



Maricopa

April 2016

GOVERNMENT

Police chief
a catalyst
for change

LES MIZ

MHS THEATER TAKES ON
MUSICAL BLOCKBUSTER

PEOPLE

Johnson family
finds balance

347 OVERPASS

Property owners
anxious for action

DEALS

Money-saving
coupons

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ON THE COVER: Carlos Venegas is Jean Valjean, and Nikolas Mase is antagonist Javert in the Maricopa High School Theater Company’s musical production of “Les Miserables.” *Photo by Jake Johnson*



Kevin Shiflett’s chin-balancing talent was discovered when he was 10 years old. He has now performed on court at Phoenix Suns and Utah Jazz games.

Raquel Hendrickson

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Garden Center Manager

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— Mike Richey, Maricopa Ace owner

Jim Shoaf, 2015 Renate' Chamberlin Volunteer of the Year

A new day dawns for InMaricopa

Welcome to the new *InMaricopa*. Readers and advertisers alike often tell us they love the quality of the magazine and the frequency of the newspaper, and they wish we would publish the magazine monthly.

For our April issue, we are doing exactly that — merging *InMaricopa News* and *InMaricopa the Magazine* — to give readers the best of both.

Depending on feedback, we plan to continue each month to provide magazine-quality paper, images and content and go away from newsprint.

InMaricopa will continue to provide in-depth information you need to know about the community, articles on fascinating residents, interesting tidbits and fun facts in one monthly publication.

This month, for instance, you can learn a little more about the effects of two of Maricopa's biggest issues, the planned overpass and the floodplain. You will learn how Shontray and Johnny Johnson Sr. keep their athletic children on balance and how resident Kevin Shiflett balances just about everything.



Learn some things you might not have known about Police Chief Steve Stahl, find out positive things Maricopa youth have been doing and catch up with things that are happening in business and real estate in town.

In our cover story, you will meet some of the cast members in the upcoming musical production of "Les Miserables" by the Maricopa High School Theater Company. It's not often this massive work gets a high school staging because of the dedication and talent it demands

of cast, crew and directors, and that makes this effort worthy of community attention.

Our columnists continue to share their knowledge and insights. Jeff Kramarczyk has more information on how a proposed budget override at Maricopa Unified School District will impact taxes. Murray Siegel offers his thoughts on the importance of a school principal. Aaron Gilbert has tips for reaching your fitness goals, and Claire Bullivant gives us the lowdown on just what a "SmooJuice" is.

As you can see, *InMaricopa* has a great diversity of content for this print product while allowing our stories and our clients' advertisements to look their very best. The primary impetus of this change, after all, is to provide greater value to our readers and advertisers.

Our online daily coverage, meanwhile, will always be at your fingertips.

In this 24/7 Internet age, people prefer to

get their news immediately, rendering print newspapers of any frequency often unable to meet readers' needs. We will continue to invest in our digital products, providing Maricopans 24/7 news and information you expect on InMaricopa.com and our mobile app.

Please share with us your thoughts on our April edition and pending decision to make this a monthly adventure.

Raquel Hendrickson

Editor

Raquel@InMaricopa.com
520-568-0040 ext. 3

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Publisher
SCOTT BARTLE

Editor
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

Writers
MICHELLE CHANCE
YVONNE GONZALEZ
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON
KATIE MAYER

Photographers
DEVIN CARSON
MICHELLE CHANCE
CRAIG CUMMINS
RAQUEL HENDRICKSON
JAKE JOHNSON
WILLIAM LANGE

Designer
CARL BEZUIDENHOUT

Advertising
SCOTT BARTLE
DICK BARKLEY
MICHELLE SORENSEN

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InMaricopa
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 101
Maricopa, AZ 85138

520-568-0040 Tel
520-568-0050 Fax

News@InMaricopa.com
Advertising@InMaricopa.com
Photos@InMaricopa.com

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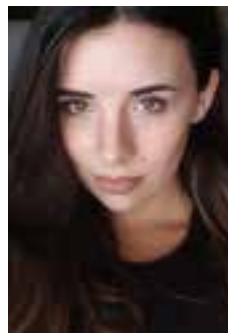
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Staff



From left: Dick Barkley, client loyalty director; Scott Bartle, publisher; Raquel Hendrickson, editor; Michelle Sorensen, client loyalty coordinator.

Contributors



Michelle Chance



Craig Cummins



Yvonne Gonzalez



Jake Johnson



William Lange



Katie Mayer

Calendar

April

7

First Steps Ballet & Tumbling

4 p.m., weekly
Copper Sky Multigenerational Center,
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

First Steps Ballet & Jazz

5 p.m., weekly
Copper Sky Multigenerational Center,
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

7

Maricopa Children's Theatre: Beauty Is a Beast

6-8 p.m.,
Copper Sky Multigenerational Center,
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous

7 p.m.,
Ak-Chin Social Services, 48227 W.
Farrell Road

8

Peppersauce Camping & Caving

6 p.m.,
Copper Sky Multigenerational Center,
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

9

Til Death Do Us Part Murder Mystery Dinner

6 p.m.,
Elements Event Center, 16000 N.
Maricopa Road

Latin Dance Class

6:30 p.m., weekly
Copper Sky Multigenerational Center,
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

10

A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous

7 p.m., Maricopa Chamber of
Commerce Office
44480 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 106

11

Tumbling, Pom & Cheer

5 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational
Center
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

National Crime Victims' Week Movie in the Park

5-8 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Chef Cody's Culinary Adventure

5:30-8 p.m., Copper Sky
Multigenerational Center
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous

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

Library Astronomy Night

7 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

12

Coffee with Friends of the Library

1:30-3 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

13

Maricopa School District Governing Board Meeting

6:30 p.m., MUSD District Office
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande
Highway

14

Maricopa Chamber of Commerce Breakfast

7 a.m., Ballroom at Harrah's Ak-Chin
Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous

7 p.m., Ak-Chin Social Services
48227 W. Farrell Road

15

Family Camping in the Park

4 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

16

Maricopa Fishing Derby

9:30 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

17

A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous

7 p.m., Maricopa Chamber of
Commerce Office
44480 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 106

18

A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous

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

19

Coffee with Friends of the Library

1:30-3 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Trip to MCC Planetarium

3-8 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Maricopa City Council Work Session

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



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

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Calendar



"Les Miserables"

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

21 Third Thursday on the Porch
9-11 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

"Les Miserables"
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., Ak-Chin Social Services
48227 W. Farrell Road

22 "Les Miserables"
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

23 "Les Miserables"
2 p.m. & 7 p.m. at Maricopa High
School Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

24 A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., Maricopa Chamber of
Commerce
44480 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 106

**25 Movie Under the Stars: Teenage
Mutant Ninja Turtles**
6 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment
Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road

A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., Maricopa Community Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

26 Visit the Airplane Graveyard
8 a.m.-6 p.m., Copper Sky
Multigenerational Center
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Coffee with Friends of the Library
1:30-3 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

28 A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., Ak-Chin Social Services
48227 W. Farrell Road

30 Uncle Bucks Golf Tournament
6 a.m., The Duke at Rancho
El Dorado
42260 W. Rancho El Dorado
Parkway

Maricopa Relay for Life
6 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Marty Stuart in Concert
8 a.m., The Lounge at Harrah's
Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

May

1 A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., Maricopa Chamber of
Commerce
44480 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 106

2 A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., Maricopa Community Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

3 Coffee with Friends of the Library
1:30-3 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

5 A Ray of Hope Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., Ak-Chin Social Services
48227 W. Farrell Road

7 F.O.R. Maricopa Golf Tournament
7 a.m., The Duke at Rancho
El Dorado
42660 W. Rancho El Dorado
Parkway

Join in

People are talking on InMaricopa's social media



About a murder-suicide:

Jamie Morano

How many women suffer years of domestic violence before seeking help? Far too many. They are brainwashed into thinking it's their fault or they can do something to make it stop. Or they are afraid they'll be killed if they seek help. Regardless, murder is never justified. This story breaks my heart.

About voting in the Presidential Preference Election

Andrew Harrison

I didn't experience any lines at 830am. More Arizonans need to understand the employer requirement to allow them off to vote when applicable.

About Maricopa's mostly lovely March weather:

Margaret Graczyk

I'd say it was one of the most enjoyable all month! But feeling pity for the mechanics at Big O since they had their garage doors open to the biggest sand wall blowing across 347 right into their garage!

About Rich Vitiello's decision to run for county supervisor:

Vincent Manfredi

I will support Tony Smith in his reelection campaign. I believe Tony Smith has done a fine job as County Supervisor, and I don't vote based on what Paul Babeu says I should do. Tony is truly a fiscal conservative as he voted against the irresponsible county tax increase in 2015, and has always worked hard to hold spending in check. Rich is a good guy, but my support will be for Tony.

David Johnson

Good luck Rich Vitiello. You will make a much better supervisor then Tony Smith. After Tony Smith gave his secretary a 28% pay raise against the recommendations of his own Human Resources Department he lost my respect and support.



About economic development:

Calderons41 @calderons411

When will we get a Costco or Home Depot, maybe a Lowes?

About an interview with Terri Clark:

Nikki Orkoskey @NikkiO33

Love the interview

Don Gillis @DonGillis5

GREAT PHOTO ! Love it

About a murder-suicide:

Just Human @JasonR_Martin

Too close to home...



About Seeds of Change Gala:

ready_4_life_families1st

We had an amazing time at this event!! It was 1st class supporting such a great cause.

About Arizona Rattlers Kids Camp:

tcfmom

What an amazing opportunity for our kids. Everyone had so much fun. Thanks to the Rattlers for being so encouraging to all the kids. Smiles were abundant.

About Ak-Chin Skate Jam:

iananderson99

Wooooooow I wish I could've gone

About inaugural Youth Town Hall:

harrahsakchin

What a cool community

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Maricopa Salsa Festival

March 19

1. Maricopa musician Laura Walsh headlined the entertainment.
2. Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino whipped up some ice cream from liquid nitrogen in Maricopa Science City.
3. Crazy Cranberry won the overall best salsa prize of \$1,000.
4. Dance troupes entertained at the main stage for hours.
5. Playa Tequila Salsa had a happy crew.
6. Maricopa Science City was set up near the north entrance to show how science is being used all over Maricopa.
7. Tango Mango was again a winner, taking home \$500 for best unusual salsa.
8. Fiesta Mexican and Danzarte Danza Folklorica brought traditional and unexpected dances to the stage.

Overall Favorite and Grand Prize Winner
Crazy Cranberry (U14) — \$1,000

Hot Category
1. Mickey's Salsa (H2) — \$500
2. Los Muertos Salsa (H17) — \$150
3. 2 Dudes Salsa (H27) — \$50

Mild Category
1. Mickey's Salsa (M2) — \$500
2. Puma Salsa (M20) — \$150
3. Hay's Salsa Lovers (M13) — \$50

Unusual Category
1. Tango Mango (U4) — \$500
2. RC Salsa (U28) — \$150
3. Ellie Warder (U24) — \$50

Most Festive Booth Decor
Los Muertos Salsa — \$100

Celebrity Judges Choice
2 Dudes Salsa (H27) — \$250



9. Arena Football League's Arizona Rattlers spent March training at Copper Sky Regional Park. *Photo by Raquel Hendrickson*
10. County music star Terri Clark performed at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino on March 5. *Photo by Michelle Chance*
11. Second Saturday Maricopa Market continues to draw large crowds seeking fresh produce. *Photo by Raquel Hendrickson*
12. Seeds of Change Gala was Feb. 27, with the theme of Pearls & Pinstripes. *Photo by Raquel Hendrickson*
13. Fifty-four teams participated in Maricopa March Madness 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament and raised \$5,000 for veterans. *Photo by Craig Cummins*
14. The Tortosa Eggstravaganza brought out all kinds of bunnies March 26 for the annual Easter celebration. *Photo by Raquel Hendrickson*



The Johnson family works together as a team for academic and athletic success: (from left) Jayla, Johnny Jr., Josh, Johnny Sr., Shontray and Jabari.

Johnson family finds balance of academics, sports

Story and photos by Michelle Chance

The Johnson siblings are defeating the common narrative that student-athletes must often sacrifice their academic performance to excel on the court and field. In fact, Maricopa High School students Johnny Jr., Josh and Jayla Johnson are proving they not only can balance the demands of the classroom and their sports, but they exceed in both as well.

Parents Johnny Sr. and Shontray Johnson said they have reinforced the importance of academics and athletics to their children from the beginning.

“First of all, we let them know that they are students first and then athletes,” Shontray said. “It’s a privilege to be an athlete.”

The Johnsons have seven children. Jaulisa lives in Colorado, Kyndra graduated from the University of Arizona, and Jahnei graduated from MHS in 2014 (she scored 546 points in two basketball seasons) and is attending Central Arizona College.

The family’s philosophy of setting high expectations in education and sports has clearly been embraced by the Johnson kids.

Johnny Jr., a senior at MHS, recently signed a letter of intent to play football at

Scottsdale Community College. He was named All Section First Team in basketball, and he was honored during Black History Month by the City of Maricopa and The Flock Ministries for his classroom performance and being a young man of good character.

Johnny Jr. said overcoming social distractions in high school has been one of his biggest obstacles, but he said he keeps focused in part because of his long-term goal of becoming a top high school and collegiate athlete.

However, he also attributed his and his siblings’ success to their parents, both of whom were celebrated student-athletes themselves — Shontray played basketball at the University of Detroit Mercy, and Johnny Sr. played tennis at Montbello High School in Denver.

Three of the seven Johnson siblings, Johnny Jr., Josh and Jayla, all played basketball for Maricopa High School this year. Johnny is set to graduate in May.



“They know the struggle between athletes and academics, so they push us because they know it’s hard,” Johnny Jr. said.

Shontray said she and Johnny Sr. use their experience to help guide their children to manage their time wisely.

“The balance in your life is extremely important when you are trying to play while in school,” Shontray said.

A sophomore, Josh was a point guard on the varsity basketball team, another All Section First Team selection, who said he recognizes a lot of student-athletes have a hard time, but “our parents really manage us and make sure we are on top of stuff at school, as well as sports.”

The youngest of the gifted trio, Jayla is a freshman basketball player at MHS who averaged 14 points a game before being promoted to the varsity team during the state tournament.

“It was exciting,” Jayla said, noting that despite being a young player in a position many would consider to carry a lot of pressure, the experience for her was positive.

Although her performance on the court is impressive, basketball does not dominate her time.

“Academics come before athletics,” Jayla said.

That all sets an example for Jabari, the youngest brother.

According to Johnny Sr., the family moved to Maricopa from Denver in 2010, and like a team on any field or court, the Johnsons have strived to flourish as a unit.

In fact, staying together as a family is how the family defines success.

“We love each other, we care for each other, we support each other,” Shontray said. “The most important thing for success is family.”



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Fun Facts

FAMOUS MONTESSORI STUDENTS

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inventor

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author diarist from WWII

MARK ZUCKERBERG
co-founder of Facebook

LARRY PAGE & SERGEY BRIN
co-founders of Google

JULIA CHILD
author & chef

PRINCE WILLIAM & PRINCE HARRY
English Royal Family

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 - Fosters a love for learning through active partnerships involving students, parents, teachers, staff and community
 - Embraces our diversity and unique talents in a safe, challenging, respectful and supportive environment
 - Recognizes that personal growth involves responsibility towards ourselves, others and the earth, thus becoming self-determined, self-motivated and contributing members of society.



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— Dr. Maria Montessori

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Judy Webster, Director

(520) 868-6145

/Camino Montessori

www.CaminoMontessori.org



Camino Montessori is a 501(c)3 committed to diversity and non-discriminatory practices.

