in Maricopa
www.InMaricopa.com
March 2023

A family affair

Etzel twins hope to lift Maricopa High softball

BUSINESS • COMMUNITY • EDUCATION • SENIORS • MORE

ICONIC TIRE & SERVICE CENTERS

GOODYEAR

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

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

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE. *85,000 Mileage Warranty*

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

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

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE. *60,000 Mileage Warranty*

GOODYEAR
FACTORY SPECIAL BUYS
All work guaranteed at 2000 locations nationwide

*BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE
FACTORY DIRECT

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

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE

GOODYEAR
ASSURANCE MAXLIFE
85,000 Mileage Warranty
All work guaranteed at 2000 locations nationwide

*BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE

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

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE

KELLY TIRES
EDGE ALL SEASON
55,000 Mileage Warranty
All work guaranteed at 2000 locations nationwide

*BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE
KELLY EDGE A/S

SIZE	BUY 3 PRICE
18565R14 Kelly Edge A/S 86H BLK	$109.99
19565R15 Kelly Edge A/S 91H BLK	$109.99
20555R16 Kelly Edge A/S 91H BLK	$119.99
20560R16 Kelly Edge A/S 91V BLK	$129.99
21560R16 Kelly Edge A/S 95H BLK	$139.99
21555R17 Kelly Edge A/S 94V BLK	$142.99
23555R17 Kelly Edge A/S 99H BLK	$131.99
23555R18 Kelly Edge A/S 100H BLK	$175.99

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE

GOODYEAR
ASSURANCE ALL-SEASON
65,000 Mileage Warranty
*BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE

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

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE

*BUY 3, GET 4TH FREE
PERFORMANCE RADIAL

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

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE. *40,000 Mileage Warranty*

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

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

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE. *40,000 Mileage Warranty*

NO DEALERS • NO WHOLESALERS • NO CARRYOUTS
WE SERVICE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

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

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

Family Owned & Operated
IconicTire.com
WE WON'T BE UNDERSOLD BY OUR COMPETITION!

NO INTEREST
If paid in full within 6 months
See store for details.

We beat Discount Tire, Big O, Firestone & Pep Boys ... Make us your last call!

SQUEEZING THE COMPETITION FOR 2023

FREE
OIL CHANGE IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN THE MONTH OF MARCH 2023
Includes up to 5 quarts of oil, new oil filter, and disposal. (5 quarts synthetic blend 5W30 or 5W20; or full synthetic 0W20, 5W20 and 5W30)
Some oil filters may have an additional cost. Most cars & light trucks. Please show birthdate ID. One oil change per person.

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

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

TRANSMISSION FLUID EXCHANGE
COOLING SYSTEM FLUID EXCHANGE
POWER STEERING FLUID EXCHANGE

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

With coupon only, disposal fees extra, trans fluid full synthetic fluid up to 10 quarts, up to 2 gallons of new antifreeze flush kits used on trans, power steering, radiator and fuel injection service. Most cars and trucks. Expires 3/31/23.

OIL CHANGE

FREE TIRE ROTATION
Upon request • See store for details

$19.88* Reg. $29.99 *with coupon

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

Includes hazardous waste fee. If your MFG. Requires 20W50, or full synthetic oil, or other special weights, there's an additional charge for other weights of oil. Price is for 5W20 or 5W30 synthetic blend oil up to 5 quarts. With coupon only. Expires 3/31/23.

BATTERY AND COOLING SYSTEM PERFORMANCE TEST

FREE

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

Expires 3/31/23

AIR CONDITIONING PERFORMANCE CHECK

FREE ORIGINAL PRICE ~~$59.99~~

- *Identify Freon Type*
- *Visually Inspect System for Leaks*

We verify all A/C systems

Does not include R1234YF systems.
Expires 3/31/23

COMPUTERIZED ALIGNMENT

THRUST ANGLE PROD#29858 **$15 OFF**

COMPENSATE 4 WHEELS

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

ASK ABOUT OUR 5-YEAR & LIFETIME ALIGNMENTS

4-WHEELS PROD#29866 **$15 OFF**

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

Most cars & light trucks with coupon only. Expires 3/31/23

FULL SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE

$53.99 *Includes up to 5 quarts of full synthetic oil (not Mobil 1 oil)*

0W-20, 5W-20 or 5W-30. Includes a new oil filter (some specialty filters extra). Includes disposal.
Most cars & light trucks with coupon only.
Expires 3/31/23

FRONT OR REAR BRAKE SERVICE

$30 OFF 2-WHEEL
$60 OFF 4-WHEEL
Prod. #21814/21830

Special! Save $60 on Lifetime Brakes! Free brake inspection
Most cars & light trucks with coupon only. Expires 3/31/23

19945 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

easypay finance
Get Pre-approved with acima

We honor extended warranty programs.

(520) 779-5300

ICONIC TIRE & SERVICE CENTERS
GOODYEAR

* Buy 3 select tires and get 4th free. Select tires only. Must purchase tire protection plan and nitrogen package, which includes valve stems, lifetime balancing, free tire rotations, free alignment checks, free flat repairs and free replacement for the first 25% of tread wear on a tire that is not repairable (with the nitrogen and tire protection plan purchased). Restrictions and exclusions apply. See store for complete details. Offer may not be combined with any other discounts unless otherwise stated. No dealer or carryout. Offer ends 3/31/23.

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

CONTENTS

LEADING OFF
Editor's letter 4
Contributors 4

HISTORY
Maricopa's History moves over 6
This month in history 6

GOVERNMENT
Martinez isn't giving up on Maricopa roads 8

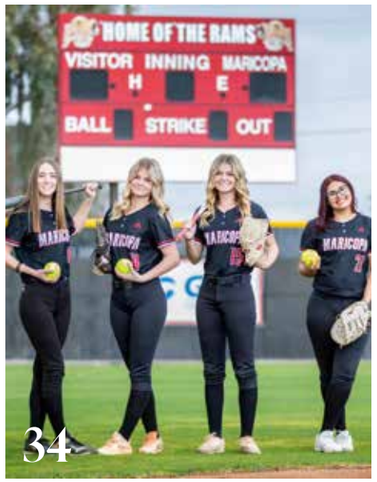
BUSINESS
Batteries Plus experts enjoy a challenge 10
Find career growth, security and purpose at CoreCivic 12
Resources for the 2022 Tax season 13
It's leak inspection time 14
Board Certified physician can offer you the best foot, ankle care 15
Restaurant Inspections 16
Business Development around town 17

COMMUNITY
Exploring the messy nature of creativity 18
From farming to the big game 19
Find out if body contouring is for you 20
Finding the balance of mental and physical well-being 21

MENTAL HEALTH
How the failure of state's mental health system led to a man's death 22

EDUCATION
What's happening in Maricopa's schools 32
The familiar faces on Maricopa High's softball team 34
Celebrating a decade of Central Arizona College's Maricopa campus 36
MUSD Spring Sports Schedules 38

HOME
How to make the most of container gardening 40
Most expensive home sold 41
Least expensive home sold 41
Proper screening ensures tenants pay promptly 42
Don't forget to check those CC&Rs 43



SENIORS
GALLERY: Maricopa seniors 'Get in the Game' 44
Retired entertainer has star-studded stories to share 46
The pros and cons of a continuing care retirement community 50
Maricopa women set the standard for Women's History Month 52
Changing seasons can cause health problems 53

THINGS TO DO
A collection of events happening in Maricopa 55

TRENDING
A look at what's hot on InMaricopa.com 62

PARTING SHOT
Climbing Milkweed 64

ON THE COVER
The Etzel twins — Alyssa (left) a left-handed outfielder-infielder, Emma a right-handed pitcher-outfielder. Photo illustration by Victor Moreno.

PLAY YOUR WAY TO
$100K
WITH CAESARS REWARDS®

WIN YOUR SHARE ON
MARCH 25!

Visit Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino in the city of Maricopa—Arizona's most rewarding way to play with Caesars Rewards. **Redeemable at more than 50 Caesars destinations from coast to coast**, get rewarded for all the ways you play, including craveable dining, endless gaming, hotel stays and more. Plus, **Play Your Way to 100K** on March 25!

Harrah's
AK-CHIN CASINO

PLAY FOR ALL.®

Must be present to win. Caesars Rewards card, valid photo ID must be presented at the Events Center to receive one entry for every one hundred Tier Credits earned each gaming day between 6AM on January 2, 2023 and 7:45PM on March 25, 2023 to enter drawings. Each selected participant will have five minutes to report to an Event staff member at the Events Center and present identification acceptable to Harrah's. Finale Drawing is at 8PM on Saturday, March 25, 2023. Guests are eligible to win in more than one drawing from 1PM to 7:45PM. Winners are responsible for any and all applicable taxes. Management reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time without prior notice. Must be 21 or older to gamble and take advantage of this offer. Know When To Stop Before You Start.® Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700 or 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2023 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards Center for complete details.

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY ARIZONA

FROM THE EDITOR

The rest of the story about Brian Simmons

SOME PEOPLE REGARDED BRIAN SIMMONS as the town nuisance, and he certainly did have a history of bizarre behavior around Maricopa.

This month, Justin Griffin, our former editor, makes his debut as senior writer with an incredible package telling you the rest of the story.

Griffin's exposure of the backstory about Simmons sheds new light and helps explain how a former All-American boy changes personality, fails to get mental-health help he needs despite 22 contacts in a year-and-a-half with law enforcement, and how a call for service to Maricopa PD on a noise complaint ends with Simmons dead in his side yard on a scorching August morning, his body riddled with six bullets.

There's not much future in firing a weapon at police officers. Simmons got off a round with a shotgun before officers returned fire.

Griffin spent the better part of the past three months obtaining police and medical examiner records, and visiting with friends and family members who had a very different story to tell about Simmons than the person known to Maricopa. It's a tale of officers' hands often being tied and a system's failure to help a man obviously in need. A tragedy might have been averted.

There are several other, lighter, stories for you this month.

Tom Schuman, who always seems to find great stories, came across Maricopa resident DJ "Daniel" Giagni, whose lengthy tap dance and choreography career had him working alongside Gene Kelly, Liza Minnelli and Steve Martin. Now 72, Giagni is teaching tap at Province.

High school spring sports receive little coverage. We changed that, putting twin-sister softball players on our cover and featuring them in the first magazine story by our new reporter, Cameron Jobson. The Etzel sisters — Emma and Alyssa — will have foes thinking the Maricopa High Lady Rams are doing it with mirrors.

Words are good, and we're certainly big fans of words, but sometimes just as effective are images. We struck the jackpot with our second new reporter, Monica D. Spencer, who doubles as an outstanding photographer. We sent her over to the Senior Center to see what's going on. Be sure to see her photo gallery this month.

Life is a rollercoaster. We chronicle it. It's the heartbeat of Maricopa.

LEE SHAPPELL
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Lee@InMaricopa.com

CONTRIBUTORS

JUSTIN GRIFFIN
Our former editor debuts in his new role of senior reporter with an outstanding package after weeks of research examining how authorities deal with people with mental illness, focusing on the late Brian Simmons. A fantastic read.

CAMERON JOBSON
We have a couple of newbies this month. We're excited that Cameron, a recent graduate of the UofA, is one of them. She's a former competitive swimmer. We like that streak in her. You'll like it, too.

MONICA D. SPENCER
And you don't have to be from UofA — like our Executive Editor — to get a job around here. We offer Monica, an ASU grad, as evidence. After her internships at the state's largest paper, we're thrilled to have her!

inMaricopa
MARICOPA. DELIVERED.

Publisher
SCOTT BARTLE

Advertising Director
VINCENT MANFREDI

Editorial Director
LEE SHAPPELL

Advertising
MELISSA LUSK
MICHELLE SORENSEN
ASHLEY WALLACE

Writers
AL BRANDENBURG
KRISTINA DONNAY
JUSTIN GRIFFIN
CAMERON JOBSON
JOAN KOCZOR
DAYV MORGAN
BRIAN PETERSHEIM JR.
HARRIET PHELPS
TOM SCHUMAN
RON SMITH
JAY TAYLOR
EUPHEMIA WEEKES
SHERMAN WEEKES

Photographers
BRYAN MORDT
BRIAN PETERSHEIM JR.
MONICA D. SPENCER

Designer
CARL BEZUIDENHOUT

MISSION
Inform readers/viewers. Enrich advertisers.

BELIEFS
We believe in:
- An informed citizenry.
- Holding ourselves and others accountable.
- The success of deserving businesses.

VALUES
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Open, honest, real-time communication
- Prosperity for clients, community, company

Volume 18, Issue 3
InMaricopa
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 101
Maricopa, AZ 85138

520-568-0040 Tel
520-568-0050 Fax
News@InMaricopa.com
Advertising@InMaricopa.com

Published advertisements are not an endorsement of products or advertising claims by InMaricopa. No part of this magazine may be reproduced by any means without the prior written permission of InMaricopa. Copyright 2023.

The Early Childhood Leader in Maricopa

MUSD Community Preschool

Community Preschool provides fun, skills-based activities that explore science, literacy, math, art, music, dramatic play, and more! Our rich curriculum aligns to Arizona Early Learning Standards to build skills and promote healthy social-emotional development. Our students work and play together to explore their curiosities, build confidence, and develop problem solving skills for a life-long love of learning.

NOW REGISTERING for the 2023-2024 School Year.

THE MUSD PROMISE

- Certified Teachers
- Licensed Facilities
- Arizona Standards-Based Curriculum
- Full-Day Academic Program
- Extended-Day Childcare (Santa Rosa)
- Early Reading
- Arts, Music, and Physical Education
- Technology

Locations
Butterfield Elementary School - (520)-568-6100
Maricopa Elementary School - (520) 568-5160
Pima Butte Elementary School - (520) 568-7150
Saddleback Elementary School - (520) 568-6110
Santa Cruz Elementary School - (520)-568-5170
Santa Rosa Elementary School - (520)-568-6150

Full-Day Community Preschool
Monday -Friday
8:35 AM-3:35 PM/*8:10 AM-3:35 PM
$620/Month

For more information visit us at www.musd20.org/preschool

MARICOPA Unified School District
Dream. Learn. Become.

Maricopa history moves over

The State Route 347/John Wayne Parkway railroad overpass was a major step forward in moving traffic through Maricopa. It came at a price, however.

The Maricopa Volunteer Fire Department building (upper left), built in 1980, was razed, as was the Pinal County Sheriff's Office building (two smaller photos). That building, built in the 1950s, became a library and later a food bank after Maricopa formed its own police department. It also is shown in the color photo (lower right) in 2018 before it was demolished to make way for the overpass.

Brian Petersheim Jr. | file

THIS MONTH BACK IN...

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

2008

Mountainside Fitness reversed course and said it was not coming to Maricopa after all despite recently breaking ground on a gym. Hatten Holdings, parent company of Mountainside, purchased land south of Fry's Marketplace in 2006. "We think very highly of ... Maricopa and we absolutely hope to open ... there some day," said Billy Malkovich, vice president of Hatten. He cited delays with the city and developer. Mountainside still is not in Maricopa.

2013

After a month of heated exchanges in various public forums, the Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board tabled a decision on shutting down Maricopa Wells Middle School until April. Most board members said they needed more time to make an informed decision. The closure is estimated to save the district $542,000, which would help make up a projected $1 million shortfall in the 2013-14 district budget. Maricopa Wells remains open today.

2018

The Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board unanimously voted to enter into contract negotiations with Tracey Lopeman, its unanimous choice for superintendent. The board met in executive session to to negotiate the contract. MUSD's board voted to offer a contract. The board and Lopeman are expected to deliberate an annual salary range between $135,000 and $155,000. Lopeman remains superintendent today.

You Deserve
Fast and Reliable Internet!

Speeds up to 1G!

$89.95 per month

- Ultra High Internet Access
- No Data Caps!
- No Contracts!
- Everyday Low Prices!
- Ask about Smart WiFi!

Your full-service broadband provider. Faster and more Reliable than 5G LTE Networks!

We Make it Easy! Switch Today!

Orbitel COMMUNICATIONS

800-998-8084

www.orbitelcom.com

Speed listed is maximum wired speed. Maximum download speed 940 Mbps when hardwired via Ethernet. Many factors affect speed. Actual speed may vary. Equipment, taxes, installation, and other fees not included. 1G service not available in all areas. Taxes, equipment, franchise, and other fees not included. Other restrictions may apply. Call office for details.

Martinez continues to champion highway funding

BY JAY TAYLOR

MARICOPA COMMUTERS, TERESA Martinez says she has your back.

Since Proposition 469's failure in November — which would have provided funding for improvements to State Routes 347 and 238, as well as other Pinal County highways — Martinez is finding ways at the State Capitol to keep those and other vital transportation projects moving.

The Republican Majority Whip, who represents Maricopa in the Arizona House of Representatives, Martinez has made transportation in Pinal County her top priority.

And she is delivering results.

The Legislature in February passed a bill allocating more than $20 million to the Arizona Rural Transportation Advocacy Council to fund highway projects around the state. It included funding for four improvement projects important to Maricopa drivers:

- Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, from Burris to Anderson roads.
- Green Road, from SR 347 to McDavid Road.
- Sonoran Desert Parkway, from Porter to Fuqua roads.
- Rancho El Dorado Parkway bridge construction and Santa Rosa Wash improvements in the area.

> ***"The state will fund it, and the city will throw in about $6 million, and it will be done"***
>
> REP. TERESA MARTINEZ

But Martinez wants more.

She said she is working to get funding to keep the SR 347 widening project moving even in the absence of a funding replacement for Prop. 469.

"I've (introduced) a couple of bills personally," Martinez said. "I support the Rural Transportation Bill, but I wasn't sure it was going to go forward and not get cut."

About $19 million was appropriated in the last Legislative session for SR 347 and SR 248. About $6 million of it will be used for design and study on SR 347. The remaining $13 million will be used to finish improvements on SR 238.

"The state will fund it, and the city will throw in about $6 million, and it will be done," Martinez said of SR 238 work.

Martinez has introduced three bills this session to keep progress on local projects, particularly SR 347, moving:

House Bill 2063 — Passed unanimously in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and is pending before the Appropriations Committee. It allocates $800,000 for design work to improve SR 238 from SR 347 to Green Road; $6 million for design work for widening lanes along SR 347 from Interstate 10 to Maricopa; and $15 million to conduct a Tier 2 study for the North-South Corridor in Pinal County.

HB 2449 — Also passed unanimously in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and pending before the Appropriations Committee. It would allocate $9.7 million from the state general fund to Pinal County for engineering and design of the Sonoran Desert Parkway.

A separate, yet-unassigned bill proposed by Martinez would bring in still more money for SR 347 improvements.

Mayor Nancy Smith is enthusiastic about how those funds would benefit the city.

"(Martinez') bills for SR 347 and 238 are critical for improvements in transportation," Smith said. "The $6 million will be used for design of 347. This is critical because with the design complete, when funding is available for construction, we're ready to go immediately. Another $13 million will be used to ready SR 238 for growth on the west side of our city."

Even if all of those bills make it through the Legislature fully funded, Martinez said she plans to continue looking for innovative ways to expedite improvements to the primary highway connecting Maricopa with the Valley.

"Now, with (converting the I-10/SR 347 interchange to a diverging diamond), I'm saying, 'You know what, if I could get another $20 million for 347, we can get the project up to I-10 going with the preliminaries — fund the surveys, studies, environmental-impact reports. We can start that process with this money."

Finally, she has introduced a bill requesting another $9 million to complete improvements on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway.

"If we can get those bills passed and funded, it would be a good interim solution until we can get Prop. 469 back on the ballot and get the full funding," Martinez said. "If we can do that, and it passes, we would already have all the preliminaries in process, so we won't have a three- or four-year gap waiting.."

"If (a new funding bill) doesn't pass, I'll keep going back until we get the money. I'm going to be a fierce advocate for those roads," she said. "I will talk to ADOT about what we can do about them in the interim."

City Councilmember Vincent Manfredi said having strong relationships with state representatives is a boon to Maricopa.

"It's great to have a Representative Martinez, and Senator (T.J.) Shope along with Representative (Keith) Seaman working for us to ensure that we have part of the funding we need to get transportation infrastructure improvements within our area," Manfredi said. "We have a lot of work ahead of us and having them on our side will help a ton."

Editor's note: Vincent Manfredi is an owner of InMaricopa.

Bryan Mordt

TEMPORARY RELIEF?

While state, county and city leaders try to find other ways to raise money to widen State Route 347 – which could include putting another proposition on the ballot – Maricopa Mayor Nancy Smith says there are several actions that could make the heavily traveled and often-congested road safer.

- Increasing Department of Public Safety patrols from Interstate 10 to the Maricopa city line.
- Ticketing serious offenders to deliver the message it can be a matter of life or death.
- Encouraging DPS to provide additional help to move traffic at rerouted intersections, such as Casa Blanca Road, when an incident forces closure.
- Developing crossover opportunities, which would be controlled by ADOT during times of extended closures, to allow stalled traffic to safely turn around.
- Faster cleanup of collisions to mitigate closures, essential for safety and those stuck on the road after an incident.
- Adding a middle concrete barrier for safety.
- Extending the length of lanes for traffic entering and exiting SR 347 at the Queen Creek/I-10 overpass to mitigate backups.
- Adding lighting or quality reflectors to improve vision at night.
- Restricting trucks to right lane only except to pass.
- Adding signage regarding unlawful slow drivers who remain in the left lane and pull over slower drivers who stay in the left lane.
- Educating drivers with a campaign billboard.
- Improving signage to alert drivers approaching a closed road to help safely reroute them.
- Adding signage with flashing lights to remind drivers SR347 is a "High-accident road."

CHARTER SCHOOLS
Preparing Students for the Future
www.aplusaz.org
41735 W. Alan Stephens Parkway

Principal Rachele Reese

(520) 265-5589

OUR MISSION
A+ Charter Schools **empowers** students to reach their greatest potential by becoming responsible individuals of character and excellence, engaged community members, and lifelong learners in an ever changing society.

CACTUS MINE
ARIZONA USA

Every Drop Counts.

