

A man with glasses is looking through the neck of a guitar, which is positioned horizontally across the frame. The guitar's body is on the left and right, and the neck extends towards the center. The man's face is visible through the opening of the guitar's body.

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April 2017

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Raquel Hendrickson

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ON THE COVER: Joe Carpenter of Carpenter Guitar and Ampworks eyes a guitar he built in his workshop at his home in Rancho El Dorado.

Photo by Mason Callejas



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Perseverance pays off - eventually

This month's issue of InMaricopa speaks to perseverance — the kind of perseverance necessary to make a go of a home business like our cover subject Joe Carpenter has done for four years. Even while maintaining a busy day job in Phoenix, Joe has returned to his first love (guitars) and made it one of hundreds of home-based businesses that have inched into the Maricopa marketplace.

All economic development in Maricopa is a study in perseverance. Recent efforts to bring in new businesses have been up and down. As some developments, particularly Edison Pointe, come off hiatus and pull companies into town, the City of Maricopa continues its own efforts to populate the commercial property it owns. At the same time, City Hall is updating its economic development strategic plan. With all these business-building efforts, will 2017 be the year perseverance really pays off?

Avnel Hogan knows a thing or two about enduring in the Maricopa marketplace. He has owned Alternative Air for the past decade. In this issue, he explains his approach to business and service that has made him a mainstay.

You'll also meet Roger Thompson, a newcomer to Maricopa, who drove himself down a long and very painful road before realizing his true calling as a pastor.

Helen Brown knows about perseverance, too. Her determination to have live entertainment in Maricopa and a venue for seniors to showcase their talents has seen her dig into her own

pocket to make Spice of Life an annual event. It's now in its third year. Find out why the show is important to her.

And that's just the beginning of live entertainment in April. The theatrical kids at Maricopa High School and at Sequoia Pathway Academy have taken on challenging shows that couldn't be more different. For MHS, it's "Beauty and the Beast," a major musical production about a cocky young man living out a punishment caged up in a castle with a lot of wacky characters. At SPA, it is "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest," a drama about a cocky young man living out a punishment caged up in a psychiatric ward with a lot of wacky ... OK, maybe they are not completely different.

In these pages, you will also get advice on strength training from Aaron Gilbert, on proper poaching technique from Chef Neil Magbanua, on growing citrus from Betty Beeman, and on hiking safely from Misty Newman. Priscilla Behnke of Be Awesome Youth Coalition shares good news about local data, and City Manager Gregory Rose explains organizational values and the concept of iSTAR.

You'll read about others in the community who are working hard to reach their goals through talents, big hearts and, yes, perseverance.

Enjoy,



RAQUEL HENDRICKSON
Editor



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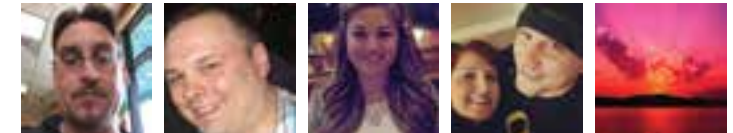
About Maricopa being named one of Arizona's safest cities

Toma Fitzgerald I've been here since 2008 and love it. Yes it has its crime but in comparison to other cities in the valley that I've lived in this is by far the best. Maricopa is awesome in my humble opinion. **Jean McCormick Brown** Maybe during the daylight hours, however I STILL won't go out after dark alone & NEVER for a walk. This place needs decent street lights and they don't have them here. If I had done my homework [like] I should have I'd have never moved here. At any rate the MPD is one of the best. **Joe Dionizio** I feel somewhat safe here, but if I had children I'd probably look for another place to live. The violent

crime rate seems pretty low, but on the other hand there's a lot of property crime and vandalism compared to places like Chandler. It seems like a lot of shady characters have moved here in the past few years as well.

Michelle Lowman I've lived in several Az cities, Copa for over 6 and is the safest one of them yet. Social media makes it SEEM like crime is worse than it is. But it still has that small town feel and is still super safe. I wouldn't live anywhere else in Az. **Gina Bella LaPoint** Well now that this is out there, more people will be moving into Maricopa. Love Maricopa **Lee A Hopper** Maricopa... red light running capital of the world **Jaime Cody Morales** It's safe because the people aren't scumbags, but yay mpd **Trina Gomez- Romo** We don't feel safe in Maricopa at all! I wish we still had the Sheriff dept... They where way better for us ... **Alan Suckerman** Congrats to my brothers and sisters at MPD

InMaricopa's recent followers on ...



Robert Robran Justin Stoller Amy House Priscilla Rodewald Elizabeth Gibbons



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1



2



3



4



5

1. Bernadette Russoniello of Maricopa High School was named Arizona DECA Chapter Advisor of the Year. Submitted

2. Ron Batt was given a farewell gift after stepping down from his post of many years on the city's Planning and Zoning Commission: (from left) Councilmember Henry Wade, Commissioner Bryon Joyce, Councilmember Nancy Smith, Batt, Commissioner Bob Marsh, Councilmmeber Peg Chapados, Commissioner Linda Huggins, Zoning Administrator Kazi Haque, Commissioners Ted Yocum, Michael Sharpe and Leon Potter. Mason Callejas

3. Top runners received medals and everyone received chocolate in the March 4 Sun Life "For the Love of Chocolate Run/Walk. Raquel Hendrickson

4. Elaine Peters, director of the Ak-Chin Him-Dak EcoMuseum, presented part of the history of the Ak-Chin Indian Community at the March 11 "Morning of History" hosted by Maricopa Historical Society. Mason Callejas

5. Steve Keim, general manager of the Arizona Cardinals, was the keynote speaker at Pinal 40's fund-raiser in Maricopa March 7. Raquel Hendrickson

6. The Copa Color Run March 18 caused a colorful dustup as participants started the 5K run. Raquel Hendrickson



6

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Concrete Faith: The long road for Pastor Roger

Story and photos by Mason Callejas

People have differing views on what motivates them to move from one place to another. For Pastor Roger Thompson of Calvary Chapel Maricopa, it was a matter of following divine guidance. When asked how he came to be in this desert town he simply smiled and said, “God.”

Thompson arrived in Maricopa last May via what he considers “the grace of God.” He has been tending the pulpit at Calvary Chapel since, delivering their nondenominational Christianity through “conversational preaching.”

“It’s called ‘expository Bible teaching,”’ Thompson said. “We teach through the Bible, not from it.”

This type of contextual learning is coupled with a sense of autonomy that is meant to give patrons a more personal relationship with their faith.

“Every Calvary Chapel stands alone,” Thompson said. “We don’t tithe into Calvary Chapel. Calvary Chapel doesn’t [financially] support us.”

At some point on his long and winding road to Maricopa, Thompson, or Pastor Roger as he prefers, developed a strong belief in the personal relationship with God. However, he didn’t begin his life so pious.

Growing up with a somewhat typical life in Riverside, California, Thompson raced dirt-track motorcycles, having his fair share

of Southern California fun, and almost never attending church. When he was 17 his parents separated, launching him on a rough path that eventually led to profound self-discovery and the development of his faith.

Finding himself unable to fill the void of a broken home, Thompson dropped out of high school, taking one of the few jobs someone without a diploma could get — pouring concrete.

He continued to race motorcycles and even did so professionally from 1983 to 1988, racing in the American Motorcycle Associations Flat Track series. In 1989, he and his junior-high sweetheart, Denise, both gave their hearts to God and married.

Thompson spent those early days in California learning about the concrete industry and eventually went into business for himself. After several years of success in

California, he and his family visited a friend and former employee of Thompson in Alabama. While there, they fell in love with the South.

A year or so later Thompson sold his California concrete business and relocated his family to the Cotton State, where he continued to work with concrete, eventually starting another successful concrete business in Huntsville.

“We moved to the South, and God really began to use us,” Thompson said.

In 2002, Thompson sold his business and took his faith to the next level, entering a three-year discipleship program just across the state line in Tennessee. He was ordained in Chattanooga and started the Calvary Chapel in Crossville.

Though his profession changed, Thompson never stopped riding. In 2007 the odds caught up to him and he suffered a life-altering

leg injury. Seven years, 12 surgeries and one terrible infection later, Thompson could again walk normally.



Pastor Roger reveals an impressive scar on his leg from a life-altering dirt-bike accident.

After recovering from his injury and handing off the church in Crossville, Thompson and his family went back to Alabama to start another church. This time, however, Thompson claims God had yet another plan for him.

The concrete business he sold prior to starting his discipleship was floundering. So, in 2013 he bought back in and helped turn it around.


In January 2016, on a trip to California, he learned of Calvary Chapel Maricopa’s need for a new pastor.

After a few months of prayerful consideration, Thompson was approached by another contractor offering to purchase his business. He took it as a sign.

Thompson applied for the Maricopa position and, after several interviews and a test sermon, was offered the job.

Calvary Chapel Maricopa is one of 1,400 Calvary congregations worldwide.

Calvary’s current congregation is around 140 strong, and though Thompson is happy with the size of his flock, he is always trying to share the good word.

“We want to reach the community through the transforming word of God’s love,” Thompson said. 

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Spice of Life not just any old talent show

By Mason Callejas



Organizer Helen Brown

Mason Callejas

The Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center will host the third annual Spice of Life Senior Variety Show April 8, bringing to stage talented, golden-aged performers from all walks of life.

They will demonstrate various talents from dancing and singing to comedy and magic.

Helen Brown, lead organizer for the event, hopes the show will provide a seasoned sampling of diverse cultures and musical influences while providing good, old-fashioned entertainment.

She had the idea to bring the show to Maricopa four years ago, after attending a friend's Spice of Life performance at the Chandler Performing Arts Center. After speaking with that event's organizers, Brown successfully convinced them to bring the show a little farther south to Maricopa. Only one obstacle stood in the way — money.

"The people here in Maricopa always say there is nothing to do here," Brown said. "So, I thought this would be a good show for them to see, and they don't have to leave Maricopa to see it."

She searched high and low for a sponsor but kept striking out. She first tried the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce which, she said, was unable to help due to financial limitations. She then tried F.O.R. Maricopa, which also was unable to help due to previous obligations.

In her steadfast efforts to deliver the show to Maricopa, Brown decided to cut out the middle man.

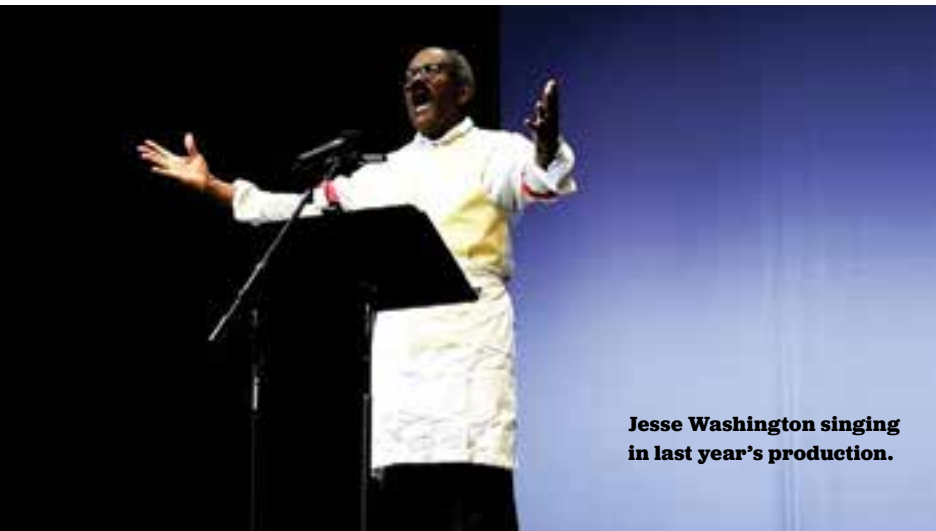
"I said, 'I'm going to just finance this thing myself,'" she said, "because I really want it to come here."

