

A woman is shown from the chest up, splashing through a thick layer of brown mud. She is wearing a red and black athletic top, a headband, and fingerless gloves. Her mouth is open in a shout or yell, and her arms are outstretched. The background is a blurred, sunlit outdoor setting.

Maricopa

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October 2017

THINGS TO DO

A little blood-letting
in 'Sweeney Todd'

GOVERNMENT

What's on
the ballot?

HOME

Good snakes
and bad snakes
in the garden

Nitty-Gritty Fun

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ON THE COVER: Nicole Allen was dressed as Wonder Woman in last year's Maricopa Mud Run, which returns Oct. 28 with a superhero theme. *Photo by Victor Moreno*



Joseph Szoltysik's customized teaching philosophy is popular not only among students but fellow teachers as well.

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Raquel Hendrickson

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Time to jump into action

Maricopa always seems to be fully on display in October. Just as part-time residents return to busy neighborhoods, the community events multiply, capped by the grimmest event that brings in a crowd of out-of-towners.

People come out to the Maricopa Mud Run not to be passive observers but to participate and to conquer obstacles. Being actively involved is typical for October as autumn temperatures (by Arizona standards) return. In this issue, learn about some of the other events that will get you out of the house and enjoying our unique community.

For instance, Maricopa Police Department presents GAIN, festivities to bring neighbors together. Of course, Halloween is fast approaching, so the City again hosts Mystery Mansion Mayhem, and Church of Celebration hosts Halloweenie Zones for Trunk or Treat. Once upon a time, Stagecoach Days was the big celebration in Maricopa, but since incorporation it has dwindled to near non-existence. Survival of the old-time event relies on residents willing to organize new activities.

Age is no hindrance for Maricopans wanting to strut their stuff. Eight-year-old DeAnna Gonzalez is striding out as a kids' fashion model. Pete Masiel, 58, keeps finding new challenges

to conquer – this time, it just happens to be the Mud Run.

There will be plenty of guts on display as local poets of all ages put themselves in the spotlight for the Kids' Poetry Open Mic and the All-Maricopa Poetry Slam. Adding a bloody-good time to Maricopa entertainment will be the local cast of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."

Meet Maricopa Wells award-winning teacher Joe Szoltysik, who heads one of the most active classes in the district – the Blended Learning program. Plus, find out why Maricopa Unified School District is getting serious about cameras on buses.

Catch up on issues that will be on election ballots this fall, and check out what's changing in Maricopa's business world.

Learn about snakes in the garden, alcohol in kids' reach, fish oil in the diet and real estate trends in Maricopa, all in this issue.

Have a thrilling October, Maricopa.

RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

Editor

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First Maricopa Stagecoach Days: May 3, 1959

By Maricopa Historical Society

The first of many Maricopa Stagecoach Days began on Sunday, May 3, 1959, with a BBQ dinner, and a slew of events including free rides on three stagecoaches — authentic, old-time stagecoaches with beautifully groomed horses. Drivers were trained and skilled in handling four-horse teams that allowed children to relive Maricopa Wells’ history with stagecoach rides through the desert. The only decision kids had to make was who would get the privilege of riding shotgun.



Horseracing and a cutting horse contest with some of the best quarter horses in the country was promised to be one of the highlights of the day. Other fun events included contests for bearded men, and women in long dresses who would later serve you barbecue. Everyone was encouraged to bring bonnets or hats and an attitude for enjoying the day.

On that first stagecoach day, the Rotarians expected a crowd of more than 2,000 and a pocketbook full of dollar bills to put a dent



into the 1958 debt of \$50,000 incurred for the community swimming pool’s construction.

The Maricopa swimming pool project began back in 1956 when the Rotary Club researched the needs of Maricopa’s youth and a viable project for them to embrace. It was decided a swimming pool would reduce or eliminate the many canal deaths in Maricopa and provide entertainment and exercise for its young people.

The first order of business toward achieving this goal was to secure land. Farming partners John Smith and Fred



Enke stepped up to with eight acres they were willing to donate for a swimming pool and library. In the fall of 1957, local farmers donated bales of cotton, which was processed by the gins without charge, to ante up about \$12,000.

With good land and earnest money in hand, the Rotary Club organized a project that satisfied the building of a swimming pool and provided entertainment and embraced Maricopa’s heritage — Stagecoach Days.

The good ol’ days of whoopin’ and a hollerin’ brought in more than the anticipated 2,000 people, who celebrated with Maricopa throughout the day with BBQ atop cotton trailers, and way into the night with a frolicking hoedown that rocked the old barn into the morning hours.

For years to come, Stagecoach Days celebrated Maricopa’s heritage and raised money to pay off and maintain the swimming pool. The event has brought in sky-diving, horse racing, cutting horse contests, gymkhanas, Maricopa RCA rodeo Quadrille team performances, and celebrities such as Amanda “Miss Kitty” Blake of *Gunsmoke* fame.

These days the City of Maricopa encourages community organizations to create activities during the traditional time for Stagecoach Days, which is the second and third weeks of October.

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1. Jesse Mueller tees off at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes in the PING Southwest PGA Championship, which he won by two strokes Sept. 13. *Submitted*
2. Newly promoted in the Maricopa Police Department are Lt. Steven Judd (left) and Sgt. Colt Homan (right) with Chief Steve Stahl. *Mason Callejas*
3. Musician Carvin Jones performs for Raceway Bar & Grill's 10th anniversary Sept. 9. *Michelle Chance*
4. Apex Motor Club co-founder Jason Plotke (center) talks with residents and city officials during a Sept. 6 open house after a court victory for Apex and the city. *Raquel Hendrickson*
5. American Legion Commander Derek Jeske greets Maricopa Fire/Medical personnel James Carlisto, Larry Walker and Jared Hobson during First Responders Appreciation Day Sept. 9. *Raquel Hendrickson*
6. All grown up, alumni cheerleaders returned to their old stomping grounds at Maricopa High School for Homecoming Sept. 15. *Michelle Chance*



MUSD Transportation Coordinator Sergio Pulido checks out the power box for a camera.

Michelle Chance

Drivers who illegally pass school buses put on notice – and on camera

By Michelle Chance

New surveillance cameras installed below the stop-arms of school buses could lead to traffic citations. The Maricopa Unified School District's Transportation Department installed the cameras in September after bus drivers continuously reported vehicles passing while the stop-arms were out.

New surveillance cameras installed below the stop-arms of school buses could lead to traffic citations.

The Maricopa Unified School District's Transportation Department installed the cameras in September after bus drivers continuously reported vehicles passing while the stop-arms were out.

According to state law, drivers must stop in either direction when a school bus has its flashing lights on and when its stop-arm is displayed. The law states motorists can continue driving when the "bus resumes motion or the signal and alternately flashing lights are no longer displayed."

According to MUSD, however, many motorists fail to follow the law.

Sergio Pulido, MUSD transportation

coordinator, said the department receives around 25 unlawful passing complaints from bus drivers a month.

"It happens a lot, and thank God that a kid hasn't gotten hit," Pulido said.

Currently, bus drivers submit written reports, including license plate numbers, to Pulido, who then forwards them to the Department of Public Safety.

However, Pulido said it's unclear what happens after DPS receives the complaints and whether citations are ever issued.


That's one reason the district met with Maricopa Police Department before the school year began to discuss sending footage captured by its cameras directly to local police.

MPD spokesman Ricardo Alvarado said the department is coordinating with

the Maricopa/Stanfield Justice Court to implement an agreement among the district, MPD and the court.

In Arizona, civil penalties for the first violation include a minimum fine of \$250. The fee increases to \$750 and a suspended license if a second offence committed within 36 months of the first. A third violation carries a \$1,000 fine and a suspended license of up to a year, if it occurred within 36 months of the original.

Pulido said the department is also considering meeting with Ak-Chin Police Department and Pinal County Sheriff's Office to issue citations captured by bus cameras in areas outside of Maricopa city limits.

MUSD installed surveillance cameras in the interior and exterior of its school buses for three years and expects to have the new stop-arm cameras operational after updates to its software program are made in the coming weeks. 



Wonder Woman Nicole Allen was already thinking superhero in 2016. This year, that is the theme of Maricopa Mud Run.

Victor Moreno



Anita McLeod



Anita McLeod

Maricopa Mud Run participants battle their way through mud and water obstacles (and some charcoal).

Maricopa's muddy pastime to bring out superhero in everyone

By Mason Callejas



Anita McLeod

It's that time of the year again, when Maricopans get dressed up, act goofy and mingle with the community. No, not Halloween. It's the Maricopa Mud Run.

This year the run comes with a few changes that should have everyone's inner-child running wild.

The first, and arguably the most important, change is the theme. This year, all challengers are being asked to "awaken your inner hero" by dressing up as their favorite superhero.

A contest will be hosted prior to the run. The best dressed team or individual will walk away with event swag, and adults and teenagers who finish the race in their costume earn a limited addition Mud Run Cape and T-shirt.

Kids who finish the Mini-Copa Mud Run will get "an awesome bag of treats."

This year we decided we want to see more teamwork and community in this event, so we made the Mayor's Challenge a two-person team challenge."

—Matthew Reiter

The course itself is undergoing changes, too, including new obstacles.

Mud Run organizer Matthew Reiter said the course is shorter, but participants will have to complete two filthy, inner-hero-awakening, zip-line gliding, ego-boosting laps. (Kids running the Mini-Copa Mud Run will complete one lap.) Competitors will also be grouped by age and sent off in heats to "help make things a little more evenly matched."

Reiter also tweaked the Mayor's Challenge: "This year we decided we want to see more teamwork and community in this event, so we made the Mayor's Challenge a two-person team challenge."

Any two-person team that beats the time set by Mayor Christian Price and his "highly motivated" mystery partner will win commemorative coins.

Parks Manager and Mud Run co-organizer Mike Riggs said the 20 or so obstacles will include a few new surprises this year, including obstructions dubbed "Chill-out" and "Plenty of Fish."

IF YOU GO

What: Maricopa Mud Run
When: Oct. 28, 7 a.m.
Where: Copper Sky Regional Park, 44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
How Much: \$25 to \$45
Info: maricopa-az.gov/web/mud-run



Raquel Hendrickson

Pete Masiel prepares for an early-morning run in Rancho El Dorado, a route he created last year to prepare for this year's Mud Run.

Prepping for Mud Run changed Pete Masiel's life

By Raquel Hendrickson

Pete Masiel is a "no-excuses" guy. He's 58 years old with rods in his back. He's an ultra-cyclist, known to peddle 100 miles a day. He is fit and athletic.