In the desert Southwest, every drop of water counts. During the process of revitalizing this previously mined site, **careful and efficient stewardship of water is at our core**. In keeping with this, we will look for creative and adaptive ways to better our site. Our first step: a **zero-discharge** facility. This means that wastewater will be treated — and used — again and again in the process.

Learn More about the Cactus Mine
(520) 858-0500

Batteries Plus gets a charge out of device problem-solving

BY LEE SHAPPELL

FOR ABOUT 2 YEARS, BATTERIES Plus searched for space to open a store in Maricopa.

The company wanted something along John Wayne Parkway for its high traffic volume. Accordingly, commercial space is tight along the thoroughfare.

Finally, something came open and the company, which carries not only batteries of every description but also an array of light bulbs and performs technical repairs on items like cellphones and tablets, jumped at it.

The store opened in late January at 20928 N. John Wayne Pkwy., Suite C9, the 23rd Batteries Plus franchise owned by the Cobblestone Group.

"When we were looking for places to open stores in Arizona, Maricopa came on the radar," said Steve Mastin, chief operating officer of Cobblestone Group and a Gilbert resident whose family has been in the area for a century. "I had no idea how quickly this place had grown in the last couple of decades. In my opinion, we really lucked out on the location because it used to be a device-repair place.

Steven Mastin has been with Batteries Plus since 1996, "before cellphones and laptops were a thing," he quipped.

"When I had the keys handed over from the landlady, there were a couple of people there asking when we we're going to be reopening. They thought we were just reopening the old device-repair place."

Mastin, who has been with the company since 1996, "before cellphones and laptops were a thing," has hired four full-time employees, three from Maricopa and the fourth from the chain's Casa Grande store.

As it made plans to come to Maricopa, the company encountered two familiar problems: availability of space and pricing.

The traffic on John Wayne Parkway through the city caught the company's eye. Finding something in that high-demand area and in the size the company sought took some time, according to Mastin.

"We knew we wanted to be somewhere along the 347, that was the big thing," he said. "Just the few times I've been there it was amazing to see all that traffic, and especially just in that center where we are with the Bashas' and the fast-food restaurants in there, too. It's very busy.

Batteries Plus opened in late January at 20928 N. John Wayne Pkwy., Suite C9

Brian Petersheim Jr.

"So, we didn't want to be too small. We wanted to be able to grow some, but we also don't need 4,000 square feet."

The shop is about 1,400 square feet at pricing that is "not too bad," he said.

"It's a little higher than some of our other locations but it's also in a very unique position with the traffic, so it makes sense," Mastin said. "It would have given us pause if we didn't see this as a hot market for our specific thing we're doing."

Batteries Plus provides automotive services, such as free car-battery testing and installation on most vehicles, as well as techniques to keep cellphone, key fob, laptop and tablet batteries lasting longer and operating more efficiently.

Batteries Plus technicians all are Wireless Industry Service Excellence certified.

Each staff member is trained in top brands and operating systems of devices, including phone repair for broken and cracked screens. They may also be able to repair hearing aids and medical devices like infusion pumps, monitors and carts on wheels. Technicians also provide services for lighting and fixtures.

"We have a lot of techie stuff," Mastin said. "In the back of the house we have work benches, very specific to your device repair, and safety stuff."

And, as the name suggests, there are batteries of every imaginable use: automotive, ATV, motorcycle, marine and golf carts, as well as chargers, cell phone batteries, phone essentials, SLA batteries, alkaline batteries and generators.

Beyond the common AA and AAA batteries, the store carries AAAA, a one-third AA, half AA and M batteries, which look like three D batteries put together, that are used in mining equipment. If a customer needs a small battery the size of a quarter, there is a two-foot section full of them in various thicknesses.

"When I started, there was my car battery and AA batteries for my TV remote. That was it," Mastin said. "We've grown into a lot of services. Programming of key fobs for vehicles became a very big thing we got into a few years ago.

"Now, it's very much a problem-solving thing. I love people coming in with problems. We might have to solder a wire or research a battery. We've got welders to make a battery pack if we need to, so it's a pretty unique, fun thing as an employee. You've got to have some of that fix-it, tech knowledge."

520-614-6634
BatteriesPlus.com

Career growth, security and purpose: Find all 3 at CoreCivic

BY CORECIVIC

IF YOU HAVE TURNED ON THE NEWS lately, you know the economy seems unclear, and more recently there has been a lot of uncertainty in the job market. Some organizations around the country are making difficult decisions to lay off staff or implement hiring freezes. This can cause unwanted anxiety about what the future holds.

One organization still providing a variety of career opportunities is CoreCivic. We are often seen as a safety company, which is true. But what you may not realize is that we offer a variety of positions that are not in the security space, including education, health care, technology and more. Better yet, we are hiring.

We sat down with a few of CoreCivic's talent acquisition team members and asked what they look for in a candidate and what tips they would give potential applicants.

Patty Cooper is CoreCivic's senior director of Talent Acquisition. She manages the recruiting team responsible for filling open positions across the country. To make an impression, Patty says it is best to get back to the basics.

"I look for a complete resume with work history and education clearly noted. I also look for responsiveness to outreach when screening the candidate and setting up an interview," said Cooper. "The best impressions off the bat are the most important. Review the job postings, tailor your resume to the position's requirements, and be on time for an interview!"

Health Care

While CoreCivic is known as a safety company, we also have many positions in a variety of fields including health care. Valerie Moreland manages medical talent acquisition and says that a nursing role at CoreCivic is a perfect fit for someone who really wants to make a difference.

"Our employees have a unique opportunity to help change the lives of those in their care," said Moreland. "Our candidates need to be able to jump in and treat a variety of cases and emergencies, so someone with a background in varying clinical settings works great for what we do. In addition, new nursing graduates can be great for this. They are eager to grow their clinical skills and build a career of growth and learning. CoreCivic will give them that opportunity. Lastly, a candidate with a positive attitude is critical. Each day is different, and someone who can stay positive and is adaptable to change will be a valued addition to our medical teams."

Moreland points to communication and empathy as two of the most important attributes of a successful nurse at CoreCivic. This is due to the special needs of the patients they serve. She also says it pays to do your homework, literally. Nurses at CoreCivic often see pay that is higher than other employers in the market.

"Review the job description and qualifications and ensure that your resume encompasses your nursing experience. This will help you be sure to get the best possible pay rate. Do your homework and ask questions. Talk about your accomplishments, struggles and ideas. As a recruiter, I love to hear each candidate's 'story.' It helps me build a relationship with that candidate, which builds trust and makes the hiring process easier."

Corporate Opportunities

In addition to safety and health care, CoreCivic can offer roles in technology, human resources, finance, public relations and more at its Facility Support Center (headquarters). It is not uncommon for a team member to start on the front line at a facility and find their way to the corporate office. **Bob Shealy oversees recruiting** at the FSC. He believes there is a lot of opportunity for candidates from a variety of backgrounds at CoreCivic.

"We are known as a safety and security company, so most people are surprised to see the variety of roles we fill across the organization," said Shealy. "We work hard to identify candidates in specialty fields like technology, human resources, finance, law and public relations. We are an employer of choice in the Nashville area with many opportunities to grow a career."

About CoreCivic

CoreCivic has about 10,000 employees nationwide, with a footprint in 21 states. We offer a comprehensive benefits package that includes competitive wages, paid time off, paid holidays, medical/dental/life, 401k retirement plan with a generous company match, CoreCivic scholarship program, instant pay and career growth. Want to be CEO one day? It's possible, just ask our **CEO Damon Hininger** who started as a correctional officer at a CoreCivic facility in Kansas in 1992.

"The one tip I would give anyone considering a career in corrections is to be flexible and open to new experiences," said Hininger. "I was given that advice early in my career and it has taken me from Kansas to Arizona to Tennessee, with stops in between. Focus on walking in integrity and be open to new opportunities, and you'll go far."

While there are a lot of benefits of working at CoreCivic, employees will tell you that one of the biggest is the feeling of making a difference.

"We want to meet people who want to work in a field that makes a difference," said **Rawnak Amedi, recruiter**. "At CoreCivic, you have the opportunity to put your skills and experience to good use and work in a challenging, rewarding environment where no two days are ever the same."

You can learn more about all of our current openings, our company, our benefits and much more at Jobs.CoreCivic.com or by following us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

CoreCivic is a Drug-Free Workplace and EOE - Disability/Veteran.

Jobs.CoreCivic.com

SPONSORED CONTENT

Resources for 2022 tax season

BY CHRIS J. SCOGGIN, CPA

HERE WE ARE, WITH A LITTLE OVER six weeks to go before the tax filing deadline on Tuesday, April 18. Have you prepared and filed your taxes yet?

The COVID effect

Since COVID-19, the IRS has been way behind processing paper tax returns because it sent all of its workers home in March of 2020. While it tried to maintain some level of customer service, it was the paper correspondence that piled up with no one at the facility. When workers came back, there were literally mountains of unopened returns, communications and documents. It was so bad that in July of 2021, the IRS determined it never was going to catch up and purposefully destroyed 30 million unprocessed informational returns. This entire series of events has caused almost every taxpayer some level of pain.

To keep your return from being caught in this mess, I recommend e-filing your return, especially if you are receiving a refund. As a note, if you owe taxes with your 2022 return, don't make the mistake of thinking that the IRS won't process your payment for the 6-9 months it is taking them to process the return. If there is one thing that the IRS is good at, it is collecting money! They will open your return, extract the tax payment and then send the return to processing.

Tax-return status

One of the questions that we get most frequently in our office is: "How can I check on the status of my tax return?" To do this, you can go to IRS.gov to create an account using the ID.ME system to verify your identity. On this website, you can view your return(s) for the past several years, make a tax payment, create a payment plan or view your outstanding balance. Be forewarned though: The ID.ME system is notoriously difficult to establish your identity. They will ask questions about past returns and other questions about items specific to you. If you can't prove your identity on this system, here is the next step.

My preferred way of working with the IRS is to pick up the phone and call them. Their phone number is 1 800-829-1040. Be prepared to wait, though. It can take 30 minutes or more for them to pick up once you are in the queue. However, once they do pick up, you can speak with someone knowledgeable about the best way to provide the information or solve the problem that you are experiencing. They will be able to direct you as to the next step in the process.

Checking on your refund

On the front page of IRS.gov is the ability to check the status of your refund. To do this, you will need the taxpayer's Social Security number, the filing status and the exact amount of the refund. For most e-filed returns, you should receive your refund within 4 to 5 weeks. However, there are times when the IRS needs to verify certain information. This causes the return to be taken out of the normal process and the refund can then take three months or more to be issued. We always recommend that you have the refund direct deposited to your bank account.

Returns from 2021 and earlier

We still have returns filed during the 2021 tax season that have yet to be processed. If you are waiting for a very old return or refund, DO NOT just refile the return. This will cause even more confusion and delays. You should call the IRS at 800-829-1040 to determine if they have received the return. Most likely they have and just haven't processed it. If they have received it, just be patient. They will get to it. If the IRS does not have a copy of receiving the return, then you can mail it in again. Of course, you did keep a copy of the certified mail receipt from the first time you mailed it in, correct? You will want to include a letter explaining that the return had been filed on time, and that you have proof of this filing.

If you need help with more-complex tax issues, our team at CS CPA Group is always ready to assist.

520-568-3303
CSPCAGroup.com

SPONSORED CONTENT

Annual leak inspection time!

BY SHAINA SHAY, WATER RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION SPECIALIST AT GLOBAL WATER RESOURCES

DID YOU KNOW THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD LEAKS NEARLY 10,000 gallons of water per year, or the amount of water it takes to wash 300 loads of laundry? Water-wasting leaks include running toilets, faulty irrigation, dripping faucets and other leaking pipes around your home.

In just 10 minutes, you can search your home for leaks and crack down on water waste. Many common household leaks are quick to find and easy to fix. Before you can fix leaks, you must find them.

Luckily Global Water Resources has made that easy! We invested in our community by installing smart water metering, also known as Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). All residential customers in Maricopa have an AMI meter that is linked to the Global Water customer portal.

Use this QR code to sign up if you haven't done so already:

The customer portal allows you to pay your bill online, monitor your water use, set water budgets for your household and sign-up for notifications. What is most amazing about AMI is that Global Water will automatically send you a notification via email, text, or call if a possible leak is detected!

Be a water-wise detective this month during Fix-a-Leak Week, March 20-26.

Here are some tips for finding leaks in and around your home:

- Walk through your house listening for running toilets and looking for drips. Drips usually mean leaks.
- Place a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If color shows up in the toilet bowl after a few minutes without flushing, you have a leak. Many toilet leaks are caused because the "flapper" is decayed or broken.
- Timed irrigation systems often water your landscape when you aren't around. Turn on your irrigation system every few months and take a walk around your yard looking for puddles and broken drip emitters. This simple practice can save loads of wasted water.

GWResources.com/conservation-education

SPONSORED CONTENT

Breast cancer patients expect innovative treatment options. *We deliver that.*

At **Cancer & Blood Specialists of Arizona**, we collaborate with our colleagues in medical oncology, surgery, radiation therapy, genetics, pathology and clinical research to ensure each patient has a comprehensive, multidisciplinary plan of care.

Carlos E. Arce-Lara, MD

Ramon Mourelo, MD

Samrat Sanghvi, MD

Medical oncology | Surgery | Radiation oncology

Cancer & Blood
SPECIALISTS OF ARIZONA
A DIVISION OF AMERICAN ONCOLOGY PARTNERS, P.A.

Proud to serve patients at our two locations:

CANCER CLINIC
(520) 836-9800

SURGERY CLINIC
(520) 876-0416

CancerBloodSpecialistsAZ.com

Board-certified physician gives you the best foot, ankle care

BY DR. ALEX M. STEWART DPM, FACFAS

DR. ALEX M. STEWART OF MARICOPA Foot and Ankle Center is Board Certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery. He received his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from Midwestern University and completed his residency at The University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio in the Department of Orthopedics.

His extensive training and current practice focus on foot and ankle trauma, diabetic care, reconstructive surgery and sports medicine. As a former collegiate baseball player and avid golfer, Dr. Stewart can relate to athletes of any age and performance level. Dr. Stewart has been at Maricopa Foot and Ankle for the past 10 years and has experience in treating everything from minor ailments to major trauma.

Do you have pain from playing golf?

Golf may seem like a leisurely game, but it can be strenuous on your feet. There are a lot of balance and rotational forces at work. Proper support is imperative to keeping your feet feeling good and improving your golf game.

How do you treat these common injuries?

Most injuries that arise from golf can be treated conservatively in our office. Simple R.I.C.E. (rest, ice, compression, elevation) can help with minor injuries. If your pain is not going away you may have sprained your foot or aggravated your arthritis, and it is important to get it evaluated and properly treated. Orthotics can help to provide proper support and reduce your pain. There are other conservative and surgical treatments that can be performed, depending on your injuries.

We at Maricopa Foot and Ankle understand that even a small foot issue can be very painful and debilitating, so give us a call and let us help get you back to your activities pain free!

520-494-1090
MFAAC.com

SPONSORED CONTENT

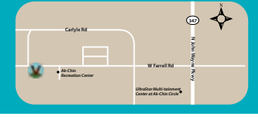
Vekol Market

Convenience Store, Deli and Fuel Station

LOWEST TOBACCO PRICES IN TOWN!

Serving delicious breakfasts and lunches daily!

47021 W. Farrell Road
(520) 568-1654



Open 6 a.m. M-F and
8 a.m. Sat. & Sun.

Restaurant inspections

A summary of the Jan. 12 - Feb. 13 food inspections by Pinal County Environmental Health Services

crumbl cookies

Hot and cold water available
Hot water at hand-sink recorded at 68° (> 100°F required).

DICKEY'S BARBECUE PIT

Sanitizing
Staff washed knives in hand-sink and placed dry knifes on rack next to meat-cutting station. Knives are to be washed, rinsed and sanitized in the three-compartment sink.

Hot holding
Temperatures of cooked pork and beef held in warmer 102°F to 120°F (> 135°F required).

Label chemicals
Person in charge asked to provide a bucket of sanitizer and emptied contents of a bottle labeled "sanitizer" into the bucket. Solution in bucket and bottle tested negative for sanitizer, and person in charge unable to determine what was in the bottle.

Cleaning
Build-up of debris seen on upright-warmer, under counter-warmer, display-warmer, prep-cooler doors and sides, and hot-holding plate.

Proper ventilation
Smoke seen in facility while fryer in use. Manager unable to turn on hood system. Heavy buildup of soot seen on walls and tiles above smoker.

Francisco's MEXICAN FOOD

Proper cooling
Temperatures of hot sauce held in reach-in cooler 48-49°F (< 41°F required).

Cooling methods
Temperatures of cooked potatoes in freezer 68-74° F (< 41°F required).

Hot and cold holding
Temperatures of cooked carrots, peppers, onions rolled tacos in reach-in cooler 54-55°F (< 41°F required).

Cooling, heating and holding equipment
Air temperature of reach-in cooler 54°F (at or below 41°F required).

Sanitizers
Chlorine-based sanitizer in wiping buckets at least 200 parts per million (50-100 ppm required).

Jersey Mike's SUBS

Date Marking
Several chubs of open and cut deli meat in display and prep coolers without date marks.

Cleaning
Buildup of debris on walls around cook and prep lines and on floors.

KFC / LONG JOHN SILVER'S

Hot and cold holding
Temperatures of cooked chicken in counter-mounted warmer 111-124°F (>135°F required).

Cleaning
Buildup of food debris in basin of mop sink and on floors.
Several floor tiles in prep area missing or damaged.

native grill & wings

Proper cooling
Temperatures of cut tomatoes, cut lettuce, cheese, pre-packaged macaroni and cheese, salsa and green chilies in prep cooler 57-61°F (< 41°F required).

Cooling, heating and holding equipment
Water pooling in prep cooler. Air temperature 52°F (< 41°F required).

PANDA EXPRESS CHINESE KITCHEN

Hot holding
Temperatures of rice 122-125°F (> 135°F required).

Cooling, heating and holding equipment
Hot-holding unit not functioning properly. Unit not to be used until it is repaired to hold temperatures at or above 135°F. (Reinspection required by Feb. 10)

THE DUKE AT RANCHO EL DORADO

Sanitizers
Sanitizer in use at bar sink 0 ppm (200-400 ppm required).

Expiration dates
Expired date marks on pen containers of queso, chili and gravy in walk-in cooler.

Cross contamination
Golf shop employee entered kitchen to fill their personal, previously used, cup. An ice scoop came in contact with the inside of the cup.

Consumer advisory
Ground meat with consumer advisory listed on kids menu. Restaurants may not offer minors undercooked food.

EXCELLENT

- Arby's
- Bashas' – AFC Sushi
- Children's Learning Adventure
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Cilantro's Mexican Cocina
- Circle K (18141 N. John Wayne Parkway)
- Culver's
- Desert Sunrise High School
- Desert Wind Middle School
- Firehouse Subs
- IHOP
- Maricopa Community Hospital (Exceptional Community Hospital)
- Maricopa High School
- Maricopa High School – Culinary Arts
- MOD Pizza
- Santa Cruz Elementary School
- Sonic Drive-in
- Sprouts Farmers Market
- Sprouts Farmers Market – Deli
- Sprouts Farmers Market – Bakery
- Sprouts Farmers Market – Oumi Sushi
- Water and Ice

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.

IN BRIEF

Business, development around town

Desert Sunrise High School

Christ's Church of the Valley gets an administrative design review of plans and off-site improvement permit for its church building, parking lot and sports fields at 19475 N. Porter Road. The church will begin construction of an in-ground, 750-square-foot baptistry and outdoor kitchen with combined construction cost of nearly $300,000. Work will be done for CCV Honeycutt & Porter Road LLC by ProFab Construction LLC.

Maricopa begins construction of its Police Department building at Civic Center Plaza on the northeastern corner of North Maya Angelou Drive and Bowlin Road. The $5.7 million project will be built by **Caliente Construction Inc**.

Construction will begin on the clubhouse for **Home @ Maricopa Apartments**, 17645 N. Porter Road, at a cost nearly $1 million. Owner SAM MC I LLC contracted SAM Construction Group LLC.

Homestead North will build a 1,054-square-foot, metal, shade structure at 20663 N. Wilford Ave. for nearly $12,000. Shade Net of Arizona will do the work.

A 45- by 12-foot, galvanized, baseball, dugout cover and chain-link fence will be added to the baseball field **Desert Sunrise High School**, 16200 N. Murphy Road. The work will be done by Adams Fence LLC for Maricopa Unified School District.

The medical campus at **Copper Sky Park-District 3** received a major development-review permit from the city, enabling the project to move forward.

A minor development-review permit was granted to Cypress Investors LLC for **Carl's Jr.** restaurant with drive-through at 20015 N. John Wayne Pkwy. in Maricopa Towne Plaza.

Construction will begin on 14 duplexes, comprising 28 total units, at **Hampton Edison**, 45305 W. Edison Road. This phase includes six duplexes featuring 1,020-square-foot, two-bedroom units on each side. Eight additional duplexes are 645 square feet with one-bedroom residences on each side. Cost of this phase is $3.4 million. Work is being done by Beckshar Diamond Commercial LLC.

