lot of things would be redacted,” Zinnerman said.

Zinnerman served in Iraq during the early '90s and in Afghanistan following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S.

In Iraq, Zinnerman was the company gunnery sergeant for Alpha Company Second Battalion, so he was among senior staff and commanding officers for a reconnaissance unit during Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and the liberation of Kuwait.

In Iraq, Zinnerman helped lead a unit that identified targets for laser-guided missiles.

“We'd find the correct target, paint it with a laser and drones would fly over and bomb it,” Zinnerman said. “We were the boots on the ground. Intelligence would tell us where it was, tell us these are the buildings that need to be hit... We'd get the job done and get out of there.”

Unfortunately for Zinnerman, those missions were seldom as simple as getting the job done and getting out. The completion of one often meant moving right on to the next.

“They say, ‘Pack up your gear and get ready to ship out,’ and then the next thing, they're saying, ‘Let's go to another province (of Iraq),’” he recalled.

Differing cultures

Zinnerman reflected on the cultural differences between the United States and Iraq.

“I'm a little, small-town, country boy,” he said, adding he never had been out of Louisiana before joining the Marines.

“So, you get there. It is a Muslim country. Didn't know anything about the Muslim religion. I was raised Baptist. Their culture for women, that's totally different.”

Zinnerman explained that while he was briefed on cultural differences, it still was a lot to take in.

“They told me to only speak to the senior of the men in their region, because the younger ones follow those leaders. So, what does that tell you?” Zinnerman said. “You have to build a relationship with the leaders.”

That included letting those leaders know that the American forces were there to help them.

“You start building trust like any relationship,” he said. “OK, we're gonna do this for you. Do it for them.”

Zinnerman remembered when his company rescued the daughter of one of the tribal leaders who was kidnapped.

“Go get her. Bring her back,” the leader told Zinnerman. “That starts to get some solidarity there.”

Zinnerman was taken with the cultural differences.

“They respect their elders, (is) what I really got out of that culture. They respect their leadership. But here in America, they push old people aside.”

Continued on page 18

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Winding down

By the time his final tour ended in 2002 in Afghanistan, Zinnerman had been a Marine for 25 years. He was ready to retire.

“On my last tour,” Zinnerman said, “we were the next to ship out. We were in a valley and the helicopters were coming in and we were getting ready to hop on that gunship.”

Zinnerman was describing the Boeing Vertol CH-46, a medium-utility helicopter gunship specially developed for the Corps to support assault forces. It was often called the “egg-beater” by Marines.

As the helicopter neared and loaded Marines, the next few moments would haunt Zinnerman to this day.

“The crew chief waves my platoon off,” Zinnerman said. “He didn’t have enough room and waved us off.”

Zinnerman and his platoon watched as the helicopter failed to gain elevation and crashed, killing everyone on board. Sand had gotten into the turboshaft engines of the helicopter and caused it to malfunction.

“I knew all 35 of those men on that gunship,”

Zinnerman said. “And he waved us off.

“To watch that chopper go up and hit the side of the mountain. . . . The first thing you think is to drop your gear and run up and see if you can save somebody.”

Zinnerman knew that tour was his last. He’d put in for retirement months earlier.

“I was done. I was tired,” Zinnerman said. “You just get worn out seeing man’s inhumanity to man, and that’s what you deal with on a day-to-day basis.”

Life afterward

Zinnerman was a busy man after his time in the armed services.

He became an ordained minister and spent time as a resident minister. He still travels across the country to speak at churches.

Zinnerman also worked for MTR Western, a company that organizes tours for people visiting the United States. The job allowed him the chance to see the country he’d defended for 25 years as a Marine.

“I’d drive from California all the way to New York and up into Canada,” Zinnerman said.



★ FAMILY

Wife: Rhea

Children: Daughters Naomi, 13, and Makaylah, 11; son Evan, 8

★ AWARDS

- Purple Heart
- Navy and Marine Corps Medal
- Bronze Star with Valor Device
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three gold stars
- In Lieu of the Fourth Award
- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three gold stars
- In Lieu of the Fourth Award, Humanitarian Service Award with one Bronze Star in Lieu of Second Award
- Combat Action Ribbon
- Good Conduct with one silver and two bronze stars in Lieu of Seventh Award.



Sgt. Major Billy Zinnerman at the Grand Canyon with daughters Naomi and Makaylah, son Evan and wife Rhea.

“I saw the world while I was in the military and when I came home, that’s how I saw our country.”

The experience was positive.

“You get a sense of pride and love for where you are from, most definitely,” Zinnerman said. “That’s what makes America great — so many different people and places to see and so many different people with different ideas and backgrounds.”

And while Zinnerman focuses on the positive, he’s aware of certain realities that all veterans face. He’s been to four different therapists.

“I try to be nice about this,” he said. “But when I visit a therapist that doesn’t have a military background, I move on to the next one. There’s no way for that person to understand what I’ve been through and what I’ve seen.”

And when Zinnerman did find the right therapist, he started to notice that his appointments were at the end of the day. He asked why.

“The therapist told me that it was at the end of the day because he needed to go talk to someone after he talked to me,” Zinnerman said.



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MARICOPA VETERANS

A salute to some who served



★ Jim Bussey ★

Jim Bussey, a retired technical writer, went into the Army in 1976 at 17 and worked repairing helicopter engines.

Bussey, said his time in the Army was life-changing.

"I would say my whole career was in the defense industry once I got out of the service," he said.

Bussey first worked on jet engines in Phoenix and then

was part of a team that built Apache helicopters in Mesa.

"And then I went back to the place where I worked on jet engines and they offered to train me as a technical writer in 1985," Bussey said.

After two years, Bussey took a job with Sikorsky Aircraft and spent three years with the Stratford, Conn. company, including in Australia.

Bussey then moved to

Cincinnati to work on jet engines for General Electric.

He had several other stops along the way and now hopes to use his experience to spearhead an effort to bring a Veterans Memorial Park to Maricopa.

"The service has been good to me," said Bussey, who also volunteers at the Maricopa Food Pantry. "I just want to do anything I can to help other veterans and the community."

★ David Hixon ★

David Hixon is first vice commander for the Maricopa Chapter of the American Legion and Commander of the Maricopa branch of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He joined the Navy at 17 and served on the USS Kincaid, a destroyer, where quarters were tight, from 1990 to 1994.

"It's a little boat," Hixon

said. "There were about 350 people onboard.

"The difference is that an aircraft carrier barely rocks, and in a destroyer you'll end up walking on the bulkheads and beside the walls. It can get rough, and a lot of people get seasick from it."

One event that sticks in Hixon's mind was while his ship was off the coast of Japan. A typhoon hit.

"There was a rogue wave that hit us," Hixon said. "There

are the racks where you sleep. They're like three-high. The guys on the top bunk flew out of the rack in the middle of night because they hit a rope.

"One crazy wave threw everyone flying everywhere."

Hixon saw most of the world while enlisted. He spent time in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Japan, Korea, Puerto Rico, Bahamas, Australia and Canada.



★ Jason Martin ★

Jason Martin, who was in the Navy from 1992 to 1996, works for The Phoenix Police Communications Department.

Martin served on the USS Nimitz in the Persian Gulf. The ship is among the oldest still operating in the fleet.

"It was commissioned the year after I was born and it's still going, and I'm almost 50," said Martin, who was a firefighter on the aircraft carrier.

"It's pretty crazy," Martin said. "It's a huge city with 6,000 people crammed into the size of something that's three football fields long and about 90-foot high."

These days, Martin puts his efforts into communications, both for his full-time job and with Maricopa veterans.

He started the Maricopa Veterans Facebook page in 2018. It has grown to nearly 800 followers.

The page is private and is for veterans only. For those who are

not veterans looking to support veterans, there is a friends and family page. The ground rules are simple: no politics and no religion.

Martin said the idea for the Facebook page came to him when a veteran needed a hand moving furniture.

"I showed up and then one other veteran showed up, and I realized that the people who showed up were veterans. We helped this guy and I thought, this is really cool. How can I make this a thing?"

Bryan Mordt



★ Tom Kelley ★

Tom Kelley, commander of the Maricopa branch of the American Legion, entered the Navy in 1965 and retired in 1991 as a command master chief.

Kelley served as a jet mechanic and a flight engineer on the P3 Orion.

Early during Kelley's career, the Vietnam War was underway. He had been deployed to the Western Pacific, where he was

stationed in the Philippines.

"We flew patrols off the coast of Vietnam and Thailand, and we had two aircraft shot down," Kelley remembered.

The group he worked with in the Navy performed intelligence work looking for Russian submarines.

"We hunted Russian submarines in the Mediterranean and the Gulf belt of Mexico," he said. "So we did a lot of flying in the Mediterranean out of Sicily, out of Spain and out of Lajes, Portugal."

Among the highlights of Kelley's career came when he was stationed at Patuxent River, Md.

"We tested a lot of new equipment out of there," Kelley said.

As for whether Russian submarines were in the Gulf of Mexico during Kelley's time, he says they never found any.

"But we hunted them with sonar and about the closest we found them to the United States was around Bermuda," he said.

★ Terry Oldfield ★

Terry Oldfield spent 23 years in the Navy as a hospital corpsman. He entered the service in 1966.

During the Vietnam War, he got close to the action but was never on the ground there. He was at the Naval Hospital in Guam.

From those days, Oldfield, who is part of an effort to bring a Veterans Memorial Park to Maricopa, is aware not only of

sacrifices servicemembers make, but also sacrifices by their families.

"During my career, we got to travel a lot," Oldfield said. "My wife and I think my family sacrificed a lot. One tour of duty was almost three years away from home."

There were struggles, but they were worth it on many levels, Oldfield explained.

"We choose to remember the good times," he said. "I can't say enough of how good the military

was to me. I went in with a high school education and I came out with a master's degree and a technical degree and MBA. So yeah, I just can't complain about that."

Oldfield is known in Maricopa as a bagpipe player. He plays at parades and ceremonies, including funerals, and is a member of the American Legion.

"We have a fantastic community of veterans here in Maricopa," Oldfield said.