Chamber of Commerce hires executive director

Known for her work with the Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship, Sara Troyer was hired as the executive director of the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce on March 22. She said she was “honored and thrilled.”


“The Maricopa community has hugely invested in, supported and challenged me to be a better person and leader,” Troyer said. “I look forward to working alongside the Board, community leaders and our wonderful business owners to grow and develop the Chamber into a thriving and valuable resource.”

The search to replace Marla Lewis lasted two months. The chamber organized a selection committee, which compiled a list of finalists.

Originally from Wisconsin, Troyer, 20, moved to Maricopa 12 years ago. She is a 2013 graduate of Maricopa High School and was CEO of Maricopa DECA, the high school marketing club. She studied finance and

accounting at Arizona State University for two years and is pursuing nonprofit management and public administration certificates at Southern New Hampshire University.

Most recently, she was the marketing and programs development director at MCE. She specializes in small business and start-up brand creation, campaign design and event and project planning.

Troyer was elected to the chamber board in January and submitted her formal resignation from the board. She started as executive director April 4. 

SARA TROYER

Hometown: Stratford, Wisconsin

Maricopan since: 2004

Occupation: Executive director of the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce

Pet peeve: When people are chronically late



Sara Troyer

Kelsey Baggett

Dream vacation: Dublin

Like most about Maricopa: The “small-town” feel

Like least about Maricopa: The smell

FAVORITE ...

Book: “Anthem” by Ayn Rand

Movie: American Beauty

Actor: Kevin Spacey

Song: Hallelujah - Leonard Cohen

Musician: Bon Jovi

Team: Arizona Cardinals

Athlete: Larry Fitzgerald

Food: Pasta anything

Drink: Coffee. Always.

Meal: Salmon, asparagus, wild rice

Restaurant: Trattoria I Trulli

Getaway: San Diego

Website: www.Entrepreneur.com

Quote: “So be sure when you step, Step with care and great tact. And remember that life’s A Great Balancing Act. And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! (98 and $\frac{3}{4}$ percent guaranteed). — Dr. Seuss, ‘Oh, the Places You’ll Go!’

Words to live by: “We become what we think about.”

 InMaricopa.com/Getting-to-Know



Who Is This?

A print of a 100-year-old photograph was found in a Maricopa library book, and the Maricopa Historical Society is trying to find out who it belongs to so it can

be returned. It is marked on the back as Lowe family. A corner of the print is damaged, taking with it the last digit of the date that was on the back, but it was taken sometime between 1910 and 1919.

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Fundraiser

Uncle Bucks Golf Tournament seeks players to raise funds for Boy Scouts



Submitted

Austin Long cleaning the California Zephyr for his Eagle Scout project.

The fifth annual Uncle Bucks Golf Classic Boy Scout Fundraising Tournament is set for April 30 at The Duke at Rancho El Dorado, 42660 Rancho El Dorado Parkway. The golfers will raise funds to support the Grand Canyon Council of the Boy Scouts of America, of which Maricopa Scouts are members.

The tournament was founded in 2011 to financially support camps, outdoor programs,

career exploration, civic engagement and other positive activities for the nearly 900 scouts in Maricopa and Casa Grande. Recent Eagle Scout projects benefitting Maricopa cleaning the historic California Zephyr train car, making improvements at Pacana Park and staging a basketball tournament to raise funds for veterans.

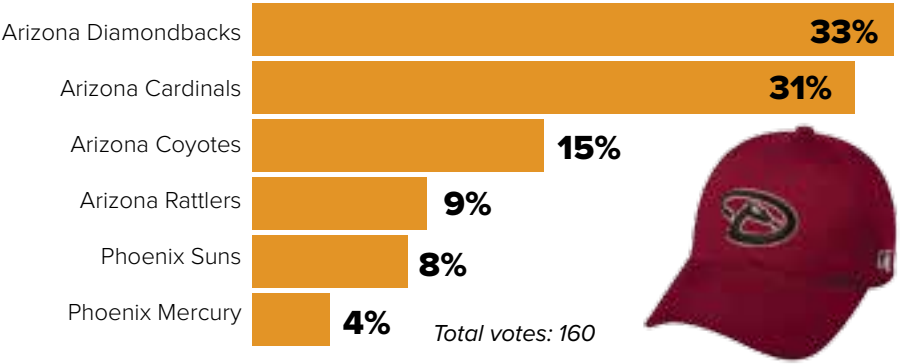
On six patriotic holidays each year from sunrise to sunset, Boy Scouts from local troops post dozens of U.S. flags in residential communities.

The tournament is open to players of all skill levels. The fee is \$75 per golfer and includes the green fee, a cart, golf shirt for all participants, breakfast and lunch. Players can register online. Registration and breakfast begin at 6 a.m.

GrandCanyonBSA.org

We asked InMaricopa.com readers...

Which team's home games are you most likely to attend?



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Trending at
inMaricopa.com

- 2 dead in Alterra standoff
- City's \$700,000 obligation for overpass design comes to council
- MPD: Domestic dispute led to murder-suicide
- Maricopa man sentenced for insurance fraud
- ADOT wants SR 347 overpass on fast-forward timeline



ADOT

- Chamber of Commerce hires new executive director
- City pays out to deal with MFD mold problem
- Photo gallery of 2016 Maricopa Salsa Festival

- Suspicious package causes shutdown of Post Office, surrounding streets
- Former 'Lost Boy' shares story of survival with CAC-Maricopa

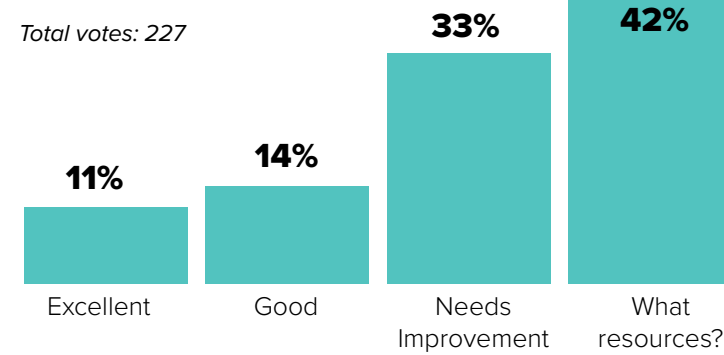


Raquel Hendrickson

For these stories and more news every day, visit **InMaricopa.com**.

We asked InMaricopa.com readers...

How would you rate Maricopa's resources for senior citizens?



CERT program graduates 8

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) was completed March 5, and eight graduates from the community received certification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The six-week course consisted of fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, CERT organization, disaster psychology and a mock drill.

Using the training from the free course, CERT volunteers can assist others in their community following a disaster when professional responders are not immediately available to help.



Submitted

Movie in the Park for National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Join the City of Maricopa Police Department in observing National Crime Victims' Rights Week 5-8 p.m. on April 11 for a movie in the park, child ID event, children's games and resources from agencies including the Pinal County Attorney's Office and Against Abuse Inc.

"Heavens Rain" is the movie that will be shown at Copper Sky Regional Park, 44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

This year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 10-16; the theme is "Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope." For additional information about this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week and how to assist victims, contact Mary Witkofski at 520-316-6844.

Maricopa-AZ.gov/web/victim-services

Fire station city's first LEED-certified building

Maricopa Fire Department's Donald N. Pearce Fire Station 575 received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Station 575 is the first municipal building in the city to be LEED certified.

The station on Edison Road was built in 2014, replacing the original Garvey Station.

The new building is 7,789 square feet with two bways, fitness center and dormitory rooms. The building design was constructed with sustainable strategies of the LEED rating system that was developed by the USGBC.

LEED is a nationally-accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

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In the Running

Candidates are lining up to run for office at the city, county, state and federal levels. In Maricopa, potential candidates can pick up nomination packets of election documents to run for mayor and city council through the end of April. Completed documents must be turned in May 2 to June 1.



So far, only sitting **Mayor Christian Price** has pulled a packet to run for mayor. Those who have pulled packets to run for three available seats on the nonpartisan city council are: Marvin Brown, incumbent Bridger Kimball, incumbent Nancy Smith, incumbent Joshua Babb Dan Frank Julia Gusse Leon Potter Nicholas Sheppard

A council candidate two years ago, **Rich Vitiello** pulled a packet to run for council but withdrew in order to run for Pinal County supervisor for District 4, which includes Maricopa. He will be challenging incumbent **Anthony Smith**. County-wide there are several contested races. Statements of organization must be turned in before signatures can be collected. Nomination packets must be turned in during the period of May 2 to June 1. With Pinal County **Sheriff Paul Babeu** leaving office to run for U.S. Congress, four people are seeking his job: **Kaye Dickson, Steve Henry, Mark Lamb** and **Kevin Taylor**.



Rich Vitiello

Kent Volkmer, a Republican, is challenging incumbent **Lando Voyles** for his seat as county attorney.

Michael McCord plans to challenge incumbent **Doug Wolf** for the treasurer’s office.

Maricopa school teacher **Patrick Thompson** is challenging incumbent **Jill Broussard** for the position of superintendent of schools.

Recorder **Virginia Ross** is so far unchallenged.

At the state Legislature in District 11, Republican incumbent **Steve Smith** is running for Senate again, as are two Democrats, **Ralph Atchue** and **Barry McCain**.

District 11 House members **Vince Leach** and **Mark Finchem**, both Republicans, have competition from Democrat **Corin Hammond**.

At the federal level, a lot of people want to be in the U.S. Senate:

Democrats
Lennie Clark
Ann Kirkpatrick

Republicans
John McCain, incumbent
Scott McBean
Alex Meluskey
David Pizer
Clair Van Steenwyk
Kelli Ward

Independents
Joanne Lopez-Cervantez
J.L. Mealer
Pat Quinn

With Kirkpatrick leaving her seat as U.S. Congressional District 1 representative, a battleground has opened up.



Paul Babeu



Vince Leach



John McCain

Democrats
James Maloney
Tom O’Halleran
Miguel Olivas
Levi Tappan.

Republicans
Paul Babeu
Carlyle Begay
Ken Bennett
David Gowan
Gary Kiehne
Shawn Redd
Wendy Rogers

Independent
Brian Malnes

Presidential Preference

How Pinal County voted

In Arizona’s Presidential Preference Election March 22, more than 21,000 Pinal County voters in Congressional District 1 voted. Another 17,000 voted in the county sections of District 3 and 4.

PINAL COUNTY DISTRICT 1 UNOFFICIAL



Republicans
Donald Trump..... 6,016 52%
Ted Cruz 2,810 24%
John Kasich..... 907 8%
All others.....1,853 16%



Democrats
Hillary Clinton6,168 63%
Bernie Sanders 3,249 33%
All others..... 336 3%

★ IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES ★

Voters

May 17 Statewide Special Election

Voting on: Education Finance (Proposition 123), is the settlement of a five-year lawsuit against the state for withholding inflation adjustment funds from public schools and asks voters to approve \$3.5 billion as compensation over 10 years; Public Retirement System (Proposition 124), is an amendment replacing the current benefit system with a new compounding cost of living adjustment.

April 18

Last day to register to vote in May election

April 20

Early voting begins for May election

May 6

Last day to request an early ballot by mail for May election

May 13

Last day to vote early in person for May election

May 17

Election Day

Aug. 30 Primary Election

Voting on: President of the United States, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative District 1, Pinal County Board of Supervisors, county attorney, county assessor, county recorder, county sheriff, county superintendent of schools, county treasurer

Aug. 1

Last day to register to vote in Primary Election

Aug. 3

Early voting beings for Primary Election

Aug. 19

Last day to request an early ballot by mail for Primary Election

Aug. 26

Last day to vote early in person for Primary Election

Aug. 30

Election Day

Nov. 8 General Election

Voting on: President of the United States, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative District 1, Maricopa City Council, Pinal County Board of Supervisors, Central Arizona College Governing Board District 4, county attorney, county assessor, county recorder, county sheriff, county superintendent of schools, county treasurer, Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board, possible state and county ballot questions, MUSD budget override

Oct. 10

Last day to register to vote

Oct. 12

Early voting begins

Oct. 28

Last day to request an early ballot

Nov. 4

Last day to vote early in person

Nov. 8

Election Day



Candidates

May 2

First day the Election Department will accept candidate filings

June 1

Last day the Election Department will accept candidate filings

July 21

Last day to file as a write-in candidate

It’s time to secure our border, once and for all



By Gary Kiehne

As a resident of a border state and in my role as a father and grandfather, I am deeply concerned about threats to our security. The shortcomings realized under President Obama have been destructive to security at home and abroad.

With a Republican president and the support of a strong Congress, we can take a substantial step toward increasing national security. That starts by immediately securing our borders.

A lack in border control enables too great an opportunity to enter our nation illegally. And the problem begins right here at home — nearly half of illegal crossings occur along Arizona’s border.

From Yuma to Nogales, the surface management is controlled by federal authority and is crippled by stifling regulations on the bombing range, wildlife habitat areas, and reservations that make it nearly impossible to patrol.

I support a buffer zone that spans at least 5-10 miles, allowing agents to freely patrol. We should build a fence several miles inside the buffer zone, forcing illegal entrants to transport scaling equipment for several miles. Finally, it’s time to enact common-sense policies, utilizing technology and implementing more patrols.

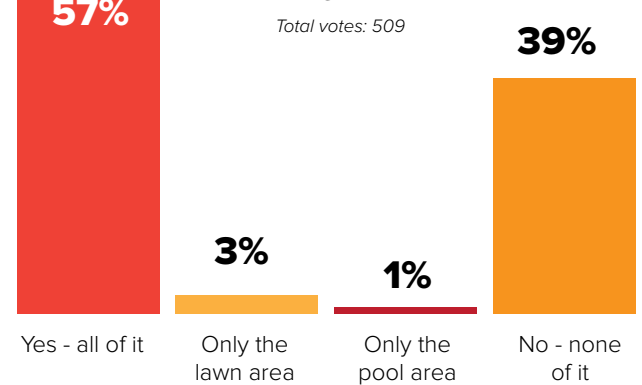
After a lifetime of ranching near the southern border, I have firsthand experience dealing with security risks posed by the lack of enforcement of our immigration laws. If elected to serve as your next Congressman, I will put America’s security ahead of political correctness, and that starts with the border.

Gary Kiehne is a candidate to represent Arizona District 1 in the United States Congress.

 [KiehneForCongress.com](#)

INMARICOPA.COM POLL

Should the City of Maricopa acquire Rotary Park?





Nancy Jones stands at her unique 1957 home in the Heritage District. She and her husband were “devastated” by the demands of a floodplain permit to improve the house.

Floodplain permit stifles remodeling of Heritage home

Story and photos by Raquel Hendrickson

Maricopa wants to revitalize the Heritage District.

The Heritage District is in a floodplain.

The impasse that creates for homeowners wishing to improve property can be frustrating and expensive.

A solution will be a long time coming.

Bill and Nancy Jones live in Senita but found a 1950s house on Condrey Avenue with “tons of potential.” They discovered it on the real estate website Trulia. A victim of foreclosure, the house had been empty five years.

Of course, empty is a relative term. Clearly animals and humans had made use of it. The entire quarter-acre property was full of trash.

As Washington snowbirds, the Joneses are do-it-yourselfers who saw the many challenges the home presented. But they did not even know about the biggest challenge.

What they knew about the property was that it was mid-century modern and had been in foreclosure.

“The bank foreclosed, sent the owners the paperwork, but they never followed through, so it went to a tax sale,” Nancy Jones said. “The people we bought it from bought it on taxes, and then we bought it off of them. So there were no disclosures. They didn’t know anything about the property, and we didn’t know anything about it.

