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ON THE COVER

The Duke's head golf pro Bryon Gribbons hits a splendid bunker shot. February marks the height of the golf industry in Maricopa. Photo by Bryan Mordt.

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If it's February, put me on a fairway to heaven

ONE OF MY FAVORITE MOVIES IS "CADDYSHACK," the original, not the sequel. If you put Bill Murray, Rodney Dangerfield, Ted Knight and Chevy Chase together, how can it be anything less than great fun?

Which brings us to golf. In Maricopa. In February. It's the height of the season, so we have prepared an extensive special golf package for you and our winter visitors this month.

Maricopa's two area courses are in pristine condition. The WM Phoenix Open this month is a big deal whether you drive to Scottsdale or watch it on TV. Manufacturers roll out their 2023 club lines this month. My wife promised me a new set for my birthday a while back to replace my 1986 sticks, but I've deliberately held off until now so I can grab some 2022s cheap.

You need not know a niblick from a mashie to appreciate what February means to the industry and to a game that started out primarily for the rich — and is now played by millions of poor players. I admit to being among the latter. I dutifully keep my head down, not because I think it helps my game but because I don't want to see my playing partners laughing.

Justin Griffin put together our amazing golf package. And what about that cover photo? Our Bryan Mordt was flat on the ground when he



photographed that bunker shot featuring The Duke's head pro Bryon Gribbons.

Elsewhere, you'll find what could become the biggest story in this edition. Brian Petersheim Jr. tells us about Mark McCain, who lives in Senita, and how he and his late father patented a rotary engine that runs on hydrogen and a transmission to pair with it. McCain wants to mass-produce them here. That's only the beginning. He recently initiated contact with Kathryn DeLorean of

DeLorean Next Generation Motors about teaming on his engine and transmission in her cars — and building them here. Stay tuned.

And — hoo, boy — did the Pinal Regional Transportation Authority ever spend a bucket of money trying to win the Proposition 469 election in November. It lost. We got our hands on the campaign finance reports. Did the authority get its money's worth? We present, you decide.

Meanwhile, I'm headed for the first tee. If you want to come along, I'll show you that it is possible to make a snowman in Maricopa.

Lee

LEE SHAPPELL
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BRYON GRIBBONS

The general manager at The Duke went above and beyond to help us with our golf package, including indulging us with a photo shoot for our cover.



BRADY WILSON

The general manager at Southern Dunes couldn't have been more accommodating as he served up information so we can tell you the property's story.



CARL BEZUIDENHOUT

Carl, with the last name you have to copy and paste, can design a page. Do you like his golf-ball dimples atop the pages that unify our golf package?



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Cotton to claustrophobia

Cotton is swallowed up by a picker in the field behind John and Mary Lou Smith's house (foreground) in the 1980s, when farmers grew about 90,000 acres of cotton in the Maricopa-Stanfield area. Now the area has been swallowed up in a different way, by residential housing.



THIS MONTH BACK IN...

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



2008

One month into his new job as Maricopa's city manager, Kevin Evans initiated a major restructuring by firing the fire chief, William Kelleher, and the planning and community development director, Amy Haberbosch. Evans said functions of those positions had been reassigned, and the positions would be eliminated. "I firmly believe that this organization must be retooled to adjust for current market conditions," Evans said. "This will ultimately provide the citizens with a highly efficient local government."



2013

During an informational meeting on the East-West Corridor Study, several people voiced frustration with the lengthy planning process and the fact they won't be driving on the corridor anytime soon. The corridor would stretch from State Route 347 to Interstate 10 north of Casa Grande. "In a best-case scenario ... we would be looking at breaking ground in five years," said study-team member Andrew Smith. "But we have to follow a process to identify funds."



2018

As part of the annual recognition of Black History Month, City Council chambers were filled for a celebration with cultural music and singing. Melvin Benning, the first African-American president of the Rotary Club, and Freda Mae Black recalled their frustration in 2008 with the city's lack of involvement as they were organizing Maricopa's first Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. "It was a struggle because I didn't get the backing that I thought I would from the town of Maricopa," Black said.

Brian Petersheim Jr. | file

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City court gets own quarters in latest sign of Maricopa's growth

BY LEE SHAPPELL



IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT ONE day a city pushing 70,000 people would need its own Municipal Court.

After two decades sharing a facility and a judge — most recently Lyle Riggs — with Pinal County, Maricopa Municipal Court broke away in January, moving to temporary quarters in City Hall while a new court building is built.

The court, with interim Presiding Judge Stephen McCarville, handles misdemeanors, civil traffic, protective orders, driving under the influence, city ordinance violations and all other citations issued by the Maricopa Police Department. It is open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Riggs is no longer with the city but continues with the county after his re-election in November as justice of the peace.

The temporary municipal court quarters were built into City Council chambers, 39700 W. Civic Center Plaza, after the council in September approved building a stand-alone courthouse, taking the city's cases out of the Pinal County Justice Court building at 19955 N. Wilson Ave., which opened in a new county complex in 2021.

Retrofitting a City Hall side entrance to create a separate court entrance, lobby, client/attorney meeting rooms and security cost about \$15,000, according to city officials.

Maricopa hired McCarville to lead the transition and serve as interim presiding judge through 2023. A Casa Grande resident, he is classified as a regular part-time employee of the city and paid \$82.50 an hour.

McCarville, who received an undergraduate degree from Creighton University and a J.D. from Creighton School of Law in 1987, was

judge in Pinal County Superior Court Division 5 for more than 20 years, elected to his first full term in 2001. He retired as presiding Superior Court judge on May 3, 2021.

Maricopa was the only city in Pinal County that did not have a stand-alone Municipal Court.

"We're maturing as a city and that means we take over new things and we have new processes evolving as a community," Assistant City Manager Jennifer Brown said.

The new courthouse will be directly east of City Hall. Construction time is estimated at 12-15 months.

About \$2.7 million is budgeted this fiscal year to cover preliminary costs, such as design and construction of infrastructure, site improvements and building foundation, according to a city spokesman. The remainder of the project, including construction of the building, furniture, fixtures, technology, audio/visual equipment, cameras, access control and security equipment is recommended to be funded out of the 2023-24 fiscal year budget.

"I want to make it very clear that (construction of the new courthouse) will be paid by new development, not existing taxpayers," City Manager Rick Horst said. "It will be 100% based on new development coming here. With

those growth needs, they should be paid by the people causing the growth and not the people who are already here."

The court building will be designed to eventually be enlarged. Plumbing, electrical and other utility stub-outs will make expansion easier when the time comes.

Meanwhile, Pinal Justice Court, with Riggs presiding, continues to operate from

the county Justice Court Building, handling county matters, including evictions, small claims, civil violations, misdemeanors, county civil traffic, protective orders and citations issued by county sheriff's deputies.

"We always knew this partnership would come to an end because of the growth of the city," said Riggs, whose contract with Maricopa expired Jan. 1. "The city has determined that we've reached that point."

"It's been an absolute privilege to serve as city magistrate. I'm grateful for that opportunity. I respect the wisdom of the Council and the decision that they've made."


Riggs is a fourth-generation Arizonan. After graduating summa cum laude from the University of Arizona in 1991 with a degree in agricultural economics, Riggs graduated with honors from Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa.

"I've worked really hard to save the city and the county a lot of money," Riggs said of holding both positions.

He cited among his accomplishments transitioning to video arraignments and pretrial conferences, saving county deputies time and costs transporting defendants from jail to court and back. Many courts adopted the policy during the height of COVID-19.

"We're one of the few courts in the county still doing everything by video," Riggs said. "That's a cost savings to the sheriff and a cost savings to the court. It saves fuel costs with gas prices being what they are. We've had strong partnerships."

Florence, the county seat, is a 45-minute drive from Maricopa.

Defendants are urged to check their citations to ensure they appear at the correct court. 

 **Maricopa Municipal Court:**

520-494-2300

 **Pinal County Justice Court:**

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Judge Lyle Riggs



Judge Stephen McCarville

Monica Williams | File



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Transportation Authority spent \$343K in losing bid for Prop. 469 passage

Pinal County car dealers’ reversal of position dealt campaign major blow

BY LEE SHAPPELL

SOME PEOPLE BELIEVED MONEY from Proposition 469 last November could be used to build a parking lot – and if you consider the state of traffic during rush hour from Interstate 10 to Maricopa, they weren’t wrong.

It’s just one example of an ill-informed electorate, despite the efforts of Pinal Regional Transportation Authority, which spent \$343,188 on the proposition’s campaign for the half-cent sales tax to improve and build roads and freeways county-wide.

Foremost among the improvements, from the perspective of Maricopa, would have been widening SR 347 to three lanes in each direction. Maricopa backed the measure overwhelmingly, with 63% of the vote. The remainder of the county slapped it down, and the measure was defeated by 2%.

Backers said the campaign, which was tracking overwhelmingly in their favor in the summer, took a U-turn when automobile dealers in the county not only flipped their position but actively campaigned against 469.

So, did the authority get bang for its buck? How effective was the campaign? Did the public-relations firm, Rose and Allyn, hired to direct the campaign do a good job?

“Yes, they did,” said Tony Smith, president and CEO of Pinal Partnership, which strives to improve research, planning and coordination of private and public efforts related to infrastructure, natural resources and community development in the county.

Smith is a former Maricopa mayor and county supervisor.

“The blue signs you see around town, 40-something of them, I picked those locations since I’ve run a number of campaigns here in the city. Most said widen the 347.

“They customized signs to the location county-wide. In the Queen Creek area and

San Tan Valley, 469 would have extended State Route 24 to a north-south freeway in the eastern part of the county. That would have been their Loop 101 (like a major freeway in the Valley). I think they did a good job.”

Rose and Allyn did not respond to requests for comment.

Maricopa Mayor Nancy Smith, Tony Smith’s wife, said the campaign relied on the support of car dealers in Casa Grande.