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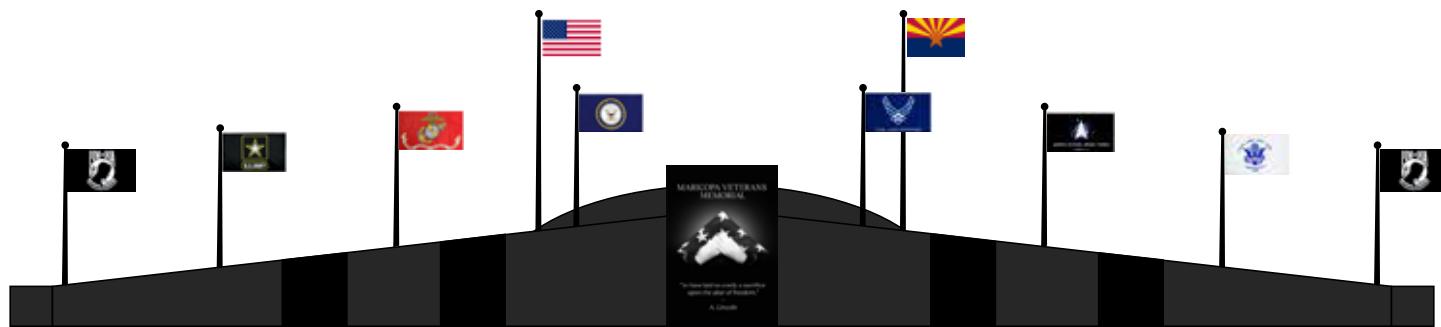
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Veterans working to make memorial park a reality

BY JUSTIN GRIFFIN



An early rendering of what the Veterans Memorial Monument could look like at the future Maricopa Veterans Memorial Park.

THE IDEA OF A VETERANS Memorial Park came about in the spring when Maricopa veterans Jim Bussey and Terry Oldfield were coming home from a funeral for a fellow veteran in Marana.

Bussey had talked Oldfield, who plays the bagpipes at various gatherings around town, into playing at the funeral for a family friend at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Marana.

“On our way back, we were talking about Maricopa, and we decided that Maricopa needed a memorial,” Bussey said.

Initially, the park was to be dedicated to fallen veterans. When they learned about a similar effort underway in Casa Grande to honor all of Pinal County’s fallen veterans, they changed their focus.

As Bussey explained, he and Oldfield realized that the best way to move forward was to think about all veterans — and their families.

“We’re going to have a memorial that honors the fallen, our veterans in general, our MIA/POWs, and our families, because those are all sacrifices that have been made and continue to be made to this day,” Bussey said.

“The families, especially, go through a lot

in hanging with us and traveling all over the world. It’s a lot of sacrifice on their part, as well.”

Bussey said an additional focus at the park would be educational.

“We want a place where people see what we’re doing, as far as honoring veterans,” Bussey said. “Not only our fallen, but our flag, our country and all that we’ve been given.”

Their mission defined, Bussey and Oldfield next worked to engage the City.

Oldfield said support from Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Ulyyot and City Manager Rick Horst was overwhelming.

“We met with Nathan and, you know, I can’t say enough about Nathan and the city manager as far as support for this park,” Oldfield said. “They have really taken the lead with helping us accomplish this goal.”

Bussey said the City has located a spot for the park but hasn’t announced it publicly yet. He’s hoping for ground to break on it in the next six months.

Ulyyot confirmed the project, but declined to comment on the timing, location or City’s support for it, saying it’s still in the discovery phase.

The astronomical cost was not lost on



Jim Bussey



Terry Oldfield

“We’re going to have a memorial that honors the fallen, our veterans in general, our MIA/POWs, and our families, because those are all sacrifices that have been made and continue to be made to this day”

JIM BUSSEY

Bussey. Purchase of an acre or so of land plus the cost of the memorial park could run at least a half-million dollars.

“They told us to take care of the memorial itself and they’d take care of the rest,” Bussey said, adding the project had become much more attainable with the City’s involvement.

“We went from having to worry about raising half a million dollars to maybe somewhere between \$75,000 and \$100,000,” Bussey said.



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Ex-MP survived ‘The Surge’ in Iraq, now helps other female veterans

BY JUSTIN GRIFFIN



Lynise Grell spent eight years (2004-12) in the Army as a military-police officer. She was deployed to Germany and re-deployed to Iraq, where her unit helped train Iraqi police.

LYNISE GRELL HAS A KNACK FOR putting herself in other people’s shoes. She spent eight years in the U.S. Army as a military-police officer. During an 18-month deployment in Iraq, from 2005 to 2006, she still couldn’t help but think of others. When she was on patrol, Iraqi citizens were required to stay 100 meters from her vehicle at all times. Sometimes roads would get so crowded they couldn’t help but be closer. Even as Grell and her fellow soldiers dodged attacks and improvised explosive devices, she was thinking about the other guy. “I remember thinking, how weird would it be to go outside, and your country’s occupied and you have to follow those rules,” Grell said.

Grell’s empathy continues today. While her personal experience in the military was mostly positive, she knows that isn’t the case for all women. So, she started a veterans’ support group in Maricopa. “There are a lot of women who served who had experiences that they shouldn’t have, whether it was abuse, or misogynistic leadership or whatever along those lines,” Grell said. “They have different issues that they’re dealing with, and a lot of them aren’t comfortable around the men, you know, for obvious reasons.” Because of their experiences, a lot of female veterans don’t attend Veterans of Foreign Wars or American Legion meetings. They have too much anxiety.

Grell’s group, Maricopa Women Veterans, was created in July as an offshoot of the Maricopa Veterans group, which started in 2018. Both groups are private on Facebook to give veterans a place to discuss issues away from public view. “Basically, all I did was make a Facebook group for it,” Grell said. “I started adding people, you know, nothing super fancy, but just gave the women somewhere else to be. It’s just them and they can talk.” Grell is on the planning committee for Maricopa’s Veterans Day parade. While that has taken a lot of her time, she’s got plans for group members to get together to talk about shared experiences.

Looking to get somewhere

Grell’s decision to join the Army came in 2004, about a year after graduating high school in Tucson. “I felt like I wasn’t going anywhere at home. I was kind of stuck,” she said. A few people told her they thought she might have a future in the military. A high score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery further convinced her to look into a military career. “They told me that my score was high enough (that) I could do anything I wanted,” Grell said.

She enlisted and went through basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and decided to become an MP. First deployed to Germany, she was re-deployed to Iraq in 2005. As an MP, her duties included traffic stops, traffic-control points and helping with gate security at military bases. In Iraq, her company conducted route-patrol missions and trained Iraqi police officers. Despite the cultural divide — things are quite different for women in Iraq than the United States — Grell saw few differences. “It wasn’t too bad,” she said. “When I spent time in Germany ... you’re out on the town and you’re a tourist and you’re hanging out.

Brian Petersheim Jr., Submitted

In Iraq, you’re either on the forward operating base or you’re in your vehicle or doing whatever mission.” Grell was quick to explain the real differences lie between the Iraqi people they were defending and the people who were attacking their city. “The radical element were the people attacking us,” Grell said. “We never saw that day-to-day with the people we came into contact with.” As Grell arrived in Iraq, political pressure, led in part by the late Arizona Sen. John McCain, was mounting back home to send more troops to Iraq to gain control. It was called “The Surge.” Due to the troop build-up, her 15-month assignment in Iraq was extended by three months. “We were part of that,” Grell said. “We were 30 days from going home and our operations sergeant came running out and told us that we’d just gotten extended.” Eventually, Grell and her unit left Iraq. She said she was fortunate to not be deployed to Afghanistan. “We got mortared and rocketed a lot while in Iraq and I can’t imagine them doing that from the mountains where they had a little bit better aim, like in Afghanistan.”



One of the armored vehicles that Lynise Grell’s unit used in Iraq sits at the ready. Her original deployment was to last 15 months, but due to “The Surge”, her time was extended three more months. She also served in Germany and back in Arizona in Sierra Vista.

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Mayor Nancy Smith addresses a crowd of students during a mock press conference at A+ Charter School. Smith overcame a battle with breast cancer and maintains an active lifestyle.

Mayor shares emotional lows and highs along journey battling breast cancer

BY JAY TAYLOR

IT JUST SEEMED LIKE THE RIGHT thing to do, Nancy Smith said.

Participating in activities to heighten breast-cancer awareness, raise funds for research and offer support to those diagnosed were things she did gladly — long before her own diagnosis.

“Seven years ago, I had the unfortunate visit to my doctor, when he indicated he saw a mass,” Smith said.

Smith, who was sworn in as Maricopa’s first female mayor in August after nearly eight years on City Council, has been open about her diagnosis and ensuing battle with breast cancer.

She is six years cancer-free now.

“I started chemotherapy right away to reduce the size of the mass, and it was very successful,” Smith said. “Then, they evaluated if they could remove part of the mass or go ahead and do the full mastectomy. It seemed like the safer route was to go with the mastectomy, so we did that and after my surgery I was defined as cancer-free.”

Smith said serving on City Council at the time of her diagnosis gave her a reason to keep fighting.

While reading her proclamation of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month during a City Council meeting, Smith became emotional.

“What choked me up was the part about family and friends and the support system for those with cancer,” she recalled. “They are what brought me through it. It can be a very demoralizing and depressing time, and those are the people who lift you up. If you have a loved one going through it, you need to be there in an uplifting way to support that patient. It’s really, really critical to their recovery. You need some motivation to keep you going.”

Knowing she was responsible to the city and its people, fed her through those difficult days, she said.

“To have something that keeps you moving, that is the best thing for you,” Smith said.

Bryan Moritt

“I really feel like being a councilmember saved my life. I was finishing my first term and campaigning for my second and it just gave me a purpose during that really tough time.”

Smith continued to receive chemotherapy and radiation after surgery to ensure the mass was gone and the cancer was not coming back.

“That’s a huge blessing,” Smith said of her remission. “It’s very exciting every July when I pass that date on the calendar — for me, it’s July 7 — and it’s another year ticked off that I’m cancer-free.”

She holds especially precious the extra birthdays and things she has gotten to do since her diagnosis that she otherwise might have missed.

“I’ve seen both my children marry and now I have four grandbabies,” she said. “If medicine hadn’t grown and improved and they hadn’t put the efforts into research, I may not have seen those things happen.”

One in eight women in the U.S. are diagnosed with breast cancer every year, according to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.

Smith continues to be amazed by medical



breakthroughs that could bring that number down.

“It used to be when you got a breast cancer diagnosis it was a very serious diagnosis,” Smith said. “Now, it’s still serious, but it’s much more survivable.”

Nancy Smith is surrounded by friends and family on the night she was sworn in as Maricopa’s mayor.

Relay for Life gets boost from mayor; still fundraiser’s future in question

BY JAY TAYLOR

THERE HAS BEEN A CONSTANT AT ALL 12 RELAY FOR LIFE annual breast-cancer fundraisers in Maricopa.

“I have been involved since the very first one,” Mayor Nancy Smith said. “Little did I know that five years later I was going to encounter cancer myself. After that, I made sure Relay stayed and made sure the city was a sponsor. I took on the survivor luncheon, and we invite anyone from the city who is a cancer survivor.”

Awareness events, such as Relay for Life, support women who have been diagnosed and provide education about risk factors, stressing the importance of regular screening. They also raise money for breast-cancer research to continue developing and improving medical and therapeutic advances.

Relay is held annually in communities around the world to remember loved ones. Funds raised to go to the American Cancer Society.

In Maricopa, Relay for Life has raised more than \$500,000 since its inception, according to Jaime Harrison, co-lead of its organizing committee.

This year’s Relay is Nov. 5 at Copper Sky Regional Park. The goal is \$25,000.