For the past two years, she has funded the show solely with proceeds from ticket sales and her own pocketbook. Helen's husband, Vice Mayor Marvin Brown, said don't be fooled by the limited budget. The talent is there.

"It's a wonderful show," Marvin Brown said. "It truly is amazing to see seniors performing at that level."

The show is part of the City of Chandler's production, and as such most of the performers are from elsewhere in the Valley. However the show will feature one of Maricopa's own — singer Michael Hunt.

Since he was 4-years-old and, Hunt, 66, has developed an "eclectic" style with great range



Jesse Washington singing in last year's production.

Michelle Chance

IF YOU GO

What: Spice of Life Senior Variety Show
When: April 8, 6 p.m.
Where: Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center, 45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
How much: \$15

that blends the rich tones of classic balladeers with modern R&B.

"I sing most genres of music," Hunt said. "But, my heart is into Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and even Sam Cook."

The April 8 show runs from 6-8 p.m. with a 15-minute intermission around 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at brownpapertickets.com, and at the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce at 44480 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 106.

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Junior racer chasing the pros

By Mason Callejas

Aiden Greene, 12, doesn't get pushed around on the mod truck racing circuit and has even landed sponsors.



Submitted

From the asphalt to the dirt track, a young Maricopa boy making his mark on the Arizona racing scene will enter his first major circuit April 8-9 in the Lucas Oil Regional Off-Road Series at Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park.

After spending the past few years setting records at the local K-1 Speed indoor go-kart track, 12-year-old Aiden Greene has said goodbye to indoor kart racing and stepped into another, more challenging series — mod trucks.

Bigger and faster than the typical go-kart, mod trucks are light-weight, high-power modified ATVs that resemble miniature off-road trucks. Aiden knew from the moment he saw the mod trucks running last year he wanted to be a part of this unique racing circuit.

Under the guidance of his father Paul, an avid racing enthusiast, Aiden took a liking to the sport. When Paul asked, “Do you think you could handle that, son?” Aiden jumped on the opportunity, and his dad began setting things in motion.

Paul Greene, who is also his son’s spotter, knows it’s typical for a father to boast about his son, but nonetheless he truly believes his son “is one heck of a driver.”

Breaking into the circuit wasn’t very difficult for Aiden. While racing at K-1, he held the fastest quarter-mile track time in Phoenix — 24.678 seconds, 16th fastest in the nation, Paul Greene said. Those track times were enough to catch the attention of a few meaningful parties and before they knew it, Aiden had a sponsor.

After attempting to purchase a truck on his own, Paul said he was approached by members of the Pinnacle Off-Road Motorsports team with a full sponsorship offer for Aiden. They put him in the driver’s seat of one of their own trucks, and covered him head to two in professional safety gear.


The safety gear alone costs nearly \$10,000, not to mention the vehicle its self.

Despite recent attention, however, Aiden remains a modest and reserved young man, who plays soccer and enjoys school. And though he is almost never boastful off the track, Aiden said, when he’s on the track he can get competitive.

“When I was racing at K-1 some people thought that since I was so young they could push me off,” Aiden said. “But when they pushed me off I would just come up on their tail and hit them in a turn.”

The circuit Aiden joins this year is one of the most competitive in the youth off-road class, Greene said. The ages of his competitors range from 10 to 16 years. The idea of racing older drivers weighs little on Aiden’s mind. For him, age is relative. What matters most is the time behind the wheel.

“It’s about having seat time, what they call getting a feel for the car,” Aiden said. “You just practice and get to know the car so you can go out there and win, win, win.”

With almost four years of kart racing experience under his belt it may very well be his competitors who are worried. 



1887

Courtesy Maricopa Historical Society

Maricopa water tower

The last of three massive water towers that marked the Maricopa area on the railroad tracks in the 1880s, the 60-foot water tower has become an architectural symbol of the town. One of its early brothers was apparently in old Maricopaville two miles west of the current city. Its better-remembered twin collapsed during a 1973 storm. No one knows when the surviving tower was constructed, but it existed when the first train left Maricopa in 1887. It held 50,000 gallons of water, and is now empty. These days, it is one of the most photographed sites in Maricopa.



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- 1 P&Z hears 3,000-home proposal on Anderson Road
 - 2 Trial date set in Maricopa child murder
 - 3 Valenzuela murder case moves forward with special prosecutor
 - 4 ADOT to host meeting about overpass
 - 5 2 Maricopa dirt bikers die in crash near Stanfield
 - 6 Overpass-caused demolition, relocation becoming reality
 - 7 Brian Winter comes full circle at Maricopa High School
- For these stories and more local news 24/7, visit **InMaricopa.com**.



ADOT to host meeting about overpass

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration, invites the public to an information meeting about the State Route 347 at Union Pacific Railroad project. The purpose of the meeting April 5 at 5:30 p.m. is to provide information and gather community input in advance of construction. ADOT, FHWA and the City of Maricopa completed a study to evaluate alternatives and identify improvements to access, capacity and traffic operations on SR 347 at the Union Pacific Railroad tracks through 2040. The study evaluated a future grade separation (bridge) to replace the existing at-grade intersection of SR 347 and the UPRR track. Final design has been ongoing and is scheduled to be completed this summer, with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in late 2017 and continue through late 2019.

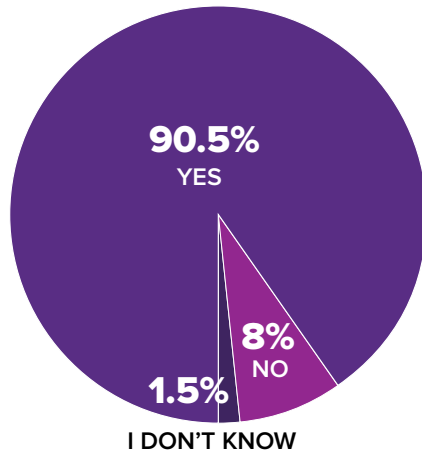
The project team will be available to answer individual and property-specific questions at the public information meeting. Maps and displays will also be available for viewing. The meeting is in the board room of the district office of Maricopa Unified School District. Prior to the public informational meeting, the project website at azdot.gov/347GS will be updated for review. For additional information, or to submit comments in writing, please contact ADOT Community Relations Project Manager Julian Avila by calling 602-320-7263, or emailing Javila@azdot.gov, or visit azdot.gov/347GS. If you have questions or comments, email projects@azdot.gov or call the ADOT Project Hotline at 855-712-8530.

IF YOU GO

What: Informational Meeting about SR 347 Overpass
When: Wednesday, April 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Presentation will begin at 6 p.m.)
Where: MUSD Board Room, 44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway
Who: The public is invited

INMARICOPA.COM POLL

As Maricopa prepares for a grade-separation at the UPRR tracks at SR 347, do you agree with the decision to build the overpass?



Total votes: 674
Source: InMaricopa.com March 3-18, 2017

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Strategizing economic development in Maricopa

By Raquel Hendrickson

The Edison Road extension is complete. Edison Pointe is finalizing leases. Commercial development at Copper Sky may also see some stimulation in 2017. Estrella Gin Business Park is still waiting for the light to shine. Pieces are in motion for construction of an overpass to begin this year. Developers are reviving nearly-forgotten subdivision plans. APEX Motor Club and Denny’s have shown plans to build in Maricopa.

Economic development in Maricopa is showing varying signs of progress this year as the city has studied approaches to growing the economic base of the community.

The improving economy has not necessarily created changes to the demographics of Maricopa. Denyse Airheart, the director of the city’s Economic Development Department, does not predict major changes to the methodology when the Economic Development Strategic Plan takes form this year.

“We target companies based off the assets of the community,” Airheart said.

That includes the youth (the average age of Maricopa residents is 33.8 years), income and education level of the population. Those selling points look much as they did three years ago.

A draft of the Economic Development Strategic Plan is scheduled to come before city council in April.

Maricopa may broaden its target sectors, Airheart said. Growth of employment opportunities within Pinal County, especially Casa Grande, may also impact the plan. But Maricopa is still selling itself.

Nailing down a description of Maricopa for prospective companies and creating a narrative of its future is not just a challenge for City Hall. Retail developers have had similar tests.

Edison Pointe

Edison Pointe, at the northeast corner of John Wayne Parkway and Edison Road, is about a year behind leasing a typical development of its size, according to Vintage Partners leasing director Casey Treadwell. He said it has been difficult educating retailers on the attributes of Maricopa.



Raquel Hendrickson

Economic Development Director Denyse Airheart is proud of the teamwork that created the Edison Road extension.

“I know it’s been frustrating for people wanting to see something going,” he said. At a Maricopa Advocates Program meeting in February, he predicted movement on the ground within a couple of weeks. But a month later, he said Vintage was still putting final leases in place.

Businesses he announced as part of the development are Ross, Burger King, Planet Fitness, Dunkin’ Donuts and Petco.

Mayor Christian Price has called it a game of enticement.

“The city’s doesn’t control economic development,” he said. “We can advocate for it and we can entice for it. We can go out and sell our wares as to why it’s a great place to be, but I can’t make somebody locate here.”

Copper Sky

The City itself knows the irritation of owning commercial property that stands empty for years. It has property at Copper Sky intended for commercial development since the park’s inception. An effort to develop the land may soon be renewed.

“In 2014 we went out to bid, and it just wasn’t the right time, we believe, for the

economy,” Airheart said. “We anticipate we would go out sometime in 2017.”

The conceptual plan includes mixed-use commercial, a hotel and a restaurant.

“What we envision there is a destination where people can go and enjoy themselves, where people can go and get an ice cream and sit and enjoy people-watching,” Airheart said. “As you know, we sort of don’t have that sense of place because of how quickly we sprung up.”

Edison Road

The City of Maricopa also owns commercial property at what is planned as the Estrella Gin Business Park. Luring companies to the site has been a struggle, but the six-year effort has produced a new roadway — the Edison Road extension.

Airheart calls the new road one of the proudest achievements of her department.

“All the partners had to work together to make Edison Road a project,” she said.

The road was completed in March and provides another bypass between State Route 238 and John Wayne Parkway. Using a federal grant, the city worked with private landowners and utilities for years to construct the road, which includes sidewalks, curb, gutter and a center median.

Estrella Gin

The road was created to access Estrella Gin, and that project has been a problem. The city contracted with The Boyer Company to market the flex space in the business park. That contract expires in June.

Matt Jensen, a partner in Boyer, said there has been a lot of interest from small companies needing only 1,200 square feet while the city is trying to market to industrial businesses. A couple of proposals have gone out to larger enterprises. There is also an ongoing discussion with the City of Maricopa about moving the fire department administration offices to Estrella Gin.

“That would actually be fantastic,” Jensen said.