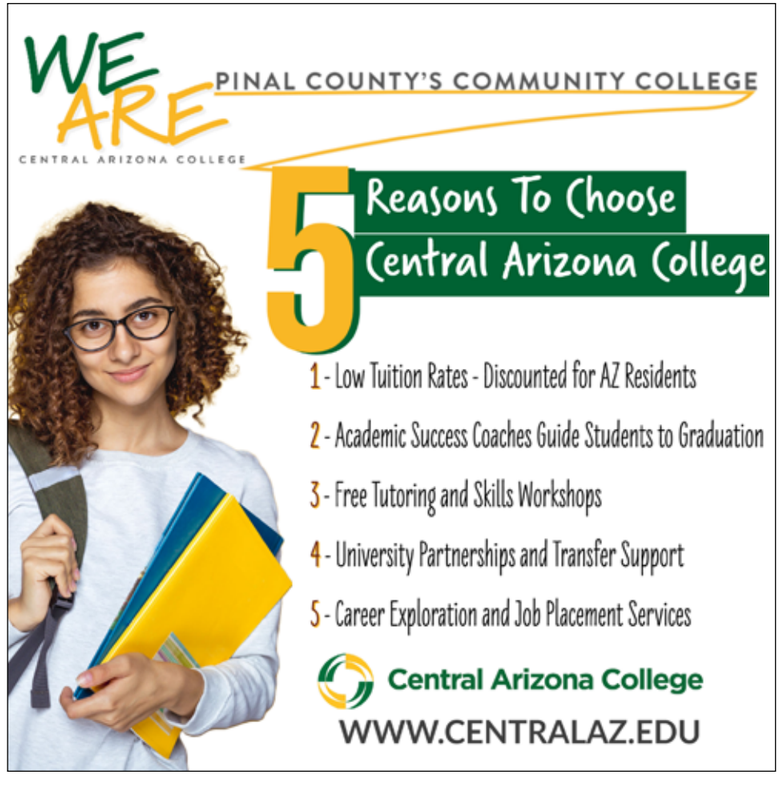
REV@Porter will build 10 duplexes (20 residences) in three configurations at 17805 N. Porter Road. Seven duplexes will feature a 782-square-foot, one-bedroom residence on one side and a 1,093-square-foot, two-bedroom residence on the other. Two duplexes will have one-bedroom units on each side, and one duplex will have two-bedroom residences on each side. Cost is $2.9 million. Sodella Construction Inc. is doing the work.

Grading and drainage work will begin at the **Tractor Supply Co.** site, 42000 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway in the Maricopa Power Center at the Wells. T&K Contracting will do the work for owner CAPDEVL060.

An above-ground, fuel tank will be installed at Desert Sunrise High School, 16200 N. Murphy Road, by Chasse Building Team for **Maricopa Unified School District**.

Century Communities of Arizona will spend $110,000 to convert a garage at a home at 35320 W. Mallorca Ave. to a sales office for The Trails. Century will do the work itself.

A final plat was approved for the infrastructure for Phase 4 of the **Sorrento** community for owner Azalta LLLP.



The Arts: The messy business of creativity

BY LAURA OLIVIERI

FINE ARTS ARE A FUNNY THING. THEY'RE OFTEN THE first on the chopping block where funding is concerned, yet the movie you just watched had orchestral music — and wouldn't be *nearly* as great without it. Children begin their lives with crayons and finger paints, which is lovely, as long as they don't color on walls.

Kids play and pretend all day, but they better have a college degree and not go into acting. We pay for years of classes for our cute ballerinas, musicians and gymnasts to have a rich childhood, without the expectation of a lifelong career.

It's a human condition, arts. Music plays behind everything we do. And here in Maricopa, the arts scene grows every year. Theatre, music, dance and art are the founders of Maricopa Arts Council and arts in all their forms, by people who are your neighbors, support all that makes a city rich – in diversity and in content.

Artist Gary Zaimont, who retired to Maricopa in 2005, started his artistic endeavors in music — trumpet, in New York, 1950s-60s — and later taught junior high kids. He plays many instruments now, and arranges music for Maricopa Music Circle and Maricopa Chorus, as well as playing with the Province Ensemble.

His studio, the Rainbow House, is an amazing and *messy* place.

"All creativity is problem solving," he said. "We say 'creative' as if there's a difference between a plumber solving a problem and a poet solving a problem.

"I don't like any of that nonsense because what that does is takes the arts and removes it from society. It puts it all *over there*. It's not over there."

His storytelling is nearly as fascinating as the art itself.

He's been working on an incredible self-portrait since 2018, mainly because no other subject would hold still that long. He describes painters and their styles to describe the process of creating a portrait that stands nearly twice as tall as he does.

And it's not perfect.

"My ears don't match because my ears don't match," he said. "The eyes don't match, either, and the mouth is crooked, because my mouth is crooked."

It looks like a painting of an ordinary person, on a magnificent scale.

Maricopa's arts scene is blooming this spring. We are the kids who drew on the walls, who screeched on our violins and pretended all day. We practice in our living rooms, paint in our spare rooms and create in our garages. Our mouths are crooked, and our ears don't match. We're messy, ordinary and marvelous. Maricopa's arts aren't *over there* somewhere. They're here. Come see them.

Gary Zaimont, who retired to Maricopa in 2005, has been working on an self portrait since 2018.

Laura Olivieri is a violist with Maricopa Music Circle, a published children's book author, research technician in agriculture and has been a resident of Maricopa since 1998.

MARCH 2023 MARICOPA ARTS CALENDAR

March 1-4	"Never Eat a Talking Lobster," as presented by the Maricopa Community Youth Theatre.
March 4	MAC Inside the Creative Mind lecture at the Library: Jack Jackson, Art Photographer.
March 11	MAC presents All-AZ Poetry Slam Championship — $1,000 in prizes.
March 19	Province Chorus and Province Ensemble "Spring Toons."
March 20-24	MHS Fine Arts Week.
March 31-April 1	Maricopa HS band in Winter Guard Arizona Championships at Millennium High School.

Submitted

From farming to gaming to the Super Bowl

Vice Chair Lemuel Vincent watches Ak-Chin grow up

BY LEE SHAPPELL

Lemuel Vincent is seen outside of the AK Chin Entertainment complex.

AS LEMUEL VINCENT SITS IN his office, reflecting, he still is astounded by the growth and reach of the Ak-Chin Indian Community, of which he is vice chairman.

Last week, the community was among four major partners with the Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee, gaining incalculable exposure from the game in Glendale and from several ancillary activities. Ak-Chin believes that will be beneficial to its economic development. It bases its belief on partnering with two previous Super Bowls hosted in the Valley.

Host Committee officials, in turn, say the partnership elevated the Super Bowl because Ak-Chin shares its vision of delivering a premiere experience and creating lasting social and economic impact across local communities.

"Sitting in my office at times, thinking of everything in my past to now — starting in farming in a cotton field, to where I am as vice chairman of our community — I would never envision this," Vincent said.

"The same is true of the community itself, how far we have come. We're not a large community, but we've done large things, great things. It's just a process instilled by past leaders of our community, that paved the way for what we have today. Now we pave it for the next generation that's going to run the community. It's a process."

The community has a rich agrarian history. Vincent's family was farmers. He worked in the fields as a boy and later farmed himself.

"Ak-Chin" is an O'odham word that means "mouth of the wash" or "place where the wash loses itself in the sand or ground," the Vekol Wash being vital to irrigating fields in the community's early days. Ak-Chin is among the smallest of the 22 tribal nations in Arizona, with a population of 1,123 on 22,000 acres. Of that land, 16,000 acres remain farmland today.

"So, I know what it's like to work out there," Vincent said. "I was probably 12 years old in the eighth grade when I learned how to drive a tractor. When I was younger, I'd go out in the fields with my mom to pick weeds off the cotton. It was a way to earn money."

Vincent, 53, is the youngest of 10 kids. One brother designed the Ak-Chin Community seal. Another designed the logo for Ak-Chin's annual birthday celebration, Masik Tas. Multiple siblings have served on the Tribal Council and held other leadership positions in the community.

"Being a small community, most of us are related in one way or another. It was special being part of that community growing up," Vincent said. "We're still a farming community. We still identify ourselves with agriculture."

The community's partnership with Lay's Potato Chips to grow potatoes reflects how farming pays off. Ak-Chin also grows pecans, hay, barley, alfalfa and corn that are shipped all over the world. That generates resources for the community.

But, as Vincent said, Ak-Chin has grown in other ways economically.

Gaming compacts with the state spurred the arrival of Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort, changing the face of the community and opening more economic doors.

Ak-Chin's continuing connection with the Super Bowl gives the community exposure on a much larger stage.

"To me, personally, us being native indigenous people, I never thought we'd have the things we have now as far as economic development that make the community grow," Vincent said.

"It makes me proud to be a member of this community because of the hard work we have put in to make it come this far."

Lemuel Vincent has risen to the level of vice chairman of the Ak-Chin Indian Community, but hasn't forgotten his agricultural roots. Here, one of the many fields on Ak-Chin land receives water from an irrigation ditch.

Bryan Mordt; file

Maricopa Wellness receives 1st head-to-toe body contouring specialist in state

BY DR. KRISTINA DONNAY DNP, FNP-C

MARICOPA WELLNESS CENTER was awarded InMode's first head-to-toe body contouring specialist in Arizona in 2020. This has ensured that Maricopa Wellness is not just a leader for body contouring in Maricopa but the entire state.

Body contouring continues to be one of the fastest growing areas in aesthetics. This, combined with ongoing innovations in non-surgical treatment options, means it is an exciting time for patients to achieve long-lasting, full-body sculpting results with little to no discomfort or downtime. Evolve and Evoke by InMode offers non-surgical body contouring through its hands-free devices to sculpt your body, tone your muscles and smooth your skin from head to toe.

What is Evolve or Evoke Technology?

Evolve is for the body and Evoke is used on the face. The Evolve and Evoke technology use radiofrequency (RF) energy to provide targeted skin tightening, cellulite reduction, and fat reduction. Evolve is effective for refining skin and reducing fat in the abdomen, flank, buttock, arms, hips and thighs. Evolve uses an innovative solution to increase muscle strength in difficult to tone areas. Evoke can be used to diminish wrinkles, increase elasticity and decrease skin "sagging" in the face and neck. Radiofrequency treatments (such as Evolve and Evolve) work wonders on loose skin from head to toe.

Treatments are customized for a more defined appearance without incisions, scarring or downtime. Evolve body uses electromagnetic energy stimulating involuntary muscle contractions to tone muscles and improve your natural physique. The Evolve System employs multiple technologies to target fat tissue, tone muscles, and remodel skin and tissue. Both Evolve and Evoke can be customized and tailored to fit your specific needs without the need for surgery.

EXCELLENT CARE. EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS.

All the procedures under the umbrella of the Evolve and Evoke Systems require no incisions, pain or down time. As a non-invasive treatment, both are proven to be safe and effective for all skin types. Clinical studies show that Evolve reduces more fat per treatment than either CoolSculpting or Sculpsure. But, Evolve body also has the added benefit of tightening the skin and smoothing out the appearance of the treatment area.

Patients generally find treatments with Evolve and Evoke to be extremely comfortable. You will experience a warm sensation of the skin as the applicator technology identifies the optimal temperature for the thermal energy. You will not feel any pain or discomfort. Additionally, Evolve and Evoke were designed with the ultimate in application safety and patient comfort in mind. The technology utilizes built-in thermal sensors that allow us to monitor the temperature of the skin's surface throughout treatment. If any discomfort is felt, patients can push a button that will pause the treatment and let their provider make any necessary adjustments.

There is no recovery period after your Evolve or Evoke treatment. Sessions last 45 minutes to 60 minutes, depending on the treatment and treatment area. After treatment you can immediately get back to your day. Patients typically see results with Evolve or Evoke within three to eight visits, when treatments are done once a week. Because Evolve and Evoke are non-invasive, it's much less expensive than procedures like liposuction, face lifts, tummy tucks or skin lifts.

Maricopa Wellness Center is proud to be one of the first practices not only in Arizona but the entire country to provide non-surgical body contouring with Evolve and Evoke by InMode. Are you ready to take a step toward a more youthful appearance? Tighten up, smooth it out and tone it up with treatments at Maricopa Wellness Center. No matter whether you choose Evolve or Evoke, we can provide a customized treatment plan to help you reach your aesthetic goals. All procedures are available at Maricopa Wellness Center. Learn more about this exciting non-invasive, thermal skin and body treatment. We offer free consultations.

Call us at 520-464-6193 to discuss how you can achieve optimal health with our licensed staff of professionals today!

Text MWC to 520-464-6193 to join our texting list where we share our special pricing and events.

520-464-6193
MaricopaWellnessCenter.com
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road
Building 14, Suite 3

SPONSORED CONTENT

Balance physical, mental well-being to live safe, secure life

BY HARRIET PHELPS, PSYD. RETIRED

HEADLINES TODAY ARE DEEPLY TROUBLING AND alarming. After I read about a 6-year-old taking a weapon to class and shooting his teacher, a young man's death at the hands of those who protect our communities, or the number of shootings in one month in our nation, I am beyond distressed. Are we missing something?

If we are misguided or not guided at all, we will not reach our full potential or mental wellness or well-being. Who makes the rules? Who sets the boundaries? Respecting life and property is a boundary.

From The State Of Mental Health In America, the 2023 key findings are:

From 2019 to 2020, 21% of adults were experiencing a mental illness. That is more than 50 million Americans. More than half (55%) of adults with mental illness do not receive treatment.

More than one in 10 youth in the U.S. are experiencing depression that is severely impairing their ability to function at school, at work, at home, with family or in their social life. Youth ages 12-17 (16%) report suffering from at least one major depressive episode. More than 27 million youth (12%) are experiencing severe major depression. Nationally, 28% of youth with severe depression do not receive consistent treatment. Most, 57%, with severe depression do not receive any care. They do not know what to do.

In the U.S., there are an estimated 350 individuals for every mental-health provider. The number is comparable to the number of individuals per social worker.

Awareness and understanding reduce stigma through education and training. Parents can play an important role in promoting mental health and support to their children by:

- Helping children recognize and celebrate their strengths.
- Providing a safe place where children and adults can talk about things that concern them.
- Teaching and helping children problem-solve and develop plans of action to address difficult situations.
- Encouraging children to be active in a variety of school and social events.
- Teaching quiet, calm and unwind time during the day.
- Teaching how good physical and mental health is important in a balanced life.
- Helping children learn skills and empowering them to make good decisions.
- Talking about balance and choice with children. Adults can be mindful of the same.

All development is a process throughout life. When we learn to balance physical well-being and mental well-being, we live safe and secure lives.

Erik Erickson developed stages of psycho-social development that lends insight into what children must learn as they mature into adulthood. His interest was in how social interaction and relationships played a role in the development and growth of the individual.

Life has conflicts. When successful in dealing with them, we emerge with strengths and skills that serve us with a strong sense of self. Erickson believed a sense of competence motivates behaviors and actions. A sense of mastery, also referred to as ego strength or quality, provides self-worth, dignity, belonging, problem-solving, self-determination, tolerance and acceptance and respect for others.

We are a series of building blocks. We can always learn and strengthen who we are. The first classroom of our life is at home. If some blocks were missing, we can learn how any time.

It is time to find the space to teach and protect our children the best we can. My condolences go out to the many families that have lost a loved one. We must be diligent.

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

‘We were trying to get him some help’

How Arizona’s mental-health system failed Brian Simmons

BY JUSTIN GRIFFIN

BRIAN SIMMONS DIED AT HIS VILLAGES AT RANCHO EL DORADO home on Aug. 29 during an interaction with Maricopa police that started as a noise complaint and ended in a shootout.

Brian was 38. He spent the last 20 months of his life as a resident of Maricopa, battling mental-health issues that likely stemmed from an exposure to weapons-grade plutonium more than a decade earlier, an event many in his family regard as the day Brian really was killed.

From that point, Brian found trouble at each step in his life. After radiation exposure at the Idaho National Laboratory, his mental health seemed to decline.

He moved to Maricopa from Idaho Falls to build a business selling solar panels only to have his partners leave with all the money he’d put into it, according to his father, Hal.

A man with mental-health problems, Brian moved to one of the states least capable of giving him the help he needed.

According to the United Health Foundation and Mental Health America, the Grand Canyon State is ranked 46th in the United States for access to mental-health providers.

The final blow came on that hot August day when Brian’s lifeless body lie in the side yard of his home with wounds from six gunshots and more from fierce bites by a K-9 unit.

So, you might ask, how does Brian’s story end in such a horrid manner?

It’s best to start at the beginning.

An All-American boy

Growing up in Idaho Falls, Brian played multiple sports and was the prototype of an All-American boy. He was athletic, attractive, witty, intelligent.

Brian excelled in basketball. When his high school team, the Hillcrest Knights, played, it was an event not only for the Simmons family but for the entire community. They all wanted to see the next feat Brian had up his sleeve. He was the kind of player who could put the team on his back and take over a game. He also enjoyed baseball, golf, riding snowmobiles, along with hunting and fishing.

He was a prankster, who came up with nicknames for everyone, his father, Hal, explained.

“He was a friend to everybody,” Hal said. “I mean, he always teased everyone. Him and his brother Justin would come up with nicknames for everyone. They called my wife Cheryl, ‘Hernando Helmetron.’ They had all sorts of names. They’d call me ‘Bean’ and it was all goodness. It was never belittling anyone, just good fun.”

Hal remembered a time Brian got in a little hit of good-natured trouble.

“Cory (Brian’s older brother) had some of his friends over for a sleepover and they were all a few years older than Brian. They were walking through the neighborhood and found a dead squirrel someone had hit with a car,” Hal said. “So, Cory and his friends put the dead squirrel in a pizza box and told Brian that the only way they’ll let him hang out with them is for him to put on his Cub Scout uniform and go and sell that pizza to some woman down the street.”

Brian obliged, telling the woman the sale would help with his troop’s programs. He couldn’t close the sale on the first try, so Cory and his friends egged Brian on to just give the pizza to the woman.

After the woman opened the box, Hal said he and his wife heard about it.

“That woman called us screaming all these obscenities,” Hal said. “I couldn’t let Brian see it but I couldn’t stop laughing. It was so funny. It was just kids being kids.”

There was a softer side to Brian that he hid from people, as Hal explained.

“Every Christmas, he’d give presents to families in need,” Hal said. “He wasn’t ever big on talking about it, though. It was always more important to him that those families had a good Christmas than him getting credit for it.”

Soon after graduating high school and returning from a mission in Tallahassee, Fla., for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Brian was hired at the Idaho National Laboratory in 2004, which at the time, provided some of the best-paying jobs to be found in Idaho Falls.

Brian Simmons, shown here through all stages of his life, enjoyed spending time with his nieces and nephews, hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. All that changed for Brian after being exposed to weapons-grade plutonium in 2011. Thereafter, family members started to notice drastic changes in Brian's personality, which became more pronounced up until the day he was killed in a shootout with Maricopa Police.

Submitted

Brian Simmons talks to Maricopa police officers during a call due to a noise complaint, which later escalated into a shootout where he was killed.

UNDERSTANDING HIPAA

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act was signed into law in 1996 to modernize the flow of health-care information. The main thrust of HIPAA is to stipulate how personally identifiable information maintained by health-care providers and insurance companies should be protected against fraud and the limitations of how that information can be shared with anyone other than the patient and their authorized representatives.

The exposure

Brian met Ralph Stanton when they were hired as security guards at INL and the two became fast friends. Three years later, they moved up the ladder at the facility, owned by the Department of Energy and operated by Battelle Energy Alliance, and were hired as Nuclear Facility Operators at the plant's Zero Power Physics Reactor Facility.

Years down the road, they would take a trip to hell and back together. As Stanton recalls, it started on Nov. 8, 2011, when Brian and Stanton were exposed to weapons-grade Plutonium 239 and Americium 241, both highly radioactive substances.

This would be the date that family members believe Brian was handed a death sentence. Video of the moment of Brian and Stanton's exposure can be found online.

Brian and Stanton were part of a 16-member crew, which was to repackage a Plutonium 239 stainless-steel-clad plate from a clamshell container, place it in a can and repackage it in a drum to be sent to another Department of Energy site.

Looking at the container, Stanton had doubts about whether it should even be opened and took his concern to management. Word came down from the site manager, "Open it or go home without a job," Stanton recalled.

As Stanton and Brian expected, disaster struck. The clamshell containing the radioactive plate was compromised. When Stanton opened it, the appearance of black powder, a result of oxidation of the plate, meant that everyone in the room that day was exposed to differing levels that could cause radiation poisoning.

"When I opened it, Brian said, 'We've got powder. I hope that wasn't what I thought it was,'" Stanton said.

Unfortunately, Brian was right.

His and Stanton's lives were never the same.

Living with a new reality

According to the Mayo Clinic, the physical symptoms of Acute Radiation Sickness include nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, headache, fever, dizziness and disorientation, weakness and fatigue, hair loss, bloody vomit and stools from internal bleeding, infections and low blood pressure — many of which Brian and Stanton experienced.

"It seemed like we'd take turns," Stanton said. "We'd drive to work and one of us would get sick. We'd pull over and have to run out into the desert and vomit."

Stanton said they had extreme fits of bloody diarrhea and vomited blood.

"You could tell that the radiation was killing us from the inside," Stanton said.

As the years passed, mental symptoms from the exposure also became apparent.

In 2019, Stanton was diagnosed with severe depression.

"It's a lot more than one day you wake up and you have the blues," Stanton said. "It's debilitating. It was a lot worse than I would have ever imagined."

A few months before his untimely death, Brian reached out to Stanton.

"He wanted me and my wife to come down to Maricopa and help him put on a show," Stanton said. "He offered to put us up and pay us $10,000 each. But we couldn't make sense of it. Brian had a quick wit, but he wasn't a comedian, and we knew that there wasn't a show planned.

"I'd talked to Brian, but it wasn't Brian. It was his voice, but he wasn't there."

Stanton had spent countless hours educating himself on radiation exposure and reached out to a doctor he'd been seeing to ask about Brian.

"I'm not an expert, but I think Brian had schizophrenia when I talked to him," Stanton said. "I asked a doctor who specialized in it, and he told me that was happening with Chernobyl victims."

Submitted

> ***"I'd talked to Brian, but it wasn't Brian. It was his voice, but he wasn't there."***
>
> RALPH STANTON

In 1986, two massive explosions at Chernobyl, a Russian nuclear power plant, killed 28 people and left thousands sickened from cancer and other conditions from the fallout.

As the years passed, mental illness from the disaster also became a concern. In fact, the Chernobyl Forum, a conglomeration of United Nations agencies founded in 2003 to scientifically assess the environmental consequences of the disaster, concluded that mental health was the largest public-health problem unleashed by the accident.

In 2000, Ukrainian researchers Dr. Konstantin N. Loganovsky and Dr. Tatiana K. Loganovskaja conducted a study of workers who performed cleanup duties at the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone from 1986 to 1991. They found those people were five times more likely to have schizophrenia disorders than the public in Ukraine.