Last year, he ran the Maricopa Mud Run for the first time. It was a rude awakening, thanks to Mayor Christian Price.

Price has created the "Mayor's Challenge," giving prizes to everyone who beats his time on the course.

"I thought it was really cool," Masiel said. "When I heard about the Mayor's Challenge, I figured, 'OK, that will be pretty simple.'"

"He kicked my pants off. It took me just under two hours to complete the course, something the mayor did in about 30 minutes," he said.

For Masiel, the event became not a challenge for a day but a challenge for the whole year.

"I said, 'OK, I'm gonna get you next year,'" Masiel said.

Masiel recognized despite his endurance riding, he had not been a runner in a long time. He worked to change that. Over the succeeding year of training for the mud run, he became a marathoner and lost more than 25 pounds.

He started with the Veterans 5K last November. He walked the course. He tried the Santa Run 5K at Merry Copa and was able to jog the distance.

"It hurts my back, but it's not killing me," he said. "So, I decided to start running."

By himself at Copper Sky, he ran his first 10K since the 1990s. He jogged through 14-minute miles. The effort caught up with him.

"I was so sore I could barely go up and down my stairs," Masiel said.

Then friends invited him on a bike ride on South Mountain. Masiel forgot his cycling shoes. He was wearing his running shoes, however.

So, he ran the six miles to the towers and the six miles back. From that day, he started running regularly and is now part of the Maricopa Running Club.

He first ran a marathon-distance event on his own in April. In June, he ran in the San Diego Rock 'n' Roll Marathon.

"I'm able to run now, and I'm a pretty good contender," he said. "I always say, 'Don't write a check your butt can't cash.'"

He crossed paths with Price and his training partner Matthew Reiter at Copper Sky, all three men getting ready for the mud run.

"He called over to us, 'Mayor, I want you to know you're my inspiration,'" Reiter recalled. "And we thought, 'What is he talking about? Pete's the inspiration. He's awesome!'"

After his back surgery in the '90s and before he got involved in endurance cycling, Masiel carried 265 pounds on his 5-foot-8 frame and was on the verge of a heart attack or stroke. Doctors cautioned him about strenuous physical activity because of his back.

But he turned to cycling, "pushed through the pain," and got back in shape. He shed 30 pounds and then another 30. His running weight now is 185-190.

"I haven't talked to my doctors about anything in years," Masiel said.

A year after his humbling experience with the Maricopa Mud Run, he feels ready to take on the challenge anew.

"Tell me I can't do something, I'll find a way to do it." 📞

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Teacher



Joseph Szoltysik, aka Mr. S, guides Blended Learning students through a crime-scene project at Maricopa Wells Middle School.

Raquel Hendrickson

MWMS teacher takes Blended Learning students on journey outside the textbook

By Michelle Chance

He’s a celebrated teacher in a non-traditional, middle-school classroom with a name as unique as the program he teaches. Joseph Szoltysik teaches language arts and social studies in the cutting-edge Blended Learning program at Maricopa Wells Middle School. In May, he was voted one of three “Best of the Best” teachers at Maricopa Unified School District.

“The first thing I learned about Mr. Szoltysik was that his last name was nearly impossible to pronounce, but over the course of my three years at Wells, I learned much more,” said former student Emma Schrader. “I soon learned that our assignments would not follow the traditional classroom’s straight-out-of-the-textbook curriculum, but stay engaging.”

Blending Learning students like Schrader learn inside a “technology room” where they utilize computers and tablets during independent learning. They also receive direct instruction from two teachers and mentorship in group projects with their peers.

get him nominate him for the district award. Blended Learning teacher at Desert Wind Middle School Shannon Hull said Szoltysik’s mentorship helped her become a more creative and confident teacher when she entered the program three years ago.

“He showed me how to create lesson plans for Blended Learning that were thoughtful and engaging for students,” Hull wrote in the nomination form.

Szoltysik came to MWMS in 2008. He spent his first four years at the school teaching eighth grade English language arts and social studies in a traditional classroom. Szoltysik and his wife Jennifer, who teaches Blended Learning with Hull at DWMS.

He was one of the first teachers to spearhead the Blended Learning classroom in the district and has watched it evolve into an in-demand program.

MWMS Principal Rick Abel also nominated Szoltysik for the award. Mr. S said it was likely because of his loyalty and near decade spent at the school.

“I always felt like I wanted to be here when (MWMS) became what I know it can become,” he said.

For Szoltysik, that means becoming an A-rated district and middle school and all the factors that get them there — an effort he said they are close to reaching.

“I come back every year because I want to be a part of that celebration when we’re finally where we need to be.”

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Homecoming at Maricopa High School Oct. 15 was a week of celebration culminating in a 54-14 victory on the football field.

1. The Marching Rams entertain at halftime. *Raquel Hendrickson*

2. Junior Tylen Coleman (30) helps lead the Rams onto the field. *Raquel Hendrickson*

3. Homecoming King Jalen Reyes escorts Queen Samantha Blaschke and Honorary Queen Bren Valisto (all seniors). *Raquel Hendrickson*

4. Joni Nelson was voted Freshman Lady. *Raquel Hendrickson*

5. The Maricopa Rams defeated North Canyon to improve their record to 4-1. *Raquel Hendrickson*

6. MHS Cheer Squad, joined by alumni cheerleaders, leads the Homecoming crowd. *Michelle Chance*



1



2

1. Maricopa High School cross country starts its season at Tumbleweed Park in Chandler. *Mason Callejas*

2. MHS junior Carli Rieman celebrates a kill as the Rams start the volleyball season with a 9-4 record. *Raquel Hendrickson*

3. The Arizona Seals swim team based in Maricopa swims 5,000 meters as a fund-raiser Sept. 9. *Raquel Hendrickson*



3



4

4. The annual alumni football game pit MHS graduates against city personnel Sept. 14. *Michelle Chance*

5. Wrestling coach Erick Fierro and city executive assistant Sara Delgadillo compete in the alumni game. *Michelle Chance*

6. Maricopa Fire/Medical Department managed the traditional Homecoming bonfire at Copper Sky. *Michelle Chance*



5



6

5 facts parents should know about alcohol

By Priscilla Behnke

1 It's the most popular drug. With all the talk about the latest epidemic, opioid abuse, it is important to remember alcohol is still the most commonly used substance by teens. This holds true for our local youth. For the last 12 years all data points to CVX alcohol being the default substance used by Maricopa teens.

2 The line "Everybody's doing it" is a lie. It's counter intuitive when there is an endless supply of movies ready to be streamed straight to your phone depicting teens and raging alcohol-thirsty parties, but they aren't. In fact, while it's the most popular drug of choice, more kids chose not to drink. According to the latest Arizona Youth Survey data, only 17.5 percent of local teens reported using alcohol in the prior 30 days. This same survey has shown, cycle after cycle, teens who use alcohol are in the minority.

3 Local teens are on the friends-and-family plan. The 17.5 percent of adolescent drinkers accessed their alcohol from somewhere or someone. According to local surveys conducted by the Be Awesome Youth Coalition, our teens are on the friends and family plan. The top two ways youth accessed alcohol were:

- Party with friends (without adults present)
- At home from parents or guardians

We need to be vigilant about where our kids are going. We shouldn't just worry about parties; whom our children are hanging out with is also important. Get to know the parents of our children's friends. Ensure they are not hanging out at homes where adults are sharing alcohol with minors.



Priscilla Behnke

4 All brains are not equal. There are several reasons we should take underage drinking seriously. Brain development is ongoing for what experts believe to be into the early to mid-20s. In the journal *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, a study completed in 2010 by neuroscientist Susan Tapert found teens who abused alcohol do worse on thinking and memory tests than their non-drinking peers. I meet parents all the time who take pride in their child's education. If their child is drinking, they are putting said education at risk.

5 You have the greatest influence. You as a parent have a great impact over your child's decisions. If you talk with your kids about alcohol, they will listen. Parents who do not engage in discussions about alcohol use risk leaving a vacuum on the issue open for anyone to fill. Your role as a parent is key in helping to reduce underage drinking.

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

mcaasa.org

The Be Awesome Youth Coalition

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Awesome volunteers Juan and Marisela Vale with sons Leander and Alex

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at MES.

mcaasa.org **f** Be-Awesome-Youth-Coalition



Maricopa girl, 8, hits fashion runway

By Raquel Hendrickson

The fashion world is a head-spinning, flamboyant, artsy and often deluding place. And it can also be a career.

DeAnna Gonzalez certainly wants to make a career of it.

An 8-year-old student at Leading Edge Academy, DeAnna is already finding success in the cozy confines of child modeling. She has been cast in Arizona and Texas shows, modeling kids clothes for outlets that include J.C. Penney.

"My heart started freaking out," she said of her first show. "But when I got on there, I just felt cool. And then at the second one I was just fine."

DeAnna and her sisters ElyAnna, 6, and Alannah, 4, picked up on the fact their mother, Shelly Gonzalez, did some modeling in her younger days. They were naturally curious whether they might have the same skillset.

"When I would walk, it felt like I was on a real runway," DeAnna said. "In stores, I'd just practice being a model. And my mom was like, 'What are you doing?'"

Shelly Gonzalez has the three girls in acting classes with coach Cara Alvey, but DeAnna's love is for the runway.

"Her passion is in modeling," Gonzalez said. "She eats, drinks and breathes it, ever since she was 3 years old."

She was picked up by the Bazaar Models agency in Texas and was cast by the Young Agency's Kids Fashion Week of Phoenix. Her younger sisters are also making moves get into the business at casting calls.

DeAnna said her modeling idol is Heidi Klum, who not only made a hugely successful career out of modeling but also turned her celebrity into a business.

At nearly 5 feet tall, DeAnna is tall for her age (her father Derling is 6-foot-6), which could be to her advantage if she wants to continue in the field. For now, she is in the moment when she hits the runway in the latest kids' fashions in front of a crowd.

"I pay attention more to looking forward and not looking at the audience," she said. "But when I look at the videos, they're always staring at me!"



Alyssa Orr Photography

DeAnna Gonzalez modeled in this year's Kids Fashion Week-Phoenix.

DeAnna Gonzalez (center) strikes a pose with sisters Alannah, 4, and ElyAnna, 6.



Mason Callejas

GAIN



Submitted

2016 was the fifth year Maricopans gathered for a Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods event.