“We are currently sitting at \$8,289,” Harrison said in early October, adding several thousand dollars will come in from a “Round up at the



register” campaign at Ace Hardware and vendor booth fees at the event. “We still need more.”

The city historically has helped by significantly reducing its rental fee at Copper Sky, this year to about \$1,000 from \$4,000.

Still, the fundraiser faces an uncertain future. Harrison said she has been told the city’s discount might not continue.

Nathan Ulliot, Maricopa’s director of Parks and Recreation, said that while the City no longer has a fee waiver policy, it has instead started a discounted non-profit rate which is lower than a standard commercial group rate.

Depending on what those new rates may be, that may not bode well for Relay for Life remaining at Copper Sky, according to Harrison.

“So, next year, we might have to find a new place to have our event because we cannot afford to spend \$4,000 to rent the space,” Harrison said.

Harrison noted that community participation has waned.

Pinal Elections Dept. works to regain voters' trust after August mess

BY LEE SHAPPELL

THERE WAS NO ANNOUNCED COUNT OF THE EGGS THAT soiled faces of Pinal County elections officials after what even they acknowledge was “a major screw-up” in the August primary.

There wouldn't have been much faith in the count, anyway, not after their Laurel and Hardy-like performance.

Some precincts opened an hour or two late on Election Day. More than 20 polling places ran out of ballots. Many voters waited hours while more ballots were printed on two old machines that could spit out only 20 ballots an hour. Those then had to be trucked to voting sites across Arizona's third-largest county.

Some in line gave up and left without voting.

This came after more than 63,000 mailed early ballots omitted local races, including those in Maricopa. Elections officials scrambled to get out supplementary ballots with the missing races.

Poll workers, many in their first election, later said they weren't sufficiently trained or equipped to do their jobs.

“Embarrassing” is probably the best word for it,” said Jeffrey McClure, chairman of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors.

Contrite, the supervisors voted unanimously to refund more than \$100,000 to cities for costs of elections the county was contracted to run.

So, can Pinal County voters expect a competent general election on Nov. 8? Here's what the county has done to restore voters' confidence in the process:

Brad Nelson, a former elections director in Pima and Mohave counties, was commissioned by the Pinal supervisors to perform an investigative review of the county's performance in the August primary. His report was delivered to the board on Oct. 19.

County Elections Director David Frisk and a staffer were fired days after the election, replaced by Recorder Virginia Ross, who ran previous elections in Pinal County.

Dana Lewis, who was trained by Ross, stepped into the recorder position. Their communication and familiarity are vital to improving the election, Lewis says.

Staffing, resources and poll-worker training have been beefed up. There will be nearly 1,000 elections workers at 97 polling sites across the county. Ross said despite negative publicity, she experienced positive response from those who want to join the team and improve the outcome.

McClure understands the state will be watching Pinal County closely. “And beyond,” McClure said, acknowledging national reports of the



Elections Director
Virginia Ross

August debacle.

For those who still doubt Pinal can conduct a competent election, McClure says, “don't just listen to what we say, watch what we do. It will show that we have changed a lot.”

The suspicion is Nelson will not find crime or fraud, but gross incompetence.

“Our problem is growth,” McClure said. “Virginia, when she was recorder in 2012 when we had like 70,000 voters, had the same number of people we have now with 257,000. It's not that the process has changed, but the volume has changed and needs have changed.

And now we need to beef it up and that has been taken care of. Our Elections Department org chart now looks like a corporation org chart.”

Ross to the rescue?

Ross was persuaded in August to leave her elected job as county recorder after 12 years to head the Elections Department, handling operations that include polling places and ballot counting.

“When they looked around and didn't see anyone else with the depth of election experience or even a certified elections officer who could step up, I thought about it and decided it is important enough to go ahead,” Ross said. “Pinal County deserves to have a credible election without problems.”

Ross, who will retire at the end of the year, was assured she'd be given the necessary resources.

“I was able to hire the people I wanted,” she said. “It's important that I know their work ethic and I trust them. Some worked for me in the recorder's office.”

Among Ross' staffing additions is Geraldine Roll, a member of the County Attorney's Office, who has experience with the Elections Department.

“I had to think about, can it even be done?” Ross said. “I told them I can do the work but I'm going to need a lot of people and resources to pull this off because even though we have increased staff, they don't (all) have elections experience.”

While recorder, Ross ran elections for five years with no major problems before the county took those duties from the recorder and created a separate Elections Department in 2017.

A county accused of administering previous elections on the cheap backed its commitment to improvement by giving Ross a four-month contract for \$175,000 with a \$25,000 bonus if the election goes off smoothly.

To get the bonus, Ross must have sufficient ballots accurately and properly formatted and delivered to precincts; open polling locations on time with properly trained workers, operate equipment that passes

logic-and-accuracy tests; conduct reports as required by law; coordinate with city and town clerks in all jurisdictions; and have election results accepted, or canvassed, by the Board of Supervisors.

“We took the poll-worker manual and essentially rewrote it,” Ross said. “We've gone through several rehearsals, and then talked to poll workers. We're getting very positive feedback from every training class. It's much, much better.”

Lewis succeeded Ross as recorder, handling voter rolls and mail-in ballots. A retired Air Force staff sergeant, she is a certified election official for the state.

“One of the key things now is the relationship between the Elections Department and the recorder,” Lewis said. “Virginia and I have a great relationship. We speak daily. We're able to improve our workflows and processes. Communication is key. That did not occur the way it needed to during the last election. We tried our best from the recorder's office to communicate concerns and hurdles we'd identified, making sure enough staff was on hand, that we had the resources we need to execute our duties.

“I think we are going to be more than effective going into the general election.”

Ross' retooled department now has 11 staffers.

So far, so good. Early ballots went out on time with no major problems reported. Recently, a mock election conducted with four standard polling places went smoothly. Procedures are in place to assure multiple sets of eyes proofing early ballots for completeness and accuracy.

“Of course, there's a million things with a lot of little details when you have a thousand poll workers,” Ross said. “But I'm a detail-oriented person and I'm working every single day, all day, making sure we go through everything as thoroughly as possible.

“I told the board I'm not a miracle worker, but I am a hard worker. I'm going to do everything I possibly can to demonstrate that, yes, we can have an election, properly held, according to statute and procedures so people have confidence their vote will be counted.”

After national scrutiny over the August disaster, Pinal officials understand they're under intense pressure to get it right this time.

While the finger was pointed at Frisk, the county manager and Board of Supervisors must also be scrutinized, too, County Attorney Kent Volkmer told the board. The county has been criticized for running too lean of an elections operation to contain costs, in turn depriving the Elections Department of sufficient people and resources.

Frisk, who had been on the job only five months and had a staff of two, did not follow Arizona statute for ballot ordering: 101% of registered voters in each precinct. For November, 110% have been ordered, Ross said.

“I am confident in the process this time, yes, because of the people Virginia has in place,” McClure said. “It's just like a play. You don't rehearse it one time, you do it three, four, five, maybe six times. It's the same thing here, making sure the procedure manual is correct, making sure what we're training poll workers to do is correct and processes are followed, which I don't believe happened last time.”

Lewis reminds voters it is a two-card ballot, with issues on the front and back of both cards.

“I think this team has it. I think we're good,” Lewis said. “I would have never thought what happened during the primary election could have happened. When you have a formidable team that's educated, deeply vested in our county and our processes, wants to do nothing more than accomplish a stellar election with the right people in the right places, there's reason to have hope for success.

“They understand in no uncertain terms the task at hand and they're willing to execute as accurately as can be expected of them.”



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When City Council seat opened, Goettl was ready

BY JAY TAYLOR

IN SOME WAYS, ERIC GOETTL HAS been training for his new role on the Maricopa City Council nearly his entire life.

Service to others is in his DNA, with his involvement in church, law enforcement, community safety, youth groups and government committees — nearly everything except elected office.

His plan to run for City Council in 2024 was accelerated after former Mayor Christian Price resigned June 30 and Councilmember Nancy Smith was appointed to succeed Price in August. That left her council seat open.

“My wife and I made the decision a long time ago to be involved in the city,” Goettl said. “My wife and I have been active, more on the ecclesiastical side to this point. I have always had an interest in public service, and I had my ear to the ground, including speaking with ... Price to see when it might be a good time to throw my hat in the ring.

“When this seat came open, it was the perfect time for me and my family to jump in.”

Appointed by a 4-2 council vote, he will serve out the two years remaining on Smith’s term and can run for election in 2024.

Goettl, 48, and Carrie, his wife of 27 years, have five children. He is a certified veterinary technician at 1st Pet Veterinary Centers and a seminary teacher with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

“It’s been a long process. Since we moved here in 2004, I’ve looked for various ways to serve, and this time everything was right,” he said.

Goettl’s priorities are transportation and growth.

“The growth is going to come, so we need to determine how we are going to manage it,” he said. “We have to have a longer-term vision to follow. Strategically, we have to look at all the economic-growth needs; not just jobs, but careers. We need more diversity of housing. Infrastructure is crucial. And the water issue is a key, not just here, but all around the state.



Above: Eric Goettl and his wife of 27 years, Carrie, after the swearing-in ceremony.



Left: Goettl receives congratulations after being selected by the City Council to fill its vacant seat.

“We need to be sure we have a way to grow smartly while maintaining Maricopa’s identity,” he added. “I want to make a city out of this place, not just a place for people to sleep and then go work somewhere else.”

Goettl has worked with the Boy Scouts of America, For Our City Maricopa, Community Organizations Active in Disaster, Maricopa Police Department Citizen Advisory Committee and Community Emergency Response Team.

He is president of the Quorum of Elders in the Butterfield Ward of the LDS church in Maricopa.

Goettl believes his faith and religious training will be assets on council.

“I want to emphatically state that I am my own person,” he said. “I do my own research and I am not beholden to any group, including the church. My morals and principles come from my God and my church, but there are no

Bryan Mordt

other connections. There is no connection between the church and decisions I’ll be making on behalf of our citizens. That will be decided on the merits of each item we consider.

“For real and important reasons, our founders set up those separations. The constitution was set up so the state can’t control the church, but it works both ways. But despite that, we look for people with high morals to lead our state, and for me, that moral compass comes from the church.”

Price believes Goettl’s religious background and church work will serve him well in public service.

“The mayor of Chandler, Kevin Hartke, is a pastor,” Price said. “I think religious people are definitely cut out for public office because they tend to be focused on integrity and service, and that certainly describes Eric.

“He is a religious educator, and when talking with him before the council decision, we talked about what he brought to the table. I told him educators listen and learn. Look at (Councilmember) Amber Liermann. She’s an educator and she’s doing a great job.

Price anticipates Goettl will be an effective council member because of his communication skills, bringing the public’s concerns to City Council, and, in turn, absorbing government and legal language and explaining issues to constituents in layman’s terms.

Goettl has been no stranger at City Council meetings, Liermann observed.