“We were hoping they weren’t going to protest the proposition and when we found out they went ahead and did that, with a marketing campaign and sending flyers to homes, we were questioning why car dealerships, that profited so well during COVID, would protest a proposition to improve transportation for people who are purchasing cars at their facilities,” she said.

The car dealers’ campaign was effective,

and Tony Smith said numbers quickly shifted against 469 in Casa Grande and Apache Junction, dooming the effort.

Campaign leaders suspect because the half-cent sales tax would have added about \$200 to the price of a \$50,000 vehicle. The dealers feared they would be at a competitive disadvantage with Maricopa County dealers.

The Arizona Automobile Dealers Association did not respond to requests for comment.

“We tried to carry the elements of the county that did not support it, but when you have two large cities that didn’t support it, it’s a lot to overcome,” Nancy Smith said. “We probably needed more like 80% support of our Maricopa voters to overcome it.”

The mayor, acknowledging the conservative nature of Pinal County voters, said timing was not great for a tax hike as inflation spiked.

“I’m a very conservative voter as well, and I don’t like additional taxes, but I do look at propositions that offer my community value,” she said. “When I understand there is value, I really don’t have a problem voting yes.

“And if you read Facebook and other social media, there was a lot of misinformation. I know myself, our vice mayor and our city manager tried to counter that when we saw it. No, ‘parking lot’ does not mean a real parking lot. It means that you have, just like in the business world, a ‘parking-lot’ list. It does not mean we are going to build a parking lot. 🗨️

YES ON PROPOSITION 469 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT

For new roads and freeways in Pinal County

TOTAL CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES
\$343,188

MAJOR EXPENSES
Computer Services (printing and postage for mailers)
\$96,480

Rose and Allyn (campaign expenses and fees)
\$78,474

Public Opinion Strategies (polling)
\$75,000

IWS Public Affairs (design web fees)
\$25,828

Google (advertising)
\$17,599

Bilsten Consulting (polling)
\$16,917

Facebook (advertising)
\$7,644

Gila River Indian Community (billboards)
\$6,720

Roundtable (tele town hall)
\$3,231

NEWSPAPER ADS
\$12,659 total

Copper News
\$1,601

Independent News
\$4,987

Robson Publishing
\$1,230

Casa Grande Newspapers
\$4,841

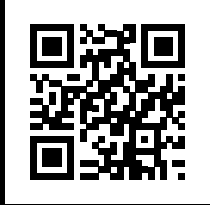
Source: Pinal County Elections Department Campaign Finance Reports

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February marks industry's busiest season in the desert



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To the fore: Golf booms in Maricopa during February

BY JUSTIN GRIFFIN

THE WEATHER IS IDYLIC — 72 DEGREES. THE fairways are a lush green.

By late afternoon, the winter sun splashes a rosy finish on your round against a background of purple mountains and desert vegetation. It is majestic, even if you didn't break 100.

It's inviting if you live here, and more so if you've paid thousands of dollars to escape driveway snow-shoveling duty.

Golf is big business in Maricopa, and as we enter February, we enter The Season.

Tee times become a challenge to snag.

The 2023 golf-club models from the major manufacturers are arriving at local pro shops this month.

And if you've never been a golfer, you might be inspired to give it a try after watching the WM Phoenix Open in person or on TV.

Fueled by COVID-19 and social distancing, the game of golf was something people could do outside during the pandemic when they couldn't do much else. It has reached heights of popularity not seen since a young Tiger Woods won The Masters in 1997.

According to Golf Digest and the National Golf Foundation, there were more than 597 million rounds played in the U.S. in 2021. A slight decline of 2% followed in 2022, but those numbers still are well above pre-pandemic levels, when it often was perceived as a dying sport.



February marks the onset of the busy season at Maricopa's two golf courses.

Bryan Moritt



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The two golf courses in Maricopa, The Duke at Rancho El Dorado and Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club, similarly have thrived since the onset of the pandemic, in some ways outpacing national trends. Both are open to the public.

For the last four years, both courses have experienced significant growth in the number of rounds played.

Players at The Duke teed it up for 60,179 rounds in 2022, up nearly 13% since 2019, when 53,285 rounds were played.

At Southern Dunes, 47,921 rounds were logged in 2022, an increase of 9,208 rounds from 2019. That's an increase of 24%.

Nationally, the big year was 2021, when rounds increased 19%, according to the National Golf Foundation. Abnormally good weather throughout the country made it the best weather year for golf since 2012, when rounds played increased 8.7%.

While Maricopa's numbers didn't quite match those national spikes, statistics show in 2022, when national trends took a bit of a step back, Maricopa's courses saw continued growth, affirming golf is an important part of the local and statewide economic landscape.

There are golfers in all 50 states, but Arizona is among the few where you can count on being able to play year-round.

This time of year in Arizona, and especially in Maricopa, is the busiest on the courses.

Bryon Gribbons is a certified PGA professional and has spent the last seven years as the general manager and club pro at The Duke. It's his second stint at the par-72 course. He was previously there from 2009-11.

Advice for beginners

It's important to consider your personal goals with golf. Is the game for you? To determine that with the least financial investment, Bryon Gribbons, general manager and club pro at The Duke, suggests renting a set of clubs to try it out first.

"We rent out sets of clubs," Gribbons said. "That's a good way to see if it's something you are interested in doing, because it can be an expensive sport."

If you want to get serious, the next step is to purchase a set. This can be tricky, as Gribbons explained.

"It could cost anywhere from a couple of hundred bucks at a big-box store to a couple of thousand dollars, depending on what club situation you want



Bryon Gribbons

to go with," Gribbons said.

Brady Wilson, general manager at Southern Dunes, said club customization is an important piece of the puzzle.

"Getting clubs fitted is an important part," Wilson said.

"Everyone is a different height and shape and will swing the club a little differently. If you have clubs fitted, your scores are going to improve quicker. And, at most places, it doesn't cost any more to get clubs fitted. It just takes a little more time. Most of the

time, you have to wait for them to come by special order."

Now that you have decided you want to play golf and you've invested in clubs, the next step is instruction.

Gribbons said there's guidance available at just about any price point.

"We have multiple teachers and offer clinics for beginners," he said. "You can start by attending a clinic for \$20-\$30. You might want to get 30 minutes, or an hour with a professional for \$50 to \$100."

Regardless of which route you take, it's important to practice, Gribbons said.

"The most important thing is to get out and play," he said. "Sometimes, people will schedule lessons with a professional and will not play between lessons. When you do that, you're setting yourself up to have to go over the same problems."

If you're trying to learn the sport, another good idea is to play during less-busy times, like in the midafternoon.

"We advise newer players to go out when it's slower," Gribbons said. "It's a lot more enjoyable if you're not having to look over your shoulder for people behind you waiting to play."

Gribbons said above all else, enjoyment is the prime goal of golf.

"We have people who just come out and hack at the ball and aren't that concerned with lessons," Gribbons said. "They are just out to have fun and as long as they're keeping up with the pace of play, that's fine."

"We don't mind if you shoot 180, as long as you keep up with the pace of play and are having fun."

"That's what golf is about, having fun."

Bryan Mordt



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As the city has grown, so has activity at The Duke, he said.

“It has flooded the courses here in town,” Gribbons said. “Now, during the peak, we’re pretty much booked at 100% capacity. Back then (2009-11), we would be at 75% during peak season.”

Brady Wilson, a certified PGA professional, has been general manager at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes since 2012. Wilson said peak season began Jan. 9 and will continue through April 10. While the course at Southern Dunes is busy all day now, that will all change when the heat of the summer hits around May.

“People still want to come out and play,” Wilson said, “but they want to play between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m.”

Pricing

Both courses utilize dynamic pricing, meaning it will cost more to play during busier times than at slower times.

For Southern Dunes, fees during peak season are \$159 to \$179, and for the week of the WM Phoenix Open (Feb. 6-12), it’s closer to \$300.

Gribbons said the top rate at The Duke is \$85 during peak season, but it can fluctuate.

“If we’re crazy busy, that could be \$105, or \$107,” Gribbons said. “But if it’s slower, you could see that rate fall to \$75.”

It gets a lot cheaper to play at both courses in the summer. At The Duke, rates fall to as low as \$20 for a game. At Southern Dunes, the cheapest summer rates are around \$50.

Both courses have a driving range. At The Duke, you can purchase a small bucket of balls for \$7, a medium bucket for \$10 or a large bucket for \$15.

The driving range is included in the green fee at Southern Dunes, but it comes with a caveat, as Wilson explained.

“Every golf course has a point in the afternoon where they call it twilight, or sundown,” Wilson said. “It’s the time of day where you don’t have enough daylight to play. We close the range at that point because anyone who comes out just wants to get onto the course and go play.”



Scratch players and duffers alike drag the clubs out of the garage in Maricopa in February.



Tee times

While both courses may appear to have next-day availability, those tee times often are limited to the afternoon. For example, on Jan. 12 the earliest tee time available the next day at Southern Dunes was at 2:30 p.m., which means a complete game would be a difficult task to complete. Wilson said

Continued on page 20

Rounds of golf played in the United States				
YEAR	NATIONAL	THE DUKE	SOUTHERN DUNES	
2022	585 million (-2%)	60,179 (+5.2%)	47,921 (+ 9.7%)	Sources: Golf Digest; The National Golf Foundation, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes, The Duke. Note: All rounds consisted of 18 holes.
2021	597 million (+19%)	57,199 (+4.5%)	43,678 (+12.2%)	
2020	502 million (+14%)	54,737 (+3%)	38,925 (+.5%)	
2019	441 million	53,285	38,713	

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The Silver Spur Grill at The Duke

the average round at Southern Dunes takes about four hours and 30 minutes hours and the course is dark by 6 p.m.

Gribbons said at The Duke, it's best to book at least a week out to ensure you get a decent tee time. He added that a round at The Duke runs at least four hours and 15 minutes.

This time of year, the most-valued tee time is 9 a.m. To get it, you should try to book about two weeks out.

At Southern Dunes, it's a good idea to book at least five days out.