Submitted

MPD hopes to ‘GAIN’ safer neighborhoods with annual event

By Mason Callejas

Maricopa Police Department is hoping to take advantage of fall weather to get residents more involved in the community and, by doing so, making Maricopa a safer place for all.

MPD is participating in the Oct. 28 statewide event GAIN — Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods.

The majority of the country celebrates a similar event in August called National Night Out. However, those familiar with Arizona weather in early August know it’s not the best time to be having outdoor, community gatherings.

Arizona’s solution to beating the heat is to hold another event — GAIN — in the fall.

MPD volunteer and GAIN organizer Christine Fuller said 2017 marks Maricopa’s sixth year participating in the event designed to help neighbors become more familiar with one another.

“The idea is to get citizens to help with being the eyes and ears for the police department,” Fuller said. “People should know, if you see something say something.”

If you know your neighbors, she added, then you more or less know who is supposed to be around and who isn’t.

The program asks neighborhoods to set up block parties or HOA-sponsored events that include members of city government, law enforcement and emergency services.



Submitted

“The idea is to get citizens to help with being the eyes and ears for the police department.”

—MPD volunteer Christine Fuller

They typically bring their big, shiny, fire trucks and police cars to show off to the kids at the mobile meet-and-greet.


This year, likely dignitaries include Mayor Christian Price, City Manager Gregory Rose and Police Chief Steve Stahl.

GAIN parties can go on for as long as they’d like. However, those expecting a visit should

plan to receive it between 2-7 p.m. Some parties include competitions like Province’s Marshmallow-Golf Ball driving contest, while others embrace the spirit of Halloween.

There are no minimum requirements for the event, Fuller said. Parties can be as small as three or four houses, or as large as an entire subdivision.

All MPD asks is you register by Oct. 15 so your neighborhood will be added to the list of stops. If you don’t register by that time, Fuller said, it’s alright. Host the party and get to know your neighbors, and still contact MPD in case a spot opens.

Contact MPD Public Affairs Specialist Ricardo Alvarado at ricardo.alvarado@maricopa-az.gov to register. 




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Profile

Photographer focuses on her own heart in new business

By Fran Lyons

Faux Picasso Photography has been eight years in the making.

Owner Rhonda Thom said circumstances, opportunity and, of course, “taking a huge leap of faith” presented themselves, and the passion that fuels such dreams became a force for the reality.

“I asked myself, ‘What do you really want to do?’ The answer was stop working for someone else, create your own plan, put the pieces together and watch the progression,” she said. “My parents modeled success for me by starting their own businesses with confidence.”


That “someone else” was PayPal, where she led a risk management team, so it was a huge decision to leave the corporate world and go out on her own in a completely different field.

The photography business calls on her education and experience in art, film and digital media. Faux Picasso has an onsite dark room and photo lab, and the business uses multiple artistic applications and techniques for full-spectrum photo enhancement.

She also does photo restorations. Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, Thom has lived in Maricopa four years with her husband Robert and four children.

She began developing a business plan for Faux Picasso in February, and had it up and running in March.

It’s not just about wedding photography. For entertainment, Thom offers painting parties; and for the connoisseur, she has fine-art photography prints.

“I was mentored well,” Thom said of her parents, whose business advice she still incorporates. 



Rhonda Thom

Besides wedding and engagement photos, Rhonda Thom also does photo enhancements and photo restorations at Faux Picasso Photography.



RHONDA THOM

Business: Faux Picasso Photography

Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska

Family: Husband Robert, one son, three daughters

Nature of business: Primarily engagement and wedding photography

Why this business? After being a team leader in risk management at PayPal for 13 years, I decided to do what I love to do, my art and photography.

Why Maricopa? Like Omaha, Maricopa is just the right size. Almost everything is within a 20-mile radius. The small-town feel and close community atmosphere really feel like home — a great place to raise kids.

Residence: Cobblestone Farms
Expectations for the business in the next 5 years: Expanding the mobile aspect of the business, which covers the entire state of Arizona, evolving business strategies and marketing tools and building up portfolio.

Introduce a video product early next year. Branching out to reach a larger, multi-generational audience. On the horizon this fall: Faux Picasso will present two solo art shows in Maricopa.

Greatest challenge: Getting the word out and gaining strong momentum for scheduled engagements

Best business advice ever received: “My mom once told me, focus on just one thing at a time.”

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Local businesses, organizations making progress

A proposed Denny’s received a commercial permit Sept. 6 as Halabu Development prepares to construct a 4,041-square-foot diner. The property is at 21195 N. John Wayne Parkway, near the southeast corner of the Smith-Enke Road intersection. The project is valued at \$532,644.

Permits continue to come in for the Edison Pointe development north of Fry’s Marketplace at 20595 N. John Wayne Parkway. Chasse Building Team received a commercial grant Aug. 23 for buildings A, B, C and D on the property for the project valued at \$7.5 million. Chasse was also granted a commercial permit Sept. 18 for Pad B of the ongoing construction at Edison Pointe. The Vintage Partners project will house Ross Dress for Less, Goodwill, Brakes Plus, Burger King, Dunkin Donuts and Planet Fitness among others.

DRH Construction is converting one sales office into a garage and converting another garage into a sales office. DR Horton had been using the garage space at 40733 W. Sanders Way as its sales office in Homestead North. As that returns to being a garage, the developers will create a sales office out of a garage at 18501 N. Crestview Lane in Glennwilde.

A new wireless communication facility is in the pre-application process on property at 19000 N. Porter Road. The project is listed as Coal Creek for T-Mobile.

Maricopa Lutheran Church, which currently has its services in Desert Wind Middle School, is in the pre-application stage of building on a parcel on the northwest corner of White and Parker Road and Santi Road (formerly Cowpath). Aug. 31, the property received a permit for a flow test for a fire line and hydrant.

Nearby, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church received a grading and drainage permit on its large property at 40929 Santi Road. The company in charge of the work, Ellison-Mills Contracting, received a delinquent notice on its out-of-town business license.



Tavern, school get ticked by health inspector

Out of 19 Maricopa eateries reviewed by Pinal County health inspectors, two received less-than-perfect scores.

At True Grit Tavern, the inspector did not observe hot holding control. And though food items were property date-marked, some items were seven days past the date.

Saddleback Elementary had several mini-sub sandwiches in which the meat was measured at higher than the 41-degree maximum. The inspector reviewed a better plan for making and storing sandwiches. Items in the salad bar were also at inconsistent temperatures, and the person in charges was requested to obtain other salad bar container units that would allow ice at the bottom and sides.

Both True Grit and Saddleback received satisfactory scores

EXCELLENT [No violations found]
Arby’s

- Central Arizona College — Café
- Central Arizona College — Culinary
- Desert Wind Middle School
- Domino’s Pizza
- Good Donuts
- Leading Edge Academy
- Little Caesar’s Pizza
- Panda Express
- Papa John’s Pizza
- Papa Murphy’s Pizza
- Pizza Hut
- Santa Cruz Elementary
- Sequoia Pathway Academy — K-6
- Sequoia Pathway Academy — Secondary
- Sonic Drive-In
- Tacos ‘N’ More

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- Saddleback Elementary
- True Grit Tavern

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

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

Business license applications

COMMERCIAL: Gyro Grill, Enke Nails & Spa, Maricopa Bright Starts Academy, Maricopa Shell, Maricopa Wells Veterinary Hospital

HOME-BASED: Bellissimo Lashes & Brows, Bolo Tie Cleaning Service, Derrick Wood, Designs by Sandra, Erik’s Mobile Mechanic, Evergreen Global Services, FS Artistic Concepts, Handy Man Services, Happy Eyes Visuals, Latin Chef, LuLaRoe Gina Wrenn, Top Dog Home Services

OUT OF TOWN: Ardeo Law Group, Benchmark Home Loans, Criterion Supply, Express Employment Services, Hemp Creations, Pacific Acoustics, Perspective O, RoadSafe Traffic, Scott Homes Development Company, Southface Solar Electric, Southwest Traffic Engineering, Vivint Inc., Walking M Farms

PEDDLER: Arizona Environmental Progress, ARM Security

Personnel matters

Feliz Leyba has been promoted to manager of Convention Services for Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino. She will be responsible for building the department from the ground up. This is a new position at Harrah’s Ak-Chin as a result of the casino’s multi-million-dollar expansion, which includes the new convention center with over 18,000 square feet of rentable space, an additional 230 guest rooms, a spa and fitness center, additional restaurants and a multi-level parking structure.



Feliz Leyba

Cassandra Brown joined the City of Maricopa as the Grants and Accounting coordinator. Brown comes from the San Juan County Government in Farmington, New Mexico, where she served as a grants accountant. She also has experience working with tribal governments and speaks fluent Navajo. Brown will be responsible for researching grant opportunities and working with various departments through the grant application, monitoring and reporting processes.



Cassandra Brown

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Don't undervalue your company's human resources

By Adam Saks

Why does a business that seems to be set for success fail? The answer is people — the No. 1 undervalued asset that every business has. Today's business environment is ever-changing. Millennials are the up-and-coming demographic that everyone is competing for. Millennials today are less concerned about your business plan and are more interested in your core values and mission statement. At the same time, when you look at some of the most successful companies of today, they share a common core — strong leaders with great vision who preach culture over economics. So, how do you function as a great leader and grow any organization's most precious asset? Make every decision what is best for the business.