Without leases in place, the city will not begin construction, but Airheart said the city is looking at “multiple options” if the contract expires without tenants being signed. She maintains a positive attitude about city-owned commercial property.

“A community that’s investing in itself means that it’s a healthy community. So we’re showing the development community there are investments to be made,” she said.

ADOT Makes an Offer

The Arizona Department of Transportation recently submitted offers to city officials to purchase four city-owned properties slated for demolition in preparation for the State Route 347 overpass. With the exception of one small segment of an MUSD parking lot, most city and county-owned properties have been offered between \$16 and \$18 a square foot, while privately owned properties could receive as little as \$9 a square foot. These figures, according to ADOT documents, were the “result of a review and analysis of an appraisal made by a certified real estate appraiser.”

1. Fire Admin _ 19685 N. John Wayne Parkway (67,550 Sqft)

ADOT Offer..... \$1,186,648 (\$17.56 / sqft)
Selling Price..... \$872,000 (4/27/07)
Full Cash Value \$113,750
Limited Cash Value \$82,700

**Information provided by City of Maricopa and ADOT.*

2. F.O.R. Food Bank _ 44625 W. Garvey Ave. _ .24 Acre (10,454 Sqft)

ADOT Offer..... \$190,000 (\$18.17 / sqft)
Selling Price..... (NOT GIVEN)
Full Cash Value..... \$316,254
Limited Cash Value..... \$316,254

**Information is based on Pinal County tax records.*

3. La Roca _ 19599 N. John Wayne Parkway (12,516 Sqft)

ADOT Offer..... \$212,772 (\$17.00 / sqft)
Selling Price..... (NOT GIVEN)
Full Cash Value..... \$57,000
Limited Cash Value..... \$52,743

**Information provided by City of Maricopa and ADOT.*

4. Copa Center _ 44571 & 44585 W. Honeycutt Road (15,525 Sqft)

ADOT Offer..... \$250,000 (\$16.10 / sqft)
Selling Price..... (NOT GIVEN)
Full Cash Value..... \$49,051
Limited Cash Value..... \$49,051

**Information provided by City of Maricopa and ADOT.*



5. Spoons _ 44616 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy. _ .36 Acre (15,600 Sqft)

ADOT Offer..... \$150,000 (\$9.61 / sqft)
Selling Price..... (NOT GIVEN)
Full Cash Value..... \$83,355
Limited Cash Value..... \$83,292

**Information is based on Pinal County tax records.*

6. MUSD Parking Lot _ 44240 Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy. (1,372 Sqft)

ADOT Offer..... \$9,050 (\$6.59 / sqft)
Selling Price..... \$10.00 (5/12/1988)
Full Cash Value..... \$82,052
Limited Cash Value \$64,851

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Alternative Air keeps it cool for 10 years

By Michelle Chance

Avnel Hogan and his team of air conditioning technicians have been keeping Maricopans cool in the desert heat for 10 years.

Hogan, owner of Alternative Air Heating and Cooling, takes an old-fashioned approach to business. He said he believes good customer service goes beyond ensuring every customer is satisfied with their service.

“I believe in old-type service where you go in a house and you’re polite, and you’re cordial, and you have a uniform on, and you have a truck that is clearly marked for the business,” Hogan said.

Hogan said 75 percent of his work is based in Maricopa. He also serves the East Valley and Casa Grande, and he has traveled as far as Tucson and Ajo for some of his regular customers.



Michelle Chance

Avnel Hogan has owned Alternative Air Heating and Cooling for 10 years.

However, Hogan said he hopes all of his business will be centered primarily in Maricopa one day. Hogan is an advocate for shopping local to strengthen the city’s economy.

“I wish consumers would hire local people more,” he said.

Hogan practices what he preaches as a consumer — and a business owner.

“Everyone I’ve ever hired has always lived here in Maricopa,” Hogan said. “I have never hired outside of Maricopa.”

Technicians with the company do more than just installing, Hogan said. They also do duct work and cleaning, and a myriad of other related services.

Since the business opened a decade ago, Hogan has refused to incentivize his staff with commissions.

While working for other businesses before founding his own, Hogan witnessed commissioned-based air conditioning companies focusing more on sales than on service.

“If they are commissioned-based, they are going to be selling you things you don’t need,” he said.

Hogan encourages customers to call around and research HVAC companies before hiring a technician to work on their cooling and heating units.

Outside of his business, Hogan is a thrill-seeker.

“I love motorcycles and high speed,” he said. In fact, he used to race motocross when he was younger.

Hogan also has an affinity for flight.

“If I could be anything it would be a helicopter pilot,” he said. “I (fly) in one every chance I get.”

But in his off-time, Hogan said he can usually be found underneath the hood of a car. Vintage Ford Mustangs are his favorite.

However, his business is always the priority.

Hogan said looking forward, he hopes to keep his business local, and to also keep it in the family by passing it on to his son, Gage.

The company is looking to hire two more positions in the spring.

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Mason Callejas

Bringing ‘joy of sound’ to electronic guitars, amps

By Fran Lyons

Joe Carpenter tells it this way: “I had a passion to work with and repair guitars and amps since I was a kid.”

That has turned into his business, Carpenter Guitar & Ampworks.

He speaks with great enthusiasm about adding depth and dimension, “that crunchy sound,” to acoustic and bass guitars. Inserting his brand of color and intensity, in his words, “the joy of sound,” to electronic guitars is what Carpenter wants to bring to the game.

Playing and fixing guitars and amps started casually with friends for the Hendrix-loving native of Indiana. He had his first guitar by age 8. Carpenter studied electronics in college and went on to become a technician. He also studied in Mesa and learned to build guitars.

After he and his wife Dorri married, they bought a home in Maricopa to settle down. That was in 2004.

Carpenter’s day job is in the semiconductor industry in Phoenix, where he works as a tech trainer. His company delivers, installs and offers training for their systems internationally. Most recently, his work took him to Israel in March.

“I used to travel a lot more often,” he said.

All of his experiences led him to develop and open his own business out of his home, initially called A to Z Guitar & Ampworks LLC. He typically works nights and Saturdays. His greatest support and influence, he said, has been Dorri.

“[She’s] 100 percent behind me and with me,” he said. “She’s there for me.”

Joe Carpenter

Owner

Carpenter Guitar & Amp Works

Hometown: Hobart, Indiana

Residence: Rancho El Dorado

Nature of business: Working on and repairing electronic musical instruments; specializing in guitars and amps

Why this business? Loved guitars since childhood.

How long in business? Since late 2013

Why Maricopa? The small-town feel

Family: Wife Dorri, who assists in the business with administration

Greatest challenge: Getting strategic planning and marketing in place to build the business, and stabilizing financial strength

First job: Summer job as teenager removing the tassels from corn at a farm

Favorite job: Anything to do with electronics in general, guitars and amps in particular

Best business advice ever received: My uncle counseled me, “Keep up the administration aspect and get help when necessary in a small business.”

Favorite Musician: Among many, overall it’s Jimi Hendrix

Joe Carpenter runs his Carpenter Guitar & Ampworks business out of his home in Rancho El Dorado. His day job is in the semiconductor industry.



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Stotz Equipment debuts new building

Stotz Equipment, an official John Deere dealer in Stanfield, showed off its new building with a grand re-opening March 22. The previous building at 37021 W. Hwy. 84 was owned by the Robinette family for several years and leased by Stotz as a satellite store for its Casa Grande operation.

Parts manager Benji Lyons said Stotz bought the property in 2016 and built the new building as an extension of the old building.

“It enables us to carry more stuff and serve our customers more efficiently,” he said.

In the past, Stotz Equipment has typically served the farming community around Stanfield and to the west. Lyons said the store will now be carrying “more homeowner stuff” to reach into the residential areas of Maricopa.



Michelle Chance



Michelle Chance

Business license applications from Avon to Zanovia

The following businesses applied for business licenses with the City of Maricopa Feb. 16-March 15:

Commercial: Maricopa Home Rentals LLC, Peachy Clean

Home-based: 911 Air Repair, Avon Cosmetics with Tina Rivas, Big Money SBC, Bob’s Ballistics, Cultivated Events, Dog Collar Boutique, Dr. Dusty Sowards NMD, Fight Farms, GDP Trendz, Julia’s Cookies LLC, Karen Stratman, Lauralee’s Creations, Leisa’s Luscious Lips, Little Bob Creations, Lori’s Beauty Boutique, LuLaRoe Gina Wrenn, Maricopa Garment Print, Maricopa Trikke, Nicole’s Osborne Books & More, OrganiKiss, Outside the Line, Paisley Cactus Design, Pazii

Cigars, Peaches and Dream Décor, Pure Romance by Natasha Sutton, Rawlins Cosmetics, Royal Home Watch, Seville’s Luxury Services, Solabstract Art & Photography, UMBUH, West Valley Printing, Zanovia’s Dress

Out of town: ATC Group Services Inc., AZ Bounce Pro, Blazing Deer Salsa Company, Danzarte Danza Folklorica, Elouise Jones, Hound Street Boutique, King Insulation of Arizona, The Lemon Hut, Patterson & Dewar Engineers, Pool Troopers, Promise Towing, Sandstorm Signs & Services, The Segal Company, Suds ‘N Such, Waffle Crush,

Peddler/Solicitor: Burke Ice Cream

Write Your Story at meet-and-greet

Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship is hosting a meet-and-greet for WYS Education April 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event will be at Copper Sky Recreational Complex, 44345 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The meet-and-greet will include activities and refreshments. It is in advance of the organization’s “You Evolution” Maricopa Women’s Conference.

WYS stands for “write your story.” The intent of WYS Education programs is to promote self-realization, insight and inspiration. It creates programs to empower and create interactive opportunities.



wyseducation.org
info@wyseducation.org
602-571-5707

Health inspection causes lunch disruption

Two Maricopa eateries of 20 inspected between Feb. 20 and March 15 received slight markdowns from Pinal County food inspections.

Leading Edge Academy was nicked when chicken sandwiches delivered by a catering company from Scottsdale were colder than the 135-degree hot-holding mandate. After being measured at temperatures between 122 and 132 F, five trays of sandwiches were discarded, and pizza was ordered for the remaining students.

The New HQ had four corrective actions requested by the inspector.

An employee was asked to set up correctly a three-compartment sink. A “mold like” substance was viewed inside the bar ice machine. Scoops were observed inside dry rice, salt and ice machines. The bar and kitchen did not have sanitizer test strips.

EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Desert Wind Middle School
- Honeycutt Coffee
- Jack in the Box
- Legacy Traditional School
- Native Grill and Wings
- Panda Express
- Pima Butte Elementary
- QuikTrip
- Rob’s Convenience
- Saddleback Elementary
- Santa Rosa Elementary
- Say Sushi

- Sequoia Pathway Academy K-6
- Sequoia Pathway Academy — Secondary
- True Grit Tavern
- Walmart — Deli
- Water and Ice

SATISFACTORY
[Violations corrected during inspection]

- Leading Edge Academy
- The New HQ

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
[Critical items noted during inspection cannot be corrected immediately, requiring follow-up inspection]
None

UNACCEPTABLE
[Gross, unsanitary conditions necessitating the discontinuation of operation]
None

CEO Corner

How values lead the way

By Gregory Rose

We are in an exciting time for the City of Maricopa as we continue to see growth and the development of our young community. To best serve you and achieve the vision you have laid out for our City, I want to ensure that we are keeping the right employees and that we are hiring the right employees.