Course structure, history

Southern Dunes was built in 2001 and The Duke in 2003. The Duke is considered semi-private, as it has 100 members, a number Gribbons said isn't likely to change.

"We have members, but we're a public golf course," Gribbons said. "We don't have plans of adding any members. It's a balancing act of trying to figure out how many members you can have plus how many public players you can have."

"If you have too many members, the public won't be able to get tee times. You walk a fine line of trying not to upset your loyal members and at the same time have tee times available to the public ... otherwise, they go somewhere else."

Southern Dunes also is public. The Ak-Chin Indian Community purchased the facility in 2010 and over the next three years transformed it from a private club to a daily-fee facility.

"I look at it like there's two histories with this course," Wilson said. "Before January of 2013 and after. There's no men's or women's group that gets preferential treatment, it's all very democratic. It's first come, first serve. Everyone has the right to that 9 a.m. tee time on Saturday morning, it's just who books it first."

As for difficulty, the heavily-bunkered Southern Dunes has a higher rating. It's often the site of championship tournaments, including the 2023 NIT college tournament in May. It will host a U.S. Open qualifier the same month.

"It's a championship golf course," Wilson said. "The course is built to be a challenge. There's a lot of sand, a high slope rating. The golf course is hard."

As Gribbons explained, The Duke is a little more forgiving.

"The layout is friendly toward players," Gribbons said. "I wouldn't say it's easy, but it's a moderate course, where all ages can play regardless of skill level."

Continued on page 22

Bryan Mordt

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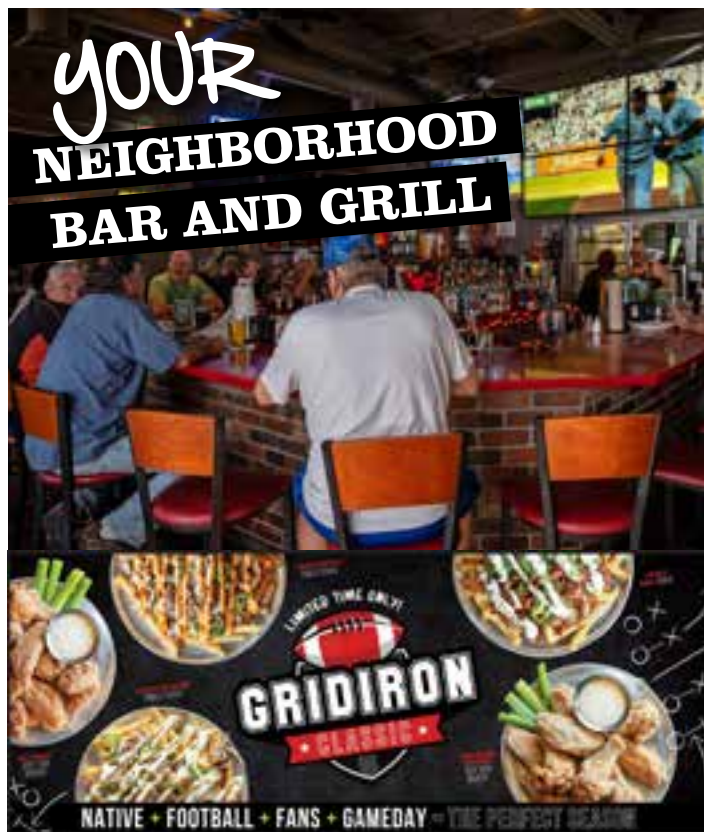
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The Duke was designed by David Druzisky, who at the time was based in Phoenix. He moved to Boise, Idaho, in 2006. Druzisky's other notable designs include Laughlin Ranch in Bullhead City, Ariz., and the Links at Teton Peaks in Idaho, both of which earned national acclaim.

For Gribbons, No. 5 and No. 18 are the memorable holes at The Duke. "Number 5 is our signature hole," Gribbons said. "It's a par-3 and the greens are completely surrounded by water."

The 18th hole is the toughest, according to Gribbons. "It's a par 5 with water all along the left side," he said. "It's kind of a high-risk, high-reward kind of hole. You know that if you hit a good drive, you can risk it and try to go for it in 2. But if you're not careful, you'll end up in the water."

The Duke is also a residential golf course, which adds a community feel, Gribbons explained.

"It's a great setting for a golf course, and we have a restaurant on site, too," Gribbons said. "Anyone can come out and use our putting green or chipping arena for free if they bring their own balls."

The design of Southern Dunes was a collaboration among PGA Tour legend Fred Couples and architects Lee Schmidt and Brian Curley. It's the sixth course designed by the trio. The others include The Plantation and The Palms, near Palm Springs, Calif.; Southern Oaks Country Club in Houston; Talega in San Clemente, Calif., and The Crosby Estate in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

Southern Dunes sits on 320 acres, with mountain vistas. It is in the style of an Australian Sand Belt golf course. It once was part of the Ak-Chin Indian Community's original May 1912 reservation before it was removed by presidential executive order later that year.

Prior to the Ak-Chin Community purchasing the course in 2010, three other groups had owned the course that initially was developed as a private club.

"To this day, the majority of our players come from the Phoenix metro area, whether it's golfers from the Phoenix area or what I call the transient golfers visiting during the winter from other parts of the country," Wilson said. "That's where most of our play comes from."

To attract those far-flung players, Wilson said the goal is to deliver a high-level experience.

"Everything we do is aimed at offering a quality golf experience, so when golfers leave here and have to drive back up to Phoenix on (SR) 347, they're saying that it was worth it."



Psychology 101

There's a mental aspect to the game of golf. It's just you, the ball and the hole. Brady Wilson, general manager at Southern Dunes, said it's best to try to keep the mission simple.

"I think a lot of people focus on technique and then start worrying about how they swing the club. The point of the game is to get the ball in the hole in the fewest strokes possible."

That said, there is a mental side of the game that can't be ignored, according to Wilson.

"Your golf game will mirror your life," he said. "So, if you're going through some kind of a personal struggle

off the course, it will probably show up on the course. So, it's good to be in a solid state of mind before your round."

Bryon Gribbons, general manager at The Duke, said managing expectations is critical.

"If you're the type who doesn't practice, you can't expect to go out and shoot under 80," Gribbons said. "But if you're grinding, getting lessons and putting the work in, then your expectations should change. But if you're going to be the guy who doesn't practice and shoots a 120, your expectation should be to go out there and have a good time."

"I don't know if there's a psychology to it as much as it's just a hard sport. If

you don't practice, you're not going to get better."

Everyone has been on the course when someone in their foursome or one nearby has a meltdown. They miss an easy shot, or they hit a slice reminiscent of Ted Knight's in the movie "Caddyshack." ("Gambling is illegal at Bushwood, sir, and I never slice." And then he does.). The yelling and screaming can sometimes be a distraction to others.

"I think we've all had tough rounds," Wilson said. "But golf is a gentleman's game. So, if you're having a bad day and you start screaming and throwing clubs, you're probably taking away from someone else's experience. And now they're uncomfortable. So, the thing

to remember is that golf is a game of etiquette and even in your most frustrating times, you need to be cognizant that you're not taking away from someone else's experience."

Wilson referenced "Ted Lasso," the Apple television show about an American football coach leading a British soccer team.

"You've got to think like a goldfish," Wilson said. "It only has a 10-second memory."

"The thing about golf is that you have to count all of the shots. There are no do-overs. So, once you hit a stroke, whether it was good or bad, it's over and it counts. So, it's best to put your energy into the next one because that one's going to count, too."

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Continued on page 24



“I’ve heard at one point, around 25% of the homes in Rancho El Dorado were owned by Canadians.”—DAYV MORGAN, REALTOR

Owning a home on a golf course

There are roughly 500 houses in Maricopa considered golf course homes. That represents about 2% of the total market. The question is whether that scarcity equates to higher demand.

Dayv Morgan, a Realtor who’s closed nearly \$300 million in real estate deals in and around Maricopa, said while the value of golf course homes has waned in the past few years, it’s still there.

“I’d say the average appraiser is going to add about \$20,000 onto the value of a home that’s on a golf course,” Morgan said. “In the early 2010’s it was still about \$20,000, however the sales prices then were about a third of what they are today. So, the value added as a percentage of the price is a lot less.”

Morgan explained the reason for the change was the kind of buyer. Prior to the pandemic, people from Canada comprised a sizable portion of the market in Maricopa.

“It’s hard to get an exact number, but I’ve heard at one point, around 25% of the homes in Rancho El Dorado were owned by Canadians,” Morgan said. “From my own experience, I think that’s likely pretty accurate.”



Lot premiums for a home along The Duke can reach \$20,000.

With Canada’s population about one-tenth of the United States, those buyers were used to more wide-open spaces.

“They wanted bigger lots,” Morgan said of many Canadians. “But in Maricopa, the lot sizes are smaller, so the next best thing was to get a home on a golf course.”

The slight shift in the market was a result of a few factors, the biggest being COVID-19, which forced many Canadians to sell their homes in Maricopa due to travel restrictions and problems they encountered leaving or getting back into Canada.

Bryan Mordt



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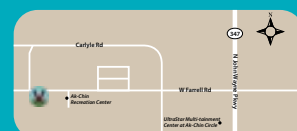


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Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club





Is a golf course home for you?

BY DAYV MORGAN

Purchasing a home adjacent to a golf course has its advantages. In addition to a certain amount of prestige that comes with owning a home along the course, you're likely to have fewer neighbors, a little more privacy and hopefully a picturesque view.

There are drawbacks to owning a golf course home, too. Here are a few tips when considering whether to purchase homes that abut a golf course:


- **Not every view is green:** Remember, we live in a desert and just because a house faces a golf

course, it doesn't mean that you will see fields of green grass. Depending on where your home is situated and which hole it's near, you may have a view of mostly brown dirt, or you may have a house that backs up to a hill that keeps you from seeing much of anything at all.




- **Privacy is not a given:** You need to consider where the cart paths and fairways are. If your house is right next to a green, you may have a steady flow of traffic running by your backyard all day long. If that's the case, you're not going to feel like you have that much privacy. And, depending on the hole and its difficulty, you might be subject to the rants of angry golfers who are having a bad day.