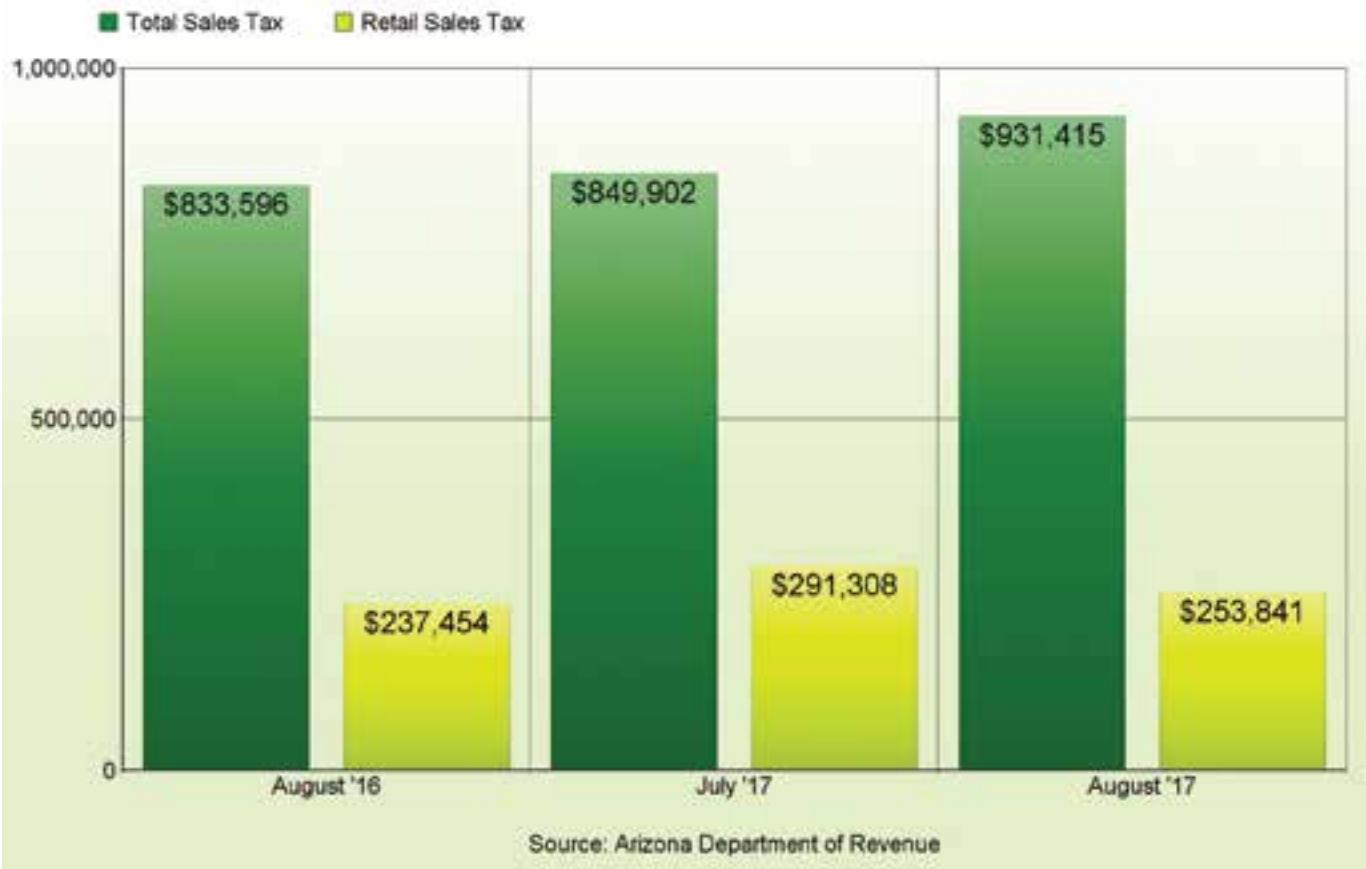
Adam Saks

When you're the leader of an organization, large or small, you are going to have different people with ideas, needs and strategies. Truly making others feel like you will listen and evaluate can be a great force for good. But making the best decision for the business is not always that easy. It takes careful consideration and ensuring you have all the facts. Many times, leaders can let their own personal wants or those of particular people guide their decisions. Ensuring you're not playing favorites and you are taking responsibility yourself are some of the strongest attributions of a leader. At the same time you are trying to make the best decisions you can, you have to develop a strong set of core values to guide you. Mission statements, vision statements and core values allow you to focus on desired outcomes and hopefully guide those working

with you. These values and expectations are what are going to create your culture. People want to feel good about their jobs, they want to be appreciated and hopefully enjoy coming to work. You can only develop that through an environment of inclusion and teamwork where people feel valued and their ideas are appreciated. This may all sound routine as one reads, but I can tell you from seeing many different companies, it can be very difficult to achieve. So, how to start. I believe it comes from an honest look in the mirror. Great leaders are not afraid of the tough questions and honest feedback. Meet with your team and ask open questions and then just listen. Not every idea will be great, not every request can be approved. But taking the time, looking at the strengths and opportunities you have, can help create that initial road map. From there, let a humble approach, a kind word and a strong presence guide your team.

Adam Saks is general manager of UltraStar Multi-tainment Center.

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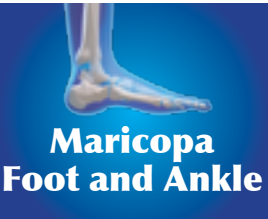


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RAM Academy
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MHS.MaricopaUSD.org

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520-568-6110
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MUSDNEWS

ACT Scores for Maricopa High School Released

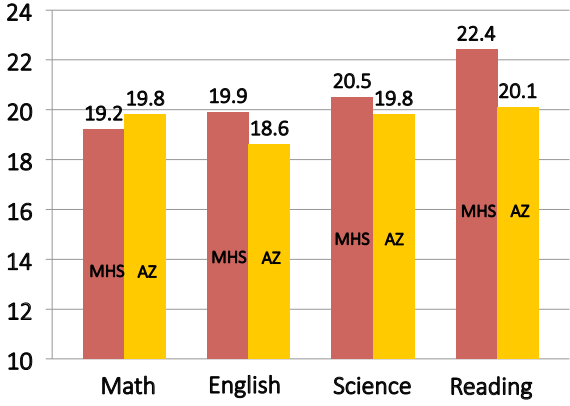
The 2017 ACT scores for Maricopa High School were released. MHS students scored above the state average on three of the four ACT tests — English, science and reading.

Students who are considering enrollment in higher education after high school take the ACT test as it is required by many colleges and universities as part of the admissions process. The ACT is designed to measure the skills needed for success in first year college courses.

“We are very excited that MHS students outperformed Arizona students on three of the four tests,” stated MHS Principal Renita Myers. “We were excited to have an all-time high number of students take the test. I think this increase in students taking the test is a good example of our continued academic improvement. Our teachers do an excellent job of preparing students for college and career.”

The staff at MHS works hard to help students plan for their future as

2017 ACT Scores at MHS



part of the college and career preparatory focus of the school. All ninth grade students take a year-long “College, Career and Technology” class where they develop a four-year plan for high school and a post-high school plan. The name of this plan is the “Education Career Action Plan” (ECAP) and it is a requirement for graduation.

MHS offers 11 Advanced Placement classes, and four Central Arizona College classes on the MHS campus during the day — English 101, English 102, Mathematics 121 and Mathematics 151.

Two years of free college tuition is available for qualified MHS graduates. The Central Arizona College Foundation sponsors the “Promise for the Future Scholarship” for graduates of Pinal County high schools that have signed and submitted a contract during their eighth grade year. Students must graduate from high school with at least a 2.75 GPA. Recipients receive four semesters of free tuition currently valued at \$5,160. ■

MUSD School Buses Get Stop-Arm Cameras

This summer the Maricopa Unified School District’s transportation department began installing stop-arm traffic cameras on ten different school buses.

Even though stop-arm cameras are not required in Arizona, the district decided to install cameras on 10 buses on high traffic bus routes. Parents expressed concerns about cars ignoring bus stop-arms while buses loaded and unloaded.

MUSD Transportation Department Director Fred H. Laguna stated, “This will send a message to parents and the community that we are working in conjunction with law enforcement to ensure the safety of our students. The cameras will be another tool for us to document violators.” ■



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

MUSD Showcased Again on ABC TV's 'Sonoran Living'

The Maricopa Unified School District was showcased on a recent Channel 15 ABC TV "Sonoran Living" segment.

Mayor Christian Price was interviewed and he talked about MUSD's investment in instructional technology for students, excellent extra-curricular programs, and the partnerships that MUSD has with many businesses. The segment also featured video of MHS English and social studies classrooms.

The segment was broadcast on Aug. 24. This video segment was part of a series of similar videos highlighting the excellent quality of life in Maricopa and is part of the marketing campaign by the Maricopa Economic Development Alliance.

There is a link to this video on the MUSD webpage, and the webpage of each MUSD school. ■



MUSD Recognized for Excellent Financial Management

The Maricopa Unified School District is well known for excellent financial management.

For 10 consecutive years, the district has received a "Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting" from the National Association of School Business Officials and the Government Finance Officers Association. This recognition is given each year because

MHS Junior Evan Grace Continues on Governor's Youth Commission

Gov. Ducey's Office of Youth, Faith and Family announced the appointment of the Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) class of 2017-18, with representation from all 15 counties.

Fifty-one high school sophomores, juniors and seniors were appointed and will play a vital role inspiring Arizona's youth to "take the lead" in their communities. The GYC has chosen to focus on substance abuse, bullying, teen dating violence, distracted driving, and

civics education in their respective counties.

For the second year in a row MHS junior Evan Grace has been appointed to serve on this prestigious commission. Evan will serve on the Substance Abuse Committee and has been appointed to the position of vice president. Evan is currently featured on the official GYC website for his recent honor of being the recipient of the Daily Point of Light Award from the President George H.W. Bush Foundation ■



MHS junior Evan Grace is again on the Governor's Youth Council.

the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report meets the highest standards of both national associations.

This is the highest form of recognition in the areas of school district accounting and financial reporting given by these two organizations.

At the Governing Board meeting on July 12, Director of Business Services Aron Rausch and the entire business department staff was congratulated and presented with both certificates. Many school districts in the state receive recognition from one of these organizations but only four or five school districts receive recognition from both. Mr. Rausch has been with the district since 2008. ■



Business Services Department is honored during a meeting of the MUSD governing board.



Senior Citizens Make Use of Santa Cruz Elementary

The Maricopa Senior Center recently had to move out of the Copa Center on Honeycutt Road to make way for the overpass project. On May 30, the seniors moved into their new home consisting of two classrooms at Santa Rosa Elementary School. Since Maricopa Unified School District and the City of Maricopa have an intergovernmental agreement, the school district does not charge the city rent for the use of this space. In return, the City of Maricopa provides school resource officers for MUSD's three secondary schools. ■

MHS Thespians Take on Leadership Roles

At the recent Arizona High School Drama Coach Convention, Maricopa High School drama teacher Cynthia Calhoun was elected to be one of two representatives working with the director for the Central Region of Arizona Thespians, which is a state chapter for the Educational Theatre Association and the International Thespian Society.