Additional studies show those exposed at Chernobyl also were at a significantly higher risk of developing other psychological conditions, including anxiety or depression.

A LOOK AT IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY

The Idaho National Laboratory is primarily a research facility in Idaho Falls, which is owned by the United States Department of Energy and managed by Battelle Energy Alliance.

Historically, most research done at INL has concerned how nuclear reactors behave.

More than 50 reactors have been built at the site, including the world's first nuclear submarine. While most have been decommissioned, INL has the largest concentration of reactors in the world.

INL employs about 4,000 people and sits on an 890-square-mile complex in the high desert of eastern Idaho.

INL began its life as a U.S. government artillery test range in the 1940s after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. In 1949, the federal research facility was established as the National Reactor Testing Station.

During its lifetime, INL has been involved in three accidents that made national headlines:

- In 1961, the only fatal nuclear-reactor incident to occur in the United States happened when a control rod was pulled too far out of a reactor, effectively destroying it and leading to a power excursion and steam explosion. The blast killed three men working on the reactor. Due to the excessive contamination, all three were buried in lead-lined coffins.
- On Nov. 8, 2011, Brian Simmons and Ralph Stanton were exposed to Plutonium-239. Both sued BEA in the coming years and both settled out of court. Terms of the settlements were not disclosed.
- In April 2018, four canisters of depleted uranium sludge exploded, ejecting their lids at INL. The waste originated from the decommissioned Rocky Flats weapons plutonium-production plant. Vincent Ialenti researched the drum breaches and attributed them to "systemic incentives to speed up waste cleanup projects beyond their organizational capacity, without commensurately expanding their safety or oversight mechanisms."

A downward spiral

Was Brian, in fact, schizophrenic at the time of his death? The answer to that question will never be known.

Brian was a strong-willed man determined to live life on his terms. As his father, Hal, explained, those terms were becoming more and more difficult for those close to him to embrace with each passing day.

Hal made the trip down to Maricopa in February of 2022 to visit his son, and while the two were talking, Brian started fighting with Hal. A family member stepped in to pull Brian off his father.

Hal was upset at Brian's actions, but he had no desire to file charges.

"We were in the truck together and I said something that Brian didn't like, and he jumped over the console and started beating on me," Hal said. "It was a scene, and a passerby called the law and before we could get out of there, they were onsite."

Being that Hal was Brian's father, it was a domestic violence incident, which meant the officer could press charges. Brian went to jail for 10 days. Hal filed for a Title 36, or a 72-hour hold for a psychiatric evaluation for his son. It's an involuntary process for care and treatment of those with a mental disorder. It was a father's attempt to get help for his son.

"I told everyone who would listen that Brian needed a brain scan or something," Hal said.

While Brian was in jail, Hal saw Brian's living conditions at home.

"His house was awful," Hal said. "The Brian I knew was obsessed with being clean and organized. Before he'd moved to Maricopa, he'd get in my truck and ask me, 'Dad, why do you have all that crap in here? Clean it up!' He didn't like any kind of mess in his house or in his vehicle."

Hal said he arranged to get Brian's home cleaned. For two days, four professional cleaners and a friend of Brian's worked on the inside and outside of the home.

The effort was massive, but once Brian got back in the home, he wasted little time getting it back to a disorganized, cluttered state.

When Hal was back in Maricopa six months later to take care of Brian's final affairs after his death, he couldn't tell that the house had ever been cleaned.

"It was worse than it was … the first time," Hal said.

Coming to Maricopa

Brian moved to Maricopa in January 2021.

"He told me that he met a couple, and they were all going to move to Arizona to sell solar panels," Hal said. "The couple had moved down there a few months earlier."

It didn't take long for life to start falling apart for Brian in the desert.

Hal said that after six months, the couple vanished and left Brian high and dry. Hal believes they may have taken Brian for as much as $200,000.

"I've got a cousin that's a lawyer who is working to get all of Brian's bank statements from Chase and we're trying to figure out what happened there," Hal said.

MANAGING MENTAL-HEALTH CARE: FINDING HELP

Brianna Reinhold, a licensed counselor in Maricopa and owner of Northern Lights Therapy, explains persistence is key to helping a loved one experiencing a mental-health crisis.

"Don't take no for an answer," Reinhold said. "You're going to get pushback."

Reinhold said when the pushback comes, don't give in to it.

"Keep pushing. If you don't like that answer, go to the next one," she said. "Find somebody that will sit there and walk you through it, and don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand."

Here's a list of resources in Maricopa and Pinal County.

MARICOPA

Northern Lights Therapy, PLLC, 623-243-2774

Wells Counseling Services, 520-709-6476

LaFrontera-Empact, 520-316-6068 or 480-317-2212

CASA GRANDE

Community Bridges, 877-931-9142

Corazon Behavioral Health Services, 520-836-4278 or 520-836-1786

Horizon Health and Wellness, 833-431-4449

Brian became a familiar face around Maricopa — and especially with the Maricopa Police Department.

In 20 months, Brian had 22 documented interactions with MPD, according to documents obtained by InMaricopa. Among them was Brian trying to file charges alleging his property had been stolen.

His first brush with the law came in March, 2021 at a routine traffic stop, where he was found to be driving on a suspended license.

The next was in January of 2022 — meaning his final 21 episodes with police were compressed within an eight-month period. There was an arrest in February of 2022 by the Chandler Police Department, where they found Brian driving a borrowed car with 13 guns and rifles. There was no additional information available about who owned the firearms.

On one call, Brian wanted to file a report that his car had been stolen. The officer on duty told Brian that his car was impounded and gave him the lot where it could be found. The report pointed out that Brian's car had been abandoned alongside the road prior to being impounded by DPS.

Another time, Brian was charged with a misdemeanor on electronic communication of threats. In that investigation, Brian told officers he'd been robbed of $100,000 in goods and cash while trying to help people he'd met.

There were also a couple of calls involving Brian making threats, trying to get people to return goods he'd gifted them. On one call, he said he'd given away $1 million in gold, cash and Michael Jordan sneakers and wanted them back.

During one incident at Desert Financial inside Fry's grocery store, reports state he tried to jump over the desk and assault a bank teller but was thwarted by a plexiglass barrier.

In the final month of Brian's life, there were six calls leading up to the day of his death.

One involved a noise complaint in which he claimed he was working on a movie and gave the police the gift of a pair of cowboy boots made for UFC fighter Connor McGregor along with a box of bullets.

In another incident, he took off his shirt at the intersection of John Wayne Parkway and Honeycutt and threw it into oncoming traffic. When officers arrived, he ran from them, giving them the finger and running to his house. There was a criminal trespass charge for crossing Union Pacific Railroad tracks in an unauthorized area. The same report states that police officers watched Brian run into his house, but opted not to confront him that night, "due to Brian's history of violence and his agitated state."

Cries for help

It was clear to Maricopa Police officers Brian had mental health issues. Many of their reports obtained by InMaricopa noted that.

In addition, Hal and Cory, Brian's brother, say they communicated those concerns to MPD officers. Both saw disaster on the horizon and were trying to do whatever they could to avert it.

On Aug. 13, about two weeks before his death, a call was made to Brian's residence after he posted images of firearms tied with shoelaces on Facebook. At the behest of Brian's brother, Cory, a crisis worker came by Brian's residence with four officers. Brian refused to talk with the worker about mental-health issues. Instead, he gave pairs of shoes to each police officer and the crisis worker.

"I actually called the cops to help me get a crisis team there on the 13th of August," Cory said. "And it was a completely wasted effort for what went on that night. We asked for the cops' help. We pleaded with them to try to get us some help. We didn't know what to do. He's an adult."

The police also saw trouble coming.

"Two days before they shot and killed him, they called me and said, 'Your brother says you're coming to get him. Are you coming to get him?'" Cory recalled. "And I said I'd been talking to him. He would answer the phone and then he wouldn't. It was really sporadic to be able to talk to him and I said, 'Whatever you do, please don't kill my brother. We're trying to get him help.' They kept telling us the wrong officer would shoot him if he got too aggressive."

Even when it's apparent to everyone else that someone is dealing with mental-health problems, it's difficult to get that person help if they don't want it, as in Brian's case, according to family members.

Making it more difficult is that Arizona ranks at the bottom of the country when it comes to mental health providers. Mental Health America, in its 2022 report, ranked Arizona 46th in access to mental-health providers. Another part of the same study that examined the overall population in need of mental-health care, patients with unmet needs and the size of the mental health workforce, ranked Arizona 49th.

Brianna Reinhold, the owner of Northern Lights Therapy in Maricopa and a licensed professional counselor, put it this way:

"My experience with Arizona mental health systems? They suck. I don't know how else to put it in better terms." she said.

Reinhold pointed out that there's an intersection between personal freedoms and getting people help that must be balanced.

"If you have anybody over the age of 18 that needs services, most providers are going to say that person needs to reach out to us directly because they're a legal adult," Reinhold said. "So, you're going to start to get push back as it is, if you can get them into a facility."

Months earlier, Hal made the effort to get Brian help when he had him committed for 72 hours, but Brian learned from the situation and effectively cut his family off afterward.

"I was out to dinner one night with some people, and I got a phone call, and I didn't recognize the number, so

A LOOK AT TITLE 36

If an individual suffers a mental-health crisis and is unwilling to get voluntary help, an involuntary commitment process is available under Title 36. A.R.S. § 36-520(A), which states, "Any responsible individual may apply for a court-ordered evaluation of a person who is alleged to be, as a result of a mental disorder, a danger to self or to others, persistently or acutely disabled, or gravely disabled and who is unwilling or unable to undergo a voluntary evaluation."

Screening: Applications for involuntary evaluation and emergency admission are submitted to a screening agency, which has 24 hours to observe the patient. If after 24 hours, further evaluation is warranted, the individual is then transferred to a contracted evaluation agency and has 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) to complete the Court Ordered Evaluation. If the evaluation finds treatment is required, and the patient remains unwilling to get treatment voluntarily, a Petition for Court-Ordered Treatment is completed by one of the two evaluating doctors.

I answered it and it was Brian and he says, what are you doing Dad? I said, 'Well, I'm in Texas Roadhouse,'" said Hal, who was eating with five other family members.

"And he says, 'Oh, well, real good. I'm in here with all these crazy people,'" Hal recalled. "And anyway, he just went off on me and said, 'I'll never talk to you again,' … that's how bad he was. And, I just had to hang up on him because everybody at the table could hear and the phone wasn't on speaker. That's really the last time I talked to him. He did text me back and say that I love you. But that's all I got back from him. He was not in a good place."

Sometimes, as Reinhold explained, people who need help but don't want to face that fact figure out how to game the system.

It creates a situation where mental health professionals must try to hit a moving target.

"All they have to go off of is what's happening in front of them in the moment," Reinhold said. "This is where our system is going to fail people, because those that need it, if they know how to play the game well enough or they're intelligent enough, they're going to say the right things and are going to get themselves out."

Brian had figured out the system. If he didn't say anything, they couldn't do anything.

When the police and the crisis team got back to Cory after that visit with Brian on Aug. 13, there wasn't a lot to report.

"They called me back and said, 'We can't really tell you a lot because of HIPAA, but he didn't display anything that could allow us to arrest him to get him in to get him some help,'" Cory said.

Families trying to help their adult children are going to face difficulty. Being out of state compounds that difficulty.

"If I had to help a grown child in another state, I wouldn't even know where to start," Reinhold said. "The laws are different everywhere and I know the laws in Arizona, but I'd be at a disadvantage in another state."

The day it all ended

Brian's mental-health issues put him and the Maricopa Police Department on a collision course for a tragic ending.

In a copy of the final investigation by the Pinal County Sheriff's office obtained by InMaricopa, Brian told officers the day of his shooting – an interaction that started as a noise complaint – that he'd been up all night crying and started the interaction with smiles, fist bumps and hugs with the responding officers, who knew him by name.

But as the officers asserted themselves and asked Brian to turn his music down, the temperature of the interaction changed. Brian went from friendly to hostile.

Officers' body-worn cameras of the incident show it all change in an instant.

Brian sat down in a lawn chair in his driveway and produced two handguns, which he later put down and followed up by brandishing a hatchet.

In the video footage, police can be heard yelling at Brian to put down the guns, then the hatchet and later shouting commands at him to get on the ground.

He responded with multiple obscene hand gestures and can later be heard telling officers, "I've got a bigger voice than you."

After the police fired a shot of non-lethal force, essentially a bean bag, to get Brian to comply with their commands, the interaction got worse. Brian started walking to the carport and back into his house.

Then, according to the investigation report and video footage, he said, "You're ——ing done mother ———-," which led to another shot of less lethal force.

Brian walked backward into his house where officers feared he had more weapons and ammunition, which the PCSO's investigation confirmed.

Brian retrieved a 12-gauge shotgun from his house, sought cover from behind a cinderblock wall in his side yard and fired a round of birdshot at police officers. Officers returned fire, killing Brian.

According to the Pinal County Medical Examiner's report, Brian was shot six times. He suffered two bullet wounds to the chest cavity that damaged multiple vital organs and another to the back. He also suffered multiple dog-bite wounds from a K9 unit.

Looking for answers

The shootout, a block from Butterfield Elementary School, demonstrates the dangers of untreated mental illness.

Brian's 21 prior interactions with police highlight the inadequacies of Arizona's mental health and legal systems that left Brian's family helpless.

Brian's story, unfortunately, isn't all that unique. The Washington Post curates a database of police-involved shootings that dates back to 2015. Nationally, there have been 1,695 shooting deaths by police during interactions with mentally ill people, which accounts for roughly 21 percent of all police-involved shooting deaths.

Arizona is fifth on the list with 63. California leads the way with 234.

The issue of mental illness and policing is of growing concern. Studies done as recently as 10 years ago estimated that 1 in 10 police interactions were with mentally ill subjects.

Michael Scott, director of the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing and a clinical professor in the School of Criminology & Criminal Justice at Arizona State University, recently analyzed data with the Phoenix Police Department concerning mental illness.

"The frequency with which police officers are encountering people with mental illness does appear to be on the rise," Scott said. "I recently did some work with the Phoenix Police Department in reviewing some of their data and we estimated that mental illness may play a factor in as many as one call in every eight. And that's a lot of interactions.

"Most of those interactions are going to be resolved peacefully. The mental disorder may not be acute: It's not serious, it's not dangerous. It's just a person having some difficulty. But it does necessarily increase the probability that at least some of those encounters and more of them will be high risk."

In a September interview with InMaricopa during his final days as Maricopa's police chief, James Hughes wouldn't speak directly about the situation with Brian, but Hughes said he believes that dealing with all people effectively — including those mentally-ill – is part of their job.

"They are social problems, mental illness and homelessness," Hughes said. "Often those calls happen during hours when the city is closed. So, who gets the call? The police."

Hughes pointed out that many times, the police know these people and can offer important background.

"I think the police should still be involved in some of those people-related things," Hughes said. "If you've engaged with the community, you know who Joe is and what his problems are. He may be a veteran who maybe served his country and was injured and is having some problems.

"Yet when you have a 25-year-old police officer who is trained in compliance with patrol and he's saying, 'Get your hands out of your pocket! What are you doing here? No, you can't go to the bathroom,' it's not going to end well."

Scott agreed that tone, when dealing with someone with mental illness is important.

"Once the police officers have the sense of whether this person has some kind of a mental disorder, then it's usually advised that police officers not resort to barking, or shouting commands, which they normally would do if the person was completely mentally fit," Scott said.

"The police might use aggressive language, assertively giving commands in a very loud and authoritative voice. But that often is counter-productive in dealing with a person who may be suffering some form of mental disorder. It can be disorienting to the person. They may not be able to follow the commands, it can be intimidating, they could actually escalate the tensions rather than de-escalate them."

Hughes said that whenever possible, it's a good idea to keep the situation light.

"We've done a good job teaching officers that if you ask these people to do the same thing six times, the seventh time is not going to be the magical response," Hughes said. "Re-evaluate what you're doing. Inject a little humor or take a different approach. That's how you de-escalate."

Prior to becoming a counselor, Reinhold served in the criminal-justice system as a detention officer and worked with the Glendale Police Department as a volunteer, offering peer support for officers in officer-involved shootings and deaths in the line of duty. She believes that for the most part police officers are often thrust into an impossible situation.

Submitted

Brian Simmons enjoyed fishing in Idaho and worked out regularly after moving to Maricopa in 2021. He was killed during a shootout with the Maricopa Police Department in August.

"They're the attacked ones," Reinhold said. "When things don't go perfectly, they take all the blame. But if we're gonna send the police as the first response, we need them to be better trained in mental-health first aid and know how to deal with that type of population.

"And then, we need a secondary source for callouts once they've identified that it's a mental-health issue. How can we include local resources or their own team, that's staffed with mental-health providers to help in those situations? That's really what every agency needs."

Monica Williams, public information officer for Maricopa's police, fire, and emergency management, said training for Maricopa's police officers is ongoing.

"The city of Maricopa Police Department's officers participate in de-escalation and crisis intervention training prior to their initial field duty and repeat the training annually," Williams said. "Those trainings ensure our officers understand how to approach a range of dynamic scenarios and begin a dialog with individuals in crisis. The primary goal is to ensure the public and our officers are safe, while de-escalating situations.

"Our department has designated Crisis Intervention Specialists, who are officers who have elected to participate in further training beyond the annual requirement for all officers."

> ***"He was everything under the sun and then some — and absolutely taken down in his prime."***
>
> CORY SIMMONS, BRIAN'S BROTHER

Those officers are liaisons with community partners that provide resources, such as mental-health counseling, substance-abuse treatment and shelter space to those in crisis. While the Police Department does not directly provide the resources, according to Williams, officers are equipped to connect individuals with mental-health resources or other resources they need, including Community Bridges Inc., Horizon Health & Wellness, La Frontera Impact & Maricopa Behavioral Health Services.

Remembering Brian

It will take years for the Simmons family to recover from losing Brian twice, first to radiation poisoning and later to the exchange of gunfire.

"I feel like I lost my best friend," Cory, Brian's brother, said. "We did everything together. But after the exposure, Brian changed. He cut himself off from the family. I couldn't understand it. He loved snowmobiling and then he's telling me that he can't stand the cold and wants to move to Arizona? I didn't know what to think."

Cory said that prior to the exposure, Brian had the world at his feet.

"He could get any girl," Cory said. "He could play any sport. He was smart and funny. He was talented in every way, shape, or form. He was everything under the sun and then some — and absolutely taken down in his prime."

Cheri, Brian's sister, said he became an older brother to her sons. She was 10 years older than Brian.

"I got married kind of young and started having kids and my boys were really close with him," Cheri said. "They liked to hang out with him, and he was really good to my kids. He would play basketball with them, take them places or he would play video games with them. He'd always buy the newest game. So, they love going to play with him. He would take them out to eat and just go do things with them because they were kind of, like, his little brothers in a way."

Cheri saw the change after the radiation exposure and during Brian's lawsuit against BEA, from which Brian received an undisclosed settlement.

"He just changed," Cheri said. "He struggled with things, he started pulling away from people and kind of isolating himself. He didn't want to be around everybody as much and he was stressed out because he was going through a court case, and he just changed.

"He started worrying about things that he never worried about before."

That, in turn, caused Cheri to worry about him.

"I always kept trying to call him," she said. "We were trying to get him some help, but we didn't realize all of the effects that had happened to him, the schizophrenia from the radiation. We didn't realize that's what it was."

Hal put it more succinctly.

"I was plumb stupid about the effects of the radiation poisoning and mental health," Hal said. "I didn't realize what was going on until I talked to Ralph. When we started talking, everything started making sense."

Hal and Stanton hadn't talked that often before Brian's death, but curiosity and a hunch led the two to see if Brian had any other answers to share from the great beyond.

Brian was cremated and his ashes were at the wake held the night before the funeral. Stanton and his wife, Jodi, were on hand.

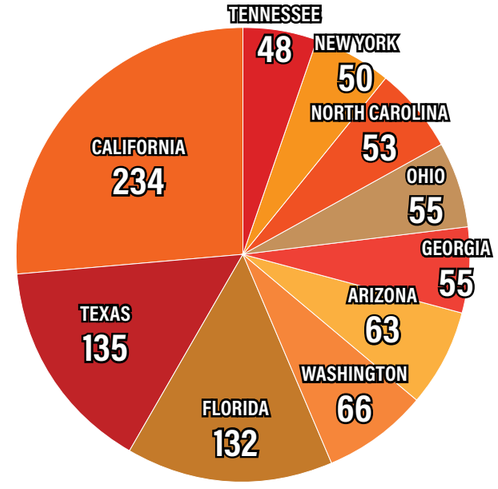
"An hour before that started, I got a radiological device from one of my friends," Stanton said. "And I talked Hal into taking Brian's ashes into one of the back rooms. I took a scoop like, you know, like laundry-detergent scoop, off the top of his ashes, put it on a piece of paper."

The device perked up as Stanton took a radioactivity reading.

"And his ashes were still (radioactive) hot."

Deaths in police interactions with mentally ill people

Top 10 by State since 2015



Source: Washington Post

Treasured Smiles Children's Dentistry
Duane C. Clouse, D.D.S., P.C.
Pediatric Dentist

Maricopa's Pediatric Dental Specialist

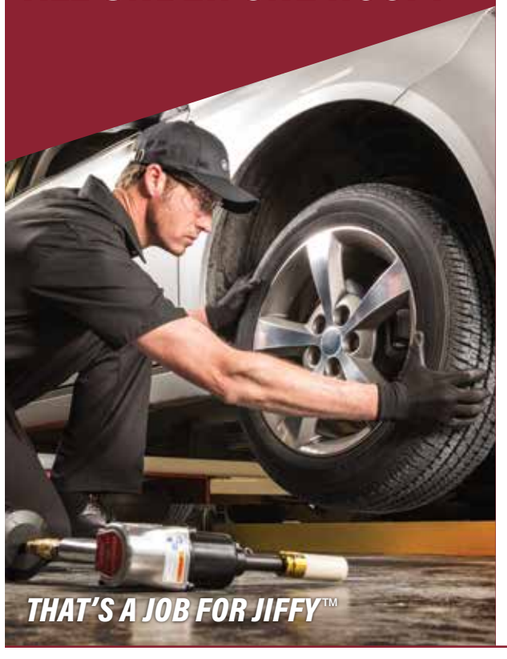
Where We Treasure Your Children's Smile!