- **Errant shots could hit your house:** This is more of a concern than you might believe. Along with broken windows and damaged stucco, golf balls could break your roof tiles, leading to leaks. These issues may not be covered by your homeowner's insurance. When you tour a home, be aware of your surroundings. Look for golf balls in the yard, or holes in the side of the house. But be aware that many homes are patched and painted before they are listed to

disguise any evidence that a golf ball was ever there. Also, look at the neighboring houses. Do they have large nets protecting their backyards from the golf course? If you are serious about purchasing the home, before you move forward it would be a good idea to ask the next-door neighbors whether they feel like they're in the line of fire.

- **The timing is right:** Spring is the peak season for golf in Arizona. It's the perfect time to look for a home on a golf course. There will be more golfers out there now compared to other times of the year, so it's a great time to get a reading on how busy your prospective backyard will be. 

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

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No bowl-oney: Business is good but sports bars' big-game profits not necessarily super

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino sportsbook expected to be Super Bowl gambling mecca

BY LEE SHAPPELL

MARICOPA-AREA BUSINESSES that profit from National Football League games, particularly sports bars, have driven the length of the field and they're at the goal line, ready to score.

The NFL is big business every Sunday of the football season for establishments like Ralph Skrzypczak's The Roost Sports Bar & Café.

But the hype associated with the Super Bowl is unmatched, Skrzypczak said. He expects a standing-room-only crowd for the big game at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 12, played this year at State Farm Stadium in Glendale.

At Native Grill and Wings, where Mike Wheeler is general manager, the heavy Super Bowl business is not in the bar but in a huge spike in take-out orders.

And the sportsbook at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino again anticipates a lively exchange of money wagered not only on the game but also on unusual proposition bets, side wagers made on an event not directly affecting the game's outcome; like which team scores first.

"So, it's kind of a weird one," Skrzypczak said. "It is a big promotion day and a big publicity day. That, for us, is huge. And we want our customers to have a really good time, so we do some special things."

But it's not necessarily the financial bonanza one might expect.

"During the regular season, there are three TV time slots each Sunday. The two early slots have two games each – not that many people hang around for the late game," Wheeler said. "So, we have people coming and going all day to watch games. The Super Bowl is just one game. The place is full, but it's just one game."

Super Bowl Sunday profits are about the same as any other NFL football Sunday, he said.

"It's a big day, but truthfully it's about 25% above an average non-football Sunday," Wheeler said. "But it's right up there with St. Patrick's Day, Thanksgiving Eve, New Year's Eve and any Friday night for us."



Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino senior vice president and general manager Michael Kintner (left); David Snock, vice president of western operations for sportsbook partner William Hill (far right), celebrate the first bet at Caesars Sportsbook at Harrah's Ak-Chin with Caesars rewards members Joseph and Billie Butkiewicz of Ahwatukee.

The Roost, 20800 N. John Wayne Pkwy., Suite 101, is spicing the fun with drawings for merchandise, including an 85-inch Samsung television. Skrzypczak added special pricing on pitchers and appetizers are in the works. He is considering repeating a crowd favorite of past years: shots half off for the next round when a team scores.

It costs \$10 to reserve a table or a seat at the bar, inside or outside, at The Roost for Super Sunday, and they are sold out, Skrzypczak said. Standing-room customers will be admitted as people leave to stay under the

building's 200-person capacity.

At Native, Wheeler says if you want take-out, you'd better order early.

"I've been here eight years now and it seems like to-go business is what carries Super Bowl Sundays," Wheeler said. "Our to-go business jumps through the roof by about 30%. There's that two hours right up to game time when we just get hammered. People are getting back to normal now after the pandemic, having parties, so we expect to see an increase this year."

Native, 21164 N. John Wayne Pkwy., sees about a 30% increase in take-out business on

Brian Petersheim Jr.



Super Sunday. It eliminates one table and uses the space to stage to-go pickups.

"We might have like 70 orders to pick up at 3 o'clock, another 50 at 3:30, so we need an area," Wheeler said.

Native won't take reservations and there will be no admission charge. There also will not be specials on food or beverages.

"Just our normal Sunday discounts, which we do year-round," Wheeler said.

For those planning to come to the bar to watch the game, Native has added TVs this year. It now has 33, including a four-plex of 65-inch screens over the bar and two 65-inch screens on the patio.

Bryan Mordt

"The bar still has a decent day," Wheeler said. "But we don't really gain a lot of sales revenue over any other NFL Sunday. We only seat about 200. When people are hanging out to watch games, you're not turning over tables and getting that money per table. That's always the issue with football for us."

Action also is expected to be brisk at Harrah's Ak-Chin, 15406 N. Maricopa Road, after sports gambling was legalized last year under Arizona law. A spokesman said wagering figures are not available for the initial Super Bowl take in 2022 at Harrah's Ak-Chin.

However, Caesars Entertainment, parent company of Harrah's, confirmed betting on



The bars at Native Grill and Wings (left) and The Roost Sports Bar and Cafe are expected to be standing-room only on Super Bowl Sunday.

Super Bowl LVI was the most-bet-on volume-wise in legal U.S. sports betting history. This includes the most-bet-on Super Bowl in Nevada history with \$179.8 million in total handle last year.

Gamblers also like offbeat betting. For example, last year marked the third straight year the most-bet-on player for First Touchdown Scored cashed for customers at Caesars Sportsbook. Those were Odell Beckham Jr. last year, Rob Gronkowski the year before and Patrick Mahomes three years ago.

"The game is just such a spectacle," Skrzypczak said. "More than anything else, we just want people to have a good time."

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Can't get a ticket to the Super Bowl? Consider ancillary activities

BY TOM SCHUMAN

THE BIGGEST PROFESSIONAL football game of the season — Super Bowl LVII — is coming to the Valley on Feb. 12, and while very few Maricopans are likely to attend at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, there are opportunities for fans to enjoy activities surrounding the event.

A Super Bowl ticket is among the most difficult to obtain in all of sports. They typically carry a face value of \$800 to \$1,500, but often sell for several thousand dollars or more on the secondary market.

It was a little easier in 1982 in Pontiac, Mich., when tickets from the league were available for \$40, and I was able to travel from Cincinnati to watch my beloved Bengals fall to the San Francisco 49ers.



The Super Bowl has grown into much more than the culmination of the National Football League season. It is a celebration of the sport with fans from around the world converging on the host city's region.

Events for fans without game tickets include:

- The **NFL's Super Bowl Experience** at the Phoenix Convention Center is Feb. 4-5 and Feb. 9-11. Among the features are autographs from current star players and legends, photos with the Vince Lombardi Trophy and testing your skills in interactive games. Tickets begin at \$20.
- The **Super Bowl Experience (Part II)** is hosted by the local organizing committee

at Margaret T. Hance Park in downtown Phoenix. A free celebration Feb. 9-12 includes family-friendly games and activities, live music and entertainment, and local cuisine. The official Super Bowl Watch Party also is in the park.

- The **Bud Light Super Bowl Music Fest**, a three-day concert series, is at Footprint Center, home of the Phoenix Suns. Lead performers will be Paramore (Feb. 9), Dave Matthews Band (Feb. 10) and Imagine Dragons and Kane Brown (Feb. 11).
- **Opening Night**, Feb. 6 at the Footprint Center, is the only time all week players from both teams are together for media interviews.
- The **Super Bowl Gospel Celebration** is Feb. 8 at Mesa Arts Center and Taste of the NFL is Feb. 11 at Chateau Luxe in Phoenix. All offer tickets for fans.
- Two special media gatherings are the Historic Old Town **ESPN Main Street Tailgate**, Feb. 8-12 in Old Town Scottsdale, and the **Fox Sports broadcast set**, with programming throughout the week at The Great Lawn at State Farm Stadium. Community green projects, youth-football



clinics and a legacy grant program are among other initiatives associated with the Super Bowl.

No event of this magnitude can occur without thousands of volunteers. A group of Maricopa residents is among the crews that will welcome visitors at the airport and area hotels, offer assistance at the Super Bowl Experience and more. My wife and I will be stationed in downtown Phoenix for portions of three days providing directions and guidance for fans.

We bring a history of Super Bowl volunteer experience to the table. In our former home, we were part of Super Bowl XLVI in Indianapolis in 2012. We were on similar downtown duty, and I spent hours working below the zipline (a first for Super Bowl hosts) that carried thousands of fans soaring overhead.

That was the only Super Bowl in Indianapolis. This is the fourth for Arizona, following 1996, 2008 and 2015.

For the trivia-minded, the cities that have hosted the most Super Bowls are Miami (11), New Orleans (10), Los Angeles (8) and Tampa (5). Phoenix is now No. 5 on the list and looking to add to that in the future. 🗨

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Pedal to the metal on her petals

Maricopa woman pursues budding career as floral designer

BY LEE SHAPPELL



SHE HAS WORKED IN BANKS. SHE has dressed hair. She has shipped freight all over the world.

And she's been pretty good at all of that. Yet still she yearned for something that might bring her the sweet smell of success.

So, Diana Cockle of Rancho El Dorado, on the suggestion of a friend, took a floral-arrangement class from one of the nation's leaders in the industry, Michael Gaffney.

"I went up to Phoenix and trained with him for about a week, and from Day 1, it was like, wow, you can not only do something with something that's so beautiful but you can also make it more beautiful. It's just crazy."

And now, it's her business, albeit one that can best be described as budding.

She's been a florist since May, but already the work she does from her home as Royal Blooms LLC is gaining acclaim around Maricopa.

Cockle took first place last fall in the Pacana Park Truck or Treat pumpkin contest. She was busy through the holidays creating arrangements and wreaths for clients. Recently, Mayor Nancy Smith asked Cockle, 54, to create an arrangement for the funeral of Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb's son, Cooper.

"It was a huge honor for me to be able to do that," Cockle said.