Several councilmembers mentioned Goettl’s preparation while they discussed merits of the 19 candidates who applied. Goettl prevailed over the other finalist, Planning & Zoning Commissioner Bill Robertson, by a 4-2 vote.

Mayor Nancy Smith noted preparation is an important part of being informed to make good decisions.

Goettl requested a meeting with every council member before applying and interviewed them about what is required, what is expected and what it would look like if he became a member.

“During our conversation, I sensed a humble, learning, service attitude that I believe are qualities of a council member,” Liermann said. “He asked a lot of good questions and took notes during our meeting. Eric has fit in well. He has a heart for Maricopa and desires to serve.”

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3 in 1 Body Transformation

BY DR. KRISTINA DONNAY DNP, FNP-C

THERE IS NO MAGIC PILL THAT WILL cure obesity or being overweight, conditions that affects more than 70% of adults in the U.S., but there are new types of medicines that are potential game-changers.

Obesity or being overweight can be a serious health issue associated with some leading causes of death, including heart disease, stroke and diabetes, and is linked to an increased risk of certain types of cancer. Losing 5% to 10% of your body weight through diet and exercise has been associated with a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease in adult patients with obesity.

Semaglutide is a medication injected under-the-skin weekly and is the first FDA-approved drug for chronic weight management in adults with general obesity since 2014. Semaglutide is used to treat obesity as a chronic metabolic disease, forcing medicine to look at obesity as a chronic disease rather than perpetuating the misconception that obesity is a problem that can be overcome by willpower.

Anti-obesity medications have been around for decades, and there are several currently in use. However, Semaglutide is the first of a new generation of highly effective hormone-based obesity medications. Semaglutide works by mimicking a hormone called glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) that targets areas of the brain that regulate appetite and food intake. The drug and class of medications is not new, though. This class of GLP-1 analogue medications has been used for more than 15 years to treat type 2 diabetics.

Semaglutide doesn't work for everyone and there are some chronic conditions that make it not a good fit. But, when Semaglutide is successful, it can help someone shed 10% to 20% of their body weight. For many people, the medication appears to work. The results of a clinical trial published in The New England Journal of Medicine showed that the average weight loss was 12.5% against the placebo group and one-third of the participants lost 20% of the initial body weight. All anti-obesity medications should be prescribed along with



Actual MWC client
Picture 5 weeks apart

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Business, development around town

A new, 1,700-square-foot detached structure will be built for **Smith & Kelly Feed Co.** at 38351 W. Cowtown Road. The 1.5-story, pre-engineered, metal, micro-control building will include an office, conference room, file room, control room and restroom. The \$76,000 project will be built by Feed Yard Industrial Solutions LLC.

AT&T will make cellular antenna modifications to its tower at 38351 W. Cowtown Road. The \$30,000 project will be done for Smith & Kelly Feed Co. by Velex Inc.

Verizon will make modifications to its existing monopole tower at 44870 W. Hathaway

Ave. at a cost of \$10,000, with work done by Mastec Network Solutions LLC.

The 1,690-square-foot offices of **CS CPA Group** at 21300 N. John Wayne Pkwy., Suite 110, will get an interior remodel to create a more open layout. The \$54,139 project is being done for Chaston LLC by Home Repairs and Remodeling LLC.

Pacific Dental will expand into the vacant space adjacent to its offices at 41940 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, Unit 120. The \$162,995 project at the Maricopa Power Center is being done for owners Richard D. and Stephanie F. Coutts by Donald Brian Webb.

Hampton Edison apartments at 45305 W. Edison Road will begin work on \$1.27 million project. The buildings will include five duplexes with two 645-square-foot, one-bedroom units in each; and one duplex with 1,020-square-foot, two-bedroom units. The single-story units are being built for owner Paragon Hampton Edison LLC by Beckshar Diamond Commercial LLC.

In addition to the duplexes, Hampton Edison will begin work on 14 multi-family units at 45305 W. Edison Road. Seven will

be 1,295-square-foot, three-bedroom units, while the other seven will be two bedrooms of 1,028 square feet. The work is being done by Beckshar Diamond Commercial LLC for Paragon Hampton Edison LLC.

REV @ Porter will begin work on nine duplexes with a total of 12 one-bedroom and six two-bedroom units at 17085 N. Porter Road. The two-bedroom units will be 1,093 square feet and the one-bedroom units will have 782 square feet. The \$2.5 million project will be done by Sodella Construction Inc. for owner EVR Porter LLC.

REV @ Porter also will begin work on eight detached, single-story homes for rent, including six two-bedroom units of 1,106 square feet and two three-bedroom units of 1,291 square feet. The \$1.38 million project is being built by Sodella Construction LLC for EVR Porter LLC.

Rancho Mirage Estates Phase 2 will begin subdivision land improvements on parcels 14, 15, 22 and 23 for a project that will include 145 lots and associated improvements. Meritage Homes of Arizona Inc. will use its own construction division to do the work.

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Effective strategies for managing the ups and downs of investments, assets

BY CRAIG NEUMANN, CPA

Tax-loss harvesting

In this year of incredible volatility in the investment markets, many of our clients are asking how they may use these wild market swings to reduce their current tax liability. An effective strategy is known as tax-loss harvesting.

Tax-loss harvesting can result in recognizing zero net capital gains and in turn, zero tax on the sale of investments within the sale calendar year. The key concept is to purposefully match investment losses to offset investment gains. This can provide significant tax savings or allow you to reset your basis in an investment that you would like to hold long term by re-purchasing a stock that has decreased in price. Beware of the wash-sale rules discussed below.

Before we go further, we need to define a few terms:

- **Basis** — The amount paid for an investment (may be subject to depreciation.)
- **Capital gain (Loss)** — The sales price minus the purchase price of an investment.
- **Short-term capital gain** — Net gain on an investment that was held one year or less.
- **Long-term capital gain** — Gain on investment held more than one year (minimum of 366 days).
- **Ordinary tax rates** — Tax rates on most income ranging from 10% to 37% tax brackets.
- **Long-term capital gains tax rate** — Tax rate on gain from investments held more than one year. Rates range from 0% to 15% to 20% depending on the amount of gain and gross income.
- **Net investment income tax (NIIT)** — Additional 3.8% tax on investment income for high earners (more than \$250,000 for married filing jointly.)

Capital gains or losses can come from the sale of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETFs, cryptocurrency, real estate, collectibles or any item that has monetary value. Frequently, we have clients who have sold investment or rental real estate at the top of the market and are now looking for ways to reduce their taxes. The best way to do this is to identify investments in their portfolio that have suffered losses in the current year and to then sell those investments to realize



and recognize a capital loss. It is beneficial, but not required to use long-term losses first to offset both long-term and short-term gains.

For the losses to be recognized, the investor must not buy the same or substantially identical stock within 30 days before or after the sale that generates the loss. This is known as the wash-sale rule. The rule is meant to prevent an investor from generating an investment loss to create a tax benefit while effectively maintaining the same position in the stock.

Finally, to perfect this strategy, we encourage you to recognize an additional \$3,000 of losses. After the losses and gains are netted to zero, an individual is allowed to take as much as \$3,000 of capital losses to reduce your other ordinary W-2, retirement, self-employed or business income (when you have active participation in the business).

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FREE SEMINAR

To learn more about this and other tax-advantaged strategies you can execute before the end of the year, join our CPAs on a Zoom seminar at 10 a.m., Nov. 22. This seminar will be hosted by Craig Neumann, CPA, and Chris Scoggin, CPA, of CS CPA Group. To get your complimentary invitation, email info@cscpagroup.com or at 520-568-3303. As always, we are available for one-on-one meetings to provide specific, customized plans to best meet your needs.

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Restaurant inspections



A summary of the Sept. 12–Oct. 12 food inspections by Pinal County Environmental Health Services

	Time/Temperature Control for Safety Internal temperatures of pre-packaged cut lettuce, cut cabbage and bean sprouts held in produce grab-n-go stands 57-64°F (≤41°F required).	
	Supervision No employees on shift with certified food manager certificate.	Time/Temperature Control for Safety Open container of hard-boiled eggs in prep cooler with expired make-date
	Time/Temperature Control for Safety Internal temperatures of green salsa being held in reach-in cooler 48-50°F (≤41°F required). Toxic Substances Chlorine level in two in-use sanitizing buckets at least 200 ppm (50-100 ppm required). Three unlabeled spray bottles above three-compartment sink.	Utensils, Equipment and Vending Gaskets on reach-in cooler (holding green salsa) damaged.
	Time/Temperature Control for Safety Croissant sandwiches held in display case at room temperature. Manager stated item was made at 5 a.m. and was to be sold or discarded by 9 a.m. Time of inspection was 12:30 p.m.	Prevention of Food Contamination Live cockroaches in food-prep area, around three-compartment sinks and back door and mop-sink area.
	Preventing Contamination by Hands Observed cook use bare hands in direct contact with ready-to-eat sandwich.	
	Supervision Person in charge not present. Protection from Contamination Raw chicken seen held in plastic tub above ready-to-eat meat, both wrapped loosely with plastic wrap. Raw meats should be stored below ready-to-eat food.	Time/Temperature Control for Safety Internal temperatures of pork sauce were 49-50°F (≤41°F required). Prevention of Food Contamination Excessive amount of flies in kitchen. Back door and back door screen standing open.
	Time/Temperature Control for Safety Temperatures of cooked cheese held in upright warmer 76-82°F (≥165°F required). Temperatures of reheated chicken and beef held in the steam well 117-127°F (≥165°F required).	Toxic Substances Sanitizer dispenser at three-compartment sink 0.0 ppm quat sanitizer (50-100 ppm required). Detergent dispenser at same sink 200-400 ppm quat sanitizer (50-100 ppm required). The two dispensers were switched; sanitizer was being dispensed from detergent dispenser. Utensils, Equipment and Vending Operator using quat–based sanitizer without use of testing strips.
	Protection from Contamination Surface of high-temperature dish machine 97° F (≥ 160° F required).	Time/Temperature Control for Safety Buffalo chicken on "still cooking" section of roller grills, moved by employee "ready for sale" section of the grill. Internal temperatures of buffalo chicken 100-115°F (≥160° F required).
	Protection from Contamination Surface of high-temperature dish machine 97°F (≥160° F required).	



Supervisor
No "person in charge" present at the start of inspection. Staff had to call a manager to come in.

Preventing Contamination by Hands
Employee at sushi station rubbed their nose with their hands and continued with food prep. Observed employee put on lip/chapstick then continue with food service.

Protection from Contamination
Dish machine tested to have 10 ppm chlorine (50-100 ppm required).

Prevention of Food Contamination
Employees at sushi station wipe down cutting boards and knives with wet wiping cloths; sanitizing bucket for cloths not present.



Time/Temperature Control for Safety
Internal temperatures of chili verde sauce in walk-in cooler without a date 54-55°F (≤41°F required).
Internal temperatures of salsa and cut cabbage at salsa bar 56-64°F (≤41°F required).
Containers of cooked food with Sept. 1 date-marks held in walk-in cooler. Cook stated staff does not know how to use gun properly and that food was made Oct. 1.