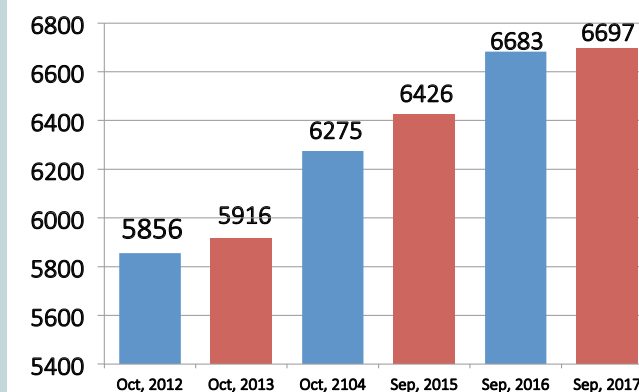
Pictured left to right: Ivie Keene, Ms. Calhoun, and Kjirsten Lemon.

Ms. Calhoun's responsibilities will be to coordinate and organize events, including the regional festival which qualifies high school students for national competition.

Two Maricopa High School students were also elected as Arizona State Thespian Officers: senior Ivie Keene and junior Kjirsten Lemon. These students will work with Ms. Calhoun to promote the development of thespians and thespian leaders throughout the state.

Ms. Calhoun stated: "This is a huge jump forward for our theatre program!" ■

9/8 – MUSD Enrollment Trend



MUSD Enrollment Hits a New High for September

Enrollment continues to grow in the Maricopa Unified School District. Sept. 1, enrollment hit an all-time high of 6,697. Enrollment has increased 2.8 percent on average over the last five years. The consulting firm Davis Demographics and Planning recently completed a "10 Year Student Population Projection Study" for the district. The study shows that MUSD is projected to grow to 7,400 students by the 2023-24 school year. ■

MHS ATHLETIC EVENTS OCTOBER

- Oct. 2**
Volleyball vs Sunnyslope @ Home @ 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m.
- Oct. 3**
Boys Golf @ Southern Dunes @ 3 p.m.
Volleyball vs Raymond Kellis @ Home @ 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m.
- Oct. 4**
Freshman Football vs Apollo @ Home @ 6 p.m.
- Oct. 5**
Girls Golf Invite @ Encanto 9 @ 1 p.m.
JV Football @ Apollo @ 6 p.m.
- Oct. 6**
Varsity Football Vs Apollo @ Home @ 7 p.m.
- Oct. 7**
Cross Country Invite @ Skunk Creek Wash @ 7 a.m.
- Oct. 9**
Girls Golf @ The Duke @ 3 p.m.
- Oct. 10**
Volleyball @ Ironwood @ 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m.
- Oct. 11**
Freshman Football @ Sunnyslope @ 6 p.m.
- Oct. 12**
JV Football vs Sunnyslope @ Home @ 6 p.m.
- Oct. 13**
Varsity Football @ Sunnyslope @ 7 p.m.
- Oct. 14**
Cross Country Invite @ Rio Rico @ 8:30 a.m.
- Oct. 16**
Boys Golf @ Ocotillo @ 3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 17**
Volleyball @ Sunnyslope @ 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m.
- **Oct. 18**
Freshman Football @ Raymond Kellis @ 6 p.m.
- Oct. 19**
Cross Country East Valley Championship Invite @ Desert Mt. Park
Volleyball @ Raymond Kellis @ 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m.
JV Football vs Raymond Kellis @ Home @ 6:00
- Oct. 20**
Volleyball Tournament @ Florence @ 8 a.m.
Varsity Football @ Raymond Kellis @ 7 p.m.
- Oct. 21**
Volleyball Tournament @ Florence @ 8 a.m.
- Oct. 23**
Boys Golf State Tournament @ Catalina Golf Course @ 10:30 a.m.
- Oct. 24**
Boys Golf State Tournament @ Sonoran Golf Course @ 7:30 a.m.
Volleyball vs McClintock @ Home @ 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. - Senior Night
- Oct. 25**
Freshman Football vs McClintock @ Home @ 6 p.m.
- Oct. 26**
JV Football @ McClintock @ Home @ 6 p.m.
- Oct. 27**
Cross Country Sectionals @ Crossroads Park TBA
Varsity Football @ McClintock @ 7 p.m. - Senior Night



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MHS Teacher named ACTE Teacher of the Year

At the 42nd annual Arizona Association of Career Technical Educators' Conference (ACTE AZ), Maricopa High School's marketing teacher Bernadette Russoniello, was named Teacher of the Year for the association.

Ms. Russoniello was honored for her contributions in the classroom, in the student career technical organization DECA, and for her considerable involvement in Career Technical Education Leadership across the state of Arizona.

Her list of accomplishments includes: growing a state/nationally recognized marketing program with more than 150 members, increasing recruitment and retention in the marketing program, producing more than 100 regional medalists and more than 30 international competitors, establishing community activities and partnerships, and standing out as a leader across her field.

Ms. Russoniello currently serves as the president of the Arizona Marketing Education Association, is a sophomore fellow for ACTE AZ concentrating in counseling and leadership, and is a National DECA certified trainer.

Ms. Russoniello represents MUSD at multiple state and national conferences on topics including project-based learning in the business and marketing classroom as well as sharing innovative ideas for program growth and retention. ■



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Water utility merger on November ballot

By Mason Callejas

Not all Maricopa residents are Global Water customers. Some who live in the old parts of town known as the Heritage District get their water from the Maricopa Domestic Water Improvement District.

Those residents will see an extra item on their Nov. 7 ballot.

Maricopa Domestic is seeking to absorb New Saddleback Vista Domestic Water Improvement District to help control rising rates for both utilities. New Saddleback's boundaries are at the northwest corner of Anderson and Steen roads.

Maricopa Domestic Manager Sara Sheehan said despite having a separate board, New Saddleback has been outsourcing management and operations to Maricopa Domestic since 2012. Maricopa Domestic was formed in 1986.

This year, Maricopa Domestic requested an increase in fees for its service, which sent New Saddleback on a search for a way to control costs.

"One of the things they proposed was to look into consolidation of the two districts," Sheehan said. "Since Maricopa already manages them, New Saddleback would take on the lower water rates of Maricopa Domestic and also the lower property tax rate for property owners."

New Saddleback currently charges a base rate of \$65 per meter (for the first 10,000 gallons), and a property tax rate of 7.68 percent. Maricopa Domestic charges a base rate of \$25 and a property tax of 3.36 percent.

If approved, Sheehan said, the merger will reduce rates significantly for New Saddleback customers by bringing their fee structure in line with Maricopa Domestic's. This move will also help keep Maricopa Domestic's rates low by adding customers. This doesn't, however, mean much of an increase in revenue.

"It's kind of a wash," Sheehan said. "Because the bills will be lower for Maricopa Domestic, we're also bringing in less money."

It's akin to broadening the base and lowering the rate, she said.


With more customers and only one company to manage, Sheehan said, there is also less overhead, which helps control cost. Insurance costs are a prime example of that, she said.



"If New Saddleback were to become part of Maricopa Domestic, Maricopa Domestic already pays for liability coverage of their board," Sheehan said. "So, there's a savings right off the bat of about \$750 just to bring all of the equipment under one policy."

There were two options for approval of the merger, Sheehan said. One was a petition with a simple majority of residents approving the measure. The other was to put the measure on a ballot.

She said Maricopa Domestic's board chose the latter to give more time for voters to educate themselves on the merger.

If the merger passes, Maricopa Domestic's three-member board will also add two seats to continue to provide representation for New Saddleback customers. 

Maricopa DWID Board Members:

Don Pearce, Chairman
Joe Hoover, Vice-Chair
Grace Gomez, Secretary/Treasurer

New Saddleback Vista DWID Board Members:

Dean Scott, Chairman
Stephen Clarke, Secretary/Treasurer.
Hazel Leyan Scott, Board Member
Chris Giles, Board Member
Robert Brazelton, Board Member



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Voters asked to open wallets for regional transportation

By Mason Callejas

Pinal County residents will have the opportunity to vote in November to approve a sales tax funding infrastructure improvements across the county.

For Maricopa, it could mean several direct improvements including additional lanes on major roads, including State Route 347, the securing of a right-of-way for the future Interstate 11 corridor, and public transportation expansion.

Proposition 417 would fund these projects with a half-cent county transportation excise (sales) tax. The revenue from Prop 417 would provide funding to the updated Regional Transportation Plan — Proposition 416 — which voters will also have the chance to approve in November.

The first phase of the transportation plan includes measures to widen State Route 347 to six lanes north of Maricopa and to create an “East-West Corridor” by widening Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and Val Vista Road to four lanes.

Revenue from Prop 417, which officials are estimating to be \$641 million over its 20-year lifespan, will be exacted on any business transaction involving the sale of “tangible personal property” in Pinal County.

There is, however, a limitation built into the tax.

The 0.5 percent tax would only be applied to the first \$10,000 of income from any given item.

For example, if you purchase a car for \$12,000, \$2,000 of that would not be subject to the tax since a vehicle is considered a singular item. If you purchase another vehicle for \$10,000 and then add \$2,000 worth of accessories all \$12,000 would be subject to the tax since additions are typically considered separate items.

Maricopa City Councilmember Nancy Smith said she rarely supports tax increases, but she will consider it if it meets three criteria: A rigid timeline, voter approval and specified purpose.

Smith said she supports both Propositions 416 and 417.

“I can’t help but say we have to stand up and help ourselves and apply this half-cent tax, which is equivalent to \$88 per family per year,” Smith said.

Pinal County Public Works Director Andrew Smith said it’s important to note these issues will be on a special mail-in ballot only. Last year, he said, when the issue was first poised to be on the ballot, there was some concern with the length of the ballot given the nature of the general election and all the other propositions it contained.

Supporters are working against a “no new taxes” mindset among several Maricopans as well as cynicism about the cooperation of Maricopa County and Gila River Indian Community in widening SR 347 all the way to I-10.

Andrew Smith said he appreciates the concerns specific



Ten years ago the rush-hour traffic problem on State Route 347 was already evident.



Jonathan Williams

Morning commuter traffic has only increased as more people move to Maricopa.

communities have about the tax and transportation plan and how it affects them directly. However, they should have a macro view of this plan, which will improve the quality of life for everyone who does business, has a job, owns property or lives in Pinal County.

“Try and look at it as a resident of Pinal County,” Andrew Smith said. “How do you get around? You do go to Maricopa County, you do go to Pima county, so this establishes a regional plan that will enhance the whole county and improve economic development.”

On a much longer timeline, the transportation plan is further considering the potential path of Interstate 11, which Pinal County hopes to bring into its boundaries, just west of Maricopa. Revenue from the tax will help preserve county rights-of-way in the area that could eventually give Maricopa direct access to the major highway.