(520) 316-6111

21300 N. John Wayne Pkwy. Unit 117

TreasuredSmilesChildrensDentistry.com

WHAT YOUR CAR NEEDS, ALL UNDER ONE ROOF?



THAT'S A JOB FOR JIFFY™

jiffy lube multicare®

42100 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.
(520) 635-6257
www.jiffylubearizona.com

No Appointment Necessary!
Call for hours of operation.

$29.99 SERVICE PRO
Jiffy Lube Signature Service® Oil Change

Service includes up to 5 quarts of Service Pro® Synthetic Blend Motor Oil (5w20 or 5w30) and multi point inspection. Most vehicles. Other brands of oil available at additional charge. Shop fees apply. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Coupon Required. Valid at all Phoenix Metro Valley Locations. Exp. 3/31/2023 CODE: 3842SB

All Phoenix Metro Jiffy Lubes are locally owned by the Bové family. Jiffy Lube, the Jiffy Lube design mark and Jiffy Lube Signature Service® are registered trademarks of Jiffy Lube International, Inc. ©2023 Jiffy Lube International, Inc.

Education Notes

Region champ MHS girls' soccer headed to state

The region champion Maricopa High girls soccer team beat Basha, 2-1, on Feb. 9 in a state-tournament play-in game and made the 16-team Class 6A state playoff field as the No. 11 seed. The Lady Rams opened tourney play at sixth-seeded Pinnacle.

MUSD job fair

District human-resources staff hosted more than 60 prospective employees interested in joining the MUSD family. Fourteen offers were made to fill teaching and classified positions and more than 70 additional applications were received within days of the event. Nathaly Montano, MUSD recruitment and retention specialist, plans to attend five more recruitment events in the coming weeks.

Maricopa Friends of the Arts make grand donation

A stunning grand piano arrived at Maricopa High, a generous donation from the Maricopa Friends of the Arts. Choir director Kelsey Snyder and her students were the first to play the magnificent piano.

Teachers earn national certification

Five MUSD teachers have attained National Board Certified Teacher status, the gold standard in the profession. New NBCT teachers are Tyler Jump (Maricopa Wells) and Lindsey Sulik (Maricopa Elementary). NBCT teachers whose certification was renewed are Katherine Persitz (Maricopa High), Jacqueline Hahn (Maricopa Wells) and Jennifer Cameron (Maricopa Wells).

AFJROTC incentive flight

MHS Air Force Junior ROTC cadets Jacob Vonderheide, Minnie Jones, Irabella Morales and Arianna Cox flew approximately 80 miles round trip from Chandler Municipal Airport to Ak-Chin Airport. Maricopa High partners with the Civil Air Patrol annually to provide incentive flights for cadets with a passion for aviation.

Victor Moreno and Submitted photos

Marketing students taking care of business

Maricopa High marketing students earned 13 first-place awards and 43 total medals at the Southern Region District Career Development Conference. Visit InMaricopa.com to learn how the students fared at the Arizona DECA State Career Development Conference Feb. 23-25.

Butterfield STEAM event

Students and parents researched robotics, explored astronomy and built catapults at the Butterfield Elementary STEAM event. It was the highlight of parent-teacher conferences and reinforced science, technology, engineering, arts and math concepts students have learned.

ED3 Academic Scholarship

Calling all high school seniors!
Our scholarship application is now open! We are excited to offer three $1,500 scholarships to high school seniors in our community.

Deadline is April 14, 2022

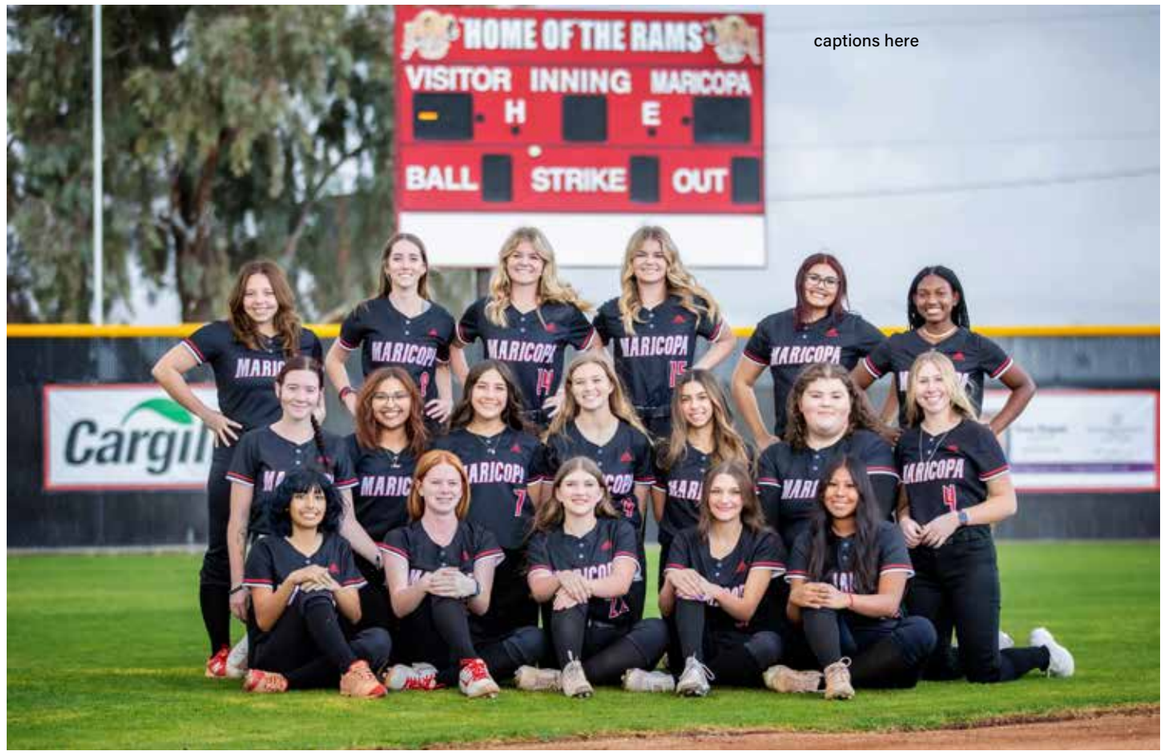
Apply at
www.ed3online.org/our-community/academic-scholarship

41664 W. Smith Enke Rd., Suite 100
Maricopa, AZ 85138
www.ed3online.org
(520) 424-9021

Electrical District No. 3

There's a certain look of sameness on Lady Rams' softball team

BY CAMERON JOBSON



captions here

Victor Moreno

WHEN MARICOPA HIGH SOFTBALL coach Tom Dugan turns to his right-hand girl, it's an Etzel sister. But then, his left-hand girl also is an Etzel twin.

Emma and Alyssa Etzel are seniors taking their last run for the Lady Rams, excited to make even more memories together with their team.

Although twins, they're not identical, they say. In fact, their dominant hands are opposite. Emma is a right-handed pitcher and outfielder, Alyssa a left-handed outfielder and infielder.

"I love being teammates, it's hard to imagine not being teammates," Emma said.

The sisters decided to stay together through college and will be headed to Wayland Baptist University in Texas, to further their athletic and academic careers this fall.

> ***"We had the idea of going to different colleges because it would be a different experience, since we are always together. But later on, we decided we would rather stick together."***
>
> EMMA ETZEL

"We've always done everything together," Alyssa said. "We're even each other's throwing partners."

"We had the idea of going to different colleges because it would be a different experience, since we are always together," Emma added. "But later on, we decided we would rather stick together."

Ari Cox is another senior to keep an eye on this season. Aside from being a Lady Rams star, Cox is an outstanding student and member of the ROTC.

She recently received two congressional nominations and the J-100 Scholarship, granting her a 100% paid tuition at the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

"They're just great young ladies," Dugan said. "I might have opened some doors, gave some words of wisdom, but look, they did it all on their own."

Dugan is anticipating another momentous year for the Lady Rams' varsity with 18 strong players. Dugan's goal is to make the top 16 and the 6A playoff field. Last year, Maricopa was 19th.

"We're really trying to pitch better," Dugan said. "We can teach a lot of things, but pitching is another animal."

Dugan sometimes dedicates entire practices to pitching — filming the throw and perfecting the nit-picky mechanics of the ball's trajectory. So come game time, it should be like target practice.

Fostering a sense of family builds the base for success, he said.

"Softball is a difficult sport," Dugan added. "You fail about 70% of the time, so we have to figure out how to deal with that."

Spending time with each other outside of the diamond is just as important. The Lady Rams get together once a week for a team dinner, allowing the girls to sit down, socialize and get to know each other.

Dugan wants the girls to lean on each other and create bonds that transfer onto the field.

"I try to teach them to be focused inside the gates and have fun on the outside," Dugan said.

520.868.6180
LHG LIZARD HEIGHTS Glass
Maricopa's Full-Service GLASS Company

Home
- Dual Panes (Insulated Glass)
- Fogged Windows
- Single Pane Windows
- Window Repairs/Replacements
- Window Retrofits
- Custom Shower Doors/Enclosures
- Multi-Slide Patio Doors
- Enclosed Patios
- Table Tops
- Shelves
- Mirrors

Auto
- Window Replacement
- Windshield Repair
- RVs
- Luxury Vehicles
- Heavy Equipment
- Insurance Accepted
- Mobile Service

Business
- Mirrors
- Transaction Windows
- Desk Tops
- Display Cabinets
- Entrance Doors
- Mail Slots
- Store Fronts

Over 25 years experience

Service At A Higher Level

Let us SHOW YOU what service SHOULD be!

www.LizardHG.com

ROC 222193 CR65 * Licensed * Bonded * Insured * Master Auto Glass Techs

Member NGA National Glass Association

LEGACY TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS

Start a Legacy!

TUITION-FREE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

Visit us online to learn more and enroll for the 2023–24 school year.

legacytraditional.org

Central Arizona College's Maricopa campus — celebrating 10 years

BY ANGELA ASKEY, CAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE HAS been serving and educating the diverse communities of Pinal County. With five campuses located strategically throughout the county, CAC provides accessible, educational, economic, cultural and personal growth opportunities for those of all ages.

Since the opening of the Signal Peak Campus in Coolidge in the fall of 1969, CAC has extended its accessibility throughout Pinal County, becoming an important community-building entity. The goal of the college is to create a world-class learner experience.

During the 1972-73 academic year, the state board for community colleges authorized a 48-bed addition to the dormitories at the Signal Peak Campus and approved preliminary construction plans for the Arizona College of Technology, now known as the Aravaipa Campus.

In 1982, CAC began offering classes in Apache Junction, using portable classrooms at Apache Junction High School. From 1985-1987, CAC held classes for students from the East Valley at the Grand Hotel. During the summer of 1987, the Superstition Mountain Campus opened at its current location.

On August 10, 2006, a ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opened the new Maricopa Center in the heart of this thriving community.

Voters of Pinal County authorized the college to expand educational opportunities and accessibility throughout the county by approving a nearly $99 million general-obligation bond in November 2008. This stamp of approval allowed CAC to begin the process of building new campuses in the San Tan Valley area and in Maricopa, while also upgrading facilities at the Signal Peak, Superstition Mountain and Aravaipa campuses.

Central Arizona College's San Tan Center in The Shops at Copper Basin opened for business along the Hunt Highway Corridor in 2009.

Two years later, CAC conducted groundbreaking ceremonies for its campus in Maricopa at 17945 N. Regent Drive, giving the college the ability to extend services to the growing community. The evidence of a need to build a campus in Maricopa was reflected in its enrollment growth. The Maricopa Campus opened on Jan, 2, 2013.

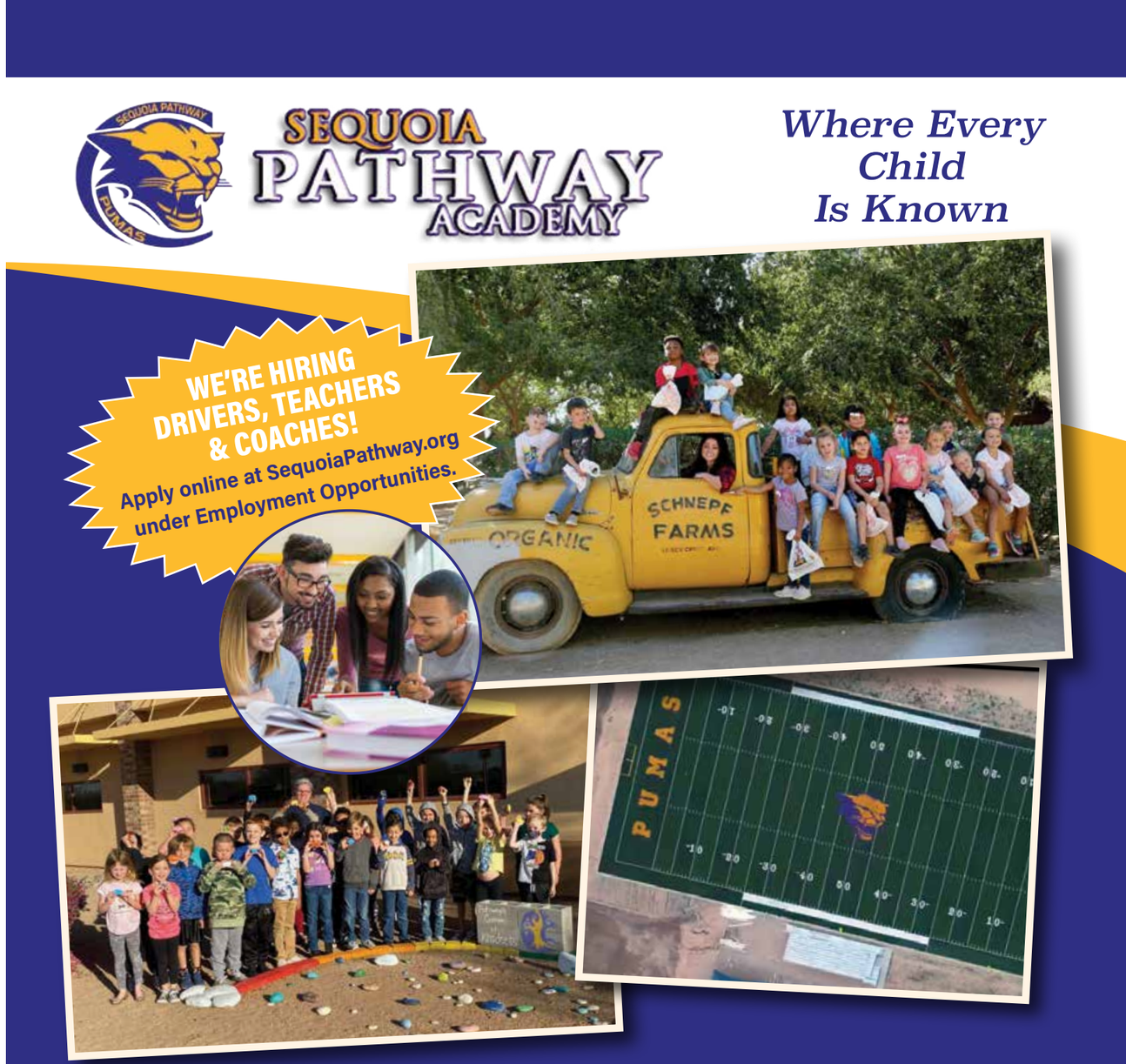
In December of that year, a ribbon cutting was held at the new San Tan Valley Campus and classes started in January 2014.

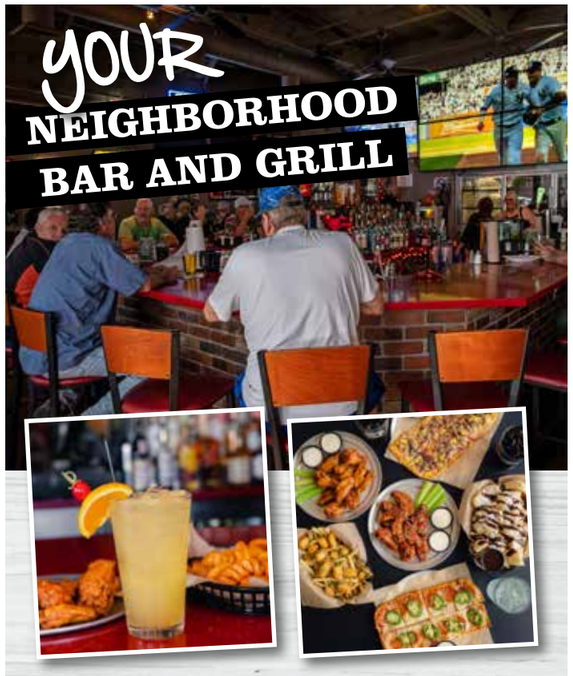
As CAC marks a decade at the beautiful Maricopa Campus, we celebrate its unique features, including state-of-the art culinary and nursing-assistance classrooms, an E-sports gaming room, student lounge, makerspace lab, and community rooms available for the public to rent. Many classes that meet the general education requirements for all CAC certificates and degrees are offered at the Maricopa Campus.

In the years to come, the college looks forward to increased community engagement and expanded events that meet the needs of residents in Maricopa.

520-494-5111
CentralAZ.edu
17945 N. Regent Dr, Maricopa, AZ 85138

SPONSORED CONTENT





$12.99
18" 1 TOPPING PIZZA
Must present coupon at time of purchase.
Not valid with any other offer.
Valid only at Maricopa location.
Expires 3/31/23.
native grill wings

$21.99
20 WINGS
Must present coupon at time of purchase.
Not valid with any other offer.
Valid only at Maricopa location.
Expires 3/31/23.
native grill wings

$5 OFF $25
GET $5 OFF ANY PURCHASE OF $25 OR MORE!
Must present coupon at time of purchase.
Not valid with any other offer.
Valid only at Maricopa location.
Does not include alcohol, tax, or gratuity.
Expires 3/31/23.
native grill wings

Also find coupons at InMaricopa.com/Coupons

TAKEOUT ORDERS ONLINE
for all your favorites @ NativeGrillAndWings.com

native grill est. 1979 wings

21164 N. John Wayne Parkway, Maricopa
Hours: 11am - 11pm Sunday thru Thursday; 11am – 12pm Friday-Saturday
520-568-6077
NativeGrillAndWings.com

MUSD Spring Sports Schedule

BASEBALL

Coach Brad Vericker
Game times: 3:45 p.m.
2/23: at Maryvale; 2/24: North;
2/27: at Camelback.
3/1: Dobson; 3/8: Gila Ridge;
3/15: at San Luis; 3/20: Skyline;
3/22: at Carl Hayden;
3/28: at Cesar Chavez;
3/31: Cesar Chavez.
4/4: at West Point; 4/6: West Point; 4/10: at Valley Vista;
4/12: Valley Vista; 4/13: Tolleson;
4/18: at Tolleson; 4/21: Shadow Ridge; 4/24: at Shadow Ridge.

SOFTBALL

Coach Tom Dugan
Game times: 3:45 p.m.
2/23: Maryvale; 2/24: at North;
2/27: Camelback.
3/1: at Dobson; 3/8: at Gila Ridge; 3/15: San Luis;
3/20: at Skyline; 3/22: Carl Hayden; 3/28: Cesar Chavez;
3/31: at Cesar Chavez.
4/4: West Point; 4/6: at West Point; 4/10: Valley Vista; 4/12: at Valley Vista; 4/13: at Tolleson;
4/18: Tolleson; 4/21: at Shadow Ridge; 4/24: Shadow Ridge.

TRACK AND FIELD

Coach Victor Rodriguez
Meet times: 2 p.m.
2/22: Multi events.
3/1: at Tempe; 3/29: at Higley.

BOYS TENNIS

Coach Tyler Miller
Match times: 3:30 p.m.
2/23: Gilbert; 2/28: at Dobson.
3/2: Basha; 3/7: at Skyline;
3/8: Williams Field; 3/9: at Desert Ridge; 3/21: at Campo Verde; 3/23: Cibola; 3/28: Gila Ridge; 3/30: at San Luis.
4/4: Shadow Ridge; 4/6: at Higley; 4/11: Mountain Pointe;
4/13: Queen Creek.

GIRLS TENNIS

Coach Kevin Struble
Match times: 3:30 p.m.
2/23: at Gilbert; 2/28: Dobson.
3/2: at Basha; 3/7: Skyline;
3/8: at Williams Field;
3/9: Desert Ridge; 3/21: Campo Verde; 3/23: at Cibola; 3/28: at Gila Ridge; 3/30: San Luis.
4/4: at Shadow Ridge;
4/6: Higley; 4/11: at Mountain Pointe; 4/13: Queen Creek.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Coach Tia Kannapel
Match times: 6 p.m.
2/28: Westwood.
3/3: at Queen Creek; 3/7: North;
3/21: at Camelback; 3/23: at Corona del Sol; 3/24: Carl Hayden; 3/28: at Skyline;
3/30: Shadow Ridge.
4/4: Cesar Chavez; 4/6: at Valley Vista; 4/11: Dobson; 4/13: Basha;
4/18: at Shadow Ridge; 4/20: at Cesar Chavez; 4/21: Chandler;
4/25: at Mountain Ridge;
4/27: Valley Vista.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Coach Tia Kannapel
Match times: 4 p.m.
Homes matches played at Copper Sky Recreation Club
2/22: at Salpointe Catholic (Tucson Racquet Club);
2/27: Youngkers.
3/3: Amphitheater; 3/6: Sequoia Pathway; 3/8: Chaparral;
3/20: Cienega; 3/22: at Mountain Pointe (Tempe Kiwanis Park); 3/27: at Desert Vista; 3/29: Corona del Sol.
4/3: at Marana; 4/5: at Ironwood Ridge; 4/10: Marana Mountain View.