As Jim Collins said in his book “Good to Great,” “Leaders of companies that go from good to great start not with where but with who. They start by getting the right people on the bus.”

In 2016, to guide the way city employees will work, who we will recruit and hire, and how we will evaluate performance, we established organizational values.

Organizational values establish a clear set of principles that are important not just for Council or for the city manager or for the department directors, but for each individual that works within the organization and our community.

To define the City of Maricopa organizational values, extensive input from city employees was gathered. A committee of six employees put together the plan to collect input; six brainstorming sessions were held with 148 employees attending, and an online survey was completed with 120 responses. The Executive Team and City Council reviewed the selected values and the values were officially adopted by City Council.

The five values we arrived at are:
Integrity: We are honest, transparent and demonstrate ethical leadership.
Service: We approach our jobs with a focus on quality and a positive attitude and are responsive, efficient, and flexible.
Teamwork: We are loyal, hard-working, effective communicators who maintain a positive work environment.

Accountability: We are committed, knowledgeable, and innovative.

Respect: We appreciate diversity, are open-minded and compassionate.

The values create the acronym iSTAR. We developed a logo based on iSTAR to help market the organizational values to our employees. We worked with all departments to define what these values look like in our daily functions and how we can ensure this is the way we are all conducting ourselves. We have developed internal processes, such as quarterly iSTAR Hero awards, to support our values and to guarantee that we are demonstrating them every day so this is not just a poster on a wall.

I think all too often, especially in the hiring process or the evaluation process, we focus mostly on people’s technical skills versus things that indicate character. These values have given us clear guidelines for the type of character we expect in our current and future employees, which I believe ultimately ensures we can provide excellent service.

Gregory Rose is the Maricopa city manager.



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Family: Son, daughter-in-law &
2 grandchildren
Pet: Family cat
Dream vacation: Would love to visit Scotland
Like most about Maricopa: The people.
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and they always chat back...even found a
new friend that way.
Like least about Maricopa: The lack of
resources. The last thing we need is another
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MUSDNEWS

MHS senior John Blodgett offered appointments to West Point, Air Force Academy

High School senior, Class of 2017 co-valedictorian and Air Force Junior ROTC Cadet Major John Blodgett was offered appointments to both the U.S. Air Force Academy and West Point U.S. Military Academy.

Blodgett recently decided to accept the appointment from West Point.

This is Blodgett's fourth year in the MHS ROTC program where he serves as the commander of the Mission Support Squadron.

Senior Aerospace Science Instructor Lt. Col. Allen Kirksey stated, "I have been mentoring Cadet Blodgett for the past year promoting academic excellence, leadership development, and officer career exploration and have seen his continuous growth and development. Working with a young, energetic, exceptional cadet has been a treat and a reward."

Blodgett is also actively involved in academic, athletic and club activities at MHS including:

- Grade Point Average of 4.0 (weighted GPA of 5.0)
- Teacher Assistant for a Career, College, and Technology class
- Treasurer of the National Honor Society
- LINK Leader helping to guide and mentor 11 MHS freshman.
- Member of the MHS Robotics Team for two years
- Varsity athlete on cross country and track teams for four years, appearing at two state meets
- Four time recipient of the RAM Sports Leadership Award - 3 in cross country, once in track

John was recognized by the MUSD Governing Board for these accomplishments at its meeting on March 9. ■



John Blodgett

New MHS Travel Club Approved

The MUSD Governing Board recently approved a new Maricopa High School Student Travel Club.

Prior to being recognized as a school club, Maricopa Student Travel was directed by MHS biology teacher Cortney Kelleners as an organization outside of the high school. In the last few years Maricopa Student Travel has taken trips to Spain, Switzerland, Italy, France and Costa Rica.

An average trip costs \$3,500-\$5,000 and the cost of travel is the responsibility of the student. The Maricopa High School Student Travel Club is currently planning a 2018 trip to Paris, Normandy and London. ■



Maricopa High School students travelled to Italy in 2016.

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.

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Maricopa High School hosts annual VEX Robotics Competition Qualifier

More than 80 middle and high school VEX Robotics students and mentors from around Arizona were at the Maricopa High School gym on Feb. 4 for the second annual Vex Robotics Qualifier Competition.

The tournament featured more than 20 teams in back-to-back robot challenges, made possible by the following sponsors: MHS Robotics Club, MHS Career and Technical Education Department, Ace Hardware, Barro's Pizza, and Peñasco's Mexican Restaurant. The MHS Robotics Club is supported by a grant from Verizon.

This Competition Qualifier was one in a series of VEX Robotics competitions taking place internationally this year. VEX Robotics is the world's fastest growing competitive robotics program for K-12 and colleges around the world, with more than 16,000 teams from 40 countries that participate in more than 1,300 VEX Robotics events.

"VEX robotics competition offers students a rich and exciting platform to immerse themselves in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through the excitement of building robots," said Tyler Jump, MHS Robotics coach. "Robotics inspires students to become the problem solvers of tomorrow." ■

Future City Teams Excel at Regional Competition

Eight teams from Maricopa Wells Middle School and eight teams from Desert Winds Middle School traveled to ASU on Jan. 28 to compete in the Arizona Regional Future City competition.

Each team completed a virtual computer model of a city, wrote a research essay on this year's theme of "public spaces," built a scaled model of their city, and created a 5-7 minute presentation. The teams competed at the school level to earn their place in the top eight that advanced to the state competition at ASU.

Students from the two middle schools took home 16 awards from the competition out of a total of 34 possible awards.

MWMS students earned a total of 12 awards. Team Sura finished second place in the state of Arizona. Five other MWMS teams also earned awards.

Awards went to teams Purnea, Tiago, Novara, Liyong Kongjian, and Schone Stadt.

Robyn Rice, one of the teachers in the blended learning class at MWMS said, "I was repeatedly stopped by engineers and Future City directors who told me how impressed they were with our students. The co-director of Future City Arizona said that our students were a 'class act' and every one of them impressed him with



their intelligence and kindness. I am so proud to be their teacher and watch their success."

DWMS students earned a total of four awards. Team Jakarta finished third place in the state. Another team, La Perla Renacida, also earned an award.

Jennifer Szoltysik, one of the teachers of the blended learning class at DWMS said, "We are very proud of all of the Future Cities participants from Desert Wind Middle School. They worked extremely hard over the last four months and represented both the school and the district well. It's always exciting as a teacher to see the students' work showcased at such a prestigious event." ■

MHS Symphonic Band & Chamber Orchestra shine at area festival



The MHS Band and Orchestra performed in the ABODA Area Concert Festival at Scottsdale's Desert Mountain High School on March 1.

Both groups earned the second-highest rating of "Excellent" and will advance to the ABODA State Concert Festival in April. This is the second consecutive year both band and orchestra will be represented at the State Concert Festival.

For the band, this is the first time they have qualified for the ABODA State Marching and State Concert festivals in the same year.

Music Director Ivan Pour said, "This great performance would not have been possible without these students stepping up to the plate in the preparation process, working independently with student leaders for much of February while I was out recovering from back surgery. These young people are truly amazing, hard-working students." ■



MHS DECA students continue to excel

Maricopa High School sent 78 students from the DECA Club to DECA regional competition on Jan. 17. This was the largest group ever sent from the club to this competition.

This year MHS DECA students entered into the large high school division and faced tough competition, including teams from Tempe, Mesa and Chandler school districts. MHS DECA students performed well, including: five first place awards, seven "best in section" role play medals, four test medals (top 10 percent of test takers), and 34 overall competitive medals.

On Feb. 26-28, 30 MHS DECA students attended the annual Arizona DECA State Career Development Conference. Students competed with more than 80 high school teams and over 2,000 students. MHS DECA earned five test medals (top 10 percent of test takers), five top role play medals, and had eight finalists.

Three MHS DECA students placed first in their competitions: Freya Abraham, Kyra Morris, and Harrison Edmondson. These three students will compete in the DECA International Career Development Conference, April 25-30, in Anaheim, California. MHS DECA members Joie Guela and Ivie Keene also qualified to compete at the International Conference.

Additional honorees included advisor Bernadette Russoniello, who was named the Outstanding Advisor of the Year by Arizona DECA and the Arizona Marketing Education Association. The MHS DECA Club also received the Century Club Award, presented to chapters with membership of over 100 students. MHS DECA Club member Juan Carrillo was also honored for his service as an Arizona DECA State Officer for 2016-17. ■

MHS Foreign Language Students Compete at ASU

Feb. 21, students from Maricopa High School's Spanish and German classes participated in Arizona State University's Foreign Language Fair. A total of 34 students competed at the fair. Students Chandler Chang, Cymerly Gifford, and Tylinn Noble placed first in Spanish Impromptu Role Play and Porter Jones placed first in German Novice Recitation. ■

MUSD named to Advanced Placement Honor Roll

(Reprinted from InMaricopa.com Article by Raquel Hendrickson)

Maricopa Unified School District was one of four Arizona school districts receiving national recognition for its advanced placement program. MUSD was named to the College Board's seventh annual Advanced Placement District Honor Roll. Other Arizona school districts are Vail, Tucson Unified and Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Schools.

"I am honored to congratulate these four Arizona school districts on their hard work to enhance student learning through their progressive Advanced Placement Programs," state Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas said in a statement. "This accomplishment highlights the dedication of both students and teachers in their efforts to reach the highest levels of academic achievement."

To be included on the honor roll, school districts were studied on three years of data, 2014-2016. Schools were judged on increased participation in and access to AP courses (at least 4 percent in large districts, 6 percent in medium districts and 11 percent in small districts), increased percentage of minority students scoring at least a 3 on an AP exam and increased percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher from 2014 to 2016.

The percentage of students who qualify for a free or

reduced-price lunch is also considered.

MUSD Superintendent Steve Chestnut said the high school increased its AP offerings from eight to 11. "I think that's a new high for us," he said. In Maricopa, under-represented minority students — defined as "African-American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native" — are in the majority. Chestnut said the school has a white population of 36 percent. And 57 percent of students are considered low-income.



"We try to send more and more teachers to AP training," Chestnut said. As part of the district's strategic plan, the district budgeted for the extra training and AP textbooks to provide more access to the advanced courses. "We are pleased we scored well," Chestnut said.