Consumer Advisory
Providing "cook to order" eggs and raw shrimp without complete consumer advisory.

Food Temperature Control
Cold-holding unit at salsa bar not working.

EXCELLENT

- Aliberto's Mexican Food
- The Box Meat Shop
- Burger King
- Circle K (21212 N. John Wayne Parkway)
- CVS Pharmacy
- Dutch Bros
- Honeycutt Coffee
- Maricopa Elementary School
- Maricopa Wells Middle School

- The New HQ
- Omni Sushi (Sprouts)
- Pima Butte Elementary School
- Rosati's Pizza
- Sunrise Preschool
- Wendy's
- Yogurt Jungle

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- 99 Cents Only Store
- Exceptional Community Hospital

- Francisco's Mexican Food
- Good Donuts
- Jack in the Box
- Li's Garden
- Plaza Bonita
- QuikTrip
- QuikTrip Kitchen
- Say Sushi
- Tacos N' More

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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A night of culture

PHOTOS BY BRYAN AND JENECE MORDT

Maricopa's rich cultural heritage was on display at the Salsa Night Market at Copper Sky Park recently. There was live entertainment, market/artisan vendors and food trucks. There were also salsa contests.



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Gary and Kitty Boggs stand with Evan and Tiffany Zermeno-Lopez, two of the more than 360 children they've shared their home with since 1988.



Maricopa family has opened home to hundreds of children

BY TOM SCHUMAN

IN THE BOGGS HOUSEHOLD, there's seldom a dull moment. For 34 years, Gary Boggs and his wife, Kitty, have been foster parents, welcoming more than 360 children into their home.

That's about one new child a month — every month — from 1988 to 2021.

The Boggs — Gary will turn 67 in December and Kitty is 65 — have been married 45 years

and have two biological daughters, Shanna and Tiffany. Along the way, they have adopted 10 children into their family.

"We never said no," Kitty said, referring to calls from foster care agencies. And whether the newcomers to the Boggs' home were there for a matter of days or years, they were all treated the same.

The Boggs, who moved to Maricopa last year, currently have foster children ages 18, 17,

16 and 12.

"We don't use the word 'foster' when we talk about our children," Kitty said recently. "They are children. Our children. I will protect any child."

Tiffany, who lives nearby with her family, confirmed those words.

"Whether biological or not, they never ever referred to a child as a foster child," she said of her parents. "We were all their children."

Bryan Mordt

Troubled youth

Gary and Kitty Boggs met in Sioux City, Iowa, where she worked in a bar, and he came in to cash his check and have a drink.

"I looked at the bartender" after seeing Gary that day, she recalled, "and said I'm going to marry him someday — and here we are."

They maintained their foster care license for 33 years in Iowa before moving to Arizona. Gary, who owned a hair salon in The Hawkeye State for nearly 25 years, is back at work cutting hair in a local shop.

The couple's long commitment to fostering children began in 1988, when the boyfriend of an ex-sister-in-law was mistreating Kitty's niece and nephew. What started as a family-care situation evolved to the state of Iowa requiring a foster care license.

"The next thing you know, the state calls with this emergency or that emergency — and we've got eight kids in our home," Kitty said.

At one point, their home had five twin beds and five dressers in one bedroom. Later, state guidelines limited the number of children allowed at one time based on a home's size.

The circumstances that brought the children to the Boggs' home were often heartbreaking.

"We would get some on a Friday night," Gary pointed out, "when mom and dad were in a bar fight and the kids were at the babysitter. We may have them for three days because (the parents) would get in front of a judge by Monday or Tuesday, while other deadbeat parents did not try at all to get (their children) back."

There were two 6-month-old babies addicted to crack. And three lice-infested children found alone in the middle of the night by a park ranger. And the little girl who survived a high-speed car chase.

"It was everything you can imagine," Tiffany acknowledged.

Creating a family

The Boggs' first adoption came in 1996. Gary confessed he might not be able to remember all the adopted children's names, but he, Kitty and Tiffany quickly rattle off the list of 10.

No matter the situation, newcomers to the Boggs' home received the same message.

"One of the first things I would address with them," Kitty said, "is that you can't make me not love you. No matter what you do, I won't quit loving you."

If trouble ensued, the kids were required to write essays from the Bible. "And one thing we always did was (go to) church," Kitty added.

Regular family meetings on Sunday nights

allowed everyone in the house to share their problems and seek solutions. All got a vote on the preferred destination for the summer vacation.

With permission required to take the adopted children outside the state of Iowa, Kitty said they worked closely with a lot of biological parents.

Laundry and kitchen chores are shared by everyone in the household. When one foster child complained there was no food in the home, the family received a special visit.

"The guardian ad litem showed up and said I need to look in your refrigerator and freezer," Gary recalled. "There was plenty of food. The problem was there was no junk food that they were used to eating."

Kitty's bedroom closet served as a food pantry for snacks and other treats.

This past May was the first time they didn't have someone at home graduating from high school. They had four seniors in their first year of fostering.

"They each had their own graduation party," Kitty recalled. "We had a party each Sunday afternoon in the month of May that year."

The acts of kindness were returned.

An adopted daughter, now living in Iowa with her husband and three children, bought an airline ticket for Kitty to come see them in late September. And then, over the years, there were special tributes on Mother's Day.

Sara, 18, said COVID-19 made it impossible in 2020 for a meal out to celebrate.

"We decided to bring Olive Garden to Mom," she said. "We made menus, and we sent Tiffany to Walmart to get all the supplies

“

One of the first things I would address with them is that you can't make me not love you. No matter what you do, I won't quit loving you."

KITTY BOGGS

for chicken alfredo and brownies. We put on a whole act as waitresses."

"They dressed in black and white and put napkins over their arms," Kitty said. "It was all their idea, their expense. It was absolutely fabulous. I will never ever forget that day."

Another Mother's Day was marked with a scavenger hunt to different places around town and the grandchildren wearing T-shirts matching Kitty's.

Extreme circumstances

Over the years, the Boggs witnessed changes in the children coming into their home.

"We started getting the harder kids," Kitty said.

Gary said when they first got into it, the kids often were suffering at the hands of their parents.

"By the time we were halfway through, the parents couldn't handle the children and pushed them out," he said.

Continued on page 42

BECOMING FOSTER PARENTS

Questions to consider

- Do you want to support and nurture children in need?
- Can you provide a stable homelife for a child?
- Are you empathetic and understanding?
- Are you a good listener?
- Are you flexible and adaptable?
- Are you able to manage when the going gets tough?
- Do you have extra love to share?

Road to foster parenting

1. Contact the Arizona Department of Child Safety (AZDCS).
2. Watch the AZDCS orientation video.
3. Submit online form two begin orientation and be paired with relevant agencies.
4. Select an agency with which to work.
5. Work to secure licensure (medical, financial and criminal history assessments).
6. Receive additional training.
7. Pass life safety inspection (home study).
8. Receive licensure.
9. Welcome your child!

Source: Arizona Department of Child Safety

But the youths' difficult circumstances in life were always top of mind.

"I was always amazed what these kids had experienced," Gary continued. "I always told them you're not a victim anymore. 'You're a survivor, so let's not play the victim.'"

Kitty would share her own experiences to show her understanding and support.

"I was a severely abused child myself," she said. "I always told the children my life story. I always let these kids know that I knew what they were going through."

Moving into a loving home has helped many of their foster children. Even if it meant some trying times for the family from those who didn't seem to appreciate their generosity.

One teen became drunk, escaped police and drove a vehicle into their house. Kitty was standing on the porch when the crash occurred, and Tiffany said a deadly tragedy was averted by just a few inches. The family was out of its home for six months.

When one of their foster girls decided she wanted to run away, she tied the bed sheets together and let them out the window — but forgot to tie the other end to the bed. She fell and broke her leg.

"I was always amazed what these kids had experienced. I always told them you're not a victim anymore. 'You're a survivor, so let's not play the victim.'"

GARY BOGGS

Still, Kitty was always looking to brighten the lives of children — even if she had to find them herself.

Once, when called to pick up one child from a foster center, she noticed "a tiny little adorable girl sitting on the couch crying." The 4-year-old was roommates with the girl going to the Boggs' home. Kitty went to work the next day to find out who the crying girl was. It was near Christmastime, and "I said, 'Santa

Claus has to come (for her)."

The little girl was brought home for Christmas.

"All she did Christmas morning," Kitty remembered, "was sit in the middle of the living room floor and cry (out of happiness). She was so overwhelmed. She didn't know what to play with first."

That holiday joy helped the young girl forget her distressing situation, Tiffany recalled.

"What was really sad was, I talked to her and she said, 'Oh, my mom was really smart. Dad tried to slash her from here to here (motioning across her throat), so she threw the TV on his foot.'"

"For me, a 4-year-old saying that. I was like, 'Oh my gosh!'"

Examining the system

After three-plus decades in the foster care system, family members understand its ins and outs.

"It's supposed to be temporary, but that's the furthest thing from reality," Tiffany said.

Continued on page 44

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Gary noted the stated intent of unification is often a fallacy.

Some children lived with the Boggs for as long as five years but were never adopted because their biological parents did not relinquish their rights.

"The minute they turn 18, the state is done with them," Kitty explained. "We got many apartments set up, got kids ready to be on their own."

Maintaining the home was often a balancing act.

"Many times, all would conform and get along. Then they would put a new child in, and all hell would break loose," Gary said.

Tiffany said she knew what mistakes to avoid from watching the foster children make them. And some of her many brothers and sisters failed to appreciate their foster home with the Boggs.

"For me, there were some adopted kids that if I saw them in the store, I would go the other direction," she admitted. "Then there were some foster kids that I still have the greatest relationship with."

"I would say we had many more good times

than bad times," Kitty said, simply.

Difficult decision

With many firsthand experiences to share with others, the Boggs were very active in the Iowa Foster & Adoptive Parents Association. In the early days, they were among a small set of parents who ran the organization on a volunteer basis.

Gary taught classes for prospective foster parents through a vocational college, presenting the realistic side of the curriculum to counterbalance a social worker who tended to glorify the process. Never negative in his approach, Gary made it clear that being a foster parent "was not all peaches and cream," Kitty explained.

The challenges were many. But one circumstance clearly stands out.

"The hardest moments were telling kids their parent had died," said Kitty. In one case, they had to tell a child their mother had committed suicide.

With many difficult situations arising over the years with foster children, one might think


it was an easy choice to move on after so many years of giving back. That was far from the case.

"When we decided to move to Arizona, I didn't know if I was ready to throw in the towel on foster care," Kitty admitted. "It was a hard call to DHS (Department of Human Services). We had made great friends and acquaintances with the social workers."

A certified nursing assistant, Kitty has done some in-home health care. "I'm a caretaker, and I can't quit caretaking."