Source: Maricopa Unified School District

Maricopa Virtual Academy

Maricopa's Choice for Online Education
Serving Grades 6-12

In 2021, MUSD launched Maricopa Virtual Academy (MVA), an online school with virtual classes taught by local teachers. Students can attend from home, a library, or anywhere with an internet connection. Whether you attend one of our neighborhood schools or prefer the flexibility of online education, Maricopa Unified School District offers families a choice.

Now Enrolling

MARICOPA VIRTUAL ACADEMY PROGRAM FEATURES:

- Tuition-free online school — Serving grades 6-12
- District-issued laptop with technical support
- Certified teachers
- Rigorous, engaging, structured, and research-based curriculum
- Local, in-person learning labs available
- Flexible schedule
- Open Enrollment

Ideal for students who are:

- Self-motivated
- Gifted
- Home-schooled
- On-the-go

MARICOPA VIRTUAL ACADEMY MVA

For more information visit www.musd20.org/mva or call 520-568-5196 ext. 1072

MARICOPA Unified School District Dream. Learn. Become.

Build green-thumb skills with container-gardening

BY HARRIET PHELPS

VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS GROWING IN CONTAINERS. This style of gardening is fun and accommodates lifestyles that do not require large spaces.

And there are few limitations on what you can grow in containers when space is tight, or you want to grow only a few favorites.

For protection from critters, pots may prohibit gophers, squirrels and rabbits from munching on your plants.

Plants in pots are mobile and provide accommodation for weather and pleasing arrangements among other plants, depending on what you are planting, your need and space. Flowers and vegetables may be grown in the same pot.

Starting plants in black pots provides more heat. Planting in containers with standardized potting soil eliminates concerns about adverse soil conditions or in-ground pests like nematodes.

Account for seasonal changes. I killed most of my plants because I thought like a Midwesterner about soil, geography, weather and growing schedules.

What can be grown in containers? Anything and in any quantity. Propagators and breeders developed varieties that grow fast and are suitable for containers. The more desirable plants are those that fruit over a period of time, such as tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, melons, leafy lettuce, Swiss chard, green onions and herbs. The outer leaves are picked for consumption and the centers are left for growth.

Different species can be grown in the same container: onions, lettuce, corn, tomatoes. Some are tall, some short and some cascade over the edges. Larger containers, such as whiskey barrels, can hold dwarf trees. Small vegetables can then be grown under the canopy of the foliage.

Containers include pots or bowls, recycled buckets, cans, boxes, plastic bags, Styrofoam coolers and bushel baskets.

What to plant in a container? That's easy: Remember thriller, spiller and filler. Thriller is the tall, expressive plant that commands attention. Spiller is the plant that spills over the edges, flowing and colorful. Filler is the smaller plant for vacant areas.

When filling the container, remember to use lightweight mix, such as indoor plant mix or potting soil that drains well. You can use a homemade substitute of equal parts sharp-coarse sand, soil and compost or peat moss. Include a slow-release balanced fertilizer such as Osmocote 14-14-14.

Do not fill the container to the top. Leave 1-2 inches of space for watering the plant.

Do not pack the space tight. Plants need space for water penetration and oxygen. This allows for good root development, aeration and growth. Perlite is a good additive to keep the soil loose.

Give it a try. Container gardening is fun, easy and rewarding.

Harriet Phelps has been a Master Gardener with the University of Arizona for 17 years.

InMaricopa.com/Columnists

most expensive HOME SOLD

Address	Feb. 9	$ 560,000

This lakeside single-story home in the Lakes at Rancho El Dorado is brand new, with three bedrooms and a study. The kitchen features quartz countertops. The master bedroom has a large walk-in closet and a private bathroom with two sinks. The home has a three-car garage and a brick driveway. It also has a large, covered patio.

Community: The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado
Square feet: 2,220
Price per square foot: $252.25
Days on market: 42
Builder: Richmond American Homes
Year built: 2022
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2

2. 42566 W. Bravo Drive, Rancho El Dorado $550,000
3. 41917 W. Granada Drive, Glennwilde $535,000
4. 41862 W. Granada Drive, Glennwilde $505,000
5. 41598 W. Laramie Road, Glennwilde $495,000

least expensive HOME SOLD

19528 N. Kari Lane.	Feb. 9	$ 232,500

This single-story home in Maricopa Meadows offers 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. The home is on a corner lot, with back and northern side surrounded by a greenbelt, and is just a short distance from schools and parks. The home sold for a cash offer in 174 days, for $107,500 below original asking price.

Community: Maricopa Meadows
Square feet: 1,528
Price per square foot: $152.16
Days on market: 174
Builder: Richmond America
Year built: 2006
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2

2. 43766 W. Elm Drive, Rancho El Dorado $250,000
3. 44063 W. Neely Drive, The Villages at Rancho El Dorado $255,000
4. 18495 N. Celis Street, Desert Passage $270,000
5. 35988 W. Santa Clara Avenue, Tortosa $274,000

Brian Petersheim Jr.

Source: MLS, Jan. 10-Feb. 9

Late or non-payment suggestions on reducing tenant problems

BY SHERMAN AND EUPHEMIA WEEKES

A LANDLORD'S GREATEST PROBLEM is lateness and non-payment of rent. The absence of rental income can cause financial hardship for the landlord. Let us look at what can be done to minimize this issue.

Proper tenant screening is the first and best defense. If you continuously have challenges with your tenant paying rent, it is possible that your screening process is not rigorous enough and you need to make some changes.

Review the lease with the tenant before they sign, highlighting the amount of the monthly rent, when and how it should be paid. A penalty for paying late with an incremental fee for additional days late should be part of any lease and the tenant should understand that you will enforce the policy. Late fees discourage the tenant from paying late.

If lateness continues, it may be best to not renew the lease and find a new tenant. Always remember to serve that five-day notice because lateness unavoidably evolves into non-payment. Be ready. If the tenant will not voluntarily leave you may just have to start the eviction process.

Collecting rents and fees from tenants could be difficult regardless of how hard you try. Getting the help of a professional reduces stress and gives you more leisure time.

Crest Premier Property Management team is skilled at tenant screening. We have confidence in our process, and we therefore offer a one-year tenant guarantee to all of our landlords.

Reach out to us today so we can deal with the non-paying and habitually late tenants.

520-432-0089
crestpp@gmail.com
CrestPremierProperties.com

SPONSORED CONTENT

Know the CC&Rs before you buy your house

BY DAYV MORGAN

OVER 90% OF THE HOMES IN MARICOPA are governed by a homeowners' association. An important document to review before buying one of these homes is the "Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions" (CC&R's).

It explains rights and obligations of the homeowners and the HOA. The association usually has policies on color palettes, landscaping, use of RV gates, street parking, and additions like ramadas. The CC&R's are legally binding rules filed with the state.

Homebuyers usually receive their CC&R's from the escrow company, and have five days to review them. Even if final inspections have been made, the homebuyer can still back out at this time if they find something in the CC&R's that is objectionable.

Read the CC&R's carefully. There is usually an "architectural standards" section, which pretty much applies to anything on your property that can be seen from the road. Understand what is your responsibility and what the HOA is supposed to maintain. If the CC&R's are not clear, contact the community manager.

Homeowners who rent their homes will receive notices of violations of which their tenants are accused. Lease agreements can include a stipulation holding the tenant responsible for CC&R violations. Renters should ask for a copy of the CC&R's.

HOA residents should understand the details of the CC&R's and be on top of any updates. I had a client who repainted his house the exact same color it already was, only to be told he should have received approval from the HOA first, because they had changed the accepted color palette. He had to paint the entire home again.

CC&R's may also detail the minimum and maximum number of plants and shrubs. One client bought his house only to find out a few weeks later that he had to install more bushes in the front yard.

Can you install a shed in my backyard? How long can your trash container sit on the sidewalk? How long can you keep your holiday decorations up? The answers may surprise you.

Some HOA's prohibit overnight parking on the street. If you are seeking a home with an "RV gate" so you can park your RV on the side of your house, prepare to be told by every HOA that this is not allowed.

Understanding and abiding by the CC&R rules covering these details will make HOA life a little easier. The early discovery of rules that would directly conflict with your lifestyle and budget will save you from making an investment you regret.

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

480-251-4231
DayvMorgan@gmail.com
MaricopaHomeSmart.com

SPONSORED CONTENT

Tom Rein tosses a toy football in hopes of winning a prize during a "Get in the Game" party at Maricopa Community Center on Feb. 10.

Vonnie John completes an activity packet while enjoying a snack with other seniors during a "Get in the Game" party at Maricopa Community Center on Feb. 10.

Recreation aide Denyce Rose joins Alta Coit and Emily Davila during a "Get in the Game" party at Maricopa Community Center on Feb. 10.

Mary Davis picks a series of cards during a game of canasta at Maricopa Community Center on Feb. 10.

Monica D. Spencer

GET CONNECTED!

Maricopa is making it easy to stay informed about all that's happening in your city. Get the latest details on major announcements, family-friendly events, interactive programs, and development updates by signing up for the Maricopa e-Newsletter at:

www.maricopa-az.gov/newsletter

CITY OF MARICOPA®
PROUD HISTORY • PROSPEROUS FUTURE

Dancing with the stars

Retired entertainer crossed paths with entertainment luminaries

BY TOM SCHUMAN

IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO TAP DJ "Daniel" Giagni's memory.

Get him started recalling his show-business adventures and the stories roll off his tongue like the rat-a-tap-tap of a flawless tap-dance performance, of which he had many.

The famous names and historic places flow easily from his life onstage and behind the camera for both he and his famous father.

Giagni, who moved to Province two years ago, is the son of Tony Award-winning choreographer Danny Daniels. Giagni talks of working alongside and becoming friends with Gene Kelly and Liza Minelli. He taught Steve Martin (1981 movie *Pennies from Heaven*) and Mark Hamill (for an off Broadway show at the Goodspeed Opera House) how to tap dance.

Despite the lifetime of mostly pleasant memories, Giagni was disappointed to never have a successful show on Broadway. By 40, he said he hadn't really made any money.

"I left show business, rented a truck and drove out to Los Angeles," he said. "My sister was building a house. I helped out on that and learned a lot about construction. I got my contractor's license and did that for 27 years."

Bryan Mordt

DJ Giagni teaches advanced classes for the Province Town Hall Tappers and is an instructor for three weekly classes at Desert Sun Performing Arts.

Upon his retirement, Giagni and his wife moved to Portland, where their daughter lived. It was too rainy. Pamela heard about Province, and soon they were on their way to their new home.

Giagni is teaching advanced classes for the Province Town Hall Tappers and is an instructor for three weekly classes at Desert Sun Performing Arts. Daughter Annie is working as a nurse at Exceptional Community Hospital. Son Dylan is shutting down the construction business in California, with father and son to build a log cabin in the Forest Lakes area in northern Arizona.

"That will be the best, when everybody (including their two grandchildren) is together."

Very few of the Province dancers come with previous experience. What they do possess is tremendous enthusiasm, he said.

"They really want to do it," Giagni said. "It's so rewarding to work with them. I started piano at age 6 and I still play. And I write music, which is relaxing. We're going to do a show at Province, and I will choregraph a number for a piece I wrote."

The story, however, begins much earlier.

Family tree

Giagni, 72, explains his Italian grandfather came to America through Ellis Island at age 7. A musician who played the mandolin and banjo, his grandfather also became a barber and found a client he asked to teach Daniels to tap dance.

"My father started at age 5. They would go to beer halls during Prohibition and make as much money in one night as my grandfather earned all week," Giagni said. "When Dad was 12 or 13, my grandfather went to California with three dollars in his pocket. He was a fast talker and made things happen while he looked for auditions for his son."

Daniels ended up with a solo performance as a 14-year-old tap dancer in the movie *The Star Maker* featuring Bing Crosby.

The family later returned to the Bronx with Daniels beginning his Broadway career at age 16 when Kelly selected him as a chorus member in the show *Best Foot Forward*. He was nominated for two Tony Awards as a dancer and four as a choreographer, winning in 1984 for his work on *The Tap Dance Kid*. Daniels also earned two Emmys in his career.

Getting started

Despite his own success, Daniels was not a fan of his son following his career path. That changed

STAR-STUDDED MEMORIES

Working with the stars During DJ "Daniel" Giagni's show-business career, he has worked with several big-name stars:

Of Steve Martin and Pennies from Heaven in 1981: "I had never seen him on Saturday Night Live. I didn't have a TV at the time. I was always building stuff out in the garage. Dad had said to Steve, 'You can show up and we can fake the tapping, or you can put in the work and learn how to do it.' He was a musician, played the banjo, had good rhythm and was coordinated. We worked four months before the shooting even started. He got to be really good and was a terrific person. I was an assistant for all the filming, which took a year. That was quite an experience."

Of Mark Hamill, best known as Luke Skywalker of Star Wars fame: "I started doing choreography on my own. For this new show, Hamill had to learn to tap. He was very conscientious and got to be very good. We became good friends. We did the show, got terrific reviews, moved it on to Broadway — and got killed. We had done four weeks of previews. We lasted five days."

Of Liza Minelli: Daniels was doing choreography for one of her films. She wanted to see the Stephen Sondheim musical production Assassins, where Giagni was the choreographer. "She came and saw the show and we went to the coffee house next door for drinks." A promised invitation to Minelli's birthday party a few weeks later resulted in Giagni and his wife riding in a limo to the event with the star and actor/producer Harvey Keitel. "Liza is very gregarious, makes everybody feel comfortable. I could see the look on Harvey's face as he thought, 'Who the heck are these people?' When Minelli was doing a stage show in New York, Giagni met her at the Capezio dancewear store to purchase tap shoes. He had his 3-year-old daughter, Annie, with him. The young girl pointed to a costume that caught her attention in the store before Dad reminded her why they were there that day. "Two days later, a package arrived with that costume for my daughter. Liza had noticed and had it picked up and sent to her. She was so effervescent, always up, always on and talking."

Of Gene Kelly, well known for his energetic and athletic dancing style, had given Daniels his start on Broadway as a dancer years earlier. In 1978, father and son were working a Kelly television special An American in Pasadena (playing off Kelly's 1951 film An American in Paris). The show included Frank Sinatra, Cyd Charisse, Minelli, Lucille Ball, Gloria DeHaven and Janet Leigh. "There was a military number ('Anchors Aweigh') I was teaching to eight little boys," Giagni said. "When it came time to prerecord it, Gene said, 'DJ, you do it.' So, on the TV show, those are my taps people are listening to. Gene was a real prince."

after Giagni became a high-school gymnast.

"I got to be pretty good and went to the state championships," Giagni said. "After Dad saw me compete, he said, 'Maybe you should try dancing.' I tried ballet. In the late 1960s, any male that could walk into a dancing school could get a scholarship. I went to the New York Theatre Ballet, took classes there for many years and got to be an apprentice with the company."

All the hard work paid off a short time later.

Actor-singer-comedian Zero Mostel was on his last tour playing Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*. When the lead dancer broke his leg, the choreographer, who remembered Giagni from the ballet school, said to send him out.

"That day, I learned three numbers and opened the show that night," Giagni said. "I was very excited and got my Equity card." (In general terms, an Equity card equates to union membership.)

The next steps included:

A year with the San Francisco Ballet Company before a new director instituted a height requirement of 5-foot-8 for male dancers (Giagni is 5-6). "But I had a contract and I forced them to pay me. They said I had to come in every day and not take class. So, I did, for two weeks. They got tired of seeing me and paid me off."

DJ Giagni offers instruction during one of the weekly dance classes he teaches.

He danced in France at the Ballet of Leon. "I had taken French in high school but was not very good at it. In the company, everyone spoke English to me because they wanted to practice their English. I had a great time in France. When you're in a company, you're in a family and everybody treats you well."

A return to New York and two years on tour with the popular Lotte Goslar Pantomime Circus.

Working with the stars

His father, who was starting a dance school in Santa Monica, Calif., invited his son to teach ballet while Daniels handled the tap.

"That's when I started to learn to tap. (Daniels) said, 'You are going to have a hard time being a good tap dancer because you have to do tap first, then ballet.' I did the opposite. But I worked hard."

Giagni's dedication led to new experiences as father and son worked together for 10 years doing choreography on television shows.

That's where Giagni really met the stars.

Working with the stars typically involved two hours a day, Giagni said.

"That's a lot for concentrated tap dancing," he said. "If you do any more, it goes in one ear and out the other. It has to get into the body gradually."

While his work spanned both coasts and even went international, he looks back fondly on his time in his native New York.

"It was a very exciting time, working on Broadway and being married to my wife, Pamela. We had a lot of fun," Giagni said. "New York was a very exciting place in the 1980s."

Mr. Electric™

a neighborly company

24 Hour Emergency Service
Residential & Commercial

- Install, Service & Repair
- Immediate Response
- Scheduled Appointment Times
- Exact Price Upon Arrival
- Clean, Courteous Service Professionals

(520) 216-5648
MrElectric.com/Phoenix-Metro

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Locally Owned and Opperated
Financing Available • Licensed & Insured
Lic # ROC 149003, 149004

A Continuing Care Retirement Community might be worth a look

BY RON SMITH

CCRC MEANS CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT Community. More than 2,000 exist nationally. They include all possible phases of senior living: independent, assisted, memory care and skilled nursing, packaged into a single location or campus.

These communities, sometimes called life-plan communities, provide flexibility for spouses or partners who need differing levels of care to live in the same community for the rest of their life, remaining in the place they call home.

Most of us are familiar with the traditional combination of independent living, assisted living and memory care. That's how the proposed Season's Living facility at Copper Sky has been structured. Caliche Senior Living in Casa Grande has assisted living, memory care and short-term living options. But only a CCRC will provide the full spectrum of lifestyles from independent living to skilled nursing. They work under the concept of "life care."

A CCRC community offers benefits:

- The independent living component often offers greater housing choices.
- Access to onsite advanced health-care options is available.
- The levels of health-care options support a couple with different health-care needs.
- Staying on the same campus as needs change increases social interaction and preserves friendships.
- A maintenance-free lifestyle is provided.
- Tax benefits are possible.
- Aging-in-place in this consistent and predictable environment eliminates the uncertainty of where to go next.
- Peace of mind is provided for residents and their families.

There are unique characteristics of a CCRC to consider:

- Substantial entrance and monthly fees.
- Contracts requiring the advice of a financial planner and/or an attorney.
- Possibly suffering financial loss if a for-profit CCRC goes bankrupt or is sold.
- Potential long wait lists or limited choices because of high demand.
- Possible cognitive or physical health requirements to be eligible.

What questions must you ask if you are considering a CCRC?

- Do you have the financial resources to "buy into" a CCRC?
- Are you ready to spend the rest of your life in this location with these people?
- Would maintenance-free living improve the quality of your life?
- Does this CCRC have the amenities you desire?

How do I evaluate a CCRC community?

- What services are included or are available in the contract?
- Are you able to add the services you desire at an optional cost?
- Is there occupancy capacity at each of the various levels of care?
- Have there been any major fee increases over the past years? What's the pattern?
- Is the ownership a nonprofit or a for-profit organization?
- Do they provide assurance that care will be available even if you outlive your financial resources? This scenario is often referred to as benevolence care.
- Can any portion of your entrance fee be refunded in the case of death or relocation?
- Is the CCRC's skilled-nursing unit a Medicare-certified facility?
- How safe is the community?

What kind of costs can I expect?

- An average CCRC entrance fee, according to CBRE Group, is about $329,000. They can range from $100,000 to $1 million.
- Monthly charges can range from $1,000 to $4,000 per person depending on the contract. They are likely to change over time as health-care services change.
- The cost of a CCRC can be a bit complex. For example:
  - There are six types of monthly contracts.
  - Selection of contract type depends on specific needs of the resident.
  - Contracts can be adjusted to best support care needs of residents drawing upon all CCRC resources.
  - Additional fees to plan for include, but are not limited to, pet deposits, maintenance, phone and utilities, TV and internet, wellness programs, parking and storage.
  - Factors that can affect overall costs include whether you rent or own your unit, size and location of your unit, your insurance coverage and type of contract you sign.

How does buy-in benefit me?

- Buy-in and monthly fees can be used to guarantee housing and medical care throughout your life.
- Locking in low monthly fees seems prudent in a world of rapidly escalating medical expenses.
- If you choose to age-in-place in your own home, there is no guarantee you won't experience an unexpected medical or living cost. Choosing a CCRC is a method to reduce or contain uncertainty in trying to age-in-place in your own home.

Are there different types of CCRCs?

Yes. There are traditionally structured CCRCs that look like a resort. I recently visited The Terraces of Phoenix in the heart of Phoenix. It is among seven CCRCs nationwide to be recognized by U.S. News as a "Best Continuing Care Retirement Community." If you prefer a more academic environment, you may want to look at Mirabella on the ASU campus. At Mirabella you can be immersed in a lifelong learning partnership with ASU.

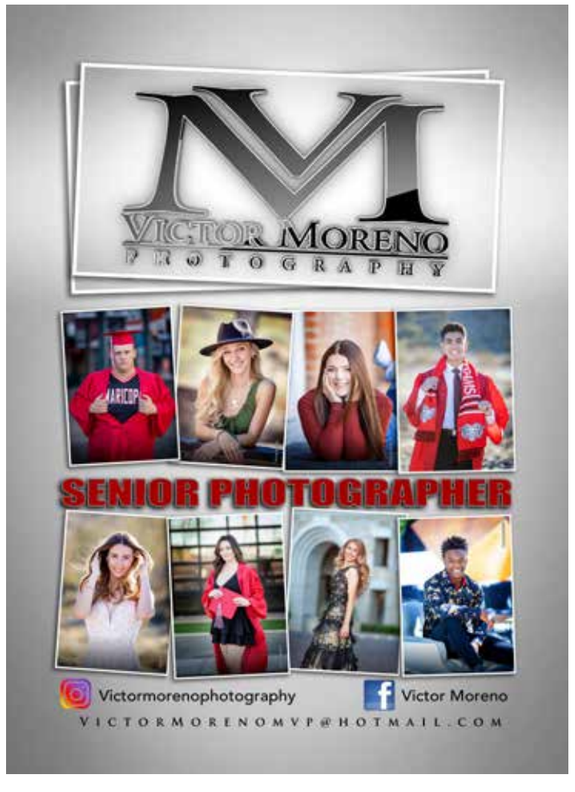
Should I consider a CCRC? Is it right for me?