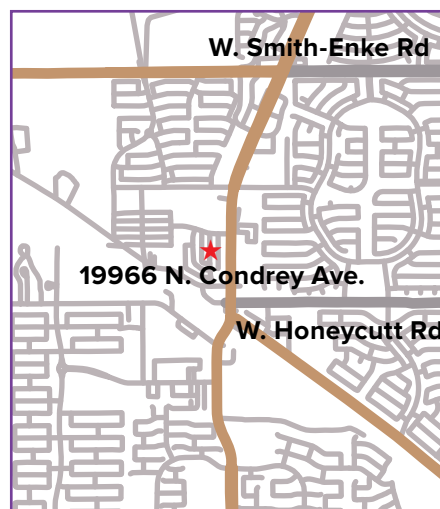
“If we had, we never would have bought it.”

Bill Jones said they hauled off 12 tons of trash from the house, the front yard and the back yard. The kitchen and bathrooms had already been stripped out. The Joneses took down all the sheetrock and plaster.

“It looks ugly, but there is nothing wrong with what we’ve got for a base,” Nancy said. “We’re working with an architect who has fabulous ideas for us. Until we get the floodplain permit, we can’t do anything.”

That has put the brakes on all of their plans.

In working with city planners on issues like



setback waivers and variances, the floodplain issue came up. The Joneses were in contact with the Pinal County Flood Control District, which delivered the devastating news.

Engineer Chris Wannamaker told the Joneses the 1957 home on property that had not been surveyed since 1956 was built 26 years before the first floodplain map went in to effect. It is in a floodplain now, requiring a floodplain permit before any construction can be done, and that work must follow the “substantial improvement rules.”

“These rules state that if the cost of the improvements (including materials and labor) are more than 50 percent of the current value of the structure then the entire structure needs to be brought into compliance with the current floodplain regulations,” Wannamaker said. “In the case of this home, it would very likely mean elevating the entire structure.”

Half of the value of the Condrey house is about \$16,000, a fraction of what their construction improvements will be.

“That’s the roof,” Nancy said. “We can’t get homeowners insurance because of the roof.”

They were able to get commercial insurance, which Bill said is \$500-\$600 per year.

“We’re out now about \$55,000, and it just keeps adding and adding and adding,” Nancy said.

That’s well beyond the full value of the home, so the work automatically requires the floodplain permit. That means before they can do anything else to the house, the Joneses must do one of two things.

“The only thing we can do right now is get a company to come in, burrow underneath the slab, lift it up two feet, backfill it with gravel, and then put the house back down,” Nancy said. “Or tear the whole thing down. At a minimum that would cost \$15,000 to \$20,000. Then we have to start from scratch.

“It’s a solid-built place. It’s disgusting to think that to do anything, we have to destroy it.”

For Maricopa, the option to help everyone in the Heritage District floodplain is to construct a flood-retention area or drainage project.

Joshua Plumb, a floodplain manager at City Hall, said a study to do a design for drainage is more than five years away. Then any plan must get approval from Pinal County at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. His best guess is six to seven years at the earliest before Maricopa has a project.

“Nobody’s taking a serious stand,” Bill Jones said.

“I’d like to see the city of Maricopa get off their tushes and get that flood-retention area built that they need,” Nancy Jones said. “Until the city gets their act together, anybody that wants to do anything in this area can’t.”

It is even a complicated situation for the city, which has property in the Heritage District it plans to develop. Plumb said an outside option is the opportunity for a development company to create its own drainage plan that meets FEMA requirements for much of the area.

“We’re always looking for development,” he said.

“I’d like to see the city of Maricopa get off their tushes and get that flood-retention area built that they need.”

— Nancy Jones

Nancy Jones said city planners were “wonderful” and very supportive of what the couple wanted to do with the house. The Heritage District Advisory Committee, too, heard their plight with compassion.

“We are sympathetic to what you have to go through,” said Brian Foose, committee chairman. “The whole 347 corridor is constrained because of the floodplain.”

“My heart goes out to you people,” committee member Renate Chamberlin said.

“My heart goes out to the neighbors,” Nancy Jones replied. “We want to get going on it.”

She called the situation “devastating.”

Plumb said the city tries to inform the public about the demands of being in a floodplain. It is considered one of Maricopa’s top three issues. While a city solution for the Heritage District is a long-range goal, potential homeowners wanting to improve the oldest section of town are forewarned.

“You have to know what you’re coming into,” Plumb said.



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Chief Stahl maintains tough work ethic at MPD after 4 years

By Katie Mayer

A little more than 19 years into Maricopa Police Chief Steve Stahl's law enforcement career, he grew disenchanted and planned to retire once he hit the 20-year mark.

At the time, Stahl was a commander with the Mesa Police Department, where morale had dipped and he didn't see a whole lot of growth potential.

But then a new chief stepped in. Former Los Angeles Police Department Assistant Chief George Gascón brought big city-crime-fighting techniques, strong leadership and a heavy helping of hope to a department that so greatly needed it.

"When Chief Gascón came in, I said 'I'm going to give this chief six months and see if he reinvigorates me,'" Stahl recalled.

It was worth the wait. Gascón's leadership inspired Stahl to remain in his profession and set him on a trajectory to become the chief he is today.

"He reinvigorated what leadership should be and reignited that passion for police work," Stahl said.

Stahl decided to stay — and many would say it's a good thing he did. Because today — like the leader who once inspired him — Stahl has been the catalyst for change in a department that appeared to have lost its way. Through accountability, leadership and a strong vision, Stahl has boosted the morale of his rank-and-file, reduced crime and connected deeply with the community he serves.

February marked four years Stahl has served as Maricopa's police chief. In that time, he is credited with forming broader and deeper bonds with the community, bringing world-class training and resources to his police officers, reducing Part I crimes and providing better support for victims of domestic violence.

"I think in every aspect of what he does as a police chief, he pursues the ideal of excellence," said Maricopa City Manager Gregory Rose. "I



Jake Johnson

Maricopa Police Chief Steve Stahl has tried to be a catalyst for change during his four years on the job.

think that permeates throughout the rest of the police department."

Stahl's commitment to hard work was instilled in him early. Born in the 1,200-resident town of Redfield, South Dakota, Stahl grew up on a farm and ranch where "you worked until everything is done." School was held in a single K-12 classroom and the nearest city was 25 miles away.

"That work ethic was drilled into me early on," Stahl said.

After graduating from South Dakota State University, Stahl managed a water bed store and fitness center. One summer, he visited some family in Arizona and "enjoyed the heck out of" himself.

"I picked up a Sunday paper and noticed

one of the leading waterbed companies was hiring," Stahl recalled. "I interviewed and flew back home...seven days later I'm in Arizona."

Soon, he got to know his next-door neighbor, who was a Tempe police officer. The neighbor encouraged him to consider a career in law enforcement.

"I applied at Tempe and Mesa," Stahl said, "and Mesa called first."

During his time with the Mesa Police Department, Stahl worked in nearly every area of the department. He credits former Mesa Police Chief Frank Milstead with encouraging him to branch out.

"He taught me all the jobs you have are not going to be glamorous," Stahl said.

At first, this was a tough pill to swallow

for Stahl, who had spent 15 years on the Mesa Police Department's action-packed SWAT team.

"He also gave me those opportunities that put a glimmer in my mind that 'Can I be chief?' and 'Do I want to be a chief?'" Stahl said. "I would've never been ready otherwise."

Like his own police chief in Mesa, Stahl stepped into a department in 2011 in need of leadership. The department had just gone through two external audits and morale was low.

In his new role, Stahl formed a vision statement, articulated his high expectations to officers and invested in their training and equipment.

"When I came here, you could tell in briefings and ride-alongs that they craved that leadership," Stahl said. "And it wasn't hard to (turn things around) because they are professionals."

He added, "Those who did what they needed to do stayed and those who didn't went away."

And while working on internal matters, Stahl also placed an emphasis on customer service in Maricopa. As part of his vision statement he required the officers to "make every contact excellent." He also rolled out community engagement events such as "Coffee with the Chief," where residents could come and have some face time with Stahl.

Chris Hashisaki, community manager at CCMC at Tortosa, said the customer service has been visible to her residents.

"I do think they are becoming more successful about creating that personal relationship with the citizens and police departments," Hashisaki said. "We are a little ways out here, but we still get the patrol and recognition definitely from the police department and him."

And the business community has taken notice as well.

Ace Hardware owner Mike Richey calls Stahl one of the "premier civil servants in the community."

"I think the department clearly reflects his confidence," Richey said. "When you've got somebody at the top that projects himself in the community the way Chief Stahl does, it's a trickle-down effect — everything starts at the top."

Although Stahl makes leadership look easy, his four years have not been without challenges. In January, an Army veteran's widow sued the city and two police officers over the 2015 fatal shooting of her husband, who had contacted police two days earlier to talk about his post-traumatic stress disorder.

While the department has declined to

talk about pending litigation, Mike Kemery, commander of the VFW, said he has been happy with Stahl and his leadership.

"One day he stopped in around lunch time at the Veterans Center, and we talked for an hour," Kemery said. "He has been very attentive to whatever group he might be with, and he takes an interest."

Kemery said he and his veteran victim advocate colleague have been called out to situations in the community involving veterans and have worked with police to help the veterans obtain resources.

"From a veteran's point of view, this town is keenly aware of the veterans and they do take an interest and Chief Stahl leads the charge," Kemery said.

“When I came here, you could tell in briefings and ride-alongs that they craved that leadership.”

— MPD Chief Steve Stahl

Also, during a time when police departments across the country have been accused of racial bias, Maricopa Police Department has not been immune. Last year, when Maricopa police responded to a report of a jogger pushed down by an attacker described as a "black teenage male," the department faced some scrutiny after questioning black teenagers in connection with the crime.

However, Stahl, a member of the NAACP,

said he and his officers have never faced any problems related to racism and remain engaged with the black community and work closely with a civilian advisory board consisting of diverse residents of Maricopa.

"The great thing is we all have on-body cameras," Stahl said, "so even the suspect can come in and we handle it right then and there."


Stahl is now looking forward to even greater changes in the future, most notably, Maricopa joining the Regional Wireless Cooperative and the department taking over its own dispatching on May 5. The change means officers can now have radios reception in other parts of Arizona and communicate with other police departments.

Stahl is also working to train and promote his staff so that some day when he makes the decision to retire, there is leadership available to step up and take over.

"When I leave, if you have to look externally for a chief, then I have not done my job," Stahl said.

Rose said he supports the chief as he prepares for the future, but hopes "he is here for a very long time."

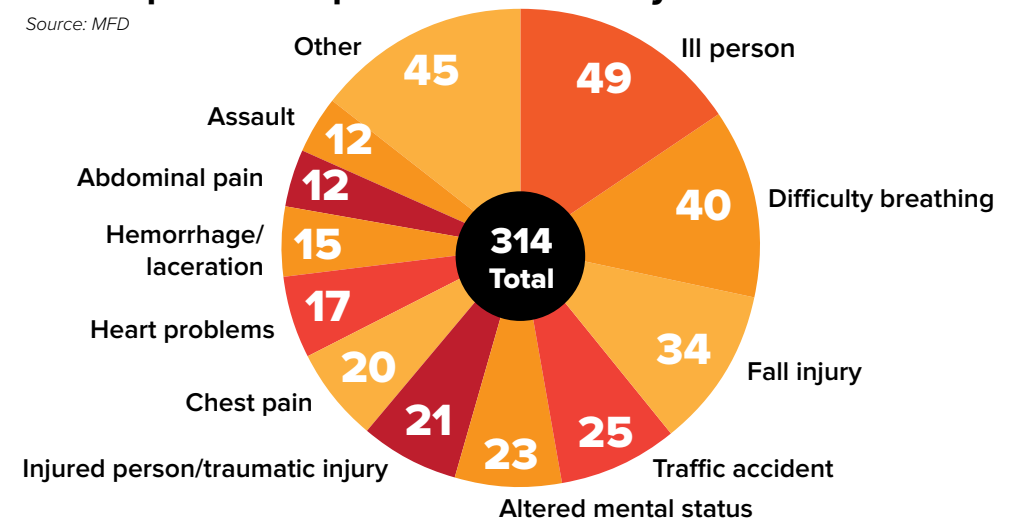
Although being chief means Stahl has largely sacrificed time with his wife and family, and his beloved tee times are nearly impossible to squeeze into his schedule, he calls the job "one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had in my career" and said he is "blessed to be here."

"When I walk the hallway and do ride-alongs with officers and see the light in their eyes, it reminds me of the first time I pinned the badge on," Stahl said. "It's all about them, not about me." 

BY THE NUMBERS

Maricopa Fire Department February Incidents

Source: MFD



Property owners in path of overpass anxious for action

Story and photo by Raquel Hendrickson



Don Pearce owns a Honeycutt Road salvage yard that is in the path of the planned overpass on State Route 347 at the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.

When the grade-separation overpass on State Route 347 becomes a reality, it will alter several properties. Most are businesses.

Some will be bought and demolished. Others will have their access dramatically changed. All have to wait for the Arizona Department of Transportation.

"It's teaching us patience," said Pastor Jim Johnson of the First Baptist Church, which might be in the way.

The expected southbound path of the overpass removes the current dogleg curve to the west at Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and follows a straighter route. That would run the overpass over Maricopa Fire Department's administration buildings, near F.O.R. Maricopa food bank, the former La Roca bar property, a salvage yard, part of Copa Center, NAPA Auto Parts, Spoon's Café, the Amtrak station and First Baptist Church.

Several of those lots belong to the city. Maricopa bought and demolished La Roca last year. The MFD buildings and Park-n-Ride lot belong to the city as does the Copa Center. Of the other property owners, some are certain their property will be acquired by the city while others don't know because of

the uncertainties of ADOT's plans.

There are anxieties for both as they wait for ADOT to move forward on its design.

"Until they finish the design to 30 percent, they won't be able to tell us for sure," Johnson said.

ADOT is using what it is calling Alternate H. That plan runs straight over First Baptist Church, which is more than 60 years old. While there has been talk at the city and state level of somehow accommodating the church into the plans, all Johnson knows for certain is ADOT prefers Alternate H.

"We've been investigating different properties in Maricopa," Johnson said. "We're trying to figure out what size property we're going to need."

The church had already been raising funds to build two other buildings on its 1.06 acres. If necessary, those funds could go toward purchasing a new property when combined with money from the city's right-of-way acquisition. Its full cash value has most recently been assessed at \$150,000. Its market value will be the point of negotiation.

Johnson is just as worried ADOT's final plan will not force the demolition of the church but

will bring the overpass traffic dangerously near the church and make access difficult.

Businesses on both sides of State Route 347 south of the tracks will have their access impacted.

"There will be a dead end on 347. There'll be a dead end on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway. They'll put about 10 businesses out of business," said Don Pearce, who does not think the overpass is necessary.

Pearce owns property full of salvaged vehicles next to Copa Center. Whatever he uses the property for at the moment, it is definitely in the path of the overpass.

He said some buyers had been interested in the property until the overpass discussion started. Now he's worried he will not get the value of the property as real estate prices begin to rise. "A guy called me from ADOT about my property the other day," he said. "When I asked him how long it was going to be before I'd know anything, he said he didn't have anything to do with purchasing, but it'll take a year and a half to purchase the property."

Acquiring right-of-way is the responsibility of the City of Maricopa. In March, the city council signed an intergovernmental

agreement with ADOT to that effect.

ADOT is in the middle of a public-comment period on its updated five-year program. The Maricopa overpass is among ADOT's suggestions to move forward on a quicker timeline. The State Transportation Board will finalize the projects and timelines for the five-year plan in June.

The project is set to receive \$19 million from the state, \$15 million from a federal TIGER grant and \$15 million in local contributions.

Meanwhile, First Baptist Church has been consulting with attorneys who specialize in property value negotiations. Johnson said he has also spoken with leaders at Ahwatukee's Mountain Park Community Church, which is going through a similar situation with the Loop 202 extension.