On Jan. 15, she competed in her first Arizona State Florist Association-sanctioned floral competition, Dueling Designer of the West, at Arizona Flower Market in downtown Phoenix. The winner had more than two decades of experience.

"I was up against three ladies that had 20-plus years of experience," Cockle said. "I chatted with several florists after the competition, and they were in awe of the short time I have been designing. That, right there, for me was a major win. I did something in a few months that several of them have not done in their years of being a florist."

Her plan is to elevate her business from her kitchen countertop to a brick-and-mortar shop. "Once the surf park gets built, my plan is to



Diana Cockle of Rancho El Dorado has become a quick success story since embarking upon a mid-life career change as a florist last May.

"I chatted with several florists after the competition, and they were in awe of the short time I have been designing." —DIANA COCKLE

have a shop over in that area and do this full time," she said.

She and her husband still operate their Maricopa-based logistics company together, shipping freight worldwide. They've lived in the city 18 years.

Her Royal Blooms LLC business still is largely word-of-mouth although it now has a Facebook page.

"We're holding off on creating a website because once I do that, I will be inundated," she said. "And then I'd worry about the quality trying to keep up."

Gaffney has been a floral designer for 25 years. He has appeared on the Hallmark Channel, the Today Show and authored books on floral design. He owns 16 floral-design schools across the U.S. and three in Europe.

"A friend had attended his class in Phoenix and loved it," Cockle said. "Michael Gaffney is known to the stars, to Hallmark, he's got a prestigious background. He goes around the country and teaches classes to anyone who wants to learn more about flowers. So, I attended classes. He just goes above and beyond. It was amazing."

"It's an industry that if you're not consumed in education, you're going to fall behind. It keeps you up with techniques, how to look at things and how to combine things that just enhances your ability to create."

She's now confident that if you want a custom floral display, she can arrange that. 🗨

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Mark McCain of Senita hopes to manufacture his patented hydrogen-powered rotary engine and transmission in Maricopa, and perhaps even manufacture autos with them.

Senita inventor hopes to mass-produce his clean, powerful, car engine in Maricopa

BY BRIAN PETERSHEIM JR.

FROM GADGETS TO ENGINES, Mark McCain is no newbie to inventing.

McCain, 61, a machinist at an aerospace manufacturing company in Phoenix, has tinkered since he was little, creating his own toys as a child and patenting inventions as an adult.

The Senita man was a jet-engine mechanic in the Navy and later designed and built molds and equipment to produce a one-man hovercraft.

His path was similar to his late father, Dan, a nuclear-power operator in the Army.

Dan McCain served on the USS Sturgis, a Navy cargo ship in World War II converted to the world's first floating nuclear power plant in the 1960s by the Army. The MH-1A reactor was the most powerful of the Army's small fleet of reactor plants.

Eventually, father and son inventors worked on projects together.

Among them was a hydrogen-powered automobile engine — the McCain Rotary Engine, or MRX. It runs on expanding gas, including hydrogen. The McCains received a patent in 2009. Dan McCain died the following year.



Mark McCain holds a patent for a hydrogen powered engine.

The engine generates more power on less fuel than the well-known Wankel rotary engine, according to McCain, and also can run on steam or diesel fuel.

McCain believes the revolutionary engine powered by hydrogen can change the automotive world — and help address the climate crisis with its zero-emission technology.

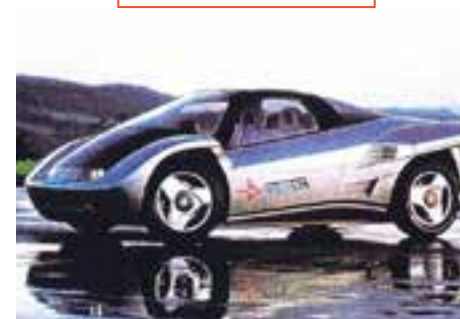
In a YouTube video from 2007, McCain said he is “confident that someday I will be able to produce a car that will exceed 80 mpg highway and 125 mpg city!”

DeLorean dreams

Dan McCain and fellow engineer-inventor John DeLorean were business acquaintances who shared an interest in automotive innovation. Mark McCain recalled that DeLorean, like his father, had transmission patents, a history with Studebaker and a mindfulness about the environment.

Dan McCain invented a flywheel regenerative braking transmission, his son said, to improve a vehicle's fuel economy. It was eventually put in a Studebaker.

McCain said DeLorean was hoping to use their engine and a McCain transmission in what was at the time DeLorean's concept car.



Mark McCain hopes to mass-produce his transmission (above right) and hydrogen-powered rotary engine in Maricopa perhaps to a second-generation DeLorean Next Generation Motors' car, like the concept at left.



DeLorean's gull-winged DMC sports car, of course, had a starring role as the time machine in the “Back to the Future” films. McCain has the letter dated July 21, 1986, addressed to Dan McCain, that reads, “Your engine is very interesting. Do you have a prototype?” It was signed, “Sincerely, John Z. DeLorean.”

DeLorean died in 2005, but McCain dreams that one day he might partner with DeLorean's daughter, Kathryn DeLorean, in creating a vehicle manufactured in Maricopa conceived by their fathers and powered by the McCain hydrogen-fueled engine. She launched a Detroit-based car company last year.

McCain, active in the AZ DeLorean Club and Arizona Hydrogen Association, said Kathryn DeLorean is aware of their fathers' history and in January opened dialogue about possibly jointly opening a Maricopa manufacturing facility of a DeLorean car conceived by her father with a McCain engine and transmission.

McCain recently entered a contest to design the logo for DeLorean Next Generation Motors' upcoming vehicles. He took third place.

But McCain isn't opposed to going it alone. With or without DeLorean, he is formulating plans to manufacture a vehicle with his engine and power train in Maricopa.

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Dan McCain (right) was a nuclear power engineer. Dan and a young Mark McCain (far right) take a ride in their hovercraft.



Inquisitive mind

McCain came to Maricopa in 2015. He loved the small-town feel and recognized the city's growth potential.

"And you couldn't beat the housing prices," he said.

He and his wife, Yolando, a native of Chihuahua, Mexico, have four adult children.

A military brat born in France, McCain came to the U.S. at age 3 when his father was transferred to Fort Belvoir in Virginia to start nuclear-power training. McCain spoke mostly French at the time.

Another transfer took the family to El Paso, Texas, when he was 12. There, he would

eventually do machining for several companies.

McCain was creative and inquisitive, always questioning how things work. He had a habit of deconstructing items around the house.

"I would take apart a toaster just to see how it worked," he said.

When he could not figure out why something worked the way it did, he would ask his father.


One day, McCain asked him why there was a daytime and nighttime. His father explained by spinning a basketball with a dot on it while

McCain held a flashlight to represent sunlight.

Later, at 3 a.m., McCain said he woke his dad to ask if the planet was still turning, and if so, why.

"I have been seeking answers ever since," McCain said.

Another invention the father and son worked on was a nuclear-fusion reaction chamber. McCain said the reactor would fuse hydrogen fuel.

"Twenty years ago, nobody wanted to talk to you about using hydrogen as fuel," McCain said. "But now, the environment and industry has changed, and they are seeing the potential." 



Maricopa Foot and Ankle provides expert care when surgery needed

BY DR. C JON BEECROFT, PODIATRIST

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Infection: The most-common reason for surgery is infection. Examples are painful ingrown toenail and diabetic foot infections. If the infection is not controlled by our natural body immune system or if antibiotics are not working one may need a surgery to remove the infection.

Cancer: One may not think of cancer in the foot and ankle, but it does occur. We




can biopsy lesions or sores, to confirm if it is cancer. If it is, we can surgically remove it and work with an oncologist to assure that proper treatment continues.

Malformations: A bunion is a common malformation of the foot and may need surgery to correct the alignment of the toe.

Bone spurs, dislocated joints, hammer toes and scar tissue also are among malformations that require surgery.

Every patient has different needs. At Maricopa Foot and Ankle, each patient is treated as an individual. If we can treat a patient without surgery, that is always good.

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Restaurant inspections



A summary of the Dec. 19-Jan. 13 food inspections by Pinal County Environmental Health Services

 <p>Certified food-protection manager No employees present have certified food-safety manager certificate or food-service worker card.</p>	<p>Use and maintenance of a handwashing Open bag of french fries in the basin of the hand sink. Hand sink to remain accessible at all times.</p>
<p>THE ROOST SPORTS BAR & CAFE</p> <p>Certified food-protection manager No present employees with certified food-manager certification.</p> <p>Cooling Internal temperatures of cooked cheese in walk-in cooler 87-91°F.</p> <p>Cooling methods Temperature of salsa in walk-in cooler 55-60°F.</p>	<p>Time/temperature control for safety food, hot and cold holding Temperature of salsa on ice at expo wait station 50-55°F (<41°F required).</p> <p>Consumption of animal foods that are raw, undercooked or not otherwise processed to eliminate pathogens Offering hamburger "cooked to order"/ undercooked without a complete consumer advisory.</p>
 <p>Reheating for hot holding Temperature of chili in front steam well 64- 67°F. Water temperature 65°F. Steam well in "off" position.</p> <p>Maintaining equipment, food-contact surfaces, nonfood-contact surfaces, and utensils Build-up of debris on non-food contact surfaces of prep cooler, prep sinks and counters around teas station.</p>	<p>Availability of resources No cold water at front hand sink.</p> <p>Cleaning, frequency and restrictions Build-up of debris on floors.</p> <p>Cleanliness of floors, walls and ceilings Metal wall at fryer station damaged.</p>
<p>EXCELLENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roots Eatery Sonic Drive-In The Salsa Chic Taco Bell 	<p>SATISFACTORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> La Quinta Inn & Suites The Roost Sports Bar & Cafe Wendy's

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



Business, development around town

Christ's Church of the Valley received its permit to construct a church at 19475 N. Porter Road, at a cost of \$7,566,258.

Rancho El Dorado Phase III Homeowners' Association will spend \$885,000 to build a concessions and restroom building for the new **Park at the Lakes** in Rancho El Dorado. The 2,176-square-foot facility will be built by Haydon Building Corp.