In AP exams, a score of 2 will allow high school credit but not college credit. A score of 3 or 4 provides college credit. MUSD was among 433 districts in the United States and Canada to qualify for the honor roll. ■

MHS ATHLETIC EVENTS
APRIL & MAY 2017

April 1
Track- Greenway Invite @ Greenway @ 10:00
Track- Becky Matthews JV Invite @ Desert Vista @ 9:00

April 4
Boys Tennis vs Millennium @ Home @ 3:30
Girls Tennis @ Millennium @ 3:30
Varsity Baseball vs Sunnyslope @ Home @ 4:00
JV Baseball @ Sunnyslope @ 4:00
Varsity Softball @ Sunnyslope @ 4:00
JV Softball vs Sunnyslope @ Home @ 3:45

April 5
Boys Tennis vs La Joya @ Home @ 3:30
Girls Tennis @ La Joya @ 3:30

April 6
Varsity Baseball @ Verrado @ 3:45
JV Baseball vs Verrado @ Home @ 3:45
Varsity Softball vs Verrado @ Home @ 4:00
JV Softball @ Verrado @ 3:45

April 7
Track- RAM Twilight Invite @ Home @ 4:00
Varsity Baseball @ Sunnyslope @ 4:00
JV Baseball vs Sunnyslope @ Home @ 3:45
Varsity Softball vs Sunnyslope @ Home @ 4:00
JV Softball @ Sunnyslope @ 3:45

April 11
Boys Tennis @ Westview @ 3:30
Girls Tennis vs Westview @ Home @ 3:30
Varsity Baseball @ Apollo @ 4:00
JV Baseball vs Apollo @ Home @ 3:45
Varsity Softball vs Apollo @ Home @ 4:00
JV Softball @ Apollo @ 4:00

April 12
Varsity Baseball @ Ironwood @ 3:45
JV Baseball vs Ironwood @ Home @ 3:45
Varsity Softball vs Ironwood @ Home @ 4:00
JV Softball @ Ironwood @ 3:45



April 13
Boys Tennis vs Kofa @ Home @ 3:30
Girls Tennis @ Kofa @ 3:30
Track- Hohokam Invite @ Westwood @ 8:00
Varsity Baseball vs Apollo @ Home @ 4:00
JV Baseball @ Apollo @ 3:45
Varsity Softball @ Apollo @ 7:00
JV Softball vs Apollo @ Home @ 4:00

April 18
Varsity Baseball vs McClintock @ Home @ 4:00
JV Baseball @ McClintock @ 4:00
Varsity Softball @ McClintock @ 3:45
JV Softball vs McClintock @ Home @ 3:45

April 19
Track @ Casa Grande @ 3:30
Varsity Baseball vs Williams Field @ Home @ 4:00 (Senior Night)

April 20
Varsity Baseball @ McClintock @ 4:00
JV Baseball vs McClintock @ Home @ 4:00
Varsity Softball vs McClintock @ Home @ 4:00
JV Softball @ McClintock @ 3:45

April 21
Track- Southeast Valley Championships @ Queen Creek @ 9:00

May 3
Track- State @ Mesa Community College @ 10:00

May 6
Track- State @ Mesa Community College @ 10:00

CAC scholarships
continue for
Maricopa High
School graduates

The Central Arizona College Foundation is making changes to the Promise for the Future scholarship program to ensure the program's financial sustainability. Graduates of Maricopa High School (or any other Pinal County high school) will continue to be offered a tuition-free education at Central Arizona College if they register for the program during their eighth grade year. Beginning this spring the Promise Pledge will be completed online at www.centralaz.edu/promise. Students will click on the "Enroll in Promise" button on the website where they can complete the pledge in its entirety. Students will make the promise to stay in school, perform 20 hours of community service, and graduate from high school with a 2.75 grade point average or higher.



With the new format, there are no credit restrictions per semester for Promise students. Previously, the maximum number of credits a student could enroll in was 12. Students will be responsible for self-reporting their community service activities. The CAC Foundation will provide yearly communication to the students and a Promise Pledge Ceremony will be held on the CAC campus located in Maricopa. Graduating seniors who have met all of the requirements will be recognized. This presentation will no longer be included in MHS's school's student awards ceremony. Effective August 2017, Promise for the Future tuition funds will be applied after all other financial aid has been applied to the individual student account (excluding student loans.) At that time the Promise scholarship will cover any tuition need that has not been met. The Foundation Office is available to assist in answering questions. They may be reached at 520-494-5216 or via email at promise@centralaz.edu.

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Sequoia Pathway goes a little crazy with 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'

Story and photos by Michelle Chance

It's a story about rebellion against asylum-hood oppression.

Although the setting for the award-winning film *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* took place decades ago, acting students at Sequoia Pathway Academy are learning about mental health awareness in today's society by portraying patients inside a psychiatric ward.

The play opens April 28 at 7 p.m., has two performance April 29 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and closes May 5 with a show time of 7 p.m.

Acting teacher and director David Blanchard said the play shows students the advancements in mental health that have taken place since the play was written, as well as improvements the health system has yet to make.

"We are looking at the state of mental health in America even today ... where you can see that not much has really changed," Blanchard said.



Grace Castellanos (left) and Derek Reiher rehearse "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest."

The central characters in the play, R.P. McMurphy and Nurse Ratched are played by Derek Reiher and Kacie Swaffield, respectively.

Reiher, who was cast in the school's previous productions of "Grease" and "Spoon

River Anthology," said his biggest challenge in this play is capturing the essence of the insubordinate McMurphy.

Specifically, Reiher said the obstacle has been figuring out "how to release all this embodiment of the character and find who this character is and what I have inside myself to bring it out."

The acting class of 24 students, the majority of whom are female, required Blanchard to switch the genders of certain characters.

Sophomore Grace Castellanos plays Chief Bromden, a traditionally male role.

"I personally think it's pretty cool because I get to play a strong, empowered character that's supposed to be male — as a female — which is kind of empowering to me," Castellanos said.

Another aspect of the production is unique: The set.

The play takes place inside the school's multipurpose building, which has a stage. However, actors will not perform on it this time.

Instead, the performance will take place in the center of the building's floor surrounded by the audience, providing the play-goers with an immersive experience.

"We are going to sit them and kind of make them feel like they are all patients in the mental ward, too," Blanchard said. "They just don't know it yet."

Tickets can be purchased at SequoiaPathway.org or at the door. Adult prices are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Student prices are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

Youth alcohol consumption down; coalition seeks volunteers to continue trend

By Priscilla Behnke

The Arizona Youth Survey recently released its findings on statewide teen substance abuse.

There is good news. Youth drug and alcohol use is down statewide. Maricopa is seeing its own downward trends. In 2006 the local 30-day use numbers for alcohol by eighth, 10th and 12th graders were 25 percent. The 2016 report shows only 17 percent reported alcohol use in the previous month.

This is the result of hard work by countless individuals and partnering organizations who have made prevention a priority here in Maricopa. It took people willing to roll up their sleeves, go out of their way, hold their ground and change the hearts and minds of youth — youth who are facing decisions that

can have repercussions that will cost them, their friends, families and our community.

Just over two years ago a band of 12 teens and four staff from the Maricopa Youth Recreation Center set out to form the Be Awesome Youth Coalition. They recognized real community-wide prevention efforts would take the collaboration of many.

There is a place for you at the table. Come, help us strengthen what's working, bring creative solutions we haven't yet realized, and develop the capacity to carry out strategies we are only dreaming about right now. We want to see the 17 percent number drop and ensure our teens aren't substituting alcohol with marijuana; that our youth continue to Be Awesome.



Priscilla Behnke

Our general meetings are open to the public and are every third Saturday at 10 a.m. at our main office in Maricopa Elementary School. Can't make it to a meeting? No problem. Like, follow and share us on Facebook and email me so I can send you updates. Both methods will keep you posted on upcoming events and areas where we will need your input or help. Look forward to seeing you at the next Be Awesome meeting!

Priscilla Behnke is program director for Maricopa CAASA and Be Awesome Coalition.



Facebook.com/BeAwesomeYouth Coalition, PBehnke@macaasa.org

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The cast rehearses in partial costumes for "Beauty and the Beast," with Lillian Chitwood as Belle, AJeron Hlebasko and Gaston and Erick Livingston as LeFou. Carlos Venegas, Lillian Chitwood and Jeron Hlebasko (opposite) in "Beauty and the Beast." Carlos Venegas and Camron Loomis (bottom right).



CAST
Belle — Lillian Chitwood; **Beast** — Carlos Venegas; **Gaston** — Jeron Hlebasko; **Maurice** — Camron Loomis; **LeFou** — Erick Livingston; **Mrs. Potts** — Tyler Curtis; **Lumiere** — Nikolas Mase; **Cogsworth** — Mahkai Ball; **Babette** — Kjirsten Lemon; **Chip** — Adrian Perdomo; **Madame de la Grande Bouche** — Brook Perona; **Monsieur D'Arque** — Corey Simmons; **Silly Girls** — Setera Miller, Hannah Panter, Sarah Ledbetter; **Beggar/Enchantress** — Kari Bejmowicz; **Prince** — Jacob Loomis; **Villagers** — Morgan Lee, Taryn Story, Alex Hurley, Antonio Gonzales, Azeri Hanson, Logan Spaulding, Lindsey Matos, Rebekka Harris, Porter Jones, Aleya Call, Dylan Stradling, Caleb Wilson, Emily Goncalves, Jacob Loomis, Skylar Trast, Harrison Delap, Francis Trast, Thiraphat Kongeinta, Hannah Crean, Patrice Perrone, McKenzie Durovka, Kaylin Griffin, Brianna Hollingsworth, Landin Thomas, Madison Ewald, Britney Daniels, Alana Daniels, Kayla Matos; **Enchanted Objects** — Kari Bejmowicz, Evelyn Bates, Chaienne Zoller, Stirling Luckey, Evelyn Young, Haley Lemon, Hailey Gross, Brychelle Jackson, Freya Abraham, Britney Montgomery, RyAnn Liermann, Derek Blakely, Keara Burke, Ivie Keene, Fides Bernales Joie Guela, Lindsay Hubbard, Alexia Esquivel, Savannah Jones, Ethan Stradling, Autumn Fausz, Alexis Price, Heidi Smith, Julia Edens, Tamara Hanania, Dallas Grimm, Justin Atkinson, Wynn Grissom, Zephania Coleman, Makayla Horn, Mikayla McLaughlin; **Male Swings** — Porter Jones, Stirling Luckey; **Female Swings** — Britney Montgomery, Aidyn Curtis.

‘Beauty & The Beast’ musical staged at MHS

Story by Raquel Hendrickson Photos by Mason Callejas

It is sheer coincidence that brings the Disney musical “Beauty & the Beast” to the Maricopa High School stage as the live-action film version is in movie theaters.

“I didn’t even make the connection until a few months ago,” said MHS theater instructor Cynthia Calhoun. “I think it’ll all work out OK.”

The musical is the MHS Theatre Company’s effort to “go big again” for its spring production.

After the troupe metaphorically blew the roof off with “Les Miserables” last year, returning players felt they needed to follow up strong.

“I was actually thinking about another show,” Calhoun said. “But I had a couple of actors come to me and suggest this one. I always loved this show and wanted to do it.”

The plot is based on the French tale of a beautiful girl, Belle, who agrees to stay in an enchanted castle at the whims of its beastly proprietor in order to save her father (and escape handsome but pompous suitor Gaston). The show originated as a 1991 animated film by Disney with songs by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman. When it was later adapted for Broadway, more lyrics were added by Tim Rice.

In auditions, senior Lillian Chitwood stood out, though she was accustomed to supporting roles. Her work landed her the role of Belle.

“She’s grown so much as an actor,” Calhoun said.

Chitwood said she has been singing her whole life.

“I thought it would be cool to finally get the lead,” she said. “It’s hard being confident in myself, that I can do this.”

Belle sets the stage for the production by singing the song “Belle” with the villagers, and that happens to be Chitwood’s favorite. To pick up tips for creating different chemistry with different characters, she has studied other productions on YouTube.com.

The Beast is played by senior Carlos Venegas. He was also the lead in “Les Miserables” and scored a “superior” at Central

IF YOU GO

What: “Beauty & The Beast”
When: April 20-22, 7 p.m., April 22, 2 p.m.
Where: Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center, 45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
How much: \$5

Arizona Festival of Theatre this year with a highlight number from that musical to qualify for international competition.