Given the wonderful climate of the Phoenix area, there are many more excellent CCRCs spread throughout the Valley. Therein lies one of the problems if you currently live in the Maricopa area. CCRCs are expensive and typically located in more-established and upscale communities. If you have a cadre of friends and activities that you have established here, uprooting yourself to a new area may disrupt your lifestyle. You may be unwilling to do that. However, if you are a relatively new retiree and have the financial resources, moving to a CCRC may be a good choice.

It can provide the peace of mind and lifestyle that you may desire in your retirement years.

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

InMaricopa.com/Columnists



Maricopa has many worthy candidates for honor during Women's History Month

BY JOAN KOCZOR

THIS YEAR'S WOMEN'S HISTORY Month theme of Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories encourages the recognition of women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling, including print, radio, TV, stage, screen, blogs, podcasts, news and social media.

This timely theme honors women in every community who have devoted their lives and talents to producing art and news, pursuing truth and reflecting society decade after decade.

Right here in Maricopa, we've had many notable female luminaries telling the city's story.

Atop the list is longtime historian and schoolteacher Pat Brock, who passed away last year. Brock documented the city's history in her books, "Reflections of a Desert Town" and "Images of America: Maricopa." She was raised in Maricopa with 11 siblings.

Shirley Ann Hartman, longtime Maricopa teacher, coach and farmer, is a former Tucson Rodeo Queen and the first Stagecoach Days Queen in Maricopa. An avid horse rider, she started the Quadrille de Mujeres, a ladies' horseback specialty act in 1965. The group rode at all the top rodeos in Arizona and appeared in the Rose Bowl Parade. She came to Maricopa in 1960 to teach second grade and educated thousands of Maricopans.

Former InMaricopa editors Joyce Hollis and Raquel Hendrickson both are Maricopa residents, volunteers in the community and wrote untold numbers of stories chronicling the community.

And, of course, Nancy Smith, Maricopa's first female mayor, tells Maricopa's story everywhere she goes at every meeting she attends.

These are but a few. There no doubt are many more worthy of honor.

Take time this month to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of so many women in Maricopa and across the globe throughout history. Let's remind ourselves and those around us how strong, resilient, brave, gracious and intelligent women have been in the past and continue to be today.

The month-long commemoration started with Women's History Day in 1978, organized by the school district of Sonoma, Calif. Hundreds of students participated in essay competitions, presentations were given and a parade was held.

Interest spread to communities, school districts and organizations across the country. And in 1980, the National Women's History Alliance championed for the holiday to be observed as a national week. It was backed by President Jimmy Carter, who issued the first proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The following year, Congress forwarded a resolution establishing a national observance. Six years later, the expansion of the event to the entire month of March was successfully petitioned by the National Women's History Project.

For many years, women weren't acknowledged enough in historical texts. This isn't because they weren't in the midst of important discoveries or helping with important conquests. It's mainly because men wrote most historical documents for thousands of years.

Women always have been present in the military, temporarily and voluntarily in the Army Nurse Corps created in 1901 and the Navy Nurse Corps created in 1908.

The progressive 1900s allowed married women to own property in their own name and keep their own wages in the 1900s.

More than 30% of all businesses today are owned by women.

We all have the power to influence the direction our world is headed, and National Women's History Month reminds us of all the major accomplishments by women each and every day. From domestic chores and carrying babies to fighting wars and governing countries.

We women are pretty darn amazing. There is nothing we can't do if we set our minds to it. Don't believe me—check out History.com or many other articles and publications about women who shattered barriers and changed the world.

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

InMaricopa.com/Columnists

GETTING TO know

BRYAN MORDT

Multimedia specialist, InMaricopa

Hometown: Belvidere, Ill.

Reside in: Glennwilde Groves

Maricopan since: 2013

Family: Happily married with two daughters, two stepsons, and I became a grandpa last March!

Pet peeve: Gaslighting of any kind

Dream vacation: Van life trip around the country

Like most about Maricopa: Living close to the desert

Like least about Maricopa: Left-lane drivers on the 347

FAVORITE ...

Book: A Stranger in a Strange Land

Team: America

Athlete: My wife Jenece

Meal: Roast beef, mash potatoes, sweet corn and gravy

Restaurant: 347 Grill

Getaway: Nature, nature, nature

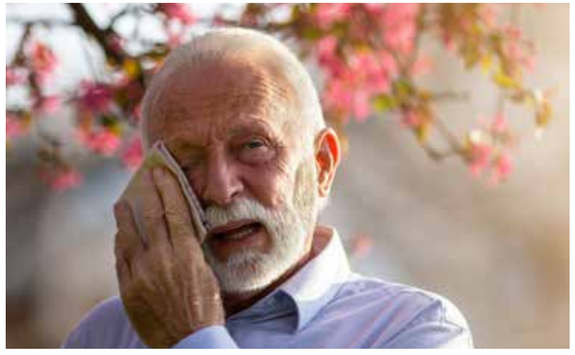
Website: mordt.photography

Quote: "I will follow my instincts and be myself for good or ill." – John Muir

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

Changes in the weather can affect senior health

BY AL BRANDENBURG



IN THEORY, EVERYONE WELCOMES SPRING. WE LOVE THE warmer days and budding greenery. But spring is a time of extreme weather change that can cause health issues, especially among the elderly.

First, this time of year often is marked by swings from chilly, to mild, to back to freezing temperatures, and cold weather can be problematic for older people. Arthritic problems worsen, and there is a much higher injury rate from falling.

Serious conditions, such as heart attacks and pneumonia, peak during the winter. This past winter, we had a flu epidemic that hit the elderly particularly hard. The immediate immune response is delayed in an older person, causing a higher likelihood for pneumonia to develop after the flu.

So, what can older adults do to stave off the effects of winter's last gasp? One answer (tongue in cheek), according to some folks, is move to Florida.

Changes in weather patterns often are accompanied by shifts in barometric pressure, the force exerted on a surface by the weight of air above that surface.

Some people who claim they can feel weather changes in their bones are correct. Barometric pressure often drops before bad weather sets in. This lower pressure pushes less against the body, causing tissues to expand. This can put more pressure on joints, causing them to flare up.

Once spring truly arrives, a new annoyance occurs: allergies. The elderly may not cope as well with seasonal allergies as younger people. Temperature and humidity play a major role in seasonal allergies, asthma exacerbation and other airway diseases. With weaker immune systems, seniors are more prone.

As the weather changes, most doctors advise older adults to keep an extra layer of clothing, such as a sweater or waterproof jacket, available. In addition, one always should have a list of their medications and allergies on them.

Avoid being outside with weather extremes. Stay hydrated, eat a well-balanced diet, including fruits and vegetables, exercise moderately and stay up-to-date on immunizations, such as influenza and pneumonia vaccines.

Seniors with Alzheimer's disease also are affected by fluctuations in their regular routines, and they can experience issues when seasons change. This is a common concern during the onset of winter, which can greatly exacerbate sundowning, an increase in restlessness and confusion caused by decreased sunlight that upsets the body's circadian rhythm.

Then there is valley fever, a fungal infection caused by fungus cocci that gets into the body through inhalation. The fungus is endemic to the hot, dry soils of the Southwest. According to studies, 97% of all U.S. cases of Valley Fever are reported in Arizona and California. The fungi are in the soil and are picked up by strong winds.

Valley fever symptoms include fever, cough, chest pain, cold, rashes, night sweats and weakness or fatigue.

This past fall and winter, many area farmers let their fields go fallow due to limited water availability. In addition, we also experienced high winds that picked up a dust and fungus mix that could affect you, whether you were in the backyard gardening, playing golf or doing any other outdoor activities.

Some people who get valley fever see the infection go away in a few weeks. For seniors, the condition can last for months and require anti-fungal medication that has side effects. At least it can't be spread from person to person.

Bottom line, don't delay in seeking medical advice if you or your loved ones develop any of these medical issues. Stay safe and be vigilant as to any arising symptoms.

Al Brandenburg is a member of Maricopa Community Advocates.

InMaricopa.com/Columnists

CELEBRATING OUR 35TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON!

35TH ANNUAL ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL™ & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

NINE FESTIVE WEEKENDS

OPEN NOW THRU APRIL 2

SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS & PRESIDENTS' DAY

10:00AM-6:00PM

35th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

The Festival is a medieval amusement park, a 16-stage theater, a 50-acre circus, an arts and crafts fair, a jousting tournament and a feast -- all rolled into one non-stop, day-long family adventure!

SAVE WITH VIP DISCOUNT TICKETS AT Bashas' & FOOD CITY

pepsi · GUINNESS · DELTA · Budweiser

PRINT DISCOUNT TICKETS ONLINE

GET DIRECTIONS & FESTIVAL INFO

ARIZONA.RENFESTINFO.COM

BE A FAN! FOLLOW US: facebook

THINGS TO DO

March

2

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

4

Monthly Meeting for Maricopa Amateur Radio Association
9 – 11:30 a.m., Maricopa Public Library & Cultural Center
18160 N Maya Angelou Drive.

"Inside the Creative Mind" with photographer Jack Jackson
3 – 6 p.m., Maricopa Public Library & Cultural Center
18160 N Maya Angelou Dr.

Century Communities Grand Opening
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Trails at Tortosa
35320 W. Mallorca Ave.

6

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

8

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

11

All-AZ Poetry Slam Championship
5 –9 p.m., Honeycutt Coffee
44400 W. Honeycutt Rd Ste 109

14

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

16

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

25

Dancing for Our Stars
5 – 10 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., Mtn. View Community Church
50881 W. Papago Road

Celebrate Recovery Large and Small Group Meeting
7 p.m., Maricopa Community Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

Wednesdays

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

Alcoholics Anonymous
12 p.m., Maricopa Library & Cultural Center
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

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

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., Mtn. View Community Church
50881 W. Papago Road

Saturdays

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

ALL EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE

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

2nd Annual Dancing for our Stars

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE SUN CORRIDOR

PRESENTED BY:

Abbott · aps · ELLISON-MILLS CONSTRUCTION · First Interstate Bank · Foothills Bank · Jerry Seiner · SRP · StateFarm Vanessa McDill · Walmart Supply Chain

March 25th at Harrah's AK-CHIN CASINO | EVENT CENTER

15406 N. Maricopa Rd., Maricopa, AZ

5pm - Red Carpet Reception | 7pm - Dinner & Performance

Three Ways to Support

SPONSOR ATTEND VOTE

Purchase tickets at:

DancingforourStars.NET

or call 800-595-4-TIX

FOR MORE INFO: 520-876-5437

ACCOUNTING

CS CPA GROUP
TAXES & ACCOUNTING
• Small Business Accounting
• Tax Planning • Consulting
• Tax Preparation
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 110
520-568-3303 | CSCPAGroup.com

ADVERTISING

InMaricopa
Maricopa. Delivered.
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 101
520-568-0040
InMaricopa.com/Advertising

AESTHETICIAN

Maricopa Wellness Center Med Spa
SCHEDULE A FREE EVALUATION – BY APPT ONLY
41600 W. Smith Enke Road
Bldg 14, Suite 3
(520) 464-6193
MaricopaWellnessCenter.com

AIR CONDITIONING

911 Air Repair
480.360.1234
Air Conditioning & Heating
Maintenance, Repair & Installation
0% Financing | ROC: CR39-312225

BREWER'S
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING
Satisfaction in Every Degree!
EST 1982
(520) 497-6262
info@brewersac.com
BrewersAC.com

Robert Felix
Owner/Operator
FELIX
APPLIANCE HEATING AIR
CONTACT US TODAY!
(520) 462-5302
Military and Senior Discount
ROC#330229 ROC#322603
FelixApplianceRepair.net

McLAUGHLIN
Air Conditioning & Heating Service
Quality service at a fair price
• Service and Repair
• Replacement
• New Home Construction
• Free Estimates
520-213-5021
Fully licensed and bonded
ROC#294841

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Your CBD Store® | SUNMED
Chandler
975 E Riggs Road
(480) 857-5999
Ahwatukee
4802 E Ray Road
(480) 581-8111

APPLIANCE REPAIR/SALES

Felix Appliance Heating & Air
520-462-5302
FelixApplianceRepair.net

ATTORNEY

RAYMOND LAW
Angel A. Raymond, Esq., Managing Attorney
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 110
Office@AARaymondLaw.com
(520) 208-2274 • AARaymondLaw.com

Law Offices of Michael J. Bresnehan, P.C.
AFFORDABLE
• PERSONAL INJURY • CRIMINAL DEFENSE
• WILLS/LIVING TRUSTS/POWERS OF ATTORNEY
Call to set a meeting at our Maricopa office
(480) 345-7032
BresnehanLaw.com

AUCTION

LIQUIDATE AZ
12501 N Murphy Rd. Suite E
Auction@LiquidateAZ.com
www.liquidateaz.com
AUCTION
SPECIALIZES IN:
• AUCTIONS • BUYOUTS • CONSIGNMENTS
• ESTATES • LIQUIDATION • WHOLESALE

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor
Santa Cruz Elementary School
19845 N. Costa Del Sol Blvd.
520-568-5179

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor
Saddleback Elementary School
18600 N. Porter Road
520-568-5179

MERCANTILE
MARICOPA
COLLECTIBLES, ANTIQUES, COINS & MEMORABILIA
20800 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 110
Isabella@MercantileMaricopa.com
MercantileMaricopa.com

AUTOMOTIVE PARTS/REPAIR/SERVICES

TRANSMISSIONS
AAMCO
TOTAL CAR CARE
AAMCO of Maricopa
20145 N. John Wayne Pkwy
aamcomaricopa.com
(520) 251-9719

12501 N. Murphy Rd.
(520) 252-3566
info@apcycle.com
APCycle.com
We Do It All! • Not Just Street Bikes
Performance Engine Building
Quality Craftsmanship • Certified

Faithworks RV
& Equipment Storage
52820 W. Jersey Drive
(520) 276-2239
You have it, We store it!

Hidden Valley Auto Parts
Since 1961
★ USED AUTO PARTS ★
WE BUY JUNK CARS
53501 W. Jersey Drive • 520-568-2945
HiddenValleyAutoParts.com

Family Owned & Operated
ICONIC
TIRE & SERVICE CENTERS
GOODYEAR
(520) 779-5300
19945 N John Wayne Pkwy
Iconictire.com
We won't be undersold by our competition!

jiffy lube multicare
No Appointment Necessary!
Call for hours of operation
42100 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.
(520) 635-6257
JiffyLubeArizona.com

CHIROPRACTIC

A-1 HEALTH & WELLNESS
Auto, Sports & Family Care
Dr. John Donohue DC, CCSP, FIAMA, MUA, GIC, CMVI
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 109
520-494-7788 • MaricopaChiropractor.com

CHURCH

PINAL COUNTY COWBOY CHURCH
Pastor Tim Pruit
18171 W Hopi Dr, Casa Grande
(520) 560-2639
PinalCountyCowboyChurch.com

PROPEL CHURCH
SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 am
Meeting at Leading Edge Academy
18700 N. Porter Road
(520) 485-7962
PropelChurchAz.com
Download our app: Propel Church AZ

CLEANING – RESIDENTIAL

Call/Text for FREE ESTIMATES
Reliable, Ethical, Honorable & Affordable
FAMILY MATTERS
HOUSE CLEANING
(571) 245-0546 or (571) 264-7710
FamilyMattersHouse@gmail.com
FamilyMattersHouseCleaning.com

The Maids
ULTIMATE HEALTHY HOME SERVICE.
(602) 805-0300 • MAIDS.COM
Text "Quote" to (800) 843-6243

CONCRETE

• Sidewalks • Pool Deck • Acid stain • Patios
• Flagstone • Concrete resurfacing • Driveways
ROC # 257673
SALT RIVER CONCRETE LLC
480-560-7514 • SaltRiverConcrete.com

CONVENIENCE STORE

Vekol Market
Breakfast & Lunch Served Daily!
Open 6 a.m. M-F and 8 a.m. Sat. & Sun.
47021 W. Farrell Road
520-568-1654

COPY SERVICES/SHIPPING

The UPS Store #5140
20987 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite B-104
502-568-5712
TheUpsStore.com

COUNSELING

• Mental Health Services • In-Network with BCBS & Aetna
• Ages 6 and Up • Offer Cash Pay Rates
Northern Lights Therapy, PLLC
www.northernlightstherapyaz.com
info@northernlightstherapyaz.com

DAYCARE/ PRESCHOOL

Molly's House of Little Feet
Full-Time Preschool
16540 N. Porter Road
(520) 423-9383

DENTISTS / ORTHODONTIST

Treasured Smiles Children's Dentistry
Duane C. Clouse, D.D.S., P.C.
PEDIATRIC DENTIST
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway • Unit 117
(520) 316-6111
TreasuredSmilesChildrensDentistry.com

ELECTRICIAN

BDG ELECTRIC
Commercial and Residential Electrical Contractor
(602) 396-8209
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
ROC 324735

ME MARICOPA ELECTRIC
(480) 310-4985
MaricopaElectric.me
ROC# 339406
LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

Mr. Electric
a neighborly company
24 Hour Emergency Service
Residential & Commercial
(520) 216-5648
MrElectric.com/Phoenix-Metro
Locally Owned and Operated Franchise
Lic# 149003, 149004

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Maricopa Fire Department
520-568-3333

Maricopa Police Department
520-316-6800

Poison Control
800-222-1222

EMPLOYMENT

CoreCivic
Join Our Team!
To Apply, Visit:
jobs.corecivic.com
CoreCivic is a Drug-Free Workplace and EOE – including Disability/Veteran.

ENTERTAINMENT

Arizona Renaissance Festival
12601 E. US Highway 60
Gold Canyon
520-463-2600
Arizona.RenFestInfo.com

Harrah's
AK-CHIN CASINO
PLAY FOR ALL®
HARRAHSAKCHIN.COM
Must be 21 years of age or older to gamble. Know When To Stop Before You Start®. Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700 or 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2022 Caesars License Company, LLC.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL

empire CAT
AGRICULTURE
Tractors | Combines | Hay Tools
Parts | Service | Sales
480-725-7131 empireag.com

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

NextLevel Credit.net
JIMMY RIOS
480-935-6049
Jimmy@NextLevelCredit.net
SYLVIA RIOS
480-341-2901
Sylvia@NextLevelCredit.net
NextLevelCredit.net

FUNERALS

J. Warren
FUNERAL SERVICES
Serving families while honoring traditions.
44400 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 102
520-836-8041
JWarrenFuneral.com
Family owned & operated

GARAGE DOORS

ANOZIRA Door Systems, LLC
480-598-9200
AnoziraDoorSystems.net

Iconic Garage Door Services
520-416-4220

GOLF

Championship style, Par-72, 18-hole, daily-fee golf club
THE DUKE
AT RANCHO EL DORADO
(480) 844-1100
TheDukeGolf.com
42660 Rancho El Dorado Pkwy

GLASS

LHG
LIZARD HEIGHTS Glass
AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS
Service At A Higher Level
520-868-6180 ★ LizardHG.com
ROC 222193 CR65
★ Licensed ★ Bonded ★ Insured
★ Master Auto Glass Techs

WINDOW TINTING by Rosie
ROSIE CHAPARRO
• Mobile Service • Auto
• Residential • Commercial
2296 N. Pinal Avenue • Casa Grande
(520) 705-6263
WindowTintingByRosie.com
Licensed & Insured • Credit Cards Accepted

GOVERNMENT

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

GUNS

MINUTEMAN SUPPLY CO.
Maricopa's only veteran owned gun shop!
(520) 230-5143
MinutemanSupplyCo.com
41620 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy
Suite 106

HARDWARE

Karsten's
Maricopa ACE Hardware
21542 N. John Wayne Parkway
(520) 494-7805
MaricopaAce.com
Delivery and Curbside Pickup Available

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Lotus Evolutions
41640 W. Smith-Enke Road
Suite 109 (Inside L'Mage)
480-779-8413 (Call/Text)
LotusEvolutions.com

HOME CARE SERVICES

Our place is by your side.
The care you count on.
The team you trust.
gentiva HOSPICE
1175 E. Cottonwood Lane, Suite 1
Casa Grande
(520) 233-6116

This ad could be yours for less than ½¢ per household
520-568-0040
Advertising@InMaricopa.com

HOME CARE SERVICES

HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE

HOME IMPROVEMENT

`HOME LENDING

Executive Lending Corporation
Reiko Dang
1245 W. Baseline Road
Suite 108
Mesa
480-215-3202
elo2dang@gmail.com
ApplyReverse.com

HOSPITALS

INSURANCE

This ad could be yours for less than ½¢ per household
520-568-0040
Advertising@InMaricopa.com

INTERNET

Orbitel Communications
21116 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite B-9
520-568-8890
OrbitelCom.com

LANDSCAPING

MINING

Cactus Mine
520-858-0600
CactusMine.com

NONPROFITS

Against Abuse, Inc.
PO Box 10733
Casa Grande
520-836-1239
Against-Abuse.org

American Legion Post 133
41614 W. Smith-Enke Rd., Ste. 110
520-233-2400 Ext. 2
ALPost133AZ.org

Be Awesome Youth Coalition
520-428-7750
BeAwesomeYouth.life

Boy Scout Troop 993
Gerry Hahn
Troop993@yahoo.com
516-551-4360

Blue Star Mothers of Maricopa, AZ #7
PO Box 1397

Copa Shorts Film
Shelley Gillespie
520-568-0199
CopaShortsFilmFest.org

Family, Friend & Neighbor COAP
402 E. 10th St., Casa Grande
520-836-0736
UnitedWayofPC.org

F.O.R. Maricopa
PO Box 82
520-251-0226
ForMaricopa.org

The Friends of the Maricopa
Public Library
520-568-8094

Maricopa Historical Society
Paul Shirk, President
909-260-3020
MaricopaHistory.org

Maricopa Lions Club
614-738-8312
e-clubhouse.org/sites/maricopa

Maricopa Little League
425-780-3858
MaricopaLittleLeague.com

Maricopa Police Foundation
PO Box 1427
MaricopaPoliceFoundation@gmail.com
MaricopaPoliceFoundation.com

Maricopa Senior Center
41614 W. Smith-Enke Road, Ste 100
520-233-2400 Ext. 3

Maricopa Veterans Center
44240 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.
520-404-6672

Relay for Life Maricopa
800-227-2345
RelayForLife.org/MaricopaAZ

The Streets Don't Love You Back
Po Box 1093
TheStreetsDontLoveYouBack.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars
41614 W. Smith-Enke Rd., Ste. 110
520-233-2400 Ext. 1

Zonta Club of Maricopa
520-705-0057
Zontaaz.org/Maricopa-club

PAINTING

Sherwin-Williams
44565 W. Edison Road
520-635-6962

PARTY SUPPLIES

This ad could be yours for less than ½¢ per household
520-568-0040
Advertising@InMaricopa.com

PEST CONTROL

PHARMACY

Sun Life Health
Open to the Public
44572 W. Bowlin Road
520-350-7646
SunLifeHealth.org

PHOTOGRAPHY

Victor Moreno Photography
602-723-4338

PHYSICIANS

Cancer & Blood Specialists of Arizona
Cancer Clinic
520-836-9800

Cancer & Blood Specialists of Arizona
Surgery Clinic
520-876-0416

Health Matters
9180 E. Desert Cove
Suite 105
Scottsdale
480-993-3331
HealthMattersAZ.com

Maricopa Foot and Ankle
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway
Suite 126
520-494-1090
MFAAC.com

Sun Life Health
Gynecology - Obstetrics
44765 W. Hathaway Avenue
520-788-6100
SunLifeHealth.org

PLUMBING

My Maricopa Plumber
44400 W. Honeycutt
Suite 106
520-509-7948
MyMaricopaPlumber.com

POOLS

POWERSPORTS

PRINTING

PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

REALTORS

Ahwatukee Realty
Chad Chadderton
44400 W. Honeycutt Road
Suite 102
520-568-3572
Chad@AhwatukeeRealty.com
AhwatukeeRealty.com

Looking for a brand-new, move-in ready home?
Check out our Maricopa locations on our website.
D·R·HORTON America's Builder
DRH Properties, Inc., Broker. Construction by DRH Phoenix East Construction, Inc., License #ROC 064532-B.