Home @ Maricopa Apartments will begin work on two projects at 17645 N. Porter Road: The initial five-story residential building will cost \$9,742,445 and a clubhouse on the property will be constructed for \$973,786. Both projects will be built by Sam Construction Group LLC for owner Sam MC I LLC.

Homestead North will build a 1,054-square-foot, metal shade structure at 20663 N. Wilford Ave. at a cost of \$11,594, the work being done by Shade N Net of Arizona, Inc.

A fire access gate will be added at 18128 N. Toledo Ave. in **Tortosa** with installation done by Sargon Masonry Construction LLC.


Owner Paragon Hampton Edison will begin work on eight duplexes at **Hampton Edison**, 45305 W. Edison Road at a cost of \$2,138,367. There will be five two-bedroom units (10 dwellings) and three one-

bedrooms (six dwellings), all of which will be a single story. The one-bedroom units will be 645 square feet and the two-bedrooms will be 1,020 square feet. Work is being done by Beckshar Diamond Commercial LLC.

The **REV@Porter** duplexes at 17805 N. Porter Road will add 11 units at a cost of \$3,017,851. Sodella Construction Inc. will build two 782-square-foot duplexes with one bedroom each and another nine that feature both a one-bedroom and two-bedroom unit. The two-bedrooms will be 1,093 square feet each. All buildings will be single story. Owner ERV Porter LLC is contracting the work.

Hampton Edison will build 17 new single-family homes for rent at 45305 W. Edison Road at a cost of \$2,933,429. There will be 10 two-bedroom units of 1,028 square feet each and seven three-bedrooms with 1,292 square feet. All the units are a single story. Work will be done by Beckshar Diamond Commercial LLC.

Innovation Village @ West Maricopa will build 10 detached, single-story homes for rent at a cost of \$1,576,350. The two-bedroom units will each span 1,012 square feet and have a private patio. T&K Contracting LLC will do the work for owner Maricopa 35 LLC.

REV@Porter will build 11 single-story, single-family homes for rent at 17805 N. Porter Road. There will be eight two-bedroom units of 1,106 square feet at three, three-bedrooms of 1,291 square feet of which will be a single story. The \$1.96 million project will be built by Sodella Construction Inc. for EVR Porter LLC. 



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MUSD's revised school boundaries reflect growth, set stage for 7th elementary school

BY JAY TAYLOR

I N A CITY FACING GROWING PAINS on just about every level, education has not been exempt.

Realignment of attendance boundaries for two of Maricopa Unified School District's six elementary schools, approved unanimously by the School Board in January, reflect not only current growth but also projected growth that will lead to construction of a seventh elementary school.

The boundary tweaks, effective for the 2023-24 school year, will impact 292 students at Saddleback and Santa Cruz elementary schools, forcing them to move to new schools to redistribute students among the district's four larger schools to avoid exceeding state limits.

"As we anticipate seeing more growth in enrollment and are awaiting the final word on when we can begin construction on that seventh elementary school, what we want to do is manage growth across these four elementary schools," said Tracey Pastor, MUSD's director of administrative services. "So, you can see if we make no changes, those schools would reach



capacity before our other elementary schools, particularly Santa Cruz."


The boundary changes affect 139 families living in the Homestead subdivision, which will have its attendance grid split in half. The

139 students currently at Santa Cruz who live west of Homestead and Centennial boulevards will move to Butterfield. Those who live east of Homestead and Centennial will remain at Santa Cruz.

The district's four largest elementary schools — Butterfield, Maricopa, Saddleback and Santa Cruz — have a state School Facilities Board-allocated capacity of 956 students each in their 43 classrooms. This year, Saddleback has 744 students and Santa Cruz has 774. However, both are projected to be well beyond capacity by the 2026 school year, with Santa Cruz projected at 1,177 students and Saddleback at 1,064.

Santa Rosa and Pima Butte have 603 and 506 students, respectively, in 24 and 21 classrooms.

Changes for Saddleback will affect residents of Palo Brea and Desert Cedars. MUSD will shift 153 students who live in two attendance grids to Maricopa Elementary beginning next school year.

"We believe this option moves sufficient students from Saddleback to MES," Pastor said. 



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Maricopa dentist hopes to turn ‘shameful’ child abuse episode into cautionary tale

BY LEE SHAPPELL

THE TELEVISION REPORT AND accompanying videos were shocking.

There for the entire Valley to see was well-known dentist Jared Pope, who has an office in Maricopa among several he owns in Arizona and New Mexico, yelling at and physically abusing his 20-year-old daughter, who has special needs.

Pope had snapped and acknowledges his behavior last March was disgusting and unacceptable. He’s humiliated.

He wants to share the ordeal with anyone who might be experiencing warning signs that could prevent a regrettable and harmful incident, and what he and his family have endured during the past year.

He agreed to an exclusive interview with InMaricopa to discuss it.

Pope was arrested in Gilbert April 26 on a felony charge of vulnerable-adult abuse after a March 11 incident at his home.

Pope pleaded guilty and received three years’ probation. Among the conditions are that he enroll in anger-management classes and that he is not left alone with his daughter for extended periods of time. Upon successful completion, the felony would be reduced to a misdemeanor.

“If I can advise people, and I can’t emphasize this enough: If you feel a lack of ability to manage your emotions and you feel you’re about to lose it, please seek out professional help,” Pope said. “Whatever you can do to make sure you never cross a line and never lose your temper with your loved ones, please do it.

“Take a step back. Breathe. Go for a walk. The price is too heavy to pay for overreacting in a moment of anger.”

A family friend obtained a home video of the incident and took it to Gilbert police.

In it, Pope is heard saying to his daughter, “You are going to run today. ... If I come back in here again, I’m going to grab your (expletive)

hair and I’m going to slam your (expletive) head into the (expletive) wall.”

Pope was attempting to get his daughter, who functions at the level of an 8-year-old pre-teen, to exercise out of concern she was gaining weight.

“Either I’m going to whip you every day until you run, or you’re going to run. You got it?” Pope continues.

He then pulls her to the ground and continues yelling, “I’m not going to fight with you every damn day. You come home, you do therapy, and you go and run. We all have to do it. It’s part of freaking life. Get used to it.”

Upon Pope’s arrest, an officer’s body-worn camera shows Pope saying, “She likes to overeat, so there’s this struggle all the time. We have been trying to keep her active, so she doesn’t put on extra weight. She likes to push back. I couldn’t get her to comply. I asked her, asked her and asked her. And she said, ‘No, no, no, no, no.’ As a dad, I kind of lost my (expletive) with her. I’ve never done that.”

And then Pope is heard telling the officer, “I probably grabbed her,

grabbed her arms ... just threw her on the bed, threw her on the ground, just yelled at her, screamed at her.”

Phoenix TV news outlet FOX 10 was tipped off to the video of the incident, which had received no media coverage at the time. It aired a story on Jan. 9.

Fresh wounds were opened for Pope’s family just as it was healing nearly a year after the incident. He says he received death threats after the segment aired.

“I don’t blame people for being angry,” Pope said during his InMaricopa interview. “My behavior that day was inexcusable. In a

moment of parental frustration, I reacted in a way that no parent ever should, frankly. I deeply regret what happened. Since then, there hasn’t been a single day I haven’t been focused on being the best father I can to my daughter and the best husband I can be to my wife. It’s been a long road, a lot of therapy, a lot of counseling, but we have made a lot of progress.

“I also want to say that I care very much about the patient-



Dr. Jared Pope

Submitted

business relationships I’ve developed in the (Maricopa) community over the years. And my intention is to do everything I can to restore my reputation and the trust that people have in me.”

Pope calls it “the absolute worst day in my life as a parent. Very shameful.”

“There are challenges with raising any child, especially a special-needs adult,” he said. “Things like washing her hair, using deodorant. This morning she didn’t want to take the medication she needs on a daily basis. So, these struggles are real. It’s easier in those environments to get frustrated. It’s not an excuse, but I think context matters.

“When this thing went down, it was the worst thing I’ve ever been through. I’ve been fully cooperative with the court, all the people in probation, and I want to make sure we emerge from the situation as the strong family that we have been for many years — better, actually. I want my daughter to feel loved every hour of every day. I don’t want her to question my feelings about her. I certainly don’t want her to be afraid.”

A cautionary tale

Pope said the counseling and anger management classes have helped.

“More than anything, it’s helpful to recognize signs of anger so you can act earlier. There are tools to help you cope,” he said. “It’s like having an early-warning system in the brain. The less you allow things to escalate, the more capable you are of treating people the way they deserve to be treated.”

Early-warning signs of impending loss of control include anger and stress. Among the tools, or coping mechanisms, to prevent situations from escalating are mindfulness, taking time for your well-being, learning to recognize emotions as they develop and giving yourself time to slow down and relax.

“Meditation and breathing exercises and focusing on your thoughts are great tools,” he said. “If you find yourself going down that path toward losing control, recognize that path isn’t good, and you can exit early on.

“I think we all experience the stresses of balancing work and family life,” he continued. “Things come at you from all directions, and it’s easy to get frustrated. However, that’s never an excuse for losing your temper and lashing out at anyone, especially the people you love. I would say that before, I didn’t pay much attention to self-care and to my own emotional state.”

As Pope was being taken into custody, the video shows a man who appears to be beaten down emotionally. He appears to be 180 degrees from a monster capable of doing things that caused his arrest.

He tells officers, “I just want people to know the truth.”

That truth, he told InMaricopa, is that many resources exist for parents of young children with mental deficiencies, but there are few, he says, for parents of adult children.

“I was so emotional that day,” Pope told InMaricopa. “I’ve been my daughter’s primary caregiver since she was just a year old. Now she’s almost 21, wants to be her own person, wants freedom that comes with being an adult, but she has special needs that are very challenging and she’s just not capable of making daily decisions on her own regarding things like personal safety, health and well-being. That is such a challenge for her and for us as a family.