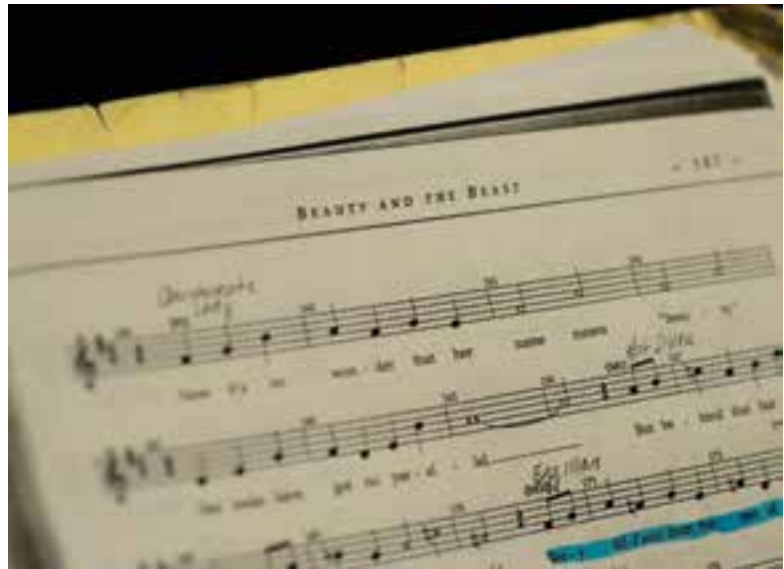
“I’ve always wanted to do the show of ‘Beauty and the Beast’ since I was younger,” Venegas said. “Like in my mind I thought, if I ever did ‘Beauty and the Beast’ I really, really want to be Beast. And so when I finally got the opportunity I went for it. I wanted it really bad.”

Jeron Hlebasko was just as eager to play the arrogant Gaston. Calhoun pointed out the senior was used to playing romantic love interests, like Marius in “Les Miserables.” He wanted a change, and Gaston fit the bill.

“He wasn’t always on stage but he was someone big, someone important, someone just powerful,” Hlebasko said. “I prefer power over calm.”

Like Belle and Beast, his character is well-known, and Hlebasko wants to add his own flair. “I want to be able to add a little more of who I am into it,” he said.

Calhoun is working with a cast of around 80 students. Technical and construction students are vital to the production as well, building a castle and village. Art students are creating 3D objects to complete the set.



Homes sales



Mason Callejas

1. 21868 N. Balboa Drive

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa from Feb. 16 to March 15 was on the market for nearly a year but finally sold after dropping its asking price by more than \$20,000. The two-story house sits next to The Duke at Rancho El Dorado and has views of three holes. It also sports nearly all of the amenities expected in Maricopa's high-end homes, including a private swimming pool in an oasis of a back yard.

Sold: Feb. 24
Purchase price: \$372,500
Square feet: 4,066
Price per square foot: \$91.61
Days on market: 311
Builder: Hacienda
Year built: 2004
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 2.5
Community: Rancho El Dorado

Features: Two stories on golf course with private pool, custom paint, granite counter tops, landscaped yard, built-in BBQ, swim-up bar, patio, RV gate
Seller's agent: James Leonard, Tru Realty, LLC
Buyer's agent: Robert H. Rowe, The Maricopa Real Estate Company

2. 22049 N. Balboa Drive, Rancho El Dorado, \$315,000
3. 20931 N. Get Around Drive, Province, \$312,000
4. 42604 W. Mallard Lane, Province, \$293,000
5. 44022 W. Palo Abeto Drive, Palo Brea, \$274,500

LEAST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD



Mason Callejas

1. 19966 N. Condrey Ave.

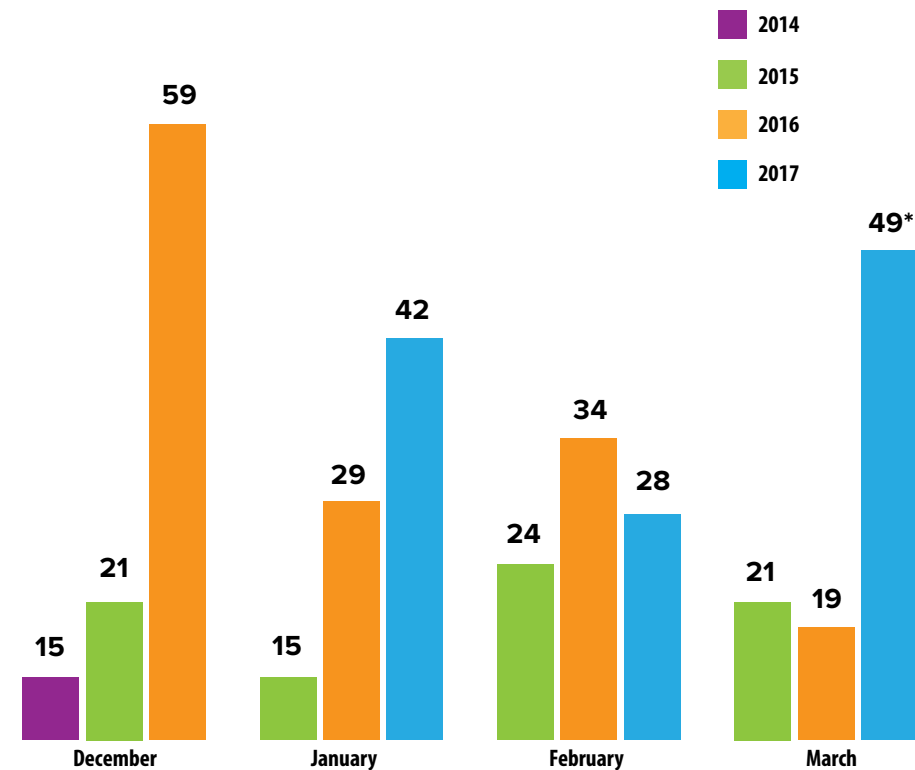
The least expensive home sold in Maricopa from Feb. 16 to March 15 became a symbol last year of the problems that arise in the Heritage District. On the market since December, it sold March 7 for \$46,000 after being listed for \$35,000. The previous owners bought the 1957 house before realizing how much money and insurance would be required to mitigate its floodplain location.

Sold: March 8
Purchase price: \$46,000
Square feet: 1,535
Price per square foot: \$29.96
Days on market: 55
Builder: Unknown
Year built: 1957
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 1
Community: Maricopa Manor
Features: Unique, sturdy building on large lot, currently gutted by renovation work
Seller's agent: Julia Romero Gusse, The Maricopa Real Estate Company
Buyer's agent: Geoffrey Adams, Realty ONE Group

2. 36562 W. San Pedro Drive, Tortosa, \$113,000
3. 37001 W. Bello Lane, Sorrento, \$129,000
4. 42489 W. Sparks Drive, Rancho El Dorado, \$130,000
5. 35846 W. Velazquez Drive, Tortosa, \$132,000

For a full list of last month's Maricopa home sales, see InMaricopa.com/Real-Estate.

Permits

Single-Family Residence Building Permits
MONTHLY TOTALS

Source: City of Maricopa *March 1-20

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Care, nurture of Arizona citrus

By Betty Beeman



Due to the number of calls regarding citrus, I have decided to try and answer some of your questions relating to selection, planting, fertilizing, pruning and watering.

Citrus can be planted year-around but the best months are March, April and October. The smaller the tree, the easier it is to plant and the less risk you will have of transplant shock problems. Small trees mean 15 gallon containers or smaller.

Dig a hole twice the diameter of your container and the same depth. Digging down lower to soften the soil is not recommended. The key point on the depth of the hole is you want the soil level on the trunk of the tree to be the same or slightly lower as it is in the container. Having the soil level higher on the tree trunk is a disease-risk.

Citrus do best if they are heavily watered and then given time to dry out between watering. Frequency varies, depending on your local soil. Rocky or sandy soil will need to be watered more often than those in soil that has a lot of clay. Typically, trees will need to be watered every one to two weeks in the summer and every three to four weeks in the winter.

The most common problems such as leaf curl, leaf discoloration, root rot and split fruit are usually related to overwatering. Before determining your personal watering schedule, try digging down a few inches, inserting a soil moisture meter or inserting a screwdriver in the soil to test for moisture.

Watering your trees for a few minutes every few days is not acceptable. It causes salt buildup in the soil and is an ideal environment for root diseases. It is best to water at the canopy edge and one foot beyond. This is where the roots' growing tips are absorbing water and nutrients. Use slow deep applications of water to help leach or push salt build-up below the root zone to the bottom of the wet soil. Ideally water needs to soak down at least two feet into the soil.

Citrus should be fertilized in February, May and early October. Newly planted trees

usually do not need fertilizer for the first year. The best fertilizer is one that says it is for citrus



Betty Beeman

trees right on the bag. Read and follow the instructions. It is best not to fertilize after October because it encourages the tree to start new growth during the winter when there is danger of frost.

Pruning citrus is completely unnecessary. Trees will grow best if they aren't pruned and are allowed

to grow as big bushes with branches almost to the ground. If you want to trim trees for appearance or remove broken branches, make sure your pruning doesn't leave the trunk or major branches exposed to direct sunlight.

Citrus will sunburn. That's why you see trunks of citrus trees painted white. The white paint acts as sun protection for trunks that are directly exposed to the sun. You may have to set up a shade cloth to protect new trees from the heat the first year.

Keep in mind that a new tree isn't producing fruit during the first few years. If it does, you

should remove most fruit from young, newly planted trees to encourage root development. If your older tree drops some fruit, don't worry, it's adjusting to heat and dry wind this time of year.

Reach out to a local Master Gardener
520-374-6263 M-F 9 a.m.-noon
MACMasterGardener@gmail.com
MAC-Pinal-MasterGardener.org See "what to do when....."

Betty Beeman is a Maricopa resident and Pinal County Master Gardener.

GARDENING TIPS
Plant basil, black-eyed peas, sweet corn, popcorn, cucumbers, eggplant, jicama, melons, okra, peppers, pumpkins, squash, sunflowers and tomato transplants.



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Do you discuss the cost of utilities in Maricopa with your clients during the home-search process?



Chad Chadderton, Ahwatukee Realty
This is a major concern of both commercial and residential customers. I explain that our infrastructure was built to accommodate 100,000 people, which was [the] projection by this time. The downturn in the market slowed down our growth, and we are supporting and supplementing the utilities until such time as population catches up.



Dayv Morgan, HomeSmart Success
I don't discuss it very much, other than saying that the average water/sewer bill is in the low \$100s. I find that electric bills vary widely from house to house based on a) which company built the home, b) the size, maintenance and SEER rating of the AC unit, and c) the temperature that you set your thermostat. Google the rates for SRP and APS. In summer they are actually higher than the per kwh rate of ED3.



Pat Lairson, Maricopa Real Estate Company
I always go over the utility bills with potential buyers. If we can get a history of utility bills from the seller we do. If not, some utility companies will give out the lowest and highest bill from the previous year and this is helpful. I explain that we have a private water company and even if you don't turn your water on your bill will average \$100 a month. I also make sure they are aware of what their HOA assessment is per month and what that covers. This is very important information for a prospective buyer to know as it could affect their monthly mortgage affordability.