“What I like about that being on the RTA is that it says our county is looking to influence I-11 and where it comes,” Nancy Smith said. “If we don’t have the money to secure the purchase of right-of way, then our chances become much slimmer at becoming part of that road, so I love that we’re planning ahead in that aspect.”

The Regional Transportation Plan also includes measures to improve public transportation by funding rapid transit services and expanding current transit services such as Park and Ride, Dial-A-Ride and Maricopa’s COMET.

Eligible voters should automatically receive ballots by mail. Voters can confirm they are on the mailing list by calling the Pinal County Elections Office at 520-866-7550.

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Maricopa Flood Control District election faces new obstacles

By Mason Callejas

A local flood control authority is reconciling changes to state election laws as its October special-election approaches.

The Maricopa Flood Control District is holding a special election Oct. 4 to fill the seat of board member Owen Kelly, whose term is expiring this year. However, recent changes to election regulations are already having a bearing on the outcome.

Prior to Jan. 1, 2016, it was acceptable for representatives of businesses and trusts who own land in the flood protection district to cast ballots in those special elections. Now, the law has changed to allow only property owners to cast ballots.

As a result of the changes, the MFCD states, “representatives of trusts, corporations, partnerships and estates that owned property within the district became ineligible to vote in district elections.”

Likewise, only members of the eligible

electorate are allowed to run for positions on the board. This means Kelly, as a non-property owner, is not allowed to defend his seat.

“It’s complicated,” said Dan Frank, president of MFCD. “I’m not happy about it. My property is in trust, and I can’t vote in this election even though I am president of the board.”

Candidates for Kelly’s seat are Scott Kelly and Bob Marsh.

MCFD Manager David Alley is concerned about how the limitations are potentially disenfranchising people who pay property taxes, whether through a trust or business, who are now ineligible to vote.

“If you own property in the town, you’re supporting the flood district through your property taxes so you should be able to vote and you should be able to run,” Alley said.

The change happened, Alley said, because a law that guaranteed those types of taxpayers

the right to vote expired and state lawmakers didn’t have to forethought to replace it.

Alley said the district is in the process of coordinating with other flood control authorities and state legislators to get the law fixed before the next election cycle in 2019.

The decision is a “no-brainer,” he said alluding to the fact that he couldn’t foresee any opposition to a legislative fix. But, he added, “you never know, because with politics anything can happen.”

 **MaricopaFCD.com**

MEET THE CANDIDATES

SCOTT KELLY

Occupation: Senior design engineer at Electrical District No. 3

Years in Maricopa: 49

Why are you running for this office? My interest in the vacant seat on the Maricopa Flood Control District Board stems from

a genuine interest in future development in the Maricopa area both personally and professionally. My position at ED3 is directly related to residential and commercial

progress. It would be of great value for me to have knowledge and participation with on-going expansion.

What in your background qualifies you for this office? I am a lifelong resident of Maricopa. I graduated from Maricopa High School in 1986 and continued my education at the University of Arizona graduating in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics. I strongly feel that my lifelong residency and ongoing employment in the Maricopa area make me an ideal candidate.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing the district and how do you propose the board should overcome that challenge? it is important to me that development progresses with minimal negative impact on the residents and businesses throughout our community.



BOB MARSH

Occupation: Retired engineer and manager

Years in Maricopa: 7 (Years in Arizona: 25)

Why are you running for this office? The responsibility of the MFCD Board is to maintain the Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa washes through the city of Maricopa and the rest of the

district south of the city. That job involves engineering, financial management, contracts management, and project management. In my career, I’ve worked in all these areas, and I feel

I can do a good job for the district.

What in your background qualifies you for this office? I’m an MIT graduate engineer, and have worked for several decades solving problems and managing projects for major companies and government agencies.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing the district and how do you propose the board should overcome that challenge?

I see the main challenge to be the ongoing maintenance needed in the washes, dealing with the invasive and rapid growth of salt cedars and other bushes and trees and continued erosion of the channel banks from water washing in from neighboring subdivisions. This challenge should be handled with frequent inspections of all channels, businesslike project bid and proposal practices, and follow-up inspections. If the channels — especially the bridges under the railroad and under SR238 — get clogged with plants, trees, and trash, then when we do get a flood, the water could back up and potentially to serious damage to homes and property. The MFCD Board is a small board with a small budget and a very limited job to do, but staying on top of the job of keeping the channels clear is important to homeowners, business, and farms in the district. In this election, we are fortunate to have two capable and qualified candidates running, both with engineering backgrounds, and I feel that whoever wins the open board seat, the district will be well-served.

2017 Voting Requirements

- You must be a registered voter in Arizona.
- You must own property within MFCD boundaries, and your individual name must be listed on the property deed.
- The taxes on that property must be paid and current.

Ballots can be cast in person Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the clubhouse at Villages at Rancho El Dorado, 20991 N. Butterfield Parkway.



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Mayor to highlight citizen achievements at State of the City address

By Mason Callejas

Packed with humor and spontaneity, the State of the City Address is about more than the city giving itself a pat on the back.

Mayor Christian Price said it's about knowledge and understanding, and nobody ever said learning had to be dull.

"I want it to be more than just a boring speech," Price said about the engaging experience the State of the City Address offers. "I want it to be entertaining and educational, and I want people to walk away feeling enriched and understanding what their city is doing on their behalf."

The typical attendee can expect the city to highlight some of its recent and ongoing accomplishments, such as the July groundbreaking at Edison Pointe, the city's recent legal victories relating to the planned Apex Motor Club, and the November groundbreaking on the long-awaited State



Mayor Christian Price is set to give the State of the City address Oct. 4.

Route 347 overpass project.

Th 2017 address is themed "Overcoming Obstacles." Along with highlighting some of the recent obstacles the city has overcome,

Price said the address will focus on several members of the community who have overcome obstacles of their own.

He wouldn't say who, but he did say their stories are special and residents should come out if not to learn about local government, then to at least learn something about their neighbors.

The mayor also plans to discuss some of the more tedious aspects of city government.

"One of the things I like to highlight is what is being done behind the scenes that people don't often see," Price said. "I think people should know where their money is going."

He also plans to discuss a few of the city's newer cost-saving measures and how they are preparing for the future of Maricopa.

The State of the City Address will be at Maricopa City Hall, Oct. 4, at 6 p.m. and can be viewed live on the city website.

Maricopa-AZ.gov

TIRED OF TOO MUCH OF THIS ON THE 347?

November 7th is the best opportunity we'll ever have to widen the way into and out of Maricopa. Among the many new roads and freeways included in Propositions 416 and 417, a comprehensive new plan to improve traffic in Pinal County, is the expansion of Highway 347 from four to six lanes.

Maricopa will directly benefit in other ways too, such as the new 21-mile, four-lane East-West Corridor between Maricopa and Casa Grande, and another alternative to avoid I-10.



There are many other transportation benefits that will help Maricopa residents too, and all for the cost of just 24 cents per day for the average household. Read it all at YesOn416And417.com.

Supported by Maricopa Mayor Christian Price, the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce and a large, bi-partisan group of community leaders in Maricopa and throughout Pinal County we hope you too will vote to improve your quality of life on November 7th.

*Look for your ballot in the mail in mid-October.

YES!
416 & 417

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YesOn416And417.com



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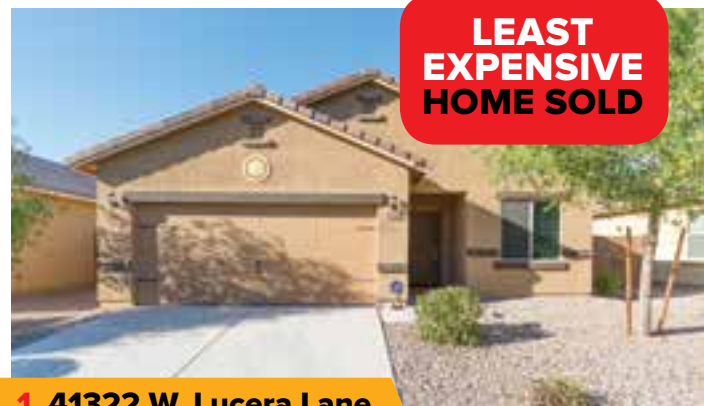




**MOST
EXPENSIVE
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1. 43335 W. Little Drive

Mason Callejas



**LEAST
EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD**

1. 41322 W. Lucera Lane

Mason Callejas

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa Aug. 16-Sept. 15 was an LGI home in Glennwilde. Listed as a short-sale, it sold for \$6,500 under the asking price. The three-bedroom, 4-year-old house is 1,393 square feet on a 5,457-square-foot lot. It was previously listed in 2015 for \$160,900.

Sold: Aug. 24
Purchase price: \$121,000
Square feet: 1,393
Price per square foot: \$86.86
Days on market: 122
Builder: LGI Homes
Year built: 2013
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2

Community: Glennwilde
Features: Reverse osmosis, full master suite, built-in microwave, two-car garage
Seller's agent: Coree Adams, The Maricopa Real Estate Company
Buyer's agent: Bryan C. Adams, The Maricopa Real Estate Company

- 2. 37167 W. Mondragone Lane, Sorrento, \$136,900**
- 3. 36553 W. Pampoloma Ave., Tortosa, \$139,000**
- 4. 46156 W. Barbara Lane, Maricopa Meadows, \$143,500**
- 5. 41368 W. Parkhill Drive, The Lakes, \$145,000**

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa Aug. 16-Sept. 15 has been called "the castle" by neighbors and is noted as one of the most luxurious in town. It backs up to The Duke golf course and includes an RV and three-car garage. The house first sold in 2004 for \$313,000 and then dove to \$177,000 in 2011 before doubling its value in 2012 to \$370,000. Its sale price this year is another 23-percent improvement.