Like Pearce, he is concerned about rising real estate prices as First Baptist considers buying another property. He said not knowing yet what ADOT's plans will mean for the church parcel has left them in a holding pattern as the church membership tries to figure out its future.

"We're trying to do due diligence," Johnson said. "We will trust in God that it will work out."

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Taxes, taxes, taxes and the MUSD override measure

By Jeff Kramarczyk

Taxes are a necessity, one that we have all come to accept. However, any proposal to increase them is typically met with pushback. The 2016 MUSD override proposal is no different. Property owners within the Maricopa Unified School District boundaries are being asked to fund a proposal totaling \$9.2 million over seven years. This is estimated to cost \$132 per year in additional property taxes (based on an assessed property value of \$100,000), and residents have dug their feet in, repeatedly.

In contrast, when a community is asked to pay for a new park, recreation facility or a new college campus, these bond measures get a much warmer reception. In 2008, Maricopa residents were asked to approve two bonds

totaling nearly \$164 million to finance the construction of a college campus, two parks, a recreation center and a library.

These proposals were passed with an approval rating of 60 percent and we now have a beautiful facility in the Copper Sky Recreation Complex, a source of pride for our community and the envy of many of our neighbors.

So what is it that makes bond measures different? I suspect that greater acceptance is rooted in three areas, a well-documented need, clarity in the proposal and tangibility of the final product. Surveys indicated the community clearly felt there was a need for additional recreational facilities.

A proposal was created that provided a wonderfully illustrated blueprint of how the money would be used, with a well-defined timeline of when the final products were to be delivered. Finally, the result of these expenditures was something the community could see, from the expansive green in the park's turf to the highly polished floors of the indoor basketball courts. All of this gave voters the confidence to approve the measure.


In years past, these were elements the MUSD override attempts were missing, but not this year. With current class sizes pushing the threshold of acceptable levels and classroom technology being well behind competing schools, teachers, administrators,

parents and steering committees all agree that the need for funding a solution is paramount.

With the override, that solution has been clearly defined in the proposal outlined before us. Annually, approximately \$1 million will be used for hiring 47 teachers to reduce class sizes and expand the curriculum, with the remaining \$500,000 invested in instructional technology. This is a clear and simple proposal to solve the identified need.

As for the tangible product, we will immediately see a reduction in student-to-teacher ratios, a core metric for those researching the best option for their children. We will also see the immediate implementation of current technologies to provide teachers with the necessary tools to challenge and engage.

Less immediate is the impact these improvements will have on school performance, and even further out is the impact this will have on our community as a whole.

Make no mistake, a thriving school district is a source of pride for a community, and recent trends indicate MUSD can deliver a product that will be the envy of our neighbors. Just as with our Copper Sky Recreation Complex, we just need to make the investment to reap the rewards. 

Jeff Kramarczyk is president of the Maricopa Education Foundation.

 jpkramarczyk@msn.com

BY THE NUMBERS

Maricopa Unified School District Capacity

School	1/15/16 Enrollment	Facility Capacity	Percent Capacity
Butterfield Elementary School	771	956	81%
Maricopa Elementary School	784	956	81%
Pima Butte Elementary School	509	506	101%
Saddleback Elementary School	681	956	71%
Santa Cruz Elementary School	469	956	49%
Santa Rosa Elementary School	413	603	68%
Desert Wind Middle School	437	1,088	40%
Maricopa Wells Middle School	529	1,009	52%
Maricopa High School	1,889	2,268	83%
TOTAL	6,482	9,298	70%



- 1. Pamela Williams operates Pamela's Gifted Hands as a home-based business. She participated in the Business (B2B) Expo at Central Arizona College March 9.
- 2. Store owner Mike Richey (in red) points out products from Maricopa Ace Hardware during B2B.
- 3. Gary Jamieson of Maricopa Appliance Repair talked up his services at B2B.
- 4. Hailey Noeltner passes out samples from Our Little Secret at B2B.
- 5. Cynthia and Steve Portrey exhibited pieces from Maricopa artists at B2B.
- 6. Jennifer Sultzaberger displays Vidlt at B2B.
- 7. Maricopa Economic Director Denyse Airheart speaks at the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on March 10.
- 8. Blissful & Healthy had natural snacks on hand at B2B.
- 9. CAC's Culinary Department again provided appetizers for the B2B Expo.

Photos by Raquel Hendrickson

GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY

Ak-Chin Indian Community
42507 W. Peters & Nall Road
520-568-1000

City of Maricopa
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza
520-568-9098
Maricopa-AZ.gov

Gila River Indian Community
525 W. Gu U Ki, Sacaton
520-562-6055

Pinal County
31 N. Pinal St., Florence
520-866-6000

United States Post Office
44920 W. Hathaway Road
520-568-2641

Culver’s plans summer groundbreaking

A Culver’s Restaurant might be a reality in Maricopa by the end of the year.

The chain’s plans have been through external review with the city of Maricopa, and resulting comments are being addressed.

“A July groundbreaking is planned with a late November opening,” Culver’s spokesman Paul Pitas said.

The property is part of the Sonoran Creek plat at the southwest corner of John Wayne Parkway and Edison Road.

Sun Life welcomes new provider in Maricopa

Family nurse practitioner Janna Roberts (FNP) joined Sun Life’s Maricopa office.

Janna earned her associates degree in Nursing in 2009 from Rio Salado College in Tempe and completed her master’s in Nursing in 2013 from Grand Canyon University. She is licensed as a registered nurse and an advanced practice registered nurse with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Arizona. She is also a professional member of



William Lange

Janna Roberts

the Sigma Theta Tau, AANP, and CAZNAP.

She has experience in skilled nursing facilities, in-home patient care and senior long-term care.

F.O.R. Maricopa seeks golf tourney sponsors

The sixth annual F.O.R. Maricopa Golf Tournament is May 7 at The Duke at Rancho El Dorado. F.O.R. Maricopa, the community food bank, is seeking sponsors.

A tournament sponsorship of \$3,500 buys

two free team entries in the tournament (eight players) and several marketing preferences. The lunch sponsor will donate \$2,500 and get one free team entry in the tournament and marketing preferences.

There are also two platinum sponsorships available for \$1,500 each, four gold sponsorship for \$1,000 each and 12 hole or cart sponsorships for \$150-\$130. All have tournament benefits.

Outside the golf tournament, businesses can help the food back by sponsoring its food truck for two years for \$2,000, or sponsor The Taste in Maricopa on Oct. 8 for \$500-\$3,500.

Contact Wendy Webb for details at 623-764-0433 or info@formaricopa.org.

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Storefronts: Good 2 Go Stores and ProPrx

Home-based: C&C Southwest Enterprises, Cardinal Handyman Services, Heartstone Creation, Go Fly a Kite, Laurie McCracken, Milspec Tactical, My Little Sunshine, Rolling Smoke BBQ & Catering, StopDropVape, Taste of Aloha and Unlimited Administrative Services

Out of town: Fletcher Group, Michael J. Dietrich, Martie Swann Insurance Agency, CMZ Contracting, Ask Insurance Services, Norcon Industries, Arnold L. Jackson, Kelco Contracting, Fred Greenspan, Big Red’s Hot Sauce, Kykeisha Herrera, Mechanical Products Bas, Sunny Energy, AZ Nutri Chef

BY THE NUMBERS

Maricopa Sales Tax Collections

	February report (reflects January transactions)	January report (reflects December transactions)
Retail trade	\$395,676	\$574,644
Real Estate/Rental/Leasing	\$83,617	\$68,943
Communication/Utilities	\$77,010	\$69,825
Wholesale Trade	\$43,234	\$43,800
Construction	\$42,502	\$213,930
Restaurant/Bar	\$29,576	\$50,447
Services	\$20,442	\$20,505
Manufacturing	\$19,959	\$26,692
Finance/Insurance	\$3,251	\$3,774
Arts/Entertainment	\$1,062	\$286
Transportation/Warehousing	\$601	\$101
Other	\$2,344	\$8,182
Totals	\$719,273	\$1,081,129

Source: Arizona Department of Revenue

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MUSD NEWS

MUSD Override Proposal on November 2016 Ballot

The Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board recently approved a 10%, seven-year override to be placed on the November 8th, 2016 ballot. If approved, the additional annual tax amount is projected to be \$132 per \$100,000 of assessed property value (\$11 per month). If the override is approved, it will provide additional funding beginning in the 2017-18 school year and will fund two things only: 1) up to 47 additional K-12 teachers for class size reduction and expanded academic programs, and 2) additional instructional technology for K-12 students.

47 Additional Teachers

This is the tentative plan for how these 47 additional teachers will be allocated in 2017-18 (the first year that override funds will be available). The 32 teachers allocated to each school are proportionate to the school’s enrollment.

Butterfield Elementary — 4 teachers for class size reduction.

Maricopa Elementary — 4 teachers for class size reduction

Pima Butte Elementary — 3 teachers for class size reduction

Saddleback Elementary — 4 teachers for class size reduction

Santa Cruz — 2 teachers for class size reduction

Santa Rosa — 2 teachers for class size reduction

DWMS — 1 teacher for class size reduction and 1 teacher for expanded academic programs

MWMS — 1 teacher for class size reduction and 1 teacher for expanded academic programs

MHS — 5 teachers for class size reduction and 4 teachers for expanded academic programs

2 Instructional Technology Integration Specialists — these positions are needed to make effective use of the additional instructional technology provided by the override.

2 Elementary Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA) (1 at Santa Rosa, .5 at Pima Butte, .5 at Santa Cruz). Currently Butterfield, MES and Saddleback have a TOSA. Santa Rosa needs a full time TOSA because of a large elementary Special Education program located there. Pima Butte and Santa Cruz can share a TOSA because they are two of the smaller elementary schools.

3 Elementary Counselors — MUSD currently has no elementary school counseling except for Special Education students.

1 Elementary Librarian — MUSD currently only has one certified librarian and she is assigned to MHS.

7 Teachers for a New Alternative HS Program — (1 math, 1 English, 1 science, 1 social studies, 2 electives, 1 TOSA). The development of an alternative high school program has been a longtime goal of MUSD. Some students have difficulty being successful in a large comprehensive high school like MHS (1,850 students). A new alternative high school program will address this need.

Additional Instructional Technology

This is the tentative plan for how \$500,000 in instructional technology will be allocated in 2017-18:

490 student laptop computers (\$683 each)\$334,670
One additional tech staff member (salary and benefits)\$45,000
Computer Licensing\$38,000
Technology Equipment and Supplies.....\$30,910
Instructional Technology Professional Development.....\$30,000
14 computer carts (\$1,530 each)\$21,420

For additional information, visit www.MaricopaUSD.org or contact Superintendent Steve Chestnut at (520) 568-5100 ext. 1004 or schestnut@musd20.org.



The mission of the Maricopa Unified School District is to ensure all students achieve excellence by preparing them to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens who value innovation and global diversity.



Butterfield Elementary School Partners with Central Arizona College

Three years ago Butterfield Elementary School began a partnership with Central Arizona College. The goal of the partnership is to encourage students to begin thinking about future college attendance, and to expose them to science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM), which is the academic focus at Butterfield. On Jan. 13, Butterfield fifth grade students took a field trip to the CAC Maricopa Campus. The visit included sessions on: Food Safety & Donut Cakes, Math Fun with Magnets & L.E.D.s and Strawberry DNA Extraction. Thanks to teacher Liz Zimpelman for leading this annual field trip. She summarized the visit by saying: “We had an amazing time.” ■

DWMS Future City Projects Showcased at Botanical Gardens

In January of this year, Desert Wind Middle School's Future Cities Teams, Gronn Vekkelse and Novos Comecos, won two of the five Walton Sustainable Community Awards at the Arizona Regional Future Cities Competition. With this award came the opportunity to showcase their cities at the Desert Botanical Gardens. On Feb. 23, the two teams presented their projects as part of the Sustainability Solutions Festival that was celebrated state-wide throughout the month of February. The festival was sponsored by Arizona State University's Walton College of Sustainability.

The students presented to Rob Walton, the former CEO of Walmart, as well as CEOs and university professors from around the world.

Jennifer Szoltysik, Desert Wind Blended-Learning instructor stated, "They were impressed by our students' knowledge of sustainability, engineering and project management. Each student was also called up on stage and given a framed certificate. Mrs. [Shannon] Hull and I are extremely proud of these students for representing blended learning and Desert Wind Middle School so well." Team members included:

Team Gronn Vekkelse - Alysa Huffman, Henry McCloskey, Parker Hunsaker, Project Manager - Matt Whitley, Alternate - Kian Pack

Team Novos Comecos - Savannah Shelabarger, Jordan Levy, Rhiannon Reed, Project Manager - Jaden Pyle, Alternate - Landen Thomas ■



Team Gronn Vekkelse



Team Novos Comecos

Maricopa High School DECA Club delivers best performance

On March 1, the Maricopa High School DECA Club delivered their best performance to date at the State Career Development Conference.

Competing against more than 2,600 student competitors and 90 Arizona high schools, MHS DECA brought 27 student competitors to the state conference and returned with 30 medals. MHS DECA dominated in team role plays in the areas of Marketing Communications, Travel and Tourism, Hospitality, Buying & Merchandising, and Sports & Entertainment Marketing as well in individual role plays of Business Service Management, Apparel & Accessories Marketing, Quick Serve Restaurant Management and Hotel & Lodging Management.

MHS earned 21 first place rankings in these competitions. Eight students went on to finals,

with four students qualifying for the International Career Development Conference April 22-27 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Juan Carrillo, MHS junior and MHS DECA chief marketing officer, was elected Arizona DECA state officer for the 2016-2017 school year. He will represent all rural schools and serve on the Arizona DECA Executive board. Chosen from more than 80 applicants, Juan ran along with 15 other candidates for one of the coveted eight state officer positions. Additionally, MHS alumna Valeria Ortiz took third place in Collegiate DECA's state conference representing Northern Arizona University.

DECA is an organization dedicated to emerging young leaders and entrepreneurs in the fields of finance, hospitality, management and marketing around the world. ■

Maricopa Wells and Desert Wind Teams Place at State Competition

We are proud to announce the 2016 winners from Maricopa Wells and Desert Wind Middle Schools at the Arizona State Regional Future City Competition held on Jan. 23 at Arizona State University.

Sixteen teams represented Maricopa Unified School District at the competition and eight different teams won 17 different awards. Many of these awards also came with a monetary prize and a plaque that will be proudly hung in the respective school site's blended learning classroom.

From Maricopa Wells, Team Ba Shoileir placed second in state. Team members included - Megan Hahn, Erin Hildick, and Anabelle Dayley. Team Novos Comecos from Desert Wind, placed fourth in state. Team members included - Savannah Shelabarger, Jordan Levy, and Rhiannon Reed.

All Future City teams were from the Blended Learning classrooms at Maricopa Wells and Desert Wind Middle Schools. MWMS teachers are Robyn Rice and Joe Szoltysik and DWMS teachers are Jen Szoltysik and Shannon Hull. Both schools also had help from parent volunteers/engineers Gerry Hahn, Damon Hahn, Robb Witte and Christian Schrader.

Jennifer Szoltysik explained: "The success at this competition is the product of the blended learning environment at Desert Wind and Maricopa Wells. We utilize project-based learning that enhances the student's intellectual creativity. We are lucky to have such amazing students and the support of all of the parents in our program. We are thankful that the District supports the Blended Learning program at all of our schools." ■



MHS Music Groups Earn High Marks at ABODA Area Festival

On March 2, the Maricopa High School (MHS) Symphonic Band and Chamber Orchestra performed at the ABODA Area Concert Festival held at Desert Mountain High School in Scottsdale. Both groups excelled in their performances.