Asked about the prospects of a quieter home down the line with no children, Gary said he has never thought about it.

Kitty has considered the possibility — and not surprisingly, dismissed it.

"I figure I have six more years of having a child under my roof," she calculated. "But I'm thinking I'm never going to have an empty nest because I'm going to be grandma (Tiffany's children currently come to the Boggs' house after school until their parents are home from work) and great-grandma continuously. My daughters and granddaughters will keep my arms full for me." 



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Rams see success

The Maricopa High School girls volleyball team got off to a rousing start this year with a 3-1 record. Through Oct. 17, the team was 8-6 with three matches remaining.



Victor Moreno



Cheer squads support city's prep football teams

Maricopa High (white jerseys and pants with red trim) has the support of its cheer squad. Desert Sunrise High (gold helmets, blue pants), with only sophomores and freshmen, is learning the ropes.



Will Arizona's new school-voucher law take a financial bite out of MUSD, other public-school districts?

BY LEE SHAPPELL

FOUR YEARS AGO, ARIZONA voters said no to Proposition 305, a referendum that would have significantly expanded Arizona's school-voucher program, after the Legislature approved it. The people spoke. The defeat was resounding, by 2 to 1.

During the 2022 legislative session, however, Republican state lawmakers were undeterred by that overwhelming defeat and on a party-line vote passed another expanded voucher bill, one of the most sweeping in the country. Every student in the state — all 1.1 million of them — is now eligible for an education voucher, known as an Empowerment Scholarship Account.

Gov. Doug Ducey, a strong proponent of school choice, signed it on Aug. 16, the last day possible, and tweeted: "The biggest school choice victory in U.S. history."

Ducey waited as long as possible to sign it, making it more difficult for opponents, headed by Save Our Schools Arizona, to gather enough signatures for another voter referendum in November 2024.

Save Our Schools Arizona had five weeks to gather more than 118,000 signatures. It came up short. ESAs became law on Sept. 24. Through Oct. 7, the Arizona Department of Education had received nearly 22,500 voucher applications.

Under the new law, vouchers, worth \$7,000 per year per student, may be applied toward a non-charter or non-district public school for any educational means selected by a parent or guardian, including home schooling, with no accountability for how the money is spent nor any accounting of what educational goals or proficiencies are attained by the student using them.

The lack of financial and educational transparency in the new law leaves some legislators uncomfortable.

"I'd like to know how many families that earn maybe a million dollars a year are getting voucher money versus how many families



Maricopa Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Tracey Lopeman speaks at the 2022 Maricopa High graduation. Lopeman said that by focusing on the needs of students, parents will be more likely to keep their kids in MUSD schools and not look elsewhere.



earning maybe \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year are getting voucher money," Democratic state Sen. Christine Marsh told Channel 12 News.

Now, public-school districts like Maricopa Unified are anxious to see how the expanded voucher bill will impact them. Will there be a stampede to private schools by families suddenly armed with \$7,000 per kid?

"Regardless of how one feels about public money being diverted away from public institutions to private entities, it is the reality

Bryan Moritt

in Arizona," said Dr. Tracey Lopeman, superintendent of Maricopa Unified School District. "My efforts remain focused on the continuous improvement of our district and meeting the needs of our students."

Early results from the Department of Education suggest vouchers are being requested far more from metropolitan communities (about 70% of applications so far are from Maricopa County) than from smaller, rural communities like Maricopa. Department of Education statistics also suggest most applicants (about 77%) have no history of having ever attended a district or charter public school, meaning those families already had the means to send their kids to private schools.

Compare those numbers with Maricopa. Through Oct. 7, in Maricopa's 85138 ZIP code, 112 applications for a voucher were submitted from an area with a school-age population of 9,347 (1.2%), according to the education department. In 85139, there were 23 applications through Oct. 7 in an area with 4,447 school-age population (0.5%). A likely factor in the low percentages is that there are no private schools in Maricopa, nor in many small communities across the state.

If those numbers hold, MUSD will not suffer much of an immediate financial hit due to vouchers. But with ESAs now the law, some enterprising private-education proponent might quickly make plans to build one in the city.

"We're trying to create a learning environment so that our families are attracted to stay here," said Sheryl Rednor, MUSD assistant superintendent of academic services. "We're working from a place of why you should choose Maricopa."

It has to. Competition is fierce, and not only from private schools.

There are many tuition-free charter schools, which are public schools, in Maricopa, including A+ Charter Schools, Sequoia Pathway and Heritage Academy. Students also may enroll in another public-school district if it has open enrollment. Every morning, for example, Tempe-based Kyrene School District buses can be seen heading out of Maricopa on State Route 347. Kyrene, which serves grades K-8, has 342 active students with a home address in Maricopa, according to district officials.

Among the private schools closest to Maricopa is Valley Christian, a private religious institution in West Chandler, just east of Interstate 10.

Predictably, Valley Christian officials favor measures that are pro-school choice.

Continued on page 50

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“We are 100 percent supportive of school-choice options, whatever those look like,” said Josh LeSage, principal at Valley Christian High. “We just believe at Valley Christian that someone’s bank account should not determine their destiny, so we are ardent supporters of school choice.

“We also understand that not everybody feels that way, and we respect that, but we are unapologetically supportive of school-choice options.”

As with most public-school districts in Arizona, MUSD officials are still digesting potential impacts of the new voucher law.

As Lopeman says, district public schools must focus on what is best for kids: providing quality programming, quality athletics and activities, and a clean, safe environment. The hope, she said, is that if districts provide those things, parents won’t want to send their kids elsewhere.

Maricopa voters approved a school-district budget override in November 2021, which keeps class sizes small and technology up to date. It also has opened its second high school, Desert Sunrise. It has programs in place to help students who fell behind during the pandemic.

The district spent more than \$1.5 million last school year to improve the performance of its certified, classified and administrative staff. A significant chunk of that was \$322,000 for phonetics, linguistics, literacy and writing-skills engagement, according to Rednor.

“We are strengthening the programs we have in our district,” Rednor said. “We started with our youngest learners and really strengthened our preschools. Preschool is offered on every single campus in the district. We believe in bringing them along from a young age.”

Rednor pointed to a dual-language program in an elementary school and an accelerated program this year in elementary schools. Maricopa also offers an advanced-placement capstone program with rigorous instruction.

“We’re seeing some nice work there,” Rednor said. “We see growth in our students.”


The intention of Arizona’s initial voucher program was to give families mired in underperforming school districts, and who lacked the financial means to send their kids to a higher-performing private school, the ability to do so. In theory, it was a way to break

cycles of poverty in families through better education.

That initial law fell short. Many families still couldn’t afford private schools. Instead, vouchers were used by affluent families, who already could afford private education. As each student left a public-school seat, state funding went, too. Bodies in seats are a critical piece of funding district public schools.

A statement released by the Goldwater Institute, which supports vouchers, says they help the state’s bottom line. An ESA costs considerably less than the current \$11,000 in taxpayer-financed state funding per student in public schools.

Legislators attempted to mitigate opposition to the voucher bill by adding more than \$1 billion to public-school funding for 2023 plus an ongoing \$526 million, which it says will offset the loss of state funds to school districts when students with an ESA depart.

“The ESA program simply ensures that each student’s funding follows the student, just like it already does each time a student leaves a public school for a different public school using the state’s open-enrollment option,” the Goldwater Institute said in a statement. 

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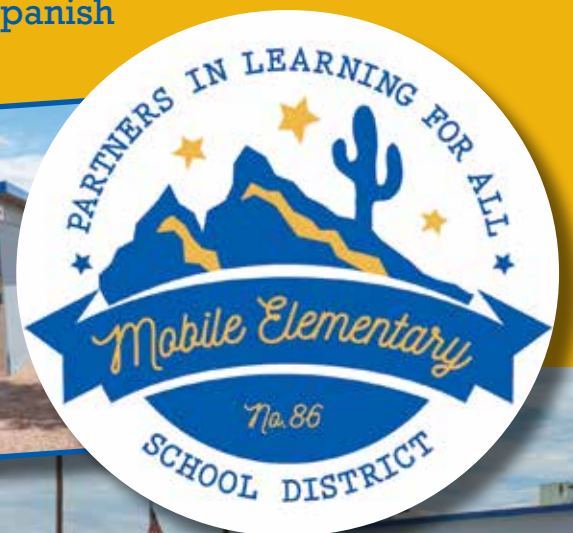
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Cotton woven through time in central Arizona

BY ALYCIA HAYES

COTTON, AMONG THE “Cs” OF ARIZONA’S economic big 5 (copper, cattle, cotton, citrus and climate), has a long history in central Arizona, especially Pinal County. Cotton seed from Meso-America arrived in southern Arizona over 1,500 years ago.

The ancient peoples, who lived along the Gila River from Florence to Gila Bend and along the Salt River in Phoenix, maintained the most extensive prehistoric water-control system in North America, capable of irrigating large fields of thirsty cotton. Over time, and selection, they developed a variety known as aboriginal



Sacaton cotton. Today, Pinal County continues to be an important cotton research and production area.

Cotton was independently domesticated in the New and Old Worlds. New-world cotton seeds found in Peru and Meso-America are 5,000 to 6,000 years old. Old-world cotton is only a little younger, the oldest varieties found in the Indus Valley and the Sudan. The hybridization of these species would provide us with the cotton in our blue jeans today.

At about 500 to 600 A.D., large communities in southern Arizona began cultivating cotton.

For nearly a thousand years, these ancient communities in Coolidge, Florence, Sacaton, Maricopa, Gila Bend and the metropolitan area of Phoenix were centers of culture and trade. Two large communities, one east of Maricopa and another at Casa Grande Ruins, grew an abundance of cotton.

Flood irrigation and the long growing seasons were ideal for cotton production.

These ancient farmers had the corner of the market for the preferred prehistoric fiber for weaving. Over time, they would grow an abundance of cotton, produce beautiful, sometimes lacy, textiles and trade cotton throughout the Southwest.

Sometime around the mid-15th century, most of these large communities, like the one at Casa Grande Ruins, depopulated. Many people moved away. Communities in southern Arizona became smaller, yet cotton cultivation remained.

Early Spanish accounts of visits to Sacaton mention the surplus of cotton and the quality of cotton textiles. Father Kino, a Jesuit priest who visited the area in the late 1600s, mentions the Pima (Pima is a Spanish name for the Akimel O’odham, “people of the river”) would request the assistance of the Papago (Tohono O’odham, “people of the desert”) to assist in large cotton harvests. By the 1900s, due to upstream diversion of the Gila River in Florence, the Akimel O’odham no longer could farm cotton on a commercial scale because there was insufficient water. Despite this, the centuries-old skills of cotton farming were not forgotten.

In 1907, USDA established an experimental farm in Yuma and one in Sacaton to develop a high-yield commercial variety of cotton. Seed derived from recent hybrids in Egypt were planted in Yuma. A high-yielding plant was selected from the Yuma fields to be grown in Sacaton. This variety, characterized by light color and long fibers, would be named “Pima Cotton,” in honor of O’odham farmers.