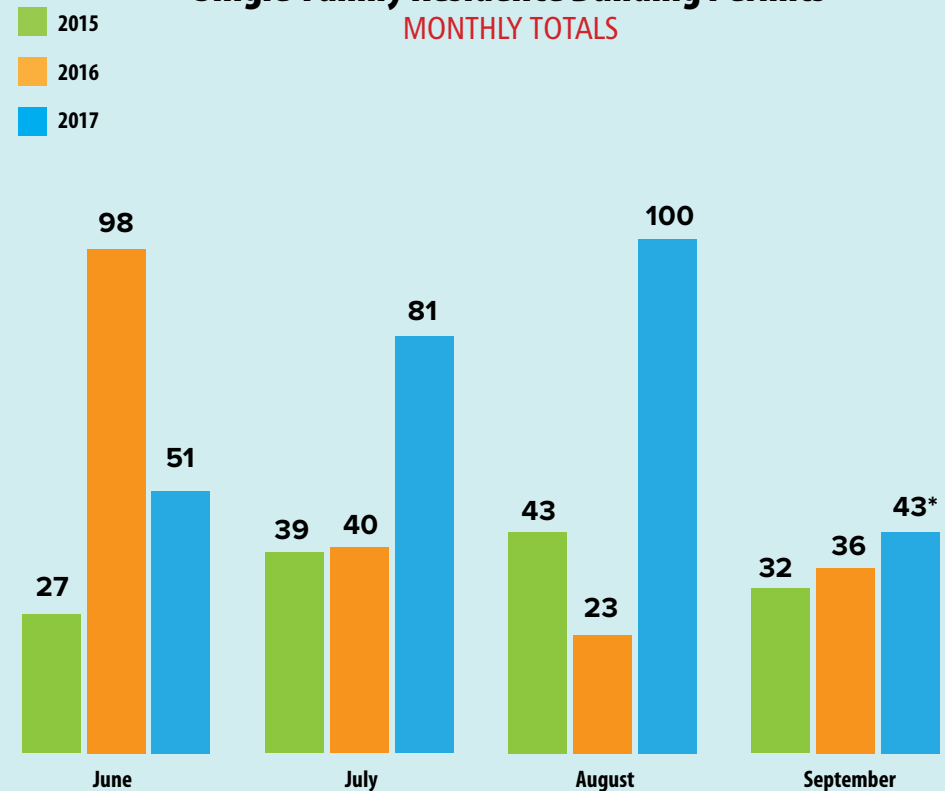
Sold: Sept. 15
Purchase price: \$455,000
Square feet: 2,851
Price per square foot: \$159.59
Days on market: 133
Builder: Hacienda
Year built: 2003
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 2.5
Community: Rancho El Dorado
Features: Tons of custom features, from knotty elder doors and roman blinds to a granite table named "The Continent" and an outdoor pergola with a heated pool and pebble tech spa.
Seller's agent: Peter Ashjian, Ahwatukee Realty
Buyer's agent: Mary Ann Toohey, The Maricopa Real Estate Company

- 2. 20470 N. Lauren Road, Homestead North, \$375,000**
- 3. 22265 N. Van Loo Drive, Rancho El Dorado, \$332,000**
- 4. 19500 N. Lariat Road, Glennwilde, \$320,000**
- 5. 44544 W. Granite Drive, Cobblestone Farms, \$304,000**

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

Single-Family Residence Building Permits

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Source: City of Maricopa

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Submitted

Snakes: Garden friend or foe?

By Barb Christensen

Are snakes friend or foe in the garden? You decide for yourself. These legless creatures live almost everywhere in Arizona. Snakes primarily live in the open desert or mountainous areas away from people, but what happens when we push our city boundaries closer toward outlying desert areas? Western diamondback and Mojave rattlesnakes are the most common of the venomous variety in our area, but they are almost never deadly to humans if we can get treatment right away. In fact, less than 1 percent of rattlesnake bites results in death in our



Barb Christensen

state, according to the Arizona Poison Center. For the most part, all snakes just want to be left alone to bask in the sun or to hibernate. However, it is best not to make assumptions about the benevolence of any snake. Many non-poisonous snakes such as the California kingsnake, Sonoran gopher snake, desert night snake, whip snake, coachwhip snake, the tiny ground snake and various kinds of garter snakes also inhabit our environs. Some of these non-venomous snakes even prey on rattlesnakes. As an example, by turning a rattlesnake into its own tasty meal, the common kingsnake helps to control the venomous snake population. All snakes can help in our gardens by eliminating unwanted rodents that cause havoc and eat our produce. Mice, rats and gophers are known to carry deadly diseases and viruses. Hantavirus, salmonella, rat bite fever, typhus, plague and Lyme disease are easily transmitted by these rodent pests. If left undiagnosed, any one of these diseases or viruses can be fatal, especially for children. Snakes aren't for everyone, obviously, and there are measures you can take to protect yourself and your property. A good line of defense is a snake fence around any open areas. Also, make sure to trim around the bottom of your bushes 1-2 feet. Pick up any dead branches, leaves, trash or other debris from the yard or porch, eliminating places for snakes to hide. Fill in gopher holes, as snakes like to move into vacant holes to get out of the heat or to hibernate. Even if you decide snakes are beneficial and your friend, you may choose to lessen the chances of encountering one by building raised garden beds rather than in-ground beds. And, if you find an unwanted creepy-crawly in your garden, please do not attempt to remove it yourself. Instead, phone a professional. They will remove the snake, placing it back into its natural

habitat. No matter what you decide about the benefits or dangers of snakes, enjoy your garden and be happy! Contact a Master Gardener at Maricopa Agricultural Center at 520-374-6263 or macmastergardener@gmail.com. Our diagnostic office at the MAC is open Monday—Friday from 9 a.m. to noon to assist you with your gardening issues.

Barb Christensen is a Master Gardener and a resident of Maricopa.



Submitted

The poisonous diamondback rattlesnake (left) and the nonpoisonous garter snake are not surprising guests in Maricopa gardens.

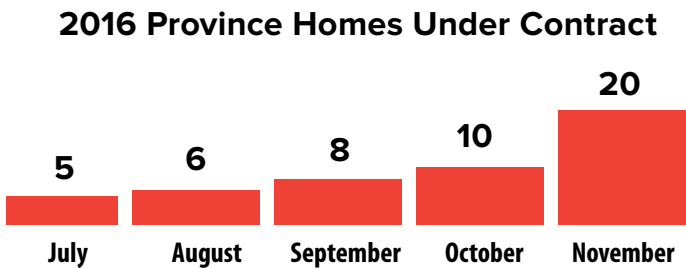
Expect housing market to cool off as days cool down

By Dayv Morgan

The end of summer brings with it the cooling of the Maricopa housing market. The affordable housing in the city makes it a popular location for new families who try to plan their purchases toward the end of the school year so they can move over the summer break. Generally, things tend to slow down slightly in the fall after school starts and we get closer to the holidays. Between October and December 2016, the median sold price decreased each month by \$1,000. Many anticipate a large demand from winter visitors or Canadians purchasing during these months. While this may be true in one local subdivision, the overall market tends to be slightly down as autumn also marks a time of year when houses take longer to sell. Houses sat on the market for the longest amount of time last year during December at an average of nearly 82 days. October came in second at almost 80 days. The number of listings that went under contract in 2016 was lowest in December and highest in March.



Dayv Morgan



Province is often the exception to the trends. The retirement community is usually slow in the summer, but sees an uptick in activity in the fall when winter visitors make their way into the city.

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From left to right: Jared Hatchard, Community Pharmacy Operations Manager, Kenny Leutz, Pharmacy Manager- Florence, Matthew Bertsch, Director of Pharmacy on University of Arizona College of Pharmacy Graduation day 2017

Pharmacists in Rural Communities

By Matthew Bertsch, Director of Pharmacy
Sun Life Family Health Center

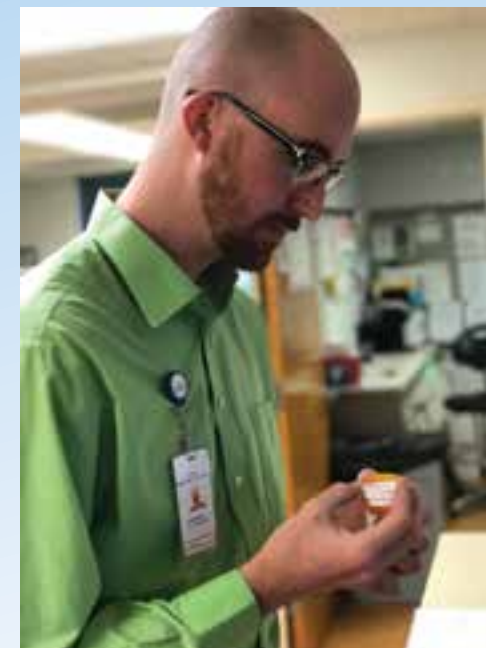
Giving back to the communities that we work in is extremely fulfilling. When hiring for rural healthcare, one needs to find someone who is dedicated and passionate, and strives to make the community a healthier place. Recruiting and retaining great employees is of the utmost importance to the success of an organization embedded in rural healthcare. We at Sun Life hired Kenny Leutz onto our pharmacy team in November of 2015. Kenny was one of our first true “home-grown” Pharmacy Managers. We trained Kenny from Intern through Pharmacist and now we are preparing him for his role as Pharmacy Manager at our site in Florence. As is the case with many pharmacists graduating from pharmacy schools around the nation, there is the desire to spread the message that pharmacists, in general, are more than meets the eye. The career is no longer just about filling and looking at prescriptions and medications. The career

is focused on patient safety, and making certain that patients leave our hands with the best possible outcomes.

Kenny Leutz answered the following questions regarding pharmacists and patient care.

How can a pharmacist improve patient care?

“Pharmacists can play an important role in providing comprehensive health care to every patient that they have. Pharmacists verify that appropriate medications are prescribed to patients, free from dosing errors, serious drug-drug interactions and drug-disease interactions. Additionally, patients need to be counseled on how to take medications correctly. Having the right medication prescribed means nothing if the patient is not educated on when medications should be taken, how they should be taken, and signs that the medication can be harmful instead of helpful.



Kenny verifies prescriptions during his training as a staff pharmacist at the Casa Grande location

What do community health centers mean to rural healthcare?

“Community health centers are extremely important to residents of rural communities mainly because access to health care is so limited. Many residents of rural Arizona lack health care coverage, have lower than average income, lack physical access to health care facilities, and have no supplemental support that is needed to live a healthy lifestyle. Community health centers

are essential to help bridge this gap in care to underserved communities by providing primary and preventive care, health education, mental health, pediatric, dental, and pharmacy services among others.”

What do you see in your future?

“I see myself continuing to work in rural communities providing quality, comprehensive health care. I feel that I can play a larger role in rural communities due to the limited number of providers and resources that are available”.

Pharmacy, in general, is so much more than meets the eye. It is the assistance with over-the-counter medications, education of the patient at the time of prescription pickup and the friendliness of the familiar face when patients visit regularly that is expected of pharmacists. What is rarely seen is the work behind the scenes, the constant communication with providers, ensuring proper medication dosages, and the careful preparation of prescriptions that often pharmacists do not get recognized for. We, as pharmacists, take pride in the quality of care that we offer patients.