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Strength training boosts longevity, quality of life

By Aaron Gilbert

Strength training, commonly referred to as resistance training, refers to a specialized method of exercise that involves the progressive use of assorted resistive loads and a variety of training methods intended to promote health, fitness and performance improvement.



Aaron Gilbert

Wow — can you say long-winded much?

Let's put it another way: Strength training is using your muscles against resistance. Muscles adapt to any type of resistance.

The resistance can be a heavy object, one's own body weight, elastic resistance from bands, or other types of machine resistance from pulleys or hydraulics. The heavy object could be a dumbbell, medicine ball, log, grocery bag, rock, car — anything that has mass.

Why is strength training so important?

For starters — let's get the obvious out of the way. Strength training makes you stronger. It does this in several ways, including:

- Building muscle tissue
- Improving rate of force production — how quickly you can generate force to move against the resistance

- Strengthening connective tissues such as tendons — it can also make your muscles bigger while creating a demand for blood delivery, engaging the cardiovascular system.
- Improving muscular coordination — in other words, the ability to coordinate your moving parts

How else can strength training be useful?

Strength training:

- Preserves and enhances muscle mass
- Preserves and enhances metabolic rate
- Improves bone density
- Improves glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity
- Lowers risk of injury
- Improves ability to engage in daily activities
- Improves balance
- Improves self-esteem
- Enhances strength and endurance
- Enhances speed, power and agility
- Improves overall body composition
- Decreases bad cholesterol levels
- Decreases blood pressure
- Improves aerobic capacity

Inactivity or a sedentary lifestyle leads to loss of muscle mass and strength which can then influence the development of many chronic diseases. Maintaining muscle mass with strength training can prevent some of the most common and increasingly rampant health conditions, including obesity and diabetes.

Who can strength train?

In the past, strength training was primarily used by athletes to enhance performance and/or increase muscle size. However, strength training is now recognized as critical to everyone's health and fitness — regardless of gender, age, or ability. Leading health organizations, including the ACSM and NSCA recommend regular strength training as part of one's fitness regimen.

With a properly constructed workout program that is tailored to individual goals and skills, anyone can strength train: men, women, children and adolescents, older people, and people with disabilities or movement limitations.

Where to go for guidance?

Look for a fitness professional in your areas, specifically a strength and conditioning specialist with credentials from the NSCA (National Strength and Conditioning Association). A certified strength and conditioning specialist (CSCS) has undergone the education and training necessary to ensure safe, efficient, and effective outcomes will take place. 📞

Aaron Gilbert, CSCS, founder/owner of Longevity Athletics.

📞 520-261-4661
Aaron@LongevityAthletics.com

The basics of poaching for a healthy meal

By Chef Neil Magbua



Neil Magbua

This month's subject will not be a specific recipe but a cooking technique. It is rarely used in modern restaurant kitchens anymore because of its slow process and relatively undramatic look. I am referring to poaching.

By definition, poaching is cooking a product slowly while fully submerged in some sort of flavorful liquid.

For the sake of this column, we will be concentrating on water-based poaching, as oil-poaching does add some potentially unwanted calories to the food. While animals such as chicken, pork and beef are good candidates for poaching, they are more suited for dry cooking techniques such as grilling. For your money, fish and seafood are, in my opinion, better poaching candidates. It also makes sense to me as these animals originate from water.

Have you ever eaten shrimp where it had the texture of a rubber band or eaten a piece of fish that was supposedly "poached" and it tasted dry, mealy or overcooked? The reason for that is poor temperature control.

You must realize that heat is heat, whether it is dry or wet. The same temperature rules apply in poaching as in roasting. Too high a heat or too long in the heat will result in overcooked food.

For poaching success, the rules are simple.

1. Make sure your poaching liquid has flavor. It should have a good amount of seasoning since you will not be seasoning the food before it goes in the liquid.

2. Only use enough liquid to cover the food. This is not like cooking pasta where you use a lot of liquid to cook the product. Water is very dense, and it holds onto heat very well, so too much liquid could overcook your food even if you turn the burner off.

3. You have picked and seasoned your flavorful water based cooking liquid (beer, stock, wine, etc.), chosen your cooking vessel (pot, sauté pan, etc.), and food to be cooked (shrimp, salmon, tuna, etc.) Now, simply place the food in the vessel and cover with just enough liquid.

4. Remove the food and bring liquid to a boil. That's right, a full boil. The purpose of this step is to add the food and liquid first to make sure you have just the right amount of liquid. Then, removing the food and bringing the liquid to a boil will ensure that any bacteria hitching a ride on the surface of your food is eliminated, without overcooking your food.

5. Finally, add your food to the boiling liquid and back the heat down, cooking slowly until the internal target temperature of the food is reached. For shrimp and most fish, that's about 155 degrees. Once your food reaches the temperature of your liquid, in theory, you could keep it there for a very long time. The result should be a moist and flavorful, healthy meal.

Good luck and good eating. 📞

Neil Magbua is chef at Arroyo Grille at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes.



Proper poaching brings out the flavor of food without adding a lot of calories.

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Is it a cold? Or is it really Allergies? *How to tell the difference*

By Andrew H. Jones

Is it a cold or allergies? This is a question that plagues many people this time of year. On one hand you've been sneezing and sniffing, swallowing over-the-counter meds every few hours. On the other hand, it's been going on for two and a half weeks now and it seems there is no end in sight. Let's take a closer look at some of the similarities and differences to better understand what may be ailing you.

Similarities of Allergies & Colds:

- Sneezing
- Runny nose
- Congestion and stuffy nose
- Coughing
- Sore throat

Differences of Allergies & Colds:

- Itchy eyes is a less common symptom of a cold
- Severe colds can cause fevers and body aches and are not usually signs of allergies
- Sore throat in allergies is most often caused by postnasal drip
- Allergies can cause rashes

"People with allergies are sometimes more prone to catching colds. Recovery from a cold is usually quick - in fact, the average duration of a cold is 7 to 10 days.

If symptoms last more than a week or two, the cold may have progressed into a secondary bacterial infection such as bronchitis or sinusitis. Allergies are more difficult to predict and can be a little tricky, they can be seasonal, or come and go daily and reoccur often" (Dr. Ted Crawford, DO, Medical Director, Sun Life Family Health Center, 2017).

As the season begins to warm, the plants begin to pollinate, spreading the 'joy' in the air to all of us who are susceptible to seasonal allergies. However, we are still in the middle of cold and flu season. So the sniffles may very well be one last ride on the Rhinovirus bandwagon.

Allergies range from mild to seasonal allergies with more severe symptoms; which can cause life-threatening reactions. People can have an array of symptoms and allergic reactions to any number of things, including various airborne pollens, foods, medications, and allergy shots. Whether you have a mild or severe allergy, you should know the proper response to a reaction, address accordingly, and minimize your discomfort.

Keeping track of the local daily pollen percentages in your area can be very helpful and might make you Ah-Ah-Ah-choose to stay inside, wear a preventative mask, or limit



your outdoor activities. Here is a helpful website that can help keep you informed of your local air pollen content. <https://www.pollen.com>

Scheduling an appointment with your Sun Life Family Health Center provider is the first step to treating your cold or allergies. He or she will be able to diagnose your symptoms and refer you to a local

(specialist) allergist. The allergist can then test you to find out what triggered your allergic reaction and can prescribe medication or give you allergy shots to help manage your symptoms.

REFERENCES
Dr. Ted Crawford, DO, Medical Director - Sun Life family Health Center
Pollen.com

TIP OF THE MONTH

Cut down on dust in your home

Concentrate on cleaning your bedroom where you sleep. Wash all of your bedding regularly. Wipe dust off dressers, night-stands, appliances, ceiling fans, and wear a dust mask while doing so. Clean your house regularly with a vacuum.
#OneSmallChange



Dr. Joseph Edwards, MD, FACOG



Danielle Jennings, WHNP-BC



Dr. Bianca Smith, DO



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Things to do

Visual arts in the spotlight for MAC expo



Raquel Hendrickson

The **"Got Arts, Maricopa"** expo moves into spring with three new gallery options to see and the second two-day Studio Crawl.

Megan Perry's one-person show in Maricopa Public Library's Gallery. Perry's work marries abstraction with surrealism and is highly sought-after. Several of her pieces have previously been seen in other city spaces (including City Hall, Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship and Zoyo Yogurt). She is creating works especially designed for the Library's unusual gallery space — high above the computer area, with generous proportions both in length and width.

Installation of works by **Brad Kammeyer** at Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship on April 5. Kammeyer's landscapes offer a cooler counterpoint to the warm weather usually visiting the city in springtime. He only began to paint about one year ago, but MCE's two-plus years of monthly galleries has always offered its spotlight to a wide variety of Maricopa artists and Artisans.

Mixed-Media Artisans Gallery group show installed in the Art Corridor at City Hall (outside the City Council chamber). A group of works by 10 creators in shallow three-dimensions, this exhibition centers on anything but painting: works in curled and carved paper, fused glass, embossed on tin sheets, formed from molded chinks, scratched on scratch-board, weavings, rugs and quilts. The artisans are Beth Soucie, Cynthia Portrey, Crystal Dennis, Deb Jay, Malies Belksma, Nelda Mullins, Pam Sutton, Rocky Dunne, Susan Adams and Tiffany Yazzie.

Studio Crawl No. 2 is April 8, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and April 9, 1-4:30 p.m. Following the success of February's first Studio Crawl, MAC decided to host a second Crawl within this same season (in advance of a planned pre-Christmas Crawl). Studio Crawls are drive-yourself tours around the city to the artists' studios to experience the artists and artisans in their own creative environment, see finished pieces and works in progress, chat with them about their approach to creation, and examine the tools they use. Light refreshments will be served. The April Crawl includes specialists in pencil art, sculpture, fused glass, weaving, inlaid wood artistry, and both professional and student painters. Each creator is sponsored by various supporters: NTO Glass, Art & Sip, Wood and Weaving, MCE, Thru Windows of Time and a local "Art Angel." Artists in this Crawl are Herman Zelig Neuberger, Susan Cameron, Kauai Wilson, Cynthia Portrey, Steven Portrey, Rocky Dunne, Brad Kammeyer and the Maricopa High School Student Art Club.

Things to do

APRIL CALENDAR

1

Community Service Project
7:30 a.m., Copper Sky
Multigenerational Center
44345 W. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

Relay for Life

11 a.m.-11 p.m., Copper
Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

"Wit"

2 p.m. & 7 p.m., Black
Box Theatre at Maricopa
Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

2

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

3

Color Yourself Calm
11 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Maricopa Historical Society Meeting

5:30 p.m., Maricopa
Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Adult Co-Ed Kickball Debuts

6:30 p.m., Copper Sky
Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

Narcotics Anonymous

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

4

Trip to Titan II Missile and Air & Space Museum

8 a.m., Copper Sky
Multigenerational Center
44345 W. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

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

Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting

5 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Celebrate Recovery Coffee & Karaoke

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

MUSD Kindergarten Round-up

5:30 p.m., all Maricopa
Unified School District
elementary schools

City Council Work Session

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

Charcoal Drawing for Everyone

6:30 p.m., Central
Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

Maricopa City Council Meeting

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

5

Harrah's Club 777 Toastmasters
3 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino
15406 Maricopa Road

Overpass Informational Meeting

5:30 p.m., Maricopa
Unified School District
44150 W. Maricopa-
Casa Grande Hwy.