“We’ve found it very tough to find resources for parents of special-needs adults. That’s what we hope to bring out — the challenges of raising special-needs adults. We hope to bring some understanding around these things, but, again, I’m not seeking to excuse my behavior in any way. It was shameful and it was wrong.”



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Ways to pamper your valentine

BY DR. KRISTINA DONNAY DNP, FNP-C

FACIAL TREATMENTS ARE A GREAT option to give your special valentine. There are many benefits of having a facial treatment and we offer several types of facials at Maricopa Wellness Center.

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cells in healing skin, modulates inflammation and reduces scar formation. Additional ingredients like Hyaluronic acid attract and hold moisture in the skin cells for a rapid increase in hydration and volume. Our stem-cell facial enhances regenerative properties that help repair and rejuvenate the skin. Treatments last 60 minutes and can be performed every four weeks for optimal results. This is a non-invasive treatment with minimal side effects.



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appearance. We offer six versions for differing needs. These include Detox, Hydrate, Glam, Revive, Balance and Illuminate.

Our OxyGeneo facials are performed by Deserae, our skin-care professional. The treatment usually takes about 60 minutes and may be repeated every three to four weeks for best results. Deserae can recommend which Oxygeneo is right for you based on your individual needs.

The benefits of facial treatments will vary depending on the treatment and individual skin type and condition. We offer free consultations with our esthetician, Deserae, to find the right facial for your skin.

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A mindfulness focus can help you feel better mentally

BY HARRIET PHELPS, PSYD, RETIRED

COLLECTIVELY WE MADE IT through another difficult year. We have been challenged with many shifts in our lives. Life lends itself to shifts and changes, though usually not as much as these past few years.

The best response is to protect ourselves from negative fallout around our mental and physical well being.

It is a relief to see that wellness care has begun to move into addressing more of our mental health care. Depression and anxiety are primary issues today. It is not easy asking for help, but it is worth it.

We may have taken for granted the way we think cannot be changed. Our self image was established when we were very young by our environment and circumstances. Through repetition, we developed an automatic response to events as we learned in childhood and life experiences. Mindfulness means becoming aware of how much we think and respond.

A simple thought can bring us down into depression, trigger anxiety or other reactions.

“As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.” This statement is so comprehensive it encompasses conditions and circumstances of our lives. Henry Ford said, “If you think you can or think you can’t, you are right.” Thoughts acted upon without mindfulness will trigger the emotional reaction, positive or negative.

Choose the positive. Change your thoughts, change your life. Develop a solution response.

When working with clients and attempting to develop a more-positive approach to problem solutions or thinking solutions, I would ask, “Where’s the saber-toothed tiger?” Many times, we are simply reacting by throwing an old pattern at it without seeing if the tiger really was in the room or if we just thought it was.

A traumatic event can have us developing



an extreme response to prevent the pain. Is the tiger in the room? In an emergency, we are going to react with the old tools we have used in the past. Check your toolbox: thoughts, feelings and behaviors are interconnected.

Develop a healthy response before an emergency.

Ask: Is this a thought or is this really happening? Is this an emergency? We will react. If not a risk, take time to respond by relaxing.

Ask: Can I do something about this? If yes, do it. If no, I cannot do anything, then accept.

Relax: Check your breathing and bodily reaction. Pause. Slow breathe to slow heart rate.


Anchor: Anchor your mental presence by visualizing a root going into the earth and anchoring your body. Slowly breathe to regain calm.

Self talk to soothe: Check your thinking and what you are telling yourself: I’m OK, there is no danger, I can take time to plan or accomplish this situation. I can do this.

Take time: Where appropriate to meditate: breathe, positive thought, mindfulness and calm.

Meditate: When home, find an appropriate place to relax and take a few minutes to utilize meditation music on social streaming. Select guided imagery and the author will give instructions during meditation.

As you learn these methods, your negative thoughts and impressions will diminish, more-realistic thinking will take place and you will begin to feel better emotionally.

Have a very Happy New Year. 

Harriet Phelps is a retired psychologist and a volunteer at Be Awesome Youth Coalition and Maricopa Senior Center.



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Spring planting in Maricopa

BY RITA BRICKER



Next, inspect your watering system. If it isn't working properly, now is the time to make needed repairs.

Naturally, you can plant from seed if you are so inclined. Basil, beets, cucumbers, melons, green onions, radishes and squash can be started from seed at this time of year. You must follow directions on the seed packets concerning planting depth and spacing.

However, let me suggest an even better alternative.

Saturday, March 4, is the local Master Gardeners' Spring Plant Sale at Maricopa Agricultural Center. About 2,000 plants will be available at reasonable prices. They were started in a greenhouse this year so they are of excellent quality and size for transplanting into your garden.



We will have nearly 20 kinds of tomatoes, including four varieties of cherry tomatoes, Andiamo-paste tomatoes, reliable Bella Rosa and Black from Tula tomatoes, popular Celebrity and Kellogg's Breakfast tomatoes, and two dark-red or purple varieties. Also available: Plum Dandy and Red Robin tomatoes, as well as repeat favorites like Mountain Pride and Super Sioux.

Select from 11 varieties of peppers, including mild North Star Bell, Poblano and Serrano Hot. Also this year are Golden Greek Pepperoncini and Sweet Banana peppers.

Our herb selection includes Genovese, lemon and cinnamon-basil varieties, as well as cilantro, dill, oregano and garlic chives.

We also will have eggplant and zucchini, as well as tomatillos and five kinds of cucumbers.



You can go crazy with our vegetables! That's not all. We also will have flowers, several kinds of mint, cactus and other succulents, a small selection of trees and strawberry plants for purchase. The plants we offer are

specifically grown for our locale to help you succeed in your gardening efforts.

So, please join us from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 4 to pick out your plants, get your gardening questions answered and begin your spring planting in Maricopa.

Rita Bricker is a Maricopa resident and is a Master Gardener with the University of Arizona.

InMaricopa.com/Columnists

most expensive HOME SOLD



42323 W. Bravo Drive **SOLD** Dec. 27 \$ 560,000

This two-story home in Rancho El Dorado has no neighbors behind as it backs up to the 18th hole of The Duke golf course. The first floor offers a kitchen, living space and half bath. Upstairs has a loft, master bedroom and balcony facing the golf course. The home is newly painted inside and out. It sold with a cash offer in 63 days for \$18,500 below asking price.

Community: Rancho El Dorado **Builder:** Hacienda Builders
Square feet: 3,875 **Year built:** 2005
Price per square foot: \$144.52 **Bedrooms:** 5
Days on market: 63 **Bathrooms:** 3

- 2. 41788 W. Springtime Road, Province.....\$485,000
- 3. 40045 W. James Lane, Homestead.....\$482,995
- 4. 42055 W. Morning Glory Way, Province.....\$477,830
- 5. 20673 N. Enchantment Pass, Province.....\$309,990

least expensive HOME SOLD

45420 W. Hathaway Ave. **SOLD** Dec. 29 \$ 145,000



This single-story mobile home in the Heritage District has a surrounding fence and plenty of space to park, including RV parking. The home sold with appliances in three days for \$10,000 below original list price. There is no homeowner's association.

Community: Heritage District **Builder:** Unknown
Square feet: 1,020 **Year built:** 1984
Price per square foot: \$142.15 **Bedrooms:** 2
Days on market: 3 **Bathrooms:** 1

- 2. 40868 W. Hayden Drive, Homestead North.....\$205,000
- 3. 42399 W. Desert Fairways Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$235,000
- 4. 45447 W. Amsterdam Road, Maricopa Meadows.....\$260,000
- 5. 45346 W. Hathaway Ave., Heritage District.....\$260,000

Brian Petersheim Jr.

Source: MLS, Dec. 10 - Jan. 9



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Assistive animals a major challenge for landlords

BY SHERMAN AND EUPHEMIA WEEKES

UNDER THE U.S. FAIR HOUSING ACT, there are two main categories of animals that qualify as assistive: emotional-support animals and service animals.

A service animal is trained to perform specific tasks to mitigate their owner’s disability. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, they are allowed to accompany their owners in public places. The most-common types of service animals are dogs.

Emotional-support animals help the tenant manage symptoms associated with mental or emotional disabilities. They don’t need special training to do their job. The ESA is part of the treatment plan prescribed by a medical-health professional familiar with the tenant’s medical condition and/or disability. Many types of animals qualify.

A legitimate ESA letter is recognized under



federal law and entitles the tenant to certain reasonable accommodations from the landlord. Sadly, there are scams on the internet where

individuals get bogus ESAs. Landlords must know what a legitimate ESA letter is and what is a reasonable accommodation. If you have concerns, you can do research, however it is a tricky process and can easily get you sued for housing discrimination.

Some HOAs and insurance companies may have restrictions on the size and breeds of animals allowed in a community, however that is no excuse to not allow the animal. There may be legitimate situations where you cannot reasonably accommodate the animal.

An assistive animal cannot be treated as a pet. This means that no pet deposit and monthly pet fees can be charged. Tenants must follow all community rules and regulations, ensuring the safety of others and ensuring that the animal does not disturb the peace and quiet enjoyment of the community.

Dealing with assistive animals can be a complicated issue and every situation is different. If you need assistance in navigating the assistive-animals landscape, consult a property-management company. They know fair-housing laws and have legal resources to manage all issues related to assistive animals.

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Getting enough sleep? It’s vital as we age

BY AL BRANDENBURG

OFTEN PEOPLE THINK OF TROUBLE sleeping as simply a part of growing older. It is not.

The body does require less sleep as we age, but severe sleeping problems or insomnia in the elderly are caused by poor sleep habits, side effects of medications, untreated sleep disorders or other medical conditions.

They are not a part of normal aging.

We either can’t get to sleep or we think of sleep as wasted time.

What goes on while we’re lying there? Our bodies are doing necessary work that keeps us going when we’re awake.

For optimal functioning, seniors usually need seven to eight hours, while other adults need seven to nine.