The Symphonic Band earned the second-highest rating of Excellent and the Chamber Orchestra achieved a superior rating, which is the highest possible. Both groups will advance to the State Concert Festival held April 26-28 at Chandler Center for the Arts.

Following their performance each group participated in an educational clinic. Both groups earned praise for being well-prepared and striving to realize the composer's intent in the music. The band earned praise for good tone, articulation, dynamics and balance and the orchestra earned praise for balance, blend, overall sound and use of dynamics.

Ivan Pour, MHS instrumental director commented, "This marks the first time ever two groups from MHS will perform at the State festival. The orchestra's Superior is the highest rating ever for any MHS group in the area festival. We are really proud of these students!" ■

MHS Theater Company Competes at Central Arizona Festival of Theatre

On January 30, students from the MHS Theatre Company competed at the Central Arizona Festival of Theater at Mesa Community College, led by Cynthia Calhoun, Fine Arts & Theater Teacher. Students competed in solo, duet, and group musical events as well as technical theatre.

Ashley Riecken (senior) competed in solo musical performance, earning a Superior rating from one of her judges. Ashley also competed in costume design, and earned an overall Excellent designation for her work on The Philadelphia Story.



Carlos Venegas (junior) earned Excellent ratings for his solo musical performance.

Nikolas Mase (junior) earned Superior and Excellent ratings for his solo musical selection (which included an operatic aria).

Shelby Hanks (senior) earned straight Superior scores for her solo musical performance.

Senior Patrick Decker and freshman Aleya Call earned Excellent scores for their musical duet.

The students also performed "With Cat-Like

MHS Band, Orchestra and Winter Guard Win Awards in Anaheim



March 3-6, the Maricopa High School Band, Orchestra and Winter Guard took their fifth biannual trip to Anaheim, California, to participate in a national festival sponsored by Worldstrides On Stage Programs.

Students performed at the Rose Center Theater in Westminster, California. The orchestra, band and Winter Guard all participated in instructional clinics as part of the trip. The students enjoyed visiting Disneyland, Universal City Walk and an awards ceremony held in Disney's Fantasyland Theater.

"This year marked some of our best performances in this program since we began these trips back in 2009," Director Ivan Pour stated. "Our band and

orchestra earned a silver award (the second-highest award), and our Winter Guard earned a gold award (the highest rating available). The MHS orchestra concert master, junior Joseph "Kyle" Ferland, was recognized with a Maestro Award for outstanding musicianship. For the third time, the entire MHS group was awarded the Spirit of Anaheim award for outstanding teamwork and outstanding representation of our school and community."

Mr. Pour went on to say: "These are truly wonderful students that Maricopa can be proud of and it is a joy and privilege to be able to work with these students learning about making music each day in class and a joy to see their hard work pay off on stage!" ■

Tread" from Pirates of Penzance (the MHS fall musical) for the group musical performance. Actors included: freshmen Brandon Korritky and Aidyn Curtis; juniors Carlos Venegas, Nik Mase, Tyler Curtis, Dylan Stradling, Sarah Ledbetter, and Mahkai Ball; and seniors Seth Hendrickson, Ashley Riecken, Ashley Lynn, Shelby Hanks, and Maria Santillan.

In addition to these amazing performances, Shelby Hanks was selected to compete at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, NE this summer. ■

MUSD Staff Honored by Chamber of Commerce

On Jan. 23, the ninth annual Maricopa Chamber of Commerce Community Awards Banquet was held at the Elements Event Center at the Ak-Chin Multi-tainment Center. Several MUSD employees were recognized.

MHS teacher Bernadette Russoniello was named “The 2016 Teacher of the Year” for the City of Maricopa. Bernadette teaches Journalism, Yearbook, and CTE Marketing and serves as the advisor of the DECA Club.

According to the MHS student who nominated Bernadette: “She is greatly involved in all aspects of student development, especially in teaching life-skills through DECA and CTE classes. Mrs. Russoniello has given me so many opportunities to develop early career opportunities, to become involved in the community, and has taught me leadership skills. She does so much that she is never rewarded for and gladly puts in time to help any student.”

Chris McDonald was also nominated for Teacher of the Year. He teaches at Maricopa High School, where he teaches Algebra and is head varsity football coach. The nominator stated: “His vision for MHS is to establish a culture of expectation and success in academics and sports.”



Bernadette Russoniello



Chris McDonald

Jim Shoaf, MUSD Transportation Department, was named the 2016 Volunteer of the Year. Jim was nominated for his work with the Mountain View Community Church’s food bank. This organization reaches over fifty families weekly by providing food and other items. In addition, Jim assists the FOR Maricopa Food Bank by getting turkeys for the community Thanksgiving dinner. Jim also recently completed a coat drive with the Cub Scouts.

Jim Irving was also nominated for the Volunteer of the Year award. For years, Jim has volunteered at MHS assisting students with career choices and college considerations. He is a fierce advocate for student development and faculty cooperation to ensure each student’s education is maximized. In past years Jim served as a member of the MUSD Governing Board. He is also a member of the City of Maricopa Planning Commission. ■



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April 12th
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April 13th
Track @ Apache Junction @ 3:30
Boys Tennis vs AZ College Prep @ Anderson Jr. High @ 4:00
Varsity Softball vs Veritas Prep @ Papago SB Complex @ 3:45
Varsity Baseball vs Scottsdale Christian @ Home @ 4:00
JV Baseball @ Scottsdale Christian @ 3:45

April 14th
Girls Tennis @ Casa Grande @ 4:00
JV Softball vs Casteel @ Home @ 3:45

April 15th
Track Invite @ Westwood @ 10:00
Girls Tennis vs Mountain View Marana @ Home @ 3:30
Boys Tennis @ Buckeye Union @ 3:30
Varsity Baseball vs Casa Grande @ Salt River Fields @ 6:00
Freshman Baseball @ Casa Grande @ 4:00
JV Baseball @ Casa Grande @ 4:00

April 19th
Varsity Softball vs Apache Junction @ Home @ 4:00
JV Softball @ Apache Junction @ 4:00

April 20th
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JV Softball vs Vista Grande @ Home @ 3:45
Varsity Baseball @ Sierra Linda @ 3:45
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JV Baseball vs Sierra Linda @ Home @ 3:45

April 22nd
Track- Southeast Valley Championships @ Queen Creek
Varsity Softball @ Tempe @ 4:00
JV Softball vs Tempe @ Home @ 3:45
Varsity Baseball vs Tempe @ Home @ 6:00 — Senior Night
Freshman Baseball @ Tempe @ 3:45
JV Freshman Baseball @ Tempe @ 3:45

Oxi Fresh of Maricopa gets new owner, stays in family

By Raquel Hendrickson

David Wedel took over ownership of the Oxi Fresh Carpet Cleaning franchise in Maricopa from his father-in-law, David Knapp, at the end of March.

Oxi Fresh has franchises in 45 states and British Columbia. Wedel has been in the business for six years.

“I like to see instant results,” he said, “that instant gratification when the customer didn’t have any hope for their carpet.”

Sometimes it is a special-case cleaning, but usually his work is regular maintenance for home and office carpets. The franchise must take in a certain number of households, so Wedel’s extensive area includes Maricopa.

“It’s about everywhere from Goodyear to Tempe and south on I-10,” he said.

While his wife Amy home-schools their children (four boys and two girls), Wedel is his only employee to cover that wide territory.



Submitted

In his first year as franchisee, he wants “to build a strong, repeat clientele and keep busy in Maricopa, so I don’t have to drive so much.”

Though he works out of his Senita home, Wedel said for “Google purposes” he would like to share a storefront with a local business.

Originally from Germany, Wedel came to the United States to attend Bible school. He met Amy, who also comes from a strong religious background, and they married in 1999.

Six years ago, after he lost his government

job in North Carolina, they moved to Arizona to be closer to her parents. David and Crystal Knapp are heavily involved in ministry and mission work and live in Mesa.

Family is important for the Wedels, even over long distances.

“Amy and I love to travel,” Wedel said. “Two years ago, we took the family back to Germany for two months. And now my sister is coming here for five days.”

By taking over his father-in-law’s franchise, he is keeping an established business all in the family.

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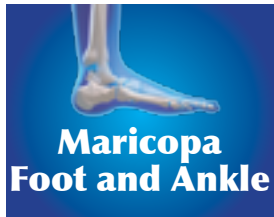
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Maricopa dentistry expands practice, services

By Yvonne Gonzalez

Maricopa dentistry has expanded with the purchase of Maricopa Fiesta Dental. Dr. Tim Taylor started Arizona Associates in Dentistry in 2005, changing locations in 2010 before recently acquiring neighboring practice at 21116 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite B-7.

The graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago dental school has been practicing dentistry for 26 years.

The new location, at what was Maricopa



Dr. Tim Taylor

Submitted

Fiesta Dental, will allow for expanded hours and more space.

“Combining practices, we basically doubled up on the people who work for us, so it allows us to do more,” Taylor said.

He said they now have eight employees who can offer more times and cleanings for patients. Taylor’s practice had been closed Fridays while he taught at the Arizona School of Dental and Oral Health in Mesa.

“We’ve been growing every year since we’ve been out here,” he said. “Our patients send us a lot of referrals; we can’t thank our patients enough for that.”

Maricopa Fiesta Dental’s Dr. Matt Roper and Dr. Nathan McLaws approached Taylor about buying their practice, Taylor said.

Taylor said McLaws is staying on.

“Dr. Roper was dealing with a family illness and that’s what prompted this sale,” he said. “They had done their research on me and we kind of had similar philosophies.”

Taylor said he grew up in a small town of 2,000 people and Maricopa is big in comparison.

“I first started coming down here before anything was built out here,” he said.

He said everyone weathered hard times from about 2009 to 2012, and “we came through it fine.”

“We try to make it a fun environment,” he said. “Most people don’t like going to the dentist. We try to help that out as much as we possibly can.”

Taylor lives in Chandler with his wife Jill.

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Focus on behavior leads to achieving outcomes

By Aaron Gilbert

“This time around, I really mean it when I say I’m going to lose 20 pounds and keep it off!” “My doctor says I need to lower my bad cholesterol levels; I really need to stop eating junk food!” “Next year, I’m going to beat my Spartan Race time by 10 minutes!”

Any of this sound familiar? Let me guess, this isn’t the first time you’ve aspired to accomplish a health or fitness goal and experience lackluster results at best.

If you have a strong desire to accomplish a fitness goal, that’s a great place to start, but it’s not enough to inspire actionable events that will lead to meaningful results.

Setting goals that actually work is the best place to start.

Set Behavior Goals

Everybody wants things. There’s nothing wrong with wanting things. It’s basic human nature.

The problem is that just wanting things isn’t enough, even if you want this something really, really bad.

Why? Because we can’t control outcomes. Outcomes are affected by environmental factors like your job, your hectic family life, bad weather. And we can’t forget physical elements like getting sick, stressing out,

aging ... you get the idea.

The bottom line is you can’t make your body do what you want it to.

You can only control what you do. That’s why behavior goals are so powerful — they focus on what we do have control over.



Aaron Gilbert



Behavior goals represent your commitment to put into practice a set of actions or tasks every day.

Here’s a practical example.

Eat slowly, drink a full glass of water before and during each meal, and give your body 20 minutes to digest fully before considering eating anything else. I know, this doesn’t translate to losing 20 pounds immediately, but it is a proven, science-based method that will contribute to you feeling fuller and eating less.

Since these steps help with eating less, and eating less can contribute to weight loss, these strategies help turn a behavior (controllable) into an outcome (uncontrollable).

What to do next

1. Write down your health and fitness goals.
2. Identify smaller, “controllable” steps you can put into action that, when applied consistently, will get you closer to reaching your goals.
3. Perform these steps (i.e. control your behaviors).
4. Focus on what to do, rather than on what not to do.
5. Contact me if you have any questions, or would like some assistance on your journey.

Aaron Gilbert, CSCS, is the owner of Longevity Athletics.

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2 drops DoTerra wild orange essential oil
4 coconut water ice cubes

Juice the first set of ingredients using a juicer and citrus press, and then blend with the rest of the ingredients. Enjoy!



A combination of juice and smoothie, a SmooJuice contains a mix of nutrients and fiber.

Crysti Fiorello Photography

Juice v. Smoothie: The impact on your health

By Claire Bullivant

I said I would be letting you in on a few Bead & Berry trade secrets, and I’m going to share one recipe with you today. It’s a unique combination of juice and smoothie that you won’t find anywhere else.

I love juices, and I love smoothies. Juices have the advantage of bringing all the nutrients of fruits and vegetables directly to your bloodstream. And because juices are so concentrated, you can pack more nutrients from a large quantity of produce into your body in one quick shot that would take hours of equivalent chewing.

Smoothies, on the other hand, keep the fiber from the plants because you blend the whole food, which is great for your body.

Because the effect of juices enters your bloodstream more quickly, your blood sugar levels can spike and then drop. The fiber in smoothies helps your body keep its blood sugar levels constant longer. So I tried to create a drink that would give that quick impact of a juice, but would maintain the fiber for a longer effect. Enter the SmooJuice.

This one is the cherry pepper, and most of the ingredients are known to fight inflammation, especially of joints in the body. Use frozen coconut water instead of ice. Coconut water has five naturally occurring electrolytes that naturally hydrate the body — so everything in this SmooJuice has a good purpose.



Claire Bullivant

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Phil Wazny, NMD

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Barbara Frey
Family Nurse
Practitioner



Benjamin Harding
Licensed Clinical
Social Worker



Janna Roberts
Board Certified Family
Nurse Practitioner



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Delta Dental grant to serve Stanfield schoolchildren

The Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation announced its 2016 annual grant awards. Nearly \$600,000 was distributed to 34 Arizona community groups, including Sun Life Family Health Center.

Sun Life received a \$15,000 grant over the next three years to implement school-based oral health screening services in Pinal County. The organization will target schoolchildren, ages 6 and older, for these services. Sun Life is proposing to serve 600 children per year in school districts of Casa Grande, Eloy, Florence, Stanfield and Arizona City.

Oral health screening services will be provided on-site at elementary schools in the designated districts, as well as health fairs and community events throughout the county.



PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

Janna Roberts

Education: Associate's degree in Nursing (Rio Salado College 2009), master's in Nursing (Grand Canyon University 2013)

Hometown: Chicago

Reside in: Chandler

Family: 3 children ages 20, 16 and 15

Pets: 2 dogs (puggles)

Hobbies: Snow sports and water sports. Any down time on the beach too.

Pet peeve: Repeating myself

Dream vacation: Multi-country and multi-continent extended vacation to tour Asia, Europe and Australia and South America.

Like most about Maricopa: "Everything" is mostly on one street!

Like least about Maricopa: Everything is mostly on one street – quite small compared to a larger metro area.

FAVORITE ...

Charity: Singleton Mom's - Helps single mothers with cancer.

Book: Once We Were Brothers by Ronald H. Balson

Movie: The Blind Side

Actor: Kevin Kostner

Musician: Dave Grohl

Team: Da Bears

Athlete: Miss Walter Payton tons, was a great person



Food: Sushi, any day any time

Drink: Red Red Wine...

Restaurant: Lon's at the Hermosa in Paradise Valley

Getaway: San Diego; wish I could go more often. Prescott is a close 2nd.

Website: www.TravelZoo.com Great deals there!

Quote: "Don't get so busy making a living, that you forget to make a life." - Dolly Parton

Words to live by: Live life with no regrets.



Chronic fatigue syndrome still a mystery to science

By Lindsey Gemme
Sun Life Family Health Center

Nearly 20 percent of people in the United States who suffer from chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) have not even been diagnosed, which means you could be in the other 80 percent who are in the dark without a name for the fatigue and sundry other symptoms that plague them.