MCE Artist Reception

6 p.m., Maricopa Center
for Entrepreneurship
20800 N. John Wayne
Pkwy, Suite 108

Outdoors 101

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

MOVIES under the STARS

April 22

Ultrastar Lawn

May 20

Ultrastar Lawn

June 3

Ultrastar Lawn

June 17

Copper Sky Pool



Grab a blanket, lawn chair and join us
under the stars for an evening of quality
entertainment with our community.

- Concessions begin at 7:00 p.m. and the
movie begins at dusk (Between 7-7:30 p.m.)

Visit the website for updates on movie selections

www.maricopa-az.gov



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

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Things to do

Egg hunts mark Easter season



Raquel Hendrickson

Easter falls on April 16 this year, and there will be plenty of secular, egg-related activities in Maricopa in advance of the religious holiday. Tortosa HOA starts things off with its ninth annual **Easter Eggstravaganza** on April 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The egg hunt, divided by age groups, will be at 11:30 a.m.

Children with wristbands can enjoy crafts, games, a petting zoo, inflatables and the egg hunt. Wristbands are free for Tortosa residents and \$2 for nonresidents. Eggs will be stuffed with candy and toys.

There will also be vendors and crafters. The event is at Santa Cruz Elementary School, 19845 N. Costa del Sol.

For more information, contact Taryn Garrod at tgarrod@ccmcnet.com.

A week later, the 13th annual **Maricopa Easter Egg Hunt** will be on the lawn north of UltraStar Ak-Chin Multi-tainment Center, 16000 N. Maricopa Road. Hosted by Community of Hope Church, the egg hunt is April 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with hunts every 15 minutes.

There will be carnival games and inflatables, and, of course, the Easter Bunny will be on hand for pictures. All of this is free of charge and is open to the Ak-Chin Indian Community and the city of Maricopa. Concessions and drinks will be for sale.

UltraStar is providing the parking, Ak-Chin provides the green space, and Leading Edge Academy is sponsoring inflatables.

For more information visit Facebook.com/COHEggHunt or call 520-252-6381.

Children who like to get soaked while hunting for their eggs are invited to the annual **Copper Sky Spring Egg Dive** on April 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The event is free, but registration is required.

For children 4-years-old and under, eggs will be hidden in the Splash Pad for the first hunt starting at 11:15 a.m. Then eggs will be hidden in the leisure pool for children 5 to 8-years-old. The final hunt, at approximately 11:45 a.m., will be for kids 9 to 16 years, with eggs dropped into the comp pool.

Lifeguards will be present, and lifejackets will be available for those who cannot swim.

For folks over 16, there will be an Eggcathalon at 11:45 a.m., with contestants collecting eggs while completing an obstacle course in the pool. The event is limited to the first 40 to sign up. There is a \$5 fee for residents, \$6 for nonresidents.

For more information, call 520-316-4600.

Things to do

6
Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., Ak-Chin Social Services
48227 W. Farrell Road

7
Ram Twilight Invitational
4 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Al-Anon Meeting
7 p.m., Community
of Hope Church
45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**Herman's Hermits
starring Peter Noone**
8 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

8
2nd Saturday Market
7 a.m., Copper Sky
Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

Coffee with the Chief
8 a.m., Copper Sky Police
Substation training room
17985 N. Greythorne Drive

Studio Crawl No. 2
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Locations vary

Tortosa Easter Eggstravaganza
11 a.m., Santa Cruz
Elementary School
19845 N. Costa del Sol

**Spice of Life Senior
Variety Show**
6 p.m., Maricopa
Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

9
Studio Crawl No. 2
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Locations vary

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

10
Color Yourself Calm
11 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

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

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

11
**Coffee with Friends of
the Maricopa Library**
1:30 p.m., Maricopa
Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

**Maricopa Police Explorer
Post Meeting**
5 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**Celebrate Recovery
Coffee & Karaoke**
5 p.m., Maricopa
Community Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

Charcoal Drawing for Everyone
6:30 p.m., Central
Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

12
Harrah's Club 777 Toastmasters
3 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

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

13
**A Ray of Hope meeting of
Narcotics Anonymous**
7 p.m., Ak-Chin Social Services
48227 W. Farrell Road



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Maricopa Golf Classic honors vets, first responders for 9th year

By Mason Callejas

Local golfers are polishing their clubs and opening their checkbooks in anticipation for Maricopa’s premier charity golf tournament — the ninth annual Maricopa Golf Classic – to be held April 15 at The Duke.

For the past eight years, the Maricopa Golf Classic has mobilized members of the golfing community and other residents in an attempt to raise money and awareness for organizations which provide much needed services to veterans and first responders.

Event coordinator Marty Hermanson said the tournament is all about recognizing and taking care of those who protect us, domestically and abroad.

“It’s something we do because we like to honor our vets,” Hermanson said. “We like to honor all of our police officers, firefighters and first responders for all their dedication.”

When the event began in 2008, they raised \$250 for each of the participating charities. Undaunted by the initial low return, Marty and his wife Brenda pressed on and by 2016, the annual event was raising considerably more.

“It’s amazing,” Brenda Hermanson said. “Last year, after expenses, we were able to get \$15,000 for the charities (\$7,500 each).”

Though they recognize the dramatic growth the tournament has seen over the years, in 2017 they are hoping for even more.

“The goal is to give at least \$18,000 this year,” Marty Hermanson said. “That’s just a goal, but hopefully we’ll make it.”

Participants will have their shot at not only competing in the golf tournament but also smaller challenges along the way, including a putting contest where three golfers will stand a chance to win \$50,000.

In previous years, the tournament has benefited the Wounded Warrior Project and the 100 Club. This year the 100 Club is joined by the American Service Animal Society and the local VFW Post 12043.

Registration is open through the website until the day of the event. On-site registration will be open at The Duke from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. the day of the tournament. Maricopa Police Chief Steve Stahl and the MPD Color Guard will conduct a brief invocation prior to the 8 a.m. shotgun start. Registration costs are \$125 a person, or \$500 for a four-person team. Lunch is provided for an additional \$25. And, of course, donations can be made in any amount, small or large. 📞

 **TheMaricopaGolfClassic.com**

14-15

Family Camping

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

14

AI-Anon Meeting

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

15

Maricopa Golf Classic

8 a.m., The Duke Golf Course
42660 W Rancho El
Dorado Parkway

Harrah’s Ak-Chin 5K Poker Run

8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Harrah’s
Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

Maricopa Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m., UltraStar Multi-
tainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road

Copper Sky Spring Egg Dive

11 a.m., Copper Sky
Aquatic Center
44345 W Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

16

Narcotics Anonymous

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

17

Color Yourself Calm

11 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Narcotics Anonymous

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

18

Coffee with Friends of the Maricopa Library

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

Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting

5 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Celebrate Recovery Coffee & Karaoke

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

City Council Work Session

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

Charcoal Drawing for Everyone

6:30 p.m., Central
Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

Maricopa City Council Meeting

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

19

Harrah’s Club 777 Toastmasters

3 p.m., Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

20

“Beauty and the Beast” at Maricopa High School

7 p.m., Maricopa
Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Narcotics Anonymous

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

21

Whitewater Rafting on the Upper Salt River

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

AI-Anon Meeting

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

“Beauty and the Beast” at Maricopa High School

7 p.m., Maricopa
Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

22

“Beauty and the Beast” at Maricopa High School

2 p.m. & 7 p.m., Maricopa
Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

23

Narcotics Anonymous

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

24

Color Yourself Calm

11 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Narcotics Anonymous

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

25

Day Trip to Sedona & Montezuma Castle

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

Coffee with Friends of the Maricopa Library

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

Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting

5 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Celebrate Recovery

Coffee & Karaoke

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

Charcoal Drawing for Everyone

6:30 p.m., Central
Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

26

Harrah’s Club 777 Toastmasters

3 p.m., Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board Meeting

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

27

MUSD Gifted Parent Meeting

5:30 p.m., Saddleback
Elementary School
18600 N. Porter Road

Narcotics Anonymous

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

28

Multigenerational Game Night

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

“One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” at Sequoia Pathway

7 p.m., Sequoia
Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road

AI-Anon Meeting

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

29

“One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” at Sequoia Pathway

2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Sequoia
Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road

30

Narcotics Anonymous

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

MAY

1

Junior ROTC Awards Ceremony

6 p.m., Maricopa
Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

5

“One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest” at Sequoia Pathway

7 p.m., Sequoia
Pathway Academy

‘Take a Hike, Do It Right’ for safety on the trails

By Misty Newman

The “Take a Hike, Do it Right” campaign, a collaborative effort between the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department and the Phoenix Fire Department, is a result of increased mountain rescues.

It is estimated that every year, approximately 200 people are rescued from the City of Phoenix desert and mountain preserves. The trouble isn’t just in Maricopa County. According to Pinal County Sheriff’s Office, the Search and Rescue unit handled 175 incidents in 2016, and 103 were medical rescues.

As you and your friends and family go hiking, consider these guidelines from the Phoenix “Take a Hike, Do it Right” Campaign:

Watch the weather: Yes, it’s a dry heat — but Arizona’s temperature can be deceiving and deadly. Hike when it’s cool outside, try early mornings and evenings when there’s more shade.

Dress appropriately: Wear proper shoes, clothing, hat and sunscreen.

Bring water: Hydrate before you go. Have plenty of water — more than you think you need.

Keep in contact: Carry a mobile phone

Team up: Hike with others. If hiking solo, tell someone your start and end times, and location.

Be honest: Do you have a medical condition? Asthma, heart problems, diabetes, knee or back problems? Don’t push yourself. (Even trained athletes have been caught off guard by getting dehydrated on Arizona trails). The altitude, the strenuous climbing, dehydration and the intense inner canyon heat all combine to make any medical problem worse.

Don’t trailblaze: Enjoy the Sonoran Desert’s beautiful and undeveloped landscape, but stay on designated trails.

Take responsibility: Don’t be “that person” — the one who was unprepared, shouldn’t have been there for health reasons or ignored safety guidelines. Be the responsible hiker, who takes a hike and does it right!

Source: AOT-visitarizona.s3.amazonaws.com/9c7acf73947a5e315ad5474e782289a0.pdf

Aside from these guidelines, here are a couple of other tips to keep in mind when hiking:

- Take a break for five to seven minutes every 30 to 60 minutes. If you can, sit down and prop your legs up above the level of your heart. These breaks can really recharge your batteries, and in the long run will not slow you down.
- Be sure you stay hydrated and eat often. You should eat before, during and after you hike. No matter what the temperature, you need water and energy to keep going.

Since this campaign was launched, there has been a lot of effort made to get the numbers down on hikers who need to be rescued. Park rangers suggest less experienced hikers start on easier trails and experienced hikers keep an eye on those who may need water or other types of assistance. 📞

Misty Newman is the owner of Maricopa Outdoor Adventures.

 **MaricopaOutdoorAdventures.com**



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



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

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Leslie Maldonado
Garden Center Manager

Joined Ace: 2012
Resides in: Thunderbird Farms
Hometown: Guadalupe
Background: General retail
Best seller: Bedding plants
Leslie's favorite: Roses
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