The problem is that poor sleep, especially in older adults, has been linked to greater risk for heart disease, obesity, falls, disability, dementia, memory problems, brain-function decline and depression.

At any age, a good night’s sleep is important, but for seniors already facing cognitive difficulties and weakened immune systems that come with age, enough sleep is even more critical. Lack of sleep can affect concentration and memory, as well as suppress cell repair and the immune system.

A study by the National Sleep Foundation found there is a direct relationship between general health and enough sleep in older people. According to the study, the better the health of an older person, the better sleep they reported. The survey also said that respondents older than 65 who reported seven to nine hours of sleep per night and experienced little or no sleep problems had more positive moods and had more active and engaged lifestyles.

On the other hand, the greater the number of diagnosed medical conditions, the more likely those in the study were to report sleep problems.

There are many reasons our sleep patterns may change as we age. Some of the most common are:



- **Poor sleep habits** — The most common cause of insomnia in seniors is poor “sleep hygiene,” or an inappropriate sleep environment. Examples of a poor sleep environment include too many naps during the day, keeping irregular sleep hours or consuming caffeine or alcohol drinks in the evening.
- **Pain** — The pain of arthritis, cancer or other debilitating and chronic conditions can keep the elderly from sleeping properly.
- **Medical conditions** — Medical conditions can affect sleep in ways other than pain. Conditions that cause a frequent need to urinate, Alzheimer’s, asthma and other breathing disorders, menopause, GERD or

diabetes all can interfere with sleep.

- **Medications** — The average senior is taking six to eight prescription drugs. Some drug interactions can cause insomnia.
- **Lack of exercise** — Regular exercise promotes better sleep.
- **Stress and emotional disorders** — Many seniors suffer from stress and anxiety due to some of the major life changes brought on by aging or retirement. Stress and anxiety can lead to lack of sleep.

In general, any elderly person experiencing sleep problems should implement good sleep habits and keep up daily physical activity to help create an environment conducive to restive sleep. Limit caffeine consumption, take a 10- to 30-minute power nap in the early afternoon, don’t consume alcohol prior to sleeping, limit intake of all fluids just before bed, keep the room dark and avoid blue light from phones and computers in the room.

Stay safe and sleep better.

Al Brandenburg is a member of Maricopa Community Advocates.

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February: American Heart Month

BY JOAN KOZCZOR

IN THE EARLY TO MID 1960S, more than half the deaths in the U.S. were caused by cardiovascular disease.

To heighten awareness, the first American Heart Month occurred in February 1964 via proclamation by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Since 2004, February has been the signature month for the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women campaign, with the message heart disease is not only a man's problem.

Cardiovascular disease includes heart disease and stroke, which cause 17.9 million deaths each year and remain the leading global causes of death.

The heart does more physical work than any other muscle in the body, pumping 2,000 gallons of blood per day. In a 70 year old, an average human heart beats more than 2.5 billion times.

Most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort, and can occur when there is not enough blood flow to the heart due to narrowed or blocked arteries.

Arteries can become blocked when there is a buildup of fat, cholesterol or other substances that can form plaque. Often, people experiencing these symptoms aren't sure what is happening and may wait too long before getting help.

The American Heart Association has issued these heart-attack warning signs:


- Discomfort in the center of the chest lasting more than a few minutes.
- Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- Discomfort in other areas of the body,

including both arms, back, jaw or stomach.

- Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort.
- Breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

One in five heart attacks occur without the person knowing they had one. AHA cautions to learn the signs and remember: Even if you're not sure it's a heart attack, have it checked. Minutes matter. Calling 911 is almost always the fastest way to get life-saving treatment.

National Wear Red Day is Feb. 3. It is celebrated annually on the first Friday in February. The AHA asks that you join them in wearing red and raise awareness of heart health.

More information: American Heart Association Phoenix location, 2929 S. 48th Street in Tempe, or 1-602-414-5353. 

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

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Solo agers: Procrastination not a good plan!

BY RON SMITH

LAST MONTH, I WROTE ABOUT the importance of reaching out to those who might be facing isolation during the holidays. That prompted me to further question the problem of isolation. How do these folks face the many issues of aging? Do they have a support mechanism in place to assist them?

This growing demographic has a name: solo agers, or elder orphans. They may be divorced, widowed or never married. If you are an aging adult who, for whatever reason, is without the support of adult children, close family members or close friends, you are a solo ager. PEW Research estimates that 27% of adults 60 and older live alone and 37% of women older than 65 live by themselves.

Is this a problem?

An expert in this field, Sara Zeff Geber, says older Americans are entering years in which 70% likely will need care.

"Without a strong familial and/or social network, there may be no one to provide the kind of care being given by the families of our current 80, 90 and 100-plus year olds," Zeff Geber said. "Boomers must take matters into their own hands and begin to explore their options and available resources for the future."

Solo agers typically want to stay independent. When issues arise, not having support can make the transition from independence to dependence extremely difficult or impossible. We all eventually reach a point where we must depend on someone else for help or support. Geber says solo-aging boomers must plan for those less-independent years.

Solo agers must take the time to plan for their future. If they don't, when they really need help, there is no one to call! During medical events, they may not have an advocate and are at risk for lack of care, inadequate care or care that goes against their wishes.

So, solo agers must be intentional about their future needs:

- Complete the estate-planning process, including a living will and durable power of attorney. Keep all legal documents up to date. If there are concerns, seek support to resolve them.
- Think carefully about where to live. Will there be easily accessible resources? Solo agers sometimes form communities to live together. Even long-term care facilities are restructuring to allow solo residents to live in proximity to each other.
- Prepare for long-term care.

Also, cultivate a support network:

- Reach out to other solo agers and create a pact to help each other.
- Develop friendships. They must be people you can trust.
- Find an accountability partner to bounce ideas/plans off.
- If necessary, hire a professional when trusted support is needed.
- Communicate in case of a long-term care event.
- Build a caregiving team.


And, avoid emotional loneliness:

- Form relationships with younger people.
- Live near other solo agers.
- Stay social or become social.
- Identify someone to check in with you on a regular basis.
- Consider adopting a pet. Remember to plan for the pet's care after you pass.
- Continue to travel. Tour companies and cruise lines are offering more options for solo travelers.

Also, invest in an alert system, not only for safety and protection but also for peace of mind for distant friends or relatives.

Finally, seek out a service that can help create a solo aging plan or provide support or advocacy in time of need.

Traditional retirement-planning concepts also apply for solo agers. The difference is solo agers must be proactive in reaching out for help to put plans in place while they are able. The cost of denial is much harsher when they no longer can fend for themselves. Planning remains the key to maintaining independence.

More information: Essential Retirement Planning for Solo Agers by Sara Zeff Geber, or search "solo agers." 

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

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know

ASHLEY WALLACE

Marketing Coordinator, InMaricopa

Hometown: Spokane, Wash.

Resides in: Maricopa Meadows

Maricopan since: May 2022

Family: I have 4 kids ages 11 (boy), 8 (girl), 5 (boy) and 4 (girl)

Hobbies: Coaching cheer, blogging, being with family, game nights

Pet peeve: Not knowing how to follow GPS

Like most about Maricopa: Small-town feel, close community, can get anywhere in 10 minutes



Meal: Chipotle chicken burrito bowl

Restaurant: Olive Garden

Getaway: Spa day

Quote: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts." – Winston Churchill

Words to live by: Be yourself, everyone else is already taken.

FAVORITE ...

Charity: Junior Puma Football and Cheer

Book: "You're a Badass" by Jen Sincero"

Team: Seattle Seahawks

🖱️ [Learn more about Ashley at InMaricopa.com/Getting-to-Know.](https://InMaricopa.com/Getting-to-Know)













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THINGS TO DO

February

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Maricopa Amateur Radio Association

9 a.m., Maricopa Public Library

18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

6

Maricopa Historical Society

5 p.m., Redwood Room

Maricopa Library & Cultural Center

18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

7

Maricopa City Council

6 p.m., City Hall

39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

8

MUSD Governing Board

6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District Office

44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

11

Art for the Heart

9 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park

44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

13

Friends of the Library

5:15 p.m., Maricopa Library & Cultural Center

18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

21

Maricopa City Council

6 p.m., City Hall

39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

22

MUSD Governing Board

6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District Office

44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

25

Seeds of Change Gala

6 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin

15406 N. Maricopa Road

Sundays

Narcotics Anonymous

7 p.m., Maricopa Meadows Community Park

45511 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Mondays

Narcotics Anonymous

5:30 p.m., Maricopa Library & Cultural Center

18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

Alcoholics Anonymous

6 p.m., Community of Hope Church

45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Tuesdays

Maricopa Cruise-in

5-9 p.m., Parking lot behind Burger King

20699 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

Alcoholics Anonymous

6:30 p.m., Mountain View Community Church

50881 W. Papago Road

Wednesdays

Al-Anon - New Beginnings

10 a.m., Maricopa Library & Cultural Center

18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

Alcoholics Anonymous

Noon, Maricopa Library & Cultural Center

18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

Narcotics Anonymous

5:30 p.m., Maricopa Library & Cultural Center

18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

Coffee on the Porch

9 a.m., Maricopa Museum and Visitor Center

44240 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

Thursdays

Maricopa Police Cadets meeting

6 p.m., Maricopa High School

45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Alcoholics Anonymous

7 p.m., Community of Hope Church

45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Fridays

Narcotics Anonymous

4:30 p.m., Maricopa Library & Cultural Center

18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

Al-Anon - Strength & Home AFG

7 p.m., Community of Hope

45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Alcoholics Anonymous

7 p.m., Mountain View Community Church

50881 W. Papago Road

Saturdays

Alcoholics Anonymous

10 a.m., Maricopa Library & Cultural Center

18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

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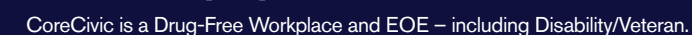
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Afternoon delight

Kristi Lussier took this sunset photo from the backyard of the models at The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado III with her iPhone.

Have a great photo of Maricopa?
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