CFS, though, is still as mysterious to the medical world as it is to many who suffer its effects. All that is known about this medical condition is that it manifests itself as chronic, unexplainable tiredness that persists for six months or longer, impedes every-day activities and lowers a person's quality of life.

Some researchers suspect the manifestation of CFS could be a result of Virus or infection, genetics, brain abnormalities, hypersensitive immune system, psychiatric or emotional conditions (especially related to childhood trauma such as sexual or emotional abuse) and/or stress-related hormone imbalances.

Although CFS has affected both sexes at all ages, females are diagnosed more frequently, and more often aged 50 and older.

What makes this condition even more baffling, and frustrating for the person afflicted, is fatigue is not the only symptom. More often than not, CFS is coupled with

fibromyalgia, leading many researchers to believe these two seemingly separate illnesses are rather different manifestations of the same illness. But that is still unknown. CFS is also commonly linked to depression.

Some of the common areas in which medical professionals help CFD sufferers are encouraging a healthy diet, sleep management and gradually managing an exercise regimen. These treatments are often implemented alongside the prescription for antidepressants and other medications.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is another valuable healing system to help a person with CFS get back in control of his or her life. According to the University of Maryland Medical Center, "The primary goals of CBT are to change any distorted perceptions patients have of the world and of themselves, so they can change their behavior accordingly."

That means changing patients' beliefs about themselves, about their life, the condition of their health, and find ways to assist the patient in changing those negative, self-defeating beliefs into hope and positive thoughts and actions.

This is especially important for CFS patients who are also depressed.



Dr. Joseph Edwards
Medical Doctor



Danielle Jennings
Board Certified
Women's Health
Nurse Practitioner



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William Lange

Maricopa cook turns necessary gluten-free diet into tasty business

By Raquel Hendrickson

When Kariann Noeltner discovered her newborn daughter had celiac disease, she knew it would mean a change for the whole family.

Celiac is an intolerance for gluten.

Her daughter Hailey learned early to ask questions about any food served to her. Noeltner, who was a cook on a commercial fishing boat, had to learn to serve meals that were gluten free.

"She has never known what she's been missing," Noeltner said.

Her husband Mike, an unapologetic gluten lover, became her test kitchen. If it didn't pass Mike's taste buds, it did not get served again.

When Hailey reached the age of going to birthday parties, where she could not eat the cake, Noeltner took up the task of baking items that could be shared with everyone.

Noeltner never considered baking her forte, but she comes from a line of accomplished cooks, so she went at it with gusto. Her goods became a hit, even in demand.

In November, she started her home-based business, Our Little Secret Gluten Free Bakery. The secrecy comes from not even realizing the ginger snaps or lemon snaps are gluten free.

"This is food with edited ingredients that you wouldn't know was edited," she said.

Besides the snaps, she creates Evil Bites and Mud Buds and date bars. Some recipes she will rest awhile as she tests something new at special events.

Cooking gluten-free and healthy was always a little easier for her than coming up with new recipes for baked items. Her personal favorite meal is her baked "fried" chicken, which she shared with InMaricopa. [📌](#)

[Facebook.com/OLSGF](#)

Kariann Noeltner is owner of Our Little Secret Gluten Free Bakery.

Baked "Fried" Chicken (Gluten-free)



I have served this to friends and family for years without them ever knowing anything was missing (i.e. the gluten). It is my favorite recipe for picnics, BBQs, family gatherings and at home.

Coating Mix" available at Fry's.)

1 to 1½ cups ground corn flakes and/or chips (I usually use a combination of gf corn flakes and salt/pepper potato chips — or whatever I happen to have in the cupboard.)

INGREDIENTS

1 package chicken thighs, skin on (I usually use a family pack size so we have leftovers)
Enough salad dressing to coat all of the chicken (you can use any salad dressing you like; I usually use a homemade vinaigrette or Italian).
1/2 cup flour
1 to 1½ cups ground corn flakes or chips

INSTRUCTIONS

Marinate the chicken in the dressing for at least an hour — preferably several.

Preheat oven to 375°.

Create coating with:

1/2 cup flour (I usually use white rice flour or oat flour — haven't found one yet that doesn't work, so use what you have. If I have it available, I will use "Hodgson Mills GF Seasoned

Season to taste; salt, pepper, powdered garlic, powdered onion, etc. — have fun with it. (If you use the "Hodgson Mills" referred to above, then the seasoning is already done for you.)

Blend your coating mix.

Coat the marinated chicken pieces. (You can do this by shaking them in a plastic bag or rotating the chicken pieces through the coating on a plate.)

Place coated pieces in an oven-safe pan. (I use a cast-iron pan, but a baking pan works just fine.)

Place in the oven on the middle rack and bake for 45 minutes. Check temp with a meat thermometer.

Chicken will be golden brown and crispy on top. It goes great with mashed potatoes and steamed veggies.

'Pathway to Purchase' helps renters become homeowners

By Pat Lairson

The Maricopa real estate market is holding steady with 424 active single-family dwellings available for sale as we enter the month of April.

Almost 20 percent of those listings are in Province with 82 homes available for sale in this subdivision. About 240 homes are currently pending on the MLS since February, and we have about a 90-day supply of inventory at this rate.

These numbers indicate a strong real estate market in both listings and sales. The rental market is still hot, hot, hot, with only

31 homes available to rent in Maricopa. This low availability of homes to rent makes it very difficult for some renters to find a home.

If you are a renter that would like to own a home but don't quite have enough saved to get into a home, there is help for you. There is a new government grant loan program called "The Pathway to Purchase" available for renters who are ready to purchase.

The city of Maricopa is one of the cities chosen to receive these funds.

The buyer can receive up to 10 percent of the purchase price of the home up to \$20,000 for down payment and closing costs. The buyer needs a minimum of a 640

FICO score. There are some other criteria the buyer needs to meet, but it is a pretty simple and straightforward loan.

For anyone with a qualified FICO score, this could be your ticket into buying a home. When the grant money runs out this type of loan availability will be over. So if you are interested ask your Realtor to direct you to a lender that can help. [📌](#)

Pat Lairson is a Realtor with The Maricopa Real Estate Company.

[PatLairsonRealtor.com](#)
520-280-5862



Pat Lairson

New home design features detached garage

The Planning Division of Maricopa Development Services shared KB Home's introduction of a detached garage option — a new home design option for Maricopa.

With this option packaged with the original home construction, the City cites a goal of the 2040 Vision to "provide housing diversity for all ages and income levels."

The approved plans include these optional detached garages with three configurations:

- Strictly used as an additional 2-car garage
- A 1-car garage with one bay converted to a guest house studio with powder room
- A 1-car garage with one bay converted to a workshop

The optional detached garages do not take the place of the attached garages featured on all existing plans, and all the City's prohibitions on secondary dwelling units within this single-family community remain in effect. The new offering from KB Home is currently approved for the Homestead North Subdivision in Parcels 7 and 9. [📌](#)



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Homes sales

Median sales price: \$159,900 Median price per square foot: \$82.89 Median square feet: 1,871 Median days on market: 50
Maricopa home sales Feb. 16 - March 15, 2016. Source: Arizona Regional Multiple Listing Service

Subdivision	Close of Escrow Date	List Price	Sold Price	Price/Sqft	Address		Approx Sqft	Beds	Baths	Pool	Days on Market
Acacia Crossings	3/15/16	135,000	140,000	85.41	44887	W Gavilan	1639	3	2	None	37
Acacia Crossings	3/10/16	165,000	152,000	107.65	45167	W Gavilan	1412	3	2	Private	42
Acacia Crossings	3/11/16	144,900	140,500	86.51	45177	W Portabello	1624	3	2	None	43
Acacia Crossings	3/7/16	179,900	177,900	70.53	41725	W Somerset	2522	4	3	None	70
Alterra	3/15/16	149,900	151,000	104.42	44998	W Zion	1446	3	2	Private	11
Alterra	2/25/16	129,900	130,000	93.53	45401	W Desert Garden	1390	3	2	None	16
Alterra	3/4/16	159,900	160,000	61.19	44782	W Sage Brush	2615	4	2.5	None	25
Alterra	2/19/16	200,000	200,000	65.81	44991	W Jack Rabbit	3039	5	3	None	38
Alterra	3/11/16	164,900	159,000	80.87	45329	W Desert Cedars	1966	3	2	None	55
Alterra	3/9/16	215,000	210,000	81.74	45067	W Desert Garden	2569	4	3	Private	169
Alterra	2/25/16	199,999	197,000	59.68	17738	N Carmen	3301	4	3.5	None	183
Cobblestone Farms	2/19/16	180,000	180,000	82.04	44549	W Venture	2194	3	2	Community	24
Cobblestone Farms	2/19/16	175,000	175,000	68.36	21816	N Greenland Park	2560	5	3	Community	30
Cobblestone Farms	2/19/16	159,900	159,900	104.51	44137	W Venture	1530	3	2	Community	35
Cobblestone Farms	3/10/16	215,000	207,000	91.35	44531	W Redrock	2266	3	2	Community	65
Cobblestone Farms	2/26/16	219,900	215,000	54.71	43915	W Adobe	3930	5	3	None	161
Cobblestone Farms	2/19/16	139,000	130,000	71.08	44587	W Bella	1829	3	2	Community	200
Cobblestone Farms	2/29/16	138,000	142,140	92.96	44142	W Venture	1529	3	2	Community	275
Desert Cedars	3/10/16	179,000	179,000	71.46	44131	W Cypress	2505	4	2.5	Private	6
Desert Cedars	2/26/16	130,000	145,000	74.85	43963	W Buckhorn	1937	3	2	None	7
Desert Cedars	3/1/16	187,900	180,000	92.26	18412	N Primrose	1951	3	2	Private	50
Desert Cedars	3/11/16	229,900	229,900	73.80	44254	W Windrose	3115	4	2.5	Private	57
Desert Cedars	2/29/16	139,900	133,000	84.55	44226	W Cypress	1573	3	2	None	66
Desert Passage	2/26/16	222,931	219,990	95.52	40592	W Dennis	2303	4	2	None	68
Glennwilde	3/7/16	149,900	149,900	113.13	19448	N Portarosa	1325	3	2	Community	11
Glennwilde	2/26/16	164,900	164,900	74.95	41217	W Capistrano	2200	3	2.5	Community	20
Glennwilde	3/2/16	243,990	243,990	106.69	19135	N Falcon	2287	3	2	Community	22
Glennwilde	3/8/16	149,900	152,900	85.41	41314	W Laramie	1790	3	2	Community	78
Glennwilde	2/29/16	152,500	152,500	95.13	18478	N Arbor	1603	3	2	Community	63
Glennwilde	3/7/16	204,900	201,900	79.02	41317	W Lucera	2555	5	2.5	Community	178
Hidden Valley	2/19/16	109,900	95,000	52.14	7382	N Maple	1822	4	2	None	255
Homestead	2/24/16	119,000	116,000	108.81	40060	W Sanders	1066	3	2	None	49
Homestead	2/26/16	172,500	168,500	91.38	41087	W Hayden	1844	3	2	None	64
Homestead	3/4/16	185,000	186,000	65.56	41324	W Hayden	2837	4	3	None	88
Homestead	2/25/16	182,900	180,000	97.93	40047	W Walker	1838	3	2	None	153
Homestead North Parcel 25	2/24/16	179,900	171,000	67.62	40408	W Novak	2529	4	3	None	39
Maricopa Meadows	2/17/16	139,900	138,900	113.95	19479	N Miller	1219	3	2	Private	9
Maricopa Meadows	2/24/16	115,000	107,000	72.94	45986	W Guilder	1467	3	2	None	17
Maricopa Meadows	2/25/16	99,750	95,000	58.82	45570	W Amsterdam	1615	3	2.5	None	22
Maricopa Meadows	2/29/16	149,900	145,000	99.72	46073	W Barbara	1454	3	2	Private	23
Maricopa Meadows	3/15/16	154,900	150,000	98.10	45509	W Windmill	1529	4	2	Private	25
Maricopa Meadows	2/16/16	127,900	126,750	69.95	45652	W Amsterdam	1812	3	2.5	None	38
Maricopa Meadows	2/25/16	179,900	173,000	94.02	45520	W Dutchman	1840	4	2	Private	39
Maricopa Meadows	2/26/16	149,900	155,000	76.51	46058	W Tulip	2026	3	2	None	43
Maricopa Meadows	3/11/16	128,000	125,000	92.59	46185	W Long	1350	3	2	None	45
Maricopa Meadows	2/20/16	125,000	129,000	89.08	46137	W Windmill	1448	4	2	None	46
Maricopa Meadows	3/11/16	137,000	137,000	75.77	45508	W Barbara	1808	3	2.5	None	62
Palo Brea	3/15/16	129,900	131,000	70.24	43986	W Palo Teca	1865	3	2	None	65
Province	2/25/16	139,900	135,000	111.75	42469	W Jawbreaker	1208	2	2	Community	11
Province	2/29/16	145,900	145,900	124.38	42168	W Basie	1173	2	2	Community	37
Province	3/14/16	264,500	247,500	145.67	42400	W North Star	1699	2	2	Community	47
Province	3/4/16	220,746	220,746	141.14	19748	N Ibis	1564	2	2	Community	52
Province	2/26/16	238,500	224,500	141.82	20133	N Laguna	1583	2	2	Community	63
Province	3/4/16	199,000	195,800	123.69	20194	N Riverbank	1583	2	2	Community	64
Province	3/11/16	178,900	175,000	109.51	20508	N Lemon Drop	1598	2	2	Community	65
Province	3/7/16	169,500	164,500	104.44	42018	W Dorsey	1575	2	2	Community	76
Province	3/10/16	229,900	219,000	82.17	42742	W Misty Morning	2665	2	3.5	Community	102
Province	2/17/16	279,900	250,000	80.80	21039	N Get Around	3094	3	3.5	Community	140
Province	2/22/16	339,000	300,000	129.75	42429	W Jail House Rock	2312	2	2.5	Both	226
Rancho El Dorado	2/24/16	157,500	155,000	101.50	42444	W Colby	1527	3	2	None	1
Rancho El Dorado	3/15/16	249,600	245,000	74.85	43613	W Bravo	3273	4	3	None	3
Rancho El Dorado	3/15/16	159,900	157,000	82.89	43249	W Anne	1894	3	2	Private	6
Rancho El Dorado	3/15/16	267,900	262,000	86.84	21568	N Backus	3017	5	3	Private	6
Rancho El Dorado	3/15/16	124,900	124,900	102.38	43904	W Bedford	1220	3	2	None	8
Rancho El Dorado	3/9/16	134,900	132,000	97.27	43208	W Anne	1357	3	2	None	14
Rancho El Dorado	2/29/16	179,000	175,000	103.85	42367	W Chambers	1685	3	2	Private	20
Rancho El Dorado	2/16/16	249,900	249,000	107.65	22112	N Vargas	2313	3	2	Private	34
Rancho El Dorado	2/22/16	134,900	133,797	93.17	42586	W Sunland	1436	3	2	None	48
Rancho El Dorado	3/4/16	135,000	131,500	88.79	22767	N Davis	1481	3	2	None	50
Rancho El Dorado	2/29/16	175,000	160,000	113.64	21297	N Falcon	1408	3	2	Private	52
Rancho El Dorado	2/16/16	149,989	145,750	86.50	42582	W Bunker	1685	3	2	None	54
Rancho El Dorado	2/25/16	169,900	172,000	78.75	42623	W Hillman	2184	4	2.5	None	65
Rancho El Dorado	3/7/16	151,900	155,000	70.91	42442	W Hillman	2186	3	2.5	None	70
Rancho El Dorado	3/1/16	379,990	330,000	104.04	22340	N Balboa	3172	4	3	Private	70
Rancho El Dorado	2/19/16	229,900	220,000	67.13	21536	N Denton	3277	5	3	None	84
Rancho El Dorado	3/15/16	234,000	234,900	108.19	42844	W Venture	2171	3	2	Private	106
Rancho El Dorado	3/3/16	249,500	239,000	103.37	43625	W Hillman	2312	3	2	Private	106
Rancho El Dorado	2/23/16	147,700	142,000	61.21	21928	N Braden	2320	4	2.5	None	108
Rancho El Dorado	2/29/16	144,900	140,000	68.69	41298	W Park Hill	2038	4	2.5	None	110
Rancho El Dorado	3/3/16	169,500	175,000	66.71	43305	W Michaels	2623	4	3	None	111
Rancho El Dorado	3/4/16	125,000	125,000	84.45	41628	W Sunland	1480	4	2	None	121
Rancho El Dorado	2/29/16	154,600	157,500	101.81	41980	W Sunland	1547	3	2.5	Private	133
Rancho El Dorado	2/19/16	219,600	212,000	94.81	42646	W Colby	2236	4	2.5	Private	170
Rancho El Dorado	2/26/16	199,000	198,000	85.64	22022	N Vargas	2312	4	2	Community	173
Rancho El Dorado	3/11/16	172,000	170,000	88.59	22326	N Vargas	1919	3	2	None	176
Rancho Mirage	3/1/16	149,900	151,500	82.74	38115	W Merced	1831	3	2	None	12