The experimental farm in Sacaton would continue to research cotton production for another 50 years. In 1983, the research facility would be moved to the Maricopa Agricultural Center, the MAC, where the tradition of cotton research continues. [In](#)

Alycia Hayes is a University of Arizona Master Gardener volunteer.

[InMaricopa.com/Columnists](#)



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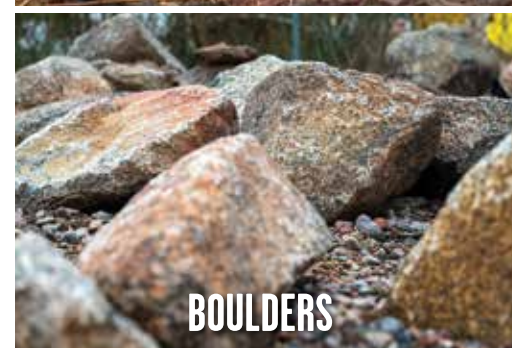
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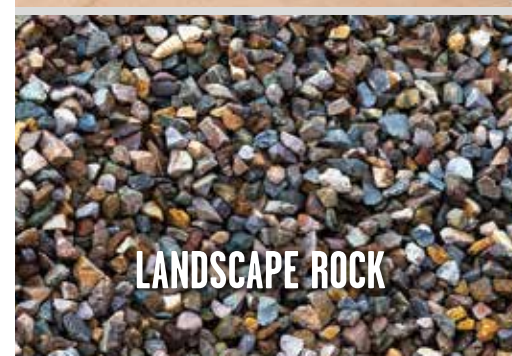
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Consider transitioning your short-term rental to long term

BY SHERMAN AND EUPHEMIA WEEKES

HIGHER RENTS FOR SHORT-TERM rentals are attractive to many landlords, who believe that they will make more money in this business. To be successful, however, landlord should consider the following:

There is a higher cost to make your property a short-term rental. The property must be tastefully furnished and be supplied with utilities and internet service. The rental must be marketed continuously. In between guest stays the property must be cleaned and bed linens must be washed and changed.

Short-term rental fees generally are much higher than long term rentals. Short-term guests are less tolerant to any interruptions in their customer experience and therefore places a higher demand on the landlord.

The short-term rental market is more prone to interruptions in the economy than

long-term rentals. This was demonstrated by the Covid pandemic when people were afraid to travel. During the pandemic there was an uptake for long-term rentals as people tried to find properties offering more space.

Not every location is suitable for short-term rentals and Maricopa owners are mainly relying on rentals during the non-summer months with the property remaining vacant during the summer. The lack of income during the long summer in Maricopa may cancel out any profits made during the winter. You still will be required to have the property maintained during these months.

Long-term rentals offer a better option. First, you will spend less money getting your property rent ready since you do not have to provide furniture. Using a quality property management company, you'll get your property marketed correctly and your prospective tenants

properly screened. Your long-term tenant will provide you regular income to meet all the expenses associated with renting out your unit.

Most important, **you haven't got the stress of having to manage the property between short term guests.** Also, the less frequent tenant turnover means less expenses on management fees, lower costs on advertising, and generally less work associated with keeping the property rent ready.

Please contact us if you are thinking of converting your property to a long-term rental.

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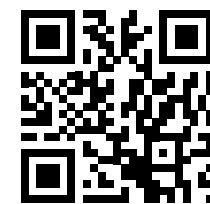
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GETTING TO know

KIMBERLY RENHARD
Farmers Insurance Agent

Hometown: Hillsboro, Oregon

Maricopan since: 2018

Family: My husband, daughter (24) and grandson (4)

Hobbies: Anything outdoors

Pet peeve: When I run out of wine. :)

Dream vacation: Bora Bora

Like most about Maricopa: I love how the community always pulls together to help people in need.

FAVORITE ...

Charity: Hope Women's Center

Book: "Anne of Green Gable" because my grandmother and I read it together

Movie: Pretty Woman

Restaurant: Say Sushi

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



Getaway: Any white sandy beach


Website: FarmersAgent.com/krenhard

Quote: "It is better to remain silent and thought a fool, than to speak up and remove all doubt."

Joke: How do you make a tissue dance? You put a little boogie in it.

HOME

most expensive HOME SOLD



42395 W. Bravo Drive

SOLD Sept. 24

\$ 699,900

This two-story home in Rancho El Dorado offers four bedrooms and three bathrooms. The home is a tri-level with the formal dining room and kitchen raised above the formal living and family rooms. The first floor also has a large den and a bedroom with full bathroom. Upstairs is a large loft, two more bedrooms and a large master suite featuring a three-sided fireplace and balcony overlooking the backyard. The backyard has a large pool, hot tub, putting green, fire pit and view fence of the 18th hole of the golf course. The home sold in 64 days for \$20,000 below original list price.

Previously sold for \$439,000 on 2/1/2020.

Community: Rancho El Dorado
Square feet: 3,955
Price per square foot: \$176.96
Days on market: 64

Builder: Hacienda
Year built: 2004
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 3

2. 20197 N. Peppermint Drive, Province.....\$599,900
3. 19902 N. Wilford Ave., Homestead.....\$575,000
4. 19091 N. Falcon Lane, Glennville.....\$575,000
5. 42898 W. Morning Dove Lane, Province.....\$539,000

HOME

least expensive HOME SOLD



22783 N. Scott Drive

SOLD Oct. 6

\$ 250,000

This two-story home in Rancho El Dorado has no neighbors behind as the house backs to Pima Butte Elementary School. The first floor features a kitchen, living space and half-bath. Upstairs is a loft, master bedroom and secondary bedrooms. The home sold with a cash offer in one day for \$13,000 below asking price.

Previously sold for \$148,900 on 6/4/2016.

Community: Rancho El Dorado
Square feet: 2,185
Price per square foot: \$119.90
Days on market: 1

Builder: Unknown
Year built: 2002
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5

2. 21304 N. Shelby Court, Rancho El Dorado.....\$265,000
3. 35711 W. Costa Blanca Drive, Tortosa.....\$291,300
4. 20706 N. Licorice Lane, Province.....\$299,900
5. 36528 W. San Capistrano Ave., Tortosa.....\$309,990

Source: MLS, Sept. 10-Oct. 9

HOME



How to succeed as a seller in a changing real estate market

BY DAYV MORGAN

WHILE IT IS ARGUABLE AS TO whether the Maricopa real estate market has entered into a buyer's market, it seems the equilibrium has changed from six months ago, when the market was decidedly one in favor of sellers.

This year, interest rates have doubled, which has affected the number of potential buyers. With fewer buyers looking, the market has become quite competitive.

In order to successfully navigate this market as a seller, there are a few things you have to keep in mind:

Patience and Pricing

Houses are still selling but not at the speed they were earlier this year. The days of selling a home within a week of listing are behind us. Most are sitting for at least 30 days, which can turn into 60 or 90 days if your house isn't properly priced. Currently, houses are selling for 94 percent of the original asking price and 98-99 percent of the final ask, which means that most sellers are having to make a price reduction or two. This all means that if your house is priced right, it's going to sell for close to what you are asking for — and a lot quicker.

Incentives

New home builders are offering incentives including paying closing costs and offering to buy down interest rates. These are concessions you can also offer that will make your house more attractive. Be sure to communicate your willingness to deal in the MLS listing details. That will lead to more visits and in this market, that's once again an important part of the process. The more traffic you can drive to your home, the more likely it is to sell.

Preparation

Your house must be tip-top. Everything that you can do to make your house more attractive, both inside and out, needs to be done.

Consider a deep cleaning of your house. You may not notice that pet odor from your dog or cat, but a potential buyer will.

In this market, buyers are getting pickier and if they see a problem with your house, they won't bring it to your attention, but instead will move on to the next one.

Work on curb appeal. And if your finishes are out of date, like for example the paint schemes, countertops, or even carpeting, it would be a good idea to refresh them.

For sellers who list with me, I offer a program where I will loan up to \$10,000 to improve these items, which is repaid at the closing.

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

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Hey, seniors: It's time to vote your mind!

BY AL BRANDENBURG

THE POPULATION OF AMERICANS 65 and older is about 16%. That will rise as Baby Boomers become seniors.

Historically, older adults show up at the polls to vote in great numbers. Most consider it to be their patriotic duty. Sixty-one percent of those 65 and older voted in the November 2018 election, a bigger turnout than any other age group.

Fifty-four percent of those ages 55 to 64 also cast a ballot in November 2020.

An even greater senior turnout, about 72%, is projected in the November 2022 midterm election.

If it has been challenging for you to pay attention to the issues in this election because of all the mudslinging, you're not alone. My poor TV has taken the brunt of my frustration from the things I have thrown at it due to the non-stop, nauseating political ads.


Many political debates focus on taxes, jobs and foreign affairs, but there are plenty of domestic issues seniors will consider on Election Day:

- **Social Security:** This is the source of income many seniors depend on. A report from the AARP Public Policy Institute found Social Security kept more than 15 million out of poverty in 2018. It's no secret, however, that Social Security benefits will face significant financial challenges in the coming years that could make it difficult for the program to provide future beneficiaries the same way it has for prior generations.
- **Health care:** In 2018, 70 million Americans benefitted from Medicare, the government health-care program for people 65 and older. That is expected to rise as Baby Boomers retire over the next 10 years. Affordable, reliable

health care is among the main concerns as we age. Although Medicare provides health care for millions of Americans every day, there are still major problems with the program, including the need to address long-term and chronic care.

- **Food insecurity:** Although you might not know it based on the large portions you receive at restaurants, many people in America go hungry every day. Only one-third of low-income seniors, who are eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, actually apply for assistance. If funding to programs like Meals on Wheels or Feeding America Food Banks is cut, it could have a detrimental effect on millions of seniors across the country.

It is believed older Americans will be a force in 2022 elections. What's really at stake?

- **U.S. House of Representatives:** Every seat is up for election this year since all members serve two-year terms. Democrats control this lower chamber of Congress, 222 to 212. Historically, the party in power in the White House loses seats in the first midterm election of a president's tenure.
- **U.S. Senate:** The future of the U.S. Senate is a toss-up. This upper chamber is tied politically, 50-50, but because the Democrats control the White House, Vice President Kamala Harris casts the tie-breaking vote for the Democrats in her role as President of the Senate. Every two years, about one-third of Senate seats are up, because senators serve staggered six-year terms. This year, 20 seats held by the GOP and 14 by Democrats are in play.
- **States.** There are 20 Republican and 16 Democratic gubernatorial seats up for election and more than 6,000 state legislative seats. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected the 2020 election as many candidates suspended in-person campaigning, including rallies and door-to-door canvassing. It also had an impact on the way people voted, with many states increasing the ability of people to vote from home as well as expanding early voting to foster social distancing. In addition, in poll after poll, inflation has dominated how seniors view the economy, emerging as a top concern in the leadup to the Nov. 8 midterms. No matter what party you belong to, make sure you cast your votes based on the issues most important to you. 