HOMESMART PREMIER
Maricopa's #1 Realtor
Dayv Morgan
OWNER, REALTOR®
480-251-4231
DayvMorgan@gmail.com
19756 N. John Wayne Pkwy., Suite 100
MaricopaHomeSmart.com

HOMESMART
Sheila Steinle
LET ME BE YOUR REALTOR
480-766-2214
SheilaSellsWell@gmail.com

When only the best will do.
JUSTIN GREER
REALTOR®
480.717.1377
AZRealtorJustin@gmail.com
ENSIGN PROPERTIES

Shane Cook
Commercial Realtor™
eXp REALTY eXp COMMERCIAL
(480) 703-3316
scook1247@gmail.com
EstrellaGinAz.com

Brian Petersheim
REALTOR, ABR, CNE
(602) 206-9644
HOMESMART
MaricopaNewHomes.Net

RECYCLE

RTM
RECYCLE TODAY MARICOPA
We buy your Junk!
Appliances, metals and much more.
45030 W. Edwards Ave.
(520) 424-5976
Mon.-Fri. 8am – 5pm
Sat. 8am – 3pm

RESTAURANTS

crumbl cookies
(602) 675-9660
CrumblCookies.com
20320 N. John Wayne Pkwy, Suite 105

native
grill esd. 1979 wings
21164 N. John Wayne Parkway
520-568-6077
NativeGrillAndWings.com

NEW locally owned specialty coffee shop in Maricopa.
We NEAUX coffee!
NEAUX COFFEE COMPANY
19428 N. Taft Ave
NeauxCoffee.com

Chicago Pizza
ROSATI'S
KEEPING IT REAL SINCE 1964
21423 N. JOHN WAYNE PARKWAY #102
(NW corner of Smith Enke Rd and Route 347)
(520) 568-7700
ORDER ONLINE @ROSATISPIZZA.COM

Original RILI-B'S TACO SHOP
DRIVE THRU, TAKEOUT, DELIVERY
19975 N John Wayne Pkwy
(520) 412-1157
RiliBTacoShop.com
OPEN

THE ROOST
SPORTS BAR & CAFE
20800 N. John Wayne Pkwy
Suite 101
(520) 568-5338
TheRoostAZ.com

ROOFING

ROOFING REPAIR SPECIALIST, LLC
Serving all AZ for 25 Years
MARICOPA - CASA GRANDE
(520) 858-3503
Not a licensed contractor

SALON

AZ Natural Brows
41640 W. Smith Enke Road
Suite 105
321-427-3558
AzNaturalBrows.com

SCHOOLS

CHARTER SCHOOLS
Preparing Students for the Future
Principal Rachele Reese
Grades 7-12
41735 W. Alan Stephens Parkway
520-265-5589
www.aplusaz.org

Butterfield Elementary School
43800 W. Honeycutt Road
520-568-6100
BES.MaricopaUSD.org

PATHS TO GREAT CAREERS!
Central Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive
(520) 494-5111 • CentralAZ.edu

Desert Sunrise High School
16200 N. Murphy Road
520-509-0400

Desert Wind Middle School
35565 W. Honeycutt Road
520-568-7110
DWMS.MaricopaUSD.org

Growing with the community!
HERITAGE ACADEMY MARICOPA
Building America's Heroes, Together
41000 West Heroes Way
(520) 367-3800
HAMARICOPA.COM

LEADING EDGE ACADEMY
Maricopa
18700 N. Porter Road
520-568-7800
LeadingEdgeAcademy.com

Maricopa Elementary School
18150 N. Alterra Parkway
520-568-5160
MES.MaricopaUSD.org

Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
520-568-8102
MHS.MaricopaUSD.org

MARICOPA Unified School District
Dream. Learn. Become.
Maricopa Unified School District #20
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.
520-568-5100 • MaricopaUSD.org

Maricopa Virtual Academy
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.
520-568-5194

Maricopa Wells Middle School
45725 W. Honeycutt Ave.
520-568-7100
MWMS.MaricopaUSD.org

Pima Butte Elementary School
42202 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway
520-568-7150
PBES.MaricopaUSD.org

RAM Academy
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
520-568-8100
MHS.MaricopaUSD.org

Saddleback Elementary School
18600 N. Porter Road
520-568-6110
SES.MaricopaUSD.org

Santa Cruz Elementary School
19845 N. Costa del Sol
520-568-5170
SCES.MaricopaUSD.org

Santa Rosa Elementary School
21400 N. Santa Rosa Drive
520-568-6150
SRES.MaricopaUSD.org

SEQUOIA PATHWAY ACADEMY
19265 N. Porter Road
Elementary (520) 568-9333
Secondary (520) 568-2112
SequoiaPathway.org

SPORTS

FALL 2023
SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS
MARICOPALITTLELEAGUE.COM
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @MARICOPALL
Boys & Girls ages 4-16
T-Ball, Baseball & Softball divisions
(425) 780-3858

TATTOO

Redemption Tattoo
19428 North Maricopa Road
(520) 217-4286
RedemptionTattooAZ@icloud.com

TAX SERVICES

CS CPA GROUP
TAXES & ACCOUNTING
• Small Business Accounting
• Tax Planning • Consulting
• Tax Preparation
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 110
520-568-3303 | CSCPAGroup.com

TOWING

Harvey's Way 24 HR TOWING
602-300-3775
• Tire Changes
• Jumpstarts
• Lock-outs
FREE Abandoned Vehicle Removals
44852 W. Edwards Ave
HarveysWayTowing.com

UTILITIES

Available 24/7 at www.ed3online.org
Billing Inquiry Hours (520) 424-9021
Mon-Fri: 6am-8pm • Sat-Sun: 6am-5pm
After Hours – ONLY Emergency Outage Service
Email us at customerservice@ed-3.org
Report an Outage 24/7
Outage Center - www.ed3online.org
Use Mobile App
Call (520) 424-9021
Electrical District No. 3

GWR Global Water Resources
Billing & Emergency
(866) 940-1102
After Hours Emergency
(480) 898-4007
GWResources.com

WATER TREATMENT

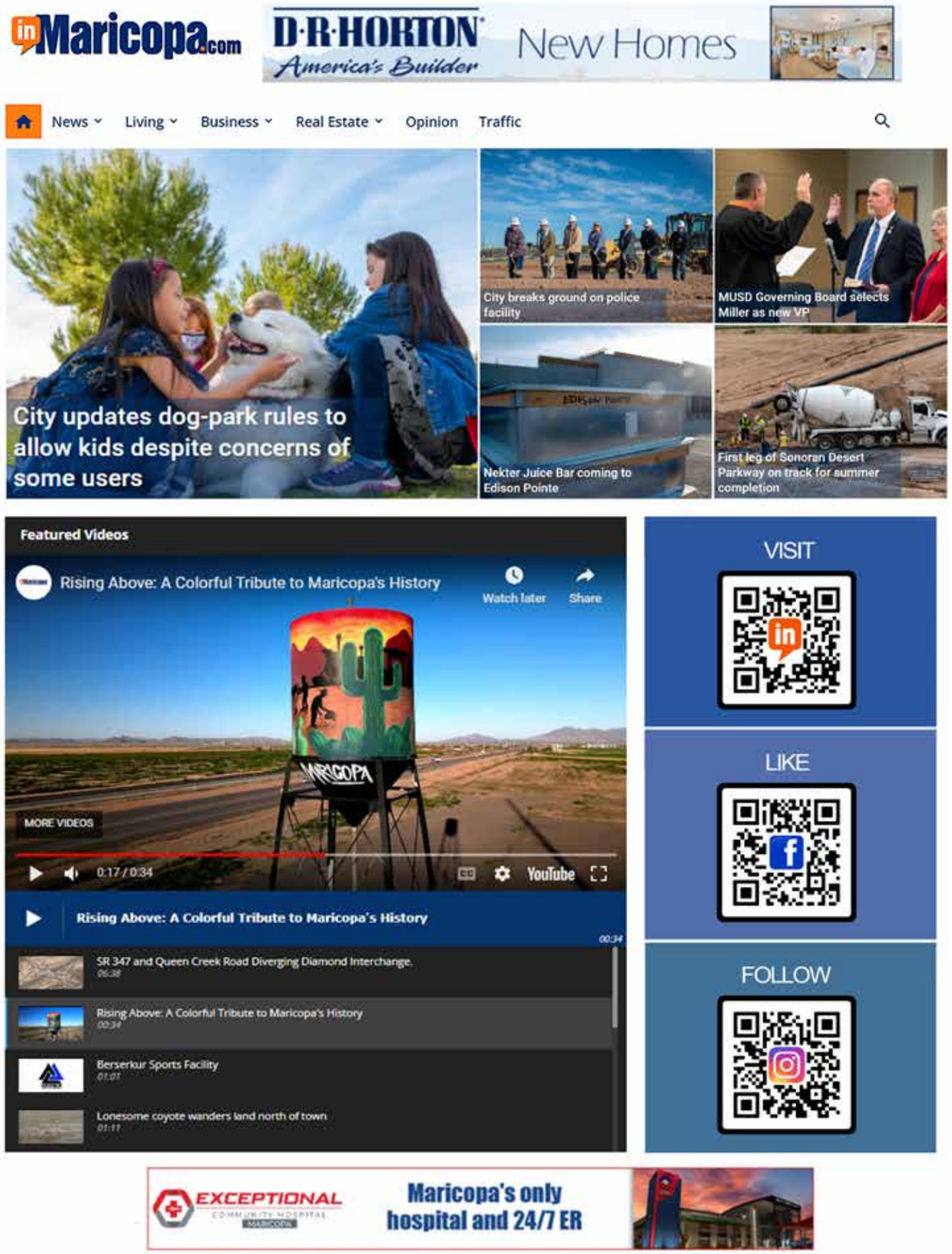
HARD WATER IN YOUR NEW HOME?
YOU DESERVE SOFTER TREATMENT.
Kinetico home water systems
Since 1970
520-399-8605
KineticoAz.com
Licensed • Bonded • Insured ROC 097214

advertiser index

911 Air Repair ..... BC
A+ Charter Schools 9
A. A. Raymond Law Firm, PLLC 11
Against Abuse 51
Arizona Renaissance Festival 54
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor 55
Cancer & Blood Specialists of Arizona 14
Central Arizona College 17, 36
City of Maricopa 45
CoreCivic - HireClix 12
Crest Premier Properties 42
CS CPA Group 13
Electrical District No. 3 33
Exceptional Community Hospital 27
Global External (ASCU) - Cactus Mine 9
Global Water Resources 14
Harrah's Ak-Chin ..... 3, IBC
HomeSmart Premier I Dayv Morgan 21, 43
Iconic Garage Door Services 48
Iconic Tire & Service Centers ..... IFC
InMaricopa 61
InMaricopa.com 42
Jiffy Lube 31
Karsten's Ace Hardware 63
Leading Edge Academy 36
Legacy Traditional School 35
Lizard Heights Glass 35
Maricopa Foot & Ankle Center 15
Maricopa Unified School District 5, 39
Maricopa Wellness Center 20
Mr. Electric 49
My Maricopa Plumber 41
Native Grill 38
Orbitel Communications 7
Sequoia Pathway Academy 37
Sherwin Williams 40
The UPS Store 53
Treasured Smiles Children's Dentistry 30
Vekol Market 15
Victor Moreno Photography 50
Wildcat Landscape Supply 43

Want in?
Learn how partnering with InMaricopa can help your business.
(520) 568-0040
Advertising@InMaricopa.com
InMaricopa.com/Advertising
More Info
inMaricopa

trending



Karsten's
Maricopa
ACE Hardware
MARCH 2023

MEET OUR EXPERTS!

RANDY (2015)
Plumbing

SETH (2022)
Front-End

LERRIN (2020)
Paint

BRIAN (2020)
B2B

CODY (2021)
Assistant Manager

VICTOR (2016)
Assistant Manager

Considering a Business Account?
(520) 660-9581
B2B@karstensace.com

21542 N John Wayne Pkwy, Maricopa
(520) 494-7805 • www.Karstensace.com
Open Every Day • Holiday Hours May Vary

SPRING PAINT PROJECTS
Start with essential supplies

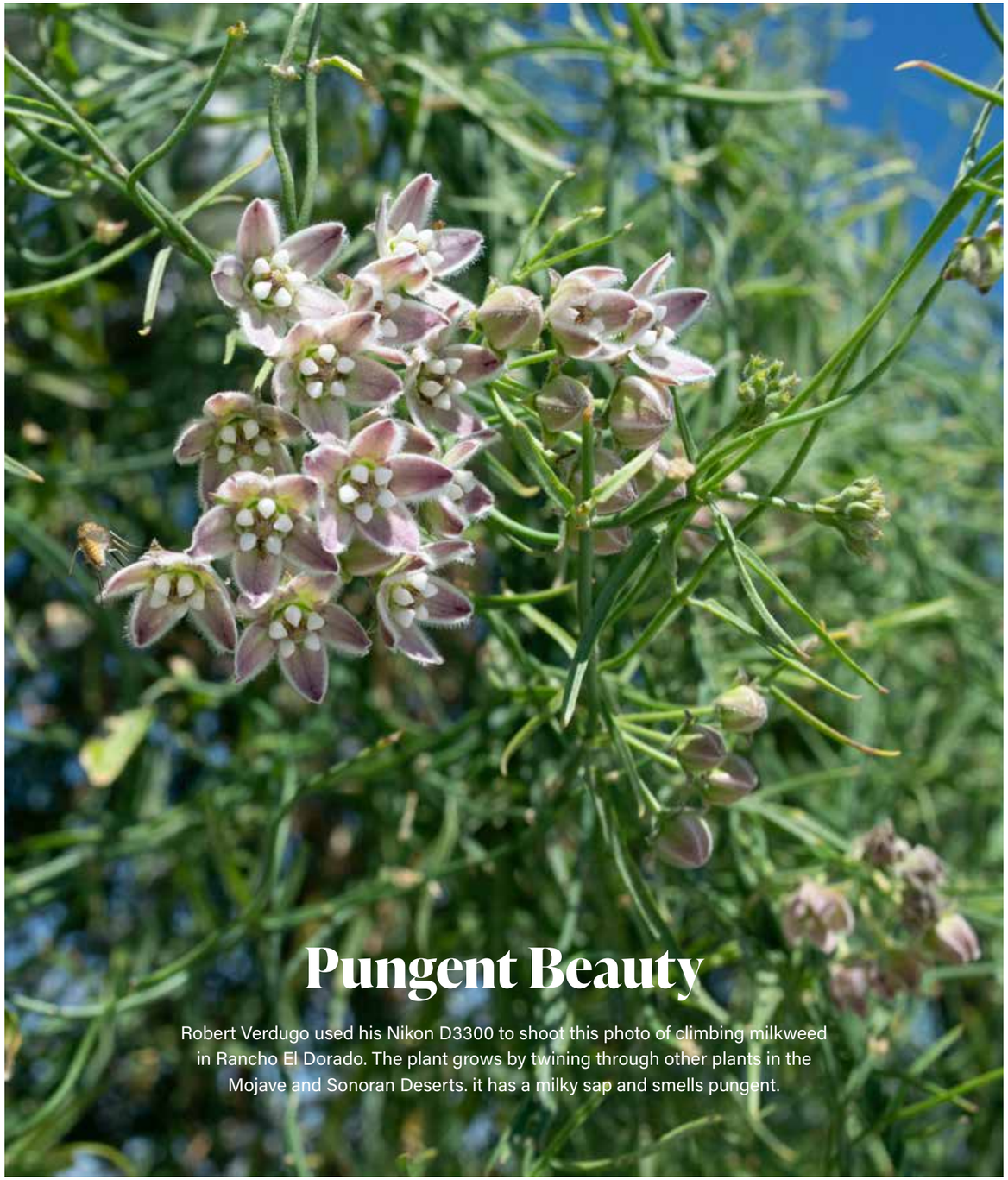
CELEBRATE COLOR IN SPRING
Ace can help you refresh your home

BUY ONE GET ONE 50% OFF
Gallons of Clark+Kensington® & Royal® Interior & Exterior Paint
Limit 2 discounted items per transaction. Discounted item must be of equal or lesser value.

GET MOORE
EVERY TIME YOU PAINT

50% OFF
Half Pint
Benjamin Moore
Color Samples

MARCH PAINT EVENT VALID MARCH 15-27



Pungent Beauty

Robert Verdugo used his Nikon D3300 to shoot this photo of climbing milkweed in Rancho El Dorado. The plant grows by twining through other plants in the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts. it has a milky sap and smells pungent.

Have a great photo of Maricopa? Submit it to Photos@InMaricopa.com for consideration as next month's "parting shot."

ST. PADDY'S
PROGRESSIVE TIER CREDIT MULTIPLIER

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023
PROMOTIONAL KIOSKS
8AM – 11:59PM

Swipe in and activate at a Promotional Kiosk
ONCE DURING EACH EARNING PERIOD
to receive your progressive multipliers!

EARNING PERIOD 1:
Play from 7AM – 11:59AM to receive a **5X** Tier Credit Multiplier
EARNING PERIOD 2:
Play from 2PM – 11:59PM to receive a **10X** Tier Credit Multiplier

Must earn 200 Tier Credits during Earning Period 1 to receive 10X Multiplier during Earning Period 2. After earning 200 Tier Credits during Earning Period 1, must card out before Noon and card back in to qualify and earn for the 10X multiplier during Earning Period 2. If 200 Tier Credits are not earned during Earning Period 1, 5X Multiplier will be awarded during Earning Period 2.

NICK OFFERMAN
FRIDAY, MARCH 17 · THE EVENTS CENTER
ticketmaster®
VISIT **TICKETMASTER.COM** TO GET YOUR TICKETS!
See us online at HARRAHSAKCHIN.COM for details.

PLAY FOR ALL.®

Harrah's®
AK-CHIN CASINO

Owned by the Ak-Chin Indian Community

CAESARS REWARDS.
Available on the iPhone App Store
GET IT ON Google Play

Example for a 5X multiplier, a participant earning 100 Tier Credits on a slot machine will have 400 Tier Credits added into their account for a total of 500 Tier Credits. Only Tier Credits earned on Promotional Day apply. 5X Multiplier earning begins at 7AM on Promotional Day and ends at 11:59AM on the same day.10X Multiplier earning begins at 2PM on the Promotional Day and ends at 11:59PM the same day. Must swipe and activate once during both Earning Periods at a Promotional Kiosk from 8AM-11:59PM to participate and opt-in. Missed swipes or activations will not be awarded retroactively. Tier Credits may take up to 5 business days to be posted into your account. Tier Credit bonuses will not be multiplied. Valid only at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and must have a Caesars Rewards card and valid photo ID to participate. Management reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time without prior notice. Must be 21 or older to gamble and take advantage of this offer. Know When To Stop Before You Start.® Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700 or 1-800-NEXT STEP. ©2023 Caesars License Company, LLC. See official rules at the Caesars Rewards Center for complete details.

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

ECRWSS
Postal Customer
Local

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Maricopa, AZ
Permit No. 13

Air Conditioning & Heating Services

911 Air Repair

2020 Neighborhood Favorite nextdoor

Angie's list Super Service Award 2020

Elite Service HomeAdvisor

Creme de la Copa 2021

BBB Accredited Business
Better Business Bureau

Maricopa Chamber of Commerce

PROMOTION
FREE SERVICE CALL*
With Repair

PROMOTION
FREE AIR PURIFIER*
With New AC System

PROMOTION
$500 OFF NEW AC SYSTEM*
*Limit One Per Customer

Licensed
Bonded & Insured
ROC: CR39-312225

480.360.1234 | www.911-ac.com