Subdivision	Close of Escrow Date	List Price	Sold Price	Price/Sqft	Address		Approx Sqft	Beds	Baths	Pool	Days on Market
Rancho Mirage	2/26/16	214,900	210,000	65.58	37984	W San Capistrano	3202	4	3.5	Private	37
Rancho Mirage	3/9/16	179,900	179,900	78.90	38185	W Montserrat	2280	4	3.5	None	56
Rancho Mirage	3/1/16	192,000	195,000	94.11	19499	N Pratt	2072	4	2	None	68
Rancho Mirage	2/26/16	130,000	127,100	53.22	37415	W Vera Cruz	2388	3	2.5	None	615
Saddleback Farms	3/8/16	169,900	169,900	99.94	32560	W Peters And Nall	1700	3	2	None	53
Saddleback Farms	2/19/16	119,900	95,500	53.06	11388	N Russell	1800	4	2	None	193
Santa Rosa Springs	3/4/16	155,110	155,110	92.99	17223	N Rosemont	1668	2	2	None	20
Santa Rosa Springs	2/19/16	129,000	105,500	77.40	42228	W Calle	1363	3	2	None	66
Senita	3/3/16	194,000	194,000	82.59	42807	W Magnolia	2349	4	2	None	24
Senita	3/15/16	124,900	123,000	89.78	42990	W Camino De Janos	1370	3	2	None	27
Senita	3/11/16	205,000	205,000	54.87	42751	W Arizona	3736	5	3	None	31
Senita	2/19/16	135,000	134,000	88.80	18590	N Comet	1509	3	2	None	36
Senita	3/15/16	156,900	147,500	81.17	42929	W Elizabeth	1817	3	2	None	49
Senita	3/15/16	194,900	193,000	82.19	19008	N Lousandra	2348	4	2	Private	58
Senita	2/29/16	148,900	145,500	80.12	43325	W Blazen	1816	3	2	None	121
Smith Farms	3/4/16	129,900	133,000	80.45	40332	W Peggy	1653	3	2.5	Community	19
Smith Farms	2/29/16	162,500	163,000	72.83	40209	W Art	2238	3	2	Community	34
Smith Farms	3/7/16	155,000	152,000	81.24	40247	W Green	1871	3	2	Community	108
Smith Farms	2/29/16	134,900	127,000	70.43	40402	W Peggy	1803	3	2.5	Community	246
Sorrento	3/1/16	169,900	171,500	60.92	37003	W Oliveto	2815	4	3	None	10
Sorrento	2/29/16	209,900	202,500	55.97	36956	W Oliveto	3618	4	3	None	23
Sorrento	3/11/16	130,000	131,500	90.75	36780	W Mediterranean	1449	3	2	None	28
Sorrento	2/25/16	112,500	112,500	73.53	37108	W Bello	1530	4	2	None	53
The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado	2/19/16	399,900	399,900	140.36	22105	N Diamond	2849	4	3	Private	46
The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado	2/25/16	138,900	138,000	110.57	41369	W Little	1248	3	2	None	51
The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado	2/24/16	174,900	170,000	71.64	21368	N Denver	2373	4	3	None	62
The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado	2/19/16	189,900	160,000	48.82	40751	W Colby	3277	5	2.5	None	628
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	3/15/16	149,900	149,000	97.06	19973	N Emmerson	1535	3	2	Community	7
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	3/4/16	165,900	166,000	67.31	44183	W Neely	2466	4	2.5	Community	9
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	2/24/16	219,900	219,900	78.70	19992	N Santa Cruz	2794	4	3	Both	10
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	3/4/16	199,900	187,000	70.75	43834	W Kramer	2643	4	3	Community	12
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	3/3/16	254,900	240,000	70.27	43239	W Delia	3415	5	2.5	Both	16
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	2/29/16	155,000	155,000	94.69	20608	N Jones	1637	3	2	Community	17
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	3/3/16	149,900	148,000	90.63	44456	W McClelland	1633	4	2	Community	18
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	3/15/16	164,900	157,500	96.21	20486	N Jones	1637	3	2	Both	20
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	2/29/16	279,000	269,000	84.48	43504	W Snow	3184	4	3	Both	35
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	2/24/16	209,900	214,900	96.67	43223	W Neely	2223	4	2	Both	44
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	3/15/16	149,900	140,000	87.22	44024	W Neely	1605	3	1.75	Community	61
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	3/11/16	172,500	166,000	78.26	43242	W Neely	2121	4	2	Community	93
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	3/3/16	179,900	173,901	79.05	43248	W Wallner	2200	4	2	Community	98
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	3/11/16	214,900	200,000	57.01	43499	W Bailey	3508	5	2.5	Community	108
The Villages at Rancho El Dorado	2/25/16	134,900	131,000	80.41	21006	N Leona	1629	3	2	Community	144
Tortosa	3/7/16	165,000	158,000	60.55	36541	W Costa Blanca	2609	5	2	None	13
Tortosa	2/26/16	144,900	145,000	71.53	36366	W Velazquez	2027	4	2	None	15
Tortosa	3/15/16	122,000	120,000	98.36	19320	N Toledo	1220	3	2	None	28
Tortosa	3/15/16	119,500	119,500	83.62	36290	W Prado	1429	3	2	None	31
Tortosa	3/4/16	124,700	124,000	61.63	19043	N Vemto	2012	3	2.5	None	47
Tortosa	3/10/16	189,900	187,000	68.12	36291	W Bilbao	2745	5	2.5	Private	56
Tortosa	2/19/16	140,000	140,000	69.58	36218	W Prado	2012	3	2.5	None	68
Tortosa	2/22/16	159,995	145,000	94.52	18836	N Toledo	1534	4	2	Private	75
Tortosa	3/15/16	214,000	205,640	60.12	36577	W Bilbao	3420	6	3.5	Private	102
Tortosa	2/23/16	224,350	220,000	56.40	35948	W Catalan	3901	5	4	None	111
Tortosa	2/25/16	124,900	124,900	91.23	36484	W Montserrat	1369	3	2	None	130
Tortosa	3/14/16	224,900	215,000	62.71	19894	N Toledo	3428	5	3.5	Private	134

MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD



22105 N. DIAMOND DRIVE

Raquel Hendrickson

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa in the past month was in The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado. The single-level home with four bedrooms and three bathrooms sold for \$399,900. It has a self-cleaning swimming pool and fronts one of the lakes the subdivision is known for. Its closing price was 12.6 percent higher than when it last changed hands in December 2014.

Date closed: Feb. 19
Purchase Price: \$399,900
Square feet: 2,849
Price per s.f.: \$140.36
Days on market: 46
Builder: Meritage
Built: 2008
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 3

Community: The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado
Features: 15,682-square-foot lot, private pool, lakefront, upgraded floors and cabinets, custom entertainment center, reverse osmosis
Seller's agent: Merrill A. Jencks, West USA Realty Revelation
Buyer's agent: Ryan Atwood, ProManage Realty, LLC

LEAST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD

45570 W. AMSTERDAM ROAD

The least expensive home sold in a Maricopa HOA in the last month was in Maricopa Meadows. The two-story home with three bedrooms and two and a half baths sold for \$95,000. The closing cost came in more than \$2,000 below the list price, but it was a 73-percent improvement over its 2011 sales price.

Date closed: Feb. 25
Purchase Price: \$95,000
Square feet: 1,615
Price per s.f.: 58.82
Days on market: 22
Builder: KB Home
Built: 2005
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5
Community: Maricopa Meadows

Features: All appliances were included, watering system, 5,175-square-foot lot, covered patio, RV gate
Seller's agent: Jon R. Cooper, Cooper Premier Properties
Buyer's agent: Dale Dresel, HomeSmart Success



Raquel Hendrickson

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Balancing Act

Maricopan builds showstopper with odd talent

By Raquel Hendrickson

When Stephanie Shiflett first saw the man she would marry, he was in a church talent show.

"I thought, 'Who would do that?'" she said.

"That" was balancing a series of odd objects on his chin — from a broom to a 30-foot ladder.

It's a skill that has landed Kevin Shiflett in talent shows and as the featured performer during Utah Jazz halftime shows.

The Shifletts married a year ago and moved to The Villages at Rancho El Dorado. Kevin works in Phoenix for a contractor with Homeland Security. Stephanie has taught at Butterfield Elementary School for six years.

Together, they are building an act.

Kevin Shiflett is the guy in the spotlight eliciting gasps. Stephanie has helped work on the timing, sequencing and just the right music.

Originally from Mesa, Kevin, 30, first realized he had the skill when he was 10 years old after trying to imitate a circus clown who balanced objects on this chin. He and his brother got out a broom to find out how difficult the act was.



Kevin Shiflett of The Villages hoists a ladder with his chin at Copper Sky Regional Park. He has performed at event for the Phoenix Suns and Utah Jazz.

Raquel Hendrickson

"My brother couldn't do it, but I could," Shiflett said.

Because the broom was the first prop he balanced, he keeps it in his act. The broom stick also taught him to "find the stick" in every prop he lifts for best balance. As long as he can lift it, he can usually find the balance point.

"I just want it to evolve into bigger and better things," he said.

That is essential as the Shifletts work to build the act from parties and talent shows to a showstopper. A big step in that direction came when he won a Utah Jazz Halftime Talent Search in Salt Lake City. Part of the prize was getting to perform his act at halftime of a Utah Jazz basketball game last year. He did so again Feb. 25.

He performed for an event the Phoenix Suns hosted for Verizon employees on March 2.

Shiflett starts small and builds the act with larger and larger objects. Stephanie suggested laying out the smaller props on a long folding table at the beginning of the show and working his way through them and then to items that are rolled out (for

instance a bicycle and a wheel barrow) and at last to the table itself.

He can't see the audience because his head is back, but he hears the response build, until the final "You gotta be kidding!" or "I called it!" when the table goes up.

"There's nothing better than hearing people expressing excitement," he said.

He does not use a chin strap or other gear. The only thing between his chin and his props is a few whiskers "for friction." He has not been injured and has never dropped a prop. Besides pressure on his jaw, the act does put weight on his back, but nothing that a good massage doesn't relieve.

Shiflett is entirely self-taught simply because finding a mentor is difficult with such a small pool of people with his odd talent to draw from.

He said he was contacted last year by "America's Got Talent." The timing was off (he had a broken ankle — not from the act), but Shiflett says he will explore the possibility again.

As the Shifletts try to expand their horizons with his unique talent and find larger audiences, they like the new home they have found in Maricopa.

"Being from a small town, it's great to still get that small-town feeling," said Stephanie,



Raquel Hendrickson

Stephanie and Kevin Shiflett have been married a year. She has helped him build his chin-balancing act.

who is from Taylor in Navajo County.

"It's more community. You get to know more people. It's still growing," Kevin said. "We have to think, 'What else is to come in Maricopa?'" [📌](#)

[📌 ChinBalancing.com](#)
[📌 @ChinBalancer](#)

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Deadline to vote is April 20.

Do you have the best mom?

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[📌 BestInMaricopa.com](#)

Proposed arts expo turns to crowdfunding

By Raquel Hendrickson

Arts patrons can be hard to come by.

An arts spectacular that is planned to be a three-season expo in Maricopa is turning to crowdfunding. Supporters can go to its page on HatchFund.org and pledge any amount of money. If the requested total is not met by a certain date, no money is given to the project.

Maricopa Arts Council wants to raise \$8,000 by May 9 through HatchFund.org for its ambitious "Got Arts, Maricopa?" exposition. The real crowdfunding goal is \$11,800. Ultimately, MAC is trying to raise \$51,000 for the entire enterprise.

Plans are to start the Arts Expo in September, introducing three new events

to Maricopa as it runs through spring 2017. MAC will also incorporate ongoing arts-related events under the umbrella of "Got Arts, Maricopa?"

All funds raised through HatchFund.org go to venue rentals, videography and sound recording, publicity and printing, instrumental rentals and artist fees.

John Janzen, a member of the MAC board, said the expo is a way to bring attention to all of the artists living in Maricopa, many of whom other residents are unaware. "And we've got a lot."

Janzen is director of Maricopa Chorus. "It will delight, excite and amaze and permanently invigorate the city while launching a new era in Maricopa arts," said Judith Zaimont, a MAC director and composer.

She said there are already many arts-related events throughout the year, but they are sporadic and only a few people seem to know about each one. The goal of the arts expo is to bring all of those events



to a broader audience.

New events include a free October Performance Showcase featuring Desert Sun Performing Arts, Maricopa Music Circle Chamber Orchestra and Maricopa Chorus, a World Music Showcase with Taiko drumming and a Native American ensemble, and a free Studio Crawl, a drive-yourself tour of seven artist studios with on-site receptions.

A Poetry Slam with adult and student competitors will be introduced. Copa Shorts Film Festival will also debut. Look for the Chalk Arts Weekend at UltraStar Multi-tainment Center and a new Student Choreographers competition.

"Got Arts, Maricopa?" will also include established events like Art on the Veranda, Maricopa Community Theatre productions, Maricopa High School Theatre Company, DSPA's recitals, Maricopa Chorus, Maricopa High School and MMC concerts. [📌](#)

[📌 HatchFund.org/project/got_arts_maricopa](#)



1

1. Anita McLeod with her photographs at new installation at City Hall. *Photo by William Lange*
2. Maricopa Artists' Gallery is changed out quarterly in the hall next to council chambers at City Hall. *Photo by William Lange*
3. Artist Kaui Wilson (in red) mingles with art lovers at the city hall opening March. 15. *Photo by William Lange*
4. Susan Cameron displays her animal-themed work in the city hall exhibit, "Totally Maricopa."

Photo by William Lange

5. Carrie Vargas and Kati Trast starred in Maricopa Community Theatre's "Blithe Spirit" March 10-12.

Photo by Raquel Hendrickson

6. Jennifer Hawkins showed her art at Bead & Berry's "Totally Abstract" exhibit put on by Maricopa Arts Council March 15. *Photo by Raquel Hendrickson*



2



3



4



5



6



Jake Johnson

Les Miserables

High school troupe to perform renowned musical
By Raquel Hendrickson

“Les Miserables” is a heavy tome of societal rebuke, French history and spiritual salvation. It’s also a heck of musical.

Maricopa High School Theater Company is taking on the renowned work for its spring musical April 21-23.

In the story, based on the novel by Victor Hugo, young Jean Valjean is imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his sister’s family. His stay is prolonged many years by his persistent attempts to escape. When he is finally paroled, it is under the watchful eye of distrustful officer Javert.