Al Brandenburg is a member of Maricopa Community Advocates.

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What to get your favorite senior for Christmas

BY RON SMITH

I T IS THAT TIME TO BE thinking about Christmas gifts. I enjoy shopping for gifts, but sometimes I really struggle to find the right one.

Shopping for your favorite senior is not much different than shopping for anyone else, with a couple small differences. One is that most seniors have lived long enough to have purchased or received all of the most popular gifts. They'll claim they already have everything they need.

You want to find something they will love and use to make their daily lives happier and easier. The key is to explore their hobbies, interests, daily activities and habits. Explore not only what they do but what they might like to do.

The beauty of retirement years is people have time to explore new ideas or places. They might even have a "bucket list" to consider. So, first explore their activities and dreams, recognizing aging can impact the daily activities they enjoy.

The second difference is many seniors enjoy reminiscing. It is a time to reflect on their lives, experiences and families. Nostalgia becomes more and more important. There are times when looking through old photos and memories is just the ticket.

Let's first consider physical limitations and how a thoughtful gift can make everyday activities more enjoyable.

Arthritis can be limiting. Special tools for gardening, raised planting beds, kneelers and rolling seats can allow gardeners to continue to enjoy their interests. There's a similar scenario in the kitchen. Ergonomic kitchen tools and jar openers can make life easier. Anti-fatigue mats on the kitchen floor can take the pressure off feet and backs.

A cool nostalgia pick for the kitchen is a personalized cutting board. I found one on



ETSY that was a handwritten favorite recipe engraved in the wood. When you are looking for nostalgia gifts, ETSY can be a great source of custom creations. Just leave the vendor with enough time to craft your special gift. ETSY and associated policies protect you when making purchases from their small businesses and craftsmen.

Consider the multitude of convenience and safety-oriented gifts. If you are not sure, I refer you to my favorite publication, AARP HomeFit Guide. This is great for doing a home-safety assessment. It will help you through fall-prevention measures. Improved lighting, such as, motion-detection night lights for outlets in bedrooms, bathrooms and halls, are great safety gifts. Gifting the installation of grab bars for bathrooms (tub, shower and at the toilet) is a wonderful gift. After age 65, one in four seniors falls every year. More information at the National Institute on Aging regarding fall prevention suggests other gift ideas to prevent falls, such as a cane or walker, hearing aids (balance), new glasses, exercise and strength-building equipment and a visit to the doctor to review possible medication interactions.

They're not traditional gifts, but certainly gifts of love when you are protecting a loved one's health and welfare.

Speaking of health and welfare, perhaps paying for a service to assist with household chores, shopping or yardwork can be a great gift. Are they living alone? Is there someone to check in on them? If not, consider helping them get signed up with Y.A.N.A. (You Are Not Alone program, at the Maricopa Police

Department). For information, email vaps@maricopa-az.gov or call 520-316-6800, ext. 1234. This gift gives two ways: It helps reduce isolation for your senior friend and it gives you peace of mind.

Other health-related gifts can include pill cases that are easy to open and use, electric tooth brushes and medical-alert systems, which can be set up to alert a family member or a monitoring service. Even if you live reasonably close to a loved one, these services can provide great peace of mind. After the first fall, you need to give it serious consideration!



TWIDDLE MUFFS

For those who might be suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's, consider a weighted blanket to help sleeping, Twiddle muffs, music or family pictures to sooth their daily living. Check with their caregivers for best choices.

Other handy gifts include an armchair caddy (for glasses, TV remotes, puzzle books, TV guides), big-button TV remote control,

memory-foam seat cushion and perhaps a wheelchair blanket.

From a clothing perspective, I found a big-pocket shawl (kind of a wearable armchair caddy) and a simple button aid and zipper pull. If they use a tape measure, consider a laser or at least a digital tape measure to make the process easier.



ARMCHAIR CADDY


Activity gifts depend on the senior's hobbies and interests. There are lots of choices for adult activity books, coloring books, large-font books, brain games and anti-boredom boxes.

Puzzles and puzzle boards are great gifts. Look for large enough pieces for those with reduced vision. Nostalgia-oriented puzzles can include custom puzzles made from treasured family pictures. Another interesting nostalgia gift is the New York Times Anniversary Book that is custom assembled from front-page articles on a selected date like a birthday or an anniversary (be prepared for sticker shock).

If their HOA permits it, a bird feeder can bring a lot of joy. Window bird feeders are really cool for those wheelchair bound. Speaking of wheelchairs, would their home benefit from rubber transition ramps to improve ability to navigate from space to space throughout the house?

Now, I would be really remiss if I didn't mention inclusion of a virtual assistant (Amazon's Alexa or Google Home). They can play games, answer questions, check the weather, provide the news, or tell someone who is at the front door (if linked to doorbell camera). Then there's the GrandPad, which has a healthy monthly subscription fee but looks like a great way to stay in touch, particularly with grandchildren. It does not require the internet and it provides games, pictures with

white-glove support. Probably not for the technically sophisticated but could be a great option for those who are not technically savvy. I personally have not evaluated this product, so you are on your own, but it potentially makes a lot of sense for families that are separated by distance.

Finally, my best recommendation is finding ways to do things with your loved ones. The most important gift is you! Find a way to get together for an event, an activity or just a family meal. Visit, play cards, games, eat your favorite snacks or desserts. Share stories! The day will come all too suddenly when there is no longer an opportunity to share memories. Family history can be lost forever. Those moments together seem simple, but they are everything. Don't forget family or friends. Isolation, even if unintended, is a lost opportunity to share a moment of love. 

Ron Smith is a living-in-place advocate, a member of the Age-Friendly Maricopa Advisory Committee, a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist and a Certified Living in Place Professional.

 InMaricopa.com/Columnists

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THINGS TO DO



NOV 13

2022 Silent Heroes Golf Tournament

Silent Heroes is an Arizona nonprofit established in 2016 to assist police and firefighters with community outreach and education. It has raised and distributed over \$24,000.

The 2022 golf tourney raises funds for educational scholarships for children of Pinal County police officers and firefighters.

IF YOU GO

COST: \$100 per player, \$400 per foursome; fee includes range balls, game, dinner and donation; register by Nov. 3

SPONSORSHIPS: Accepting sponsorships and silent auction donations

WHEN: Noon Sunday, Nov. 13

PRIZES: Hole-in-1, Closest to the Pin, top 3 teams

425-466-5372

silent-heroes.org

Click here to register

THINGS TO DO

November

1

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

5

Party at the Park — Relay for Life
1 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Family festival fundraising event for American Cancer Society. Entertainment, food trucks, craft market, bounce houses, face painting, games, raffles, auction. Free parking.

7

Maricopa Historical Society
5 p.m., Redwood Room
Maricopa Library & Cultural Center
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

8

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

9

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

13

7th Annual Silent Heroes Golf Tournament
Noon, The Duke at Rancho El Dorado
42260 W. Rancho El Dorado Pkwy.

14

Friends of the Library
5:15 p.m., Maricopa Library & Cultural Center
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

15

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

26

Concerts in the Park — Neamen Lyles Experience
2 p.m., Copper Sky
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Sundays

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

Mondays

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

6 p.m., Community of Hope Church
45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Tuesdays

Maricopa Cruise-in
5 p.m., parking lot behind Burger King
20699 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

Alcoholics Anonymous

6:30 p.m., Mountain View Community Church
50881 W. Papago Road

Celebrate Recovery Small Group

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

Wednesdays

Al-Anon — New Beginnings
10 a.m., Maricopa Library & Cultural Center
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

Alcoholics Anonymous

7 p.m., Mountain View Community Church
50881 W. Papago Road

Narcotics Anonymous

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

Thursdays

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

Fridays

Al-Anon — Strength & Home AFG
7 p.m., Community of Hope
45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Alcoholics Anonymous

7 p.m., Mountain View Community Church
50881 W. Papago Road

Saturdays

Alcoholics Anonymous
10 a.m., Maricopa Library & Cultural Center
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

ALL EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE

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

THINGS TO DO



NOV 5

Maricopa Veterans Day Parade

Maricopa's annual Veterans Day Parade is 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 5. The route begins at Central Arizona College, heads west on Bowlin Road, then north on Porter Road, finishing at Leading Edge Academy.

Veterans, their families and first responders are invited to a 11 a.m. luncheon at Leading Edge Academy.

Come celebrate and support our veterans and first responders.

MaricopaParade.com



NOV 5

Relay for Life

The heart of Relay For Life is to celebrate, remember and fight back against cancer, and the event is for everyone in the community. The family festival-style event dubbed a "Party in the Park" is 1 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 at Copper Sky Regional Park.

Daylong entertainment includes a DJ, performances and classic rock band Legal Limit, which plays at 6 p.m. Attendees will enjoy food trucks and a large craft market with over 60 vendors. The Fun Zone features a bounce house, face painting, games for kids and adults alike, cakewalk and corn hole. A raffle and silent auction will offer great prizes.

After dark is the Luminaria Ceremony honoring and remembering those lost to cancer and those fighting.

Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy the fun day at the park.

RelayForLife.org/MaricopaAZ

info@RelayForLife-MaricopaAZ.com

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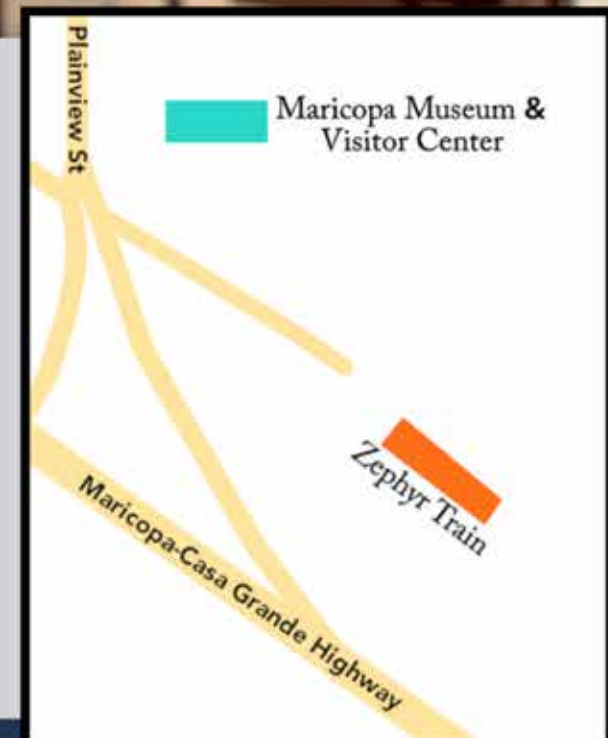


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parting shot



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Von T. Freeze shot this photo of a Sonoran Desert Toad one morning while taking a walk along the Copper Sky pond.

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