After abuse from every community for being a parolee, Valjean is heavily tempted to turn to a life of crime but is saved by a surprisingly forgiving act by a local bishop. Over the next several years, Valjean changes his name and becomes a successful business

owner and respected member of society.

One of his factory workers, Fantine, is unjustly fired by a manager and falls into abject poverty. When she dies, guilt-ridden Valjean adopts her daughter Cosette. But Javert has found him out, and Valjean and Cosette flee to Paris, where he tries to build a new life again.

Many years later, Cosette falls for a freedom fighter among a band of revolutionaries being investigated by none other than Javert. It isn’t long before he connects the dots to Valjean, and the stage is set for a showdown between the longtime adversaries.

“It’s a fascinating and interesting story of redemption and everything you can possibly do to find redemption and atonement,” said MHS Theater Company Director Cynthia Calhoun. “For me, the story is really told by

Teacher Cynthia Calhoun directs the huge cast in the musical version of “Les Miserables.”

the bishop. He’s the first one who actually gives forgiveness to Jean Valjean.”

The Tony Award-winning score is by Claude-Michel Schonberg and Herbert Kretzmer. It was one of the longest-running musicals on Broadway and was made into a film in 2012 starring Hugh Jackman and Russell Crowe.

“I’d heard about it and I’d listened to the music, but I never thought it would be a possibility to actually do the show,” said Carlos Venegas, who plays Valjean in the MHS production. “It was just one of those things like, ‘Oh, that would be nice.’ I didn’t think it would happen in high school.”

Nikolas Mase plays Javert.

“I watched the movie when it came out and I really wanted to be Javert, but I knew we weren’t going to do it anytime soon,” Mase said. “Maybe later on in life. I really loved the character and the depth, and I loved the songs.”

Venegas said he appreciated Valjean’s character development throughout the show.

“At the beginning he’s a convict, then he accepts that he’s a convict almost and even attempts to steal, but then flip-flops back to that righteous man who was a good man and consistently stays that way,” he said. “Yet, I also like how he ages throughout the show.”

“We’ve talked a lot about the characters in terms of how they have a moral compass,” Calhoun said. “There are moments where Valjean has one that he rediscovers. Javert has a very strict moral compass. Whether we agree with it or not doesn’t matter so much as when he loses it. And that leads him to question everything that he has known in his life.”

“A lot of their relationship relies on how Javert perceives as right in the moment,” Venegas said.

Even beyond the complexities of the story, “Les Miserables” is a massive musical with 70 cast members. Almost all of the dialogue is sung.

“It’s been very challenging,” Venegas said. He said sometimes it can be easier to memorize lines in a musically-heavy work instead of straight play because music is easier to remember than dialogue.

Principle actors have worked with their own vocal coaches and one-on-one with

“I like that it’s historical and not a lot of fluff and nonsense, and it shows a lot of the genuine emotion of the time period.”

– Josie Sherwood, student musical director

Calhoun. She credits Carrie and David Vargas for their “amazing help” and other resources.

Mase was student director of last year’s “Jekyll & Hyde” and played the major general in the fall production of “The Pirates of Penzance,” an operetta with few spoken lines. He was also in Maricopa Community Theatre’s production of “The Snow Queen.”

The student musical director for “Les Miserables” is Josie Sherwood, who also plays Fantine. She has also musically directed for MCT.

“I like how controversial it is. There’s a lot of deep meaning behind it,” Sherwood said. “I like that it’s historical and not a lot of fluff and nonsense, and it shows a lot of the genuine emotion of the time period.”

Calhoun said some content has been edited for time.

“It’s important to keep it as true to the original as possible, especially as we’re dealing with a book. Victor Hugo based his book on what he was actually seeing in Paris at the time. He saw essentially Fantine and how she was being treated, and that’s where the book came from.”

IF YOU GO

What: “Les Miserables”
When: April 21-23, 7 p.m. (2 p.m. Saturday matinee)
Where: Performing Arts Center, Maricopa High School, 45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
Who: Cast includes Carlos Venegas, Nikolas Mase, Josie Sherwood, Kjirsten Lemon, Shelby Hanks, Jeron Hlebasko, Seth Hendrickson, Tyler Curtis, Aaron Harrison and many more
How much: \$5 for students, \$7 for adults.
Info: 520-568-8100

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Taking part in a recognition ceremony at Maricopa City Hall were (from left) MUSD Superintendent Steve Chestnut, MHS senior Donald Grace, Mayor Christian Price, AHS senior Derrick Gray, Krystal Hagler, Zelmer Hagler (aka Sincere D.I.B.), Nicholas Sheppard and Jaysie Sheppard.



Donald Grace (left) of Maricopa High School and Derrick Gray of Apollo High School (pictured with Maricopa Mayor Christian Price) are among four senior nominated for Black History Month scholarships.

Ministry raising funds for Black History Month scholarships

Story and photos by Raquel Hendrickson

Maricopa ministry has begun a year-long kickoff of an effort to reward leadership among African-American students.

During Black History Month in February, the Flock Ministries, founded by Nicholas and Jaysie Sheppard, identified four nominees for its first scholarships. They contacted schools in Maricopa and in the Valley to find students meeting this year's criteria of being African-American male seniors with good grades and a reputation for good character.

Of those who met the standard this year, three were from Maricopa and one was from Glendale.

"It sounds like a great idea," said nominee Donald Grace. "I'm glad they're helping people out, like in my situation, people who could definitely use the help that they're providing."

Grace will be graduating in May from Maricopa High School along with fellow nominees Johnny Johnson Jr. and Devaughn Sutton. Derrick Gray was nominated from Apollo High School.

The nominees were given certificates of appreciation on Feb. 27 by Flock Ministries, Doing It Big Entertainment (Up Next) and the City of Maricopa at a brief ceremony at City Hall. Mayor Christian Price and Maricopa Unified School District Superintendent Steve

Chestnut spoke at the gathering.

"We're going to start it here in Maricopa and then we're going to spread it," said Zelmer Hagler, who performs rap as Sincere D.I.B. and owns Doing It Big Entertainment. "We have a whole list of things we want to do in the city."

During this year, organizers will host fund-raisers to create the first scholarships to be presented at a Black History Ball being planned for February.

Jaysie Sheppard said it was important for the students to have black leaders to look up to in the community, but it was also important for her children to see black students being recognized for their achievements.

She thanked the students for "awesome character that you show to the community, showing great behavior in the classroom and then academic success. And that is so important today, because your wisdom is our future, is our black history."

Next year, organizers will seek female seniors to recognize.

Grace, who attended the City Hall ceremony with parents Donald and Merry Grace and his brothers, is trying to decide between Arizona State University and University of Arizona. "I'm kind of more interested in economics because I've been taking it in high school," he said.

Gray is mulling football scholarships that are already available to him and is also investigating baseball scholarships.

"I kind of want to go into teaching because my father is a teacher," Gray said, adding he found mentorship in his family and his coaches. His parents, Derrick and Felisha Gray, were with him at the presentation.

Hagler said organizers notified schools around the Phoenix area about the scholarship opportunity, but ran into a surprising roadblock. "We couldn't even find three in [Phoenix] because their grades were so low."

He said it was another reason he wanted to recognize those who put in the work.

"We just want to show we appreciate what they're doing and their work hasn't gone unnoticed," he said. "We want to continue to encourage them to go farther and just let them know they have mentors and different people here to help them."

Nicholas Sheppard said he started the foundation because of how important mentors were to him. He and Jaysie played professional basketball.

"So now it's time for me to give back," he said.

lockMinistries.com
TPAHoops.Weebly.com

Maricopa High School Sports Honors

Student-athletes from Maricopa High School received state honors at the end of the basketball season.

Senior Johnny Johnson Jr. and his brother, sophomore Josh Johnson, both received First Team All Section Basketball honors for Division III Section V.

The Johnsons led most categories for the Rams basketball team, which finished the season 17-11. Josh was Maricopa's leading scorer averaging 19.9 per game. He also led the team in assists (110) and steals (91). His 103 rebounds (3.8 per game) were third on the team, and he shot 52 percent from the field.

Johnny was second in scoring with 19.4 points per game. He led the team in rebounding with 125 (4.8 per game) and was second in assists (65) and steals (76).

In girls' basketball, three Rams received sectional honors.

Seniors Danae Ruiz and Raegene Womack and Junior Tyra Williams were named Second Team All Section for Division II Section VI.

Ruiz led the 24-7 Rams scoring 15.8 points per game. She also led in steals (63) and was third in blocks (13).

Womack was the team's top rebounder (193), second in scoring (13.5 ppg) and third in steals (41).

Despite missing seven games due to hand injury, Williams stormed back and averaged 13.7 points on the season. She was second on the team with 143 rebounds.

Sophomore Sydni Callas was an honorable mention. Her 61 steals were second best, and she finished fourth in scoring.



Danae Ruiz



Johnny and Josh Johnson



Raegene Womack



Tyra Williams

Photos by William Lange

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NCVRW 2016 Calendar of Events

Monday, April 11th—Maricopa

4th Annual Jerry Good Victims' Rights Awareness Project Kickoff and Child ID Event, Copper Sky Complex, 5pm-8pm—Free movie "Heaven's Rain" begins at 6:30pm

Tuesday, April 12th—Florence

Pinal County Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Volunteer Recognition, Old Court-house—**Closed to the Public**

Wednesday April 13th—Maricopa and Apache Junction

"Diversity and Restoring Hope" breakfast w/speaker Melissa Mel, Maricopa Police Department Copper Sky Substation, 9am-11am

"Raising Hope": Child ID Event, AJ Police Department, 5pm-7pm

Thursday, April 14th—Casa Grande and Superior

Crime Victims' Compensation Training, Superior Municipal Court, 10am-11am

Crime Victims' Compensation Training, Casa Grande Police Department, 2pm-3pm

Friday, April 15th—Casa Grande

Candlelight Vigil and Community Event, Harkins at Promenade Plaza, 4pm-8pm - Free movie "Heaven's Rain" begins at 4:00pm





Submitted

The Arizona Seals, a competitive youth swim team that has been in Pinal County for 12 years, made Copper Sky its new home this season.

Seals swim team finds new home at Copper Sky

By Raquel Hendrickson

The Arizona Seals have made a splash in their new home at Copper Sky Aquatic Center. Their short course yards (SCY) season ended in March, and the team is preparing for the long-course schedule.

“I could not be more proud of this group of kids, and we are so excited to be in Maricopa at the Copper Sky facility,” coach Laura Logan said.

The competitive youth swim team was founded in 2004 as part of the Central Arizona College’s Sports & Fitness program. The Seals moved to Florence before landing at Copper Sky in November.

“We needed a pool, and Copper Sky had a recreation team but not a competition team,”

Logan said.

While the Seals pull swimmers from Casa Grande, Coolidge, Florence and Arizona City, the recent moves lost some team members.

“Now that we’re in Maricopa, we just want to grow it back,” said Logan, who lives in Casa Grande.

She called Copper Sky’s Recreation Manager Rocky Brown and Aquatics Coordinator John Garton “so awesome” in their willingness to have the competitive team practice at the facility.

About 30 Seals competed in the SCY season.

In the March state meet in Oro Valley, Madison Skubisz, 12, scored 22 points for the team. She finished eighth in the 200-yard

breaststroke and dropped her time by 3.18 seconds. She was 10th in the 1650 freestyle in 20:04.47, an improvement of more than a minute. She was 15th in the 500 freestyle and the 100 breaststroke.

She also competed in the 200 butterfly and reached the finals in the 200 individual medley.

David Koltz, 14, competed in four events at the meet. He improved his 1000 freestyle by 3.06 and reached the finals. He also swam the 100 butterfly, 200 fly and 100 backstroke.

Olivia Byers, 12, took 1.39 off her time in leading off the 400 freestyle relay. She also led the 200 medley relay and swam the 50 backstroke.

Kaesha Guillaume, 9, swam the 200 freestyle, and Paige McGinnis, 11, swam in the 200 freestyle relay.

Logan said because of inexperience, two of the 12-and-under relay teams were disqualified for “rookie mistakes.” The third 12-and-under team of Paige, Kaesha, Olivia and Madison swam a 2:03.96 in the finals of the 200 free.

Six swimmers set team records this season:

- Julie Baltosser, 9-10 Girls 100 Breast
- Kaesha Guillaume, 9-10 Girls 100 Fly
- Aidan Skubisz, 9-10 Boys 1000 Free
- Madison Skubisz, 11-12 girls 500 Free, 1000 Free, 1650 Free, 100 Breast, 200 Breast, 200 Fly and 400IM
- David Koltz, 13-14 Boys 1000 Free
- Savannah McGinnis, 15 & Over 1000 Free

The first long-course meet is April 29.

laura.logan86@gmail.com
AZSeals.net



- 1. Maricopa High School senior Amber Cramer pitches for the Rams softball team, which has battled to keep an even record in the 2016 season. Photo by Raquel Hendrickson
- 2. The Ak-Chin Skate Jam drew young skateboarders from Maricopa and the Phoenix area to compete at Hohokam Park in the Ak-Chin Indian Community on March 12. Photo by Raquel Hendrickson
- 3. On Feb. 5-6 at Legacy Traditional School Maricopa students performed the musical Lion King Jr. Photo by Devin Carson
- 4. Sequoia Pathway Academy hosted the Canyon Athletic Association’s Robotics State Championship March 19. Photo by Raquel Hendrickson
- 5. Maricopa High School senior Josie Sherwood placed her artwork in two gallery shows and is the student music director and co-star in “Les Miserables” in the MHS Theater Company production. Photo by Raquel Hendrickson



Thanks Maricopa!

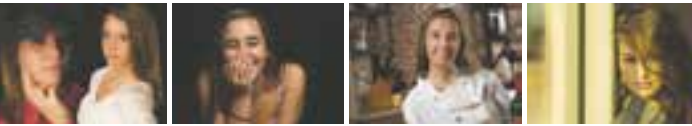
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The most important person in public education

By Murray Siegel

Which individual is the key to successful public education? Is it the teacher, or the student, or the parent or the school board president? Based on my 42 years of teaching experience, I can state that the building principal is the key to educational success.

Here are brief descriptions of the successes generated by two excellent principals for whom I have served. These two leaders made a real difference, and what they accomplished can be duplicated by all principals if we are concerned about who occupies the principal's office.

Kelly Henson was my principal in two high schools. He had only one year of teaching experience, so he left academics to his assistant principals and the department chairs. His focus was on elevating student and teacher morale.

An example of his skill involves student attendance. When teachers raised concerns about student attendance, Kelly devised an attendance incentive program for students. Exemplary attendance was rewarded with final exam exemptions, priority in the parking lottery and free prom tickets. Immediately our school's average daily attendance was the highest of all 14 high schools in the district. It was said that most teachers would walk through fire for Kelly.

Alec Ashbaugh was my principal at a

grade 1-7 elementary school. The district demanded all students work on grade level with no enhancement for students who could learn more. Alec recognized that many of his students were highly capable. He defied the district by hiring elementary-certified teachers who were experts in various subject areas.

In many classes students were learning material generally taught in high school and even college. Students were challenged, and teachers had an opportunity to really teach. Alec protected the faculty from the wrath of the district administration and students benefitted. He was a great academic leader but understood that administration was not his forte, so he found an assistant principal who would deal with discipline and logistics.

Both of my sons attended this school, and the education they received in mathematics and the sciences was superior to what might have been obtained in most elite private schools.

We must be concerned with the selection, continuing training, evaluation and rewarding of our school principals. If we focus on these, our schools will maximize both learning and teacher retention.

Murray Siegel is a Maricopa resident. He has a Ph.D. in Math Ed and 42 years of teaching experience. He and his wife Sharon volunteer at Maricopa schools.



Murray Siegel

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