For questions regarding Sun Life’s pharmacy services or any of our 13 locations please call Sun Life Family Health Center at 520-836-3446 or visit our website at www.sunlifefamilyhealth.org.

Know your Pharmacist

TIP
OF THE
MONTH

Get to know your Pharmacist on a first name basis to be engaged and better understand your health and well-being. Never be afraid to ask your Pharmacist a question. No appointment needed. #OneSmallChange



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Danielle Jennings, WHNP-BC



Dr. Bianca Smith, DO



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The skinny on fish oil

By Aaron Gilbert

What is fish oil? Fish oil is, well, oil from fish. It's rich in two groups of omega-3 fatty acids known as docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA). DHA and EPA, along with alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), found in things like flax and walnuts, fall under the subheading of omega-3 fatty acids. EPA and DHA are often cited as being the beneficial components of fish oil. EPA and DHA originate in algae, which is the base of the food chain for fish. Fish consume algae and thus concentrate high amounts of the beneficial fats.

Why is fish oil so important?

Overall health

Omega-3's are very important to cardiovascular function, nervous system function and

brain development, and immunity health. Research shows low DHA consumption (and blood levels) is associated with memory loss, difficulty concentrating, Alzheimer's disease and mood problems.



Aaron Gilbert

Cell membranes

Essential fats play an integral role in promoting cell health. Human cells have a fatty membrane (lipid bilayer) that is semi-permeable. It regulates what gets into the cell and what goes out of it. The fluidity of cell membranes depends on the fatty acid composition of the diet.

Metabolic health

Finally, DHA and EPA can increase metabolism by increasing levels of enzymes that boost calorie-burning ability.

Omega-3 to omega-6 ratio

It's easy for us to get omega-6 fatty acids. These are found in plant oils and factory-raised



animals, which are fed a lot of corn and soy. But it's hard for people in western countries to get omega-3 fats from dietary sources. We eat a lot more processed foods and a lot less wild game and plants than our ancestors did. And we don't usually eat things like snails and insects, which are also high in omega-3, like are common in diets elsewhere in the world. We rely heavily now on omega-6 vegetable oils.

What you should know

We can't make omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids in our bodies, so we need to get them from our diets.

Recommendations

1. Aim for 3-9 daily grams of total fish oil (about 1-3 grams of EPA + DHA) per day from a supplement company that doesn't contribute directly to the depletion of fish (e.g., they use primarily fish discards).
2. Look for small-fish-based formulations (e.g. herring, mackerel). Small fish are lower on the food chain and less likely to accumulate environmental toxins. Or choose krill oil or algae oil.
3. Avoid cod liver oil.
4. Avoid trans fats; they can interfere with EPA & DHA in the body.

Limit consumption of corn, cottonseed and sunflower oil (omega-6-rich vegetable oils), which negatively alter your fatty acid ratio.

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

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Personal Emergency/Disaster Planning for the Elderly

By Sheriolyn Curry Lasley, MDiv

You and/or your family could be anywhere when disaster strikes. Sometimes warning is available, and sometimes it isn't. Recent natural disasters have caught my attention — mudslides in Sierra Leone; hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding in Texas; wild fires in California — and according to news reports, others on the way. As I view pictures of elderly men and women sitting in wheelchairs waist deep in water, waiting for help because they are unable to help themselves, my heart breaks, and I am compelled to ask this question: What preparations have you made if disaster should strike?

The elderly have particular needs that should be considered. Provision for assistive devices such as wheelchairs and walkers, hoysers and lifts, sight or hearing issues the

individual may face require forethought and should be included in a personalized disaster plan. Other things to consider are: How will you evacuate, if needed? Where is the nearest shelter? Who will assist you? Do you have pets, and how will they be cared for?



Rev. Sheriolyn Curry

To make the transition during a disaster more bearable, it is recommended that everyone should have an emergency bag readily available, which at a minimum should include:

- Prescriptions, and non—prescription medications (such as pain relievers); and a list of medications.
- A complete change of clothes and personal care items.
- Assistive devices, including eyeglasses, hearing aids.

- Contact list. Family? Neighbor? Caregiver?
- Copies of a government issued ID, credit cards, and some cash on hand. A very practical idea is to keep these items in a waterproof container and in a place easy to grab when needed.
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, bank records, and wills.

If you have elderly family members or neighbors who live alone, include them as part of your planning. Get their contact information. Check on them periodically. After all, we are all in this together, and nothing shows that more than when we pull together in the wake of a disaster.

Comfort Keepers is locally owned and operated by Sheriolyn Curry, MDiv, CSA. Serving Maricopa and surrounding areas for over 10 years, we create personalized care plans that are convenient for every budget. Call us today! 480-659-9201. Or Email us at MaricopaAZ@ComfortKeepers.com.

Simplifying Medicare's open enrollment

By Joan Koczor

Open enrollment in Medicare begins Oct. 15.

On July 30, 1965, as an amendment to the Social Security Act of 1935, President Lyndon B. Johnson made Medicare law by signing H.R. 6675 in Independence, Missouri. Former President Harry S. Truman was enrolled as Medicare's first beneficiary and received the first Medicare card. Johnson wanted to recognize Truman, who, in 1945, became the first president to propose national health insurance, an initiative opposed by Congress at the time.

Medicare is a single-payer, national, social insurance program administered by the federal government. Coverage for this program became effective in 1966. Some 19 million people enrolled in Medicare when it went into effect in 1966

Many people are already enrolled in Medicare, and many of you may be eligible for coverage beginning in 2018.

To better understand what open enrollment is about — before you make any major changes to your existing coverage — here are a few of the plans offered:

Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) Costs. Most people don't pay a Part A premium because they paid Medicare taxes while working. If you don't get premium-free Part A, you pay up to \$413 each month.

Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) Costs. The standard Part B premium amount in 2017 is \$134 (or higher depending on your income). Most people who get Social Security benefits pay less than this because the Part B premium increased more than the cost-of-living increase for 2017 Social Security benefits. If you pay your Part B premium through your monthly Social Security benefit, you pay less (\$109 on average). Social Security will tell you the exact amount of your Part B premium.

Medicare Advantage Plan or Part C. If you have Medicare Advantage or Part C, take a few minutes to review your coverage as plan benefits can change year to year. Before open enrollment begins, you should receive an Annual Notice of Change, which provides any changes in your Medicare Advantage plan's cost, benefits, provider network and other rules as they apply to the coming year. At this time, you can change plans or switch back to Medicare Part A and Part B. Keep in mind if you do switch back, consider a Medicare Supplement to cover what Medicare doesn't.

Medicare Advantage Plan or Part D. At this time, you can switch your Part D or Medicare Advantage Plan. Also at this time you



should receive an Annual Notice of Change. Please review it carefully as drug formularies can change each year. A drug covered in 2016 may not be covered in 2017.

If you are satisfied with your current Medicare coverage you need to do nothing. However, at this time you can explore what other coverages are available and if they better serve your needs.

A trained — and trusted — insurance professional can provide detailed information about the Medicare plans available, answer any questions or concerns you may have and explain other options that may work better for you.

Information is out there — just ask or go online.



Joan Koczor

📞 Medicare2017.org, Medicare.gov

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Medicare or Medicare Advantage

Medicare Advantage plans (sometimes called Medicare Part C) are offered by private insurance companies as an alternative to traditional Medicare. Their insurance benefits cover the same services as traditional Medicare Part A and B, but some plans also offer prescription drug coverage (Part D). Medicare Advantage plans may have slightly different (usually lower) costs and out-of-pocket expenses; some plans charge an additional premium. Access is often more restricted because these are HMO or PPO plans, i.e. you may not be able to see all providers under a Medicare Advantage plan that you can under Medicare. First-time enrollees are automatically enrolled in traditional Medicare but may choose to switch to a Medicare Advantage plan at the time of enrollment or annually after that.

	Medicare	Medicare Advantage
Overview	Medicare in the U.S. is an insurance program that primarily covers seniors ages 65 and older and disabled individuals of any age who qualify for Social Security. It also covers those of any age with end-stage renal disease.	Medicare Advantage, sometimes known as Part C, is a private insurance alternative that replaces “Original Medicare” Parts A and B. Some Medicare Advantage plans even cover prescription, or Medicare Part D.
Type of program	Government-run	Private
Eligibility	Regardless of income, anyone turning 65 can enroll in Medicare so long as they paid into Medicare/Social Security funds. People of any age with severe disabilities and end-stage renal disease are also eligible.	To be eligible for a Medicare Advantage plan, a potential subscriber must already be eligible for Original Medicare, pay the monthly Part B premium, and not have end-stage renal disease.
Services Covered	Routine and emergency care, hospice, family planning, some substance and smoking cessation programs. Limited dental and vision.	Everything covered by Original Medicare. Also often covers prescription drugs and may cover dental, vision and hearing. May have special preventive care coverage, like gym membership.
Cost to Enrollees	Part A costs nothing for those who paid Medicare taxes for 10 years or more (or had a spouse who did). Part B in costs \$109 per month for most on Social Security. Part D costs vary, usually around \$30 per month. Medicare Advantage costs vary.	Must pay Original Medicare’s Part B premium, plus — usually — a monthly Medicare Advantage premium (approx. \$30-\$65). Likely required to pay a copay to visit a doctor. Coinsurance costs vary.

Source: Medigap.com

JOIN in

On a school principal placed on leave:

Mika-Anne Davis Can you believe this?!? Mr. Abel is the best principal in Maricopa!! This is beyond insane. There is something completely wrong with the leadership of MUSD when they put Mr. Abel on leave and allow the High School to be run in such a manner where professionalism is thrown out the window and zero accountability for job performance. So ridiculous! I hope parents start speaking up.


Gerard Hahn I have been in the district for 11 years and known him for that long and Rick Abel is the best Principal this district has. I anxiously await his return. I would do anything to support him.






Allie Krigbaum Love Mr. Abel! One of the best there is. Can't wait for his return...in the meantime, “Go Panthers” as he would say.

Jen Schrader Mr. Abel has been the most involved and supportive principal we've encountered in or out of the District. He has quietly made sure “every child is known” without advertising it. Hopefully Mr. Abel will return to MWMS soon rejuvenated and ready to resume the incredible leadership he has shown in this District. Similarly, hopefully parents will take responsibility for their part in assuring that their children are ready to learn on campus and responsible for their actions while they are there.


Kathie Bitner I removed my daughter last year because he chose to sweep it under the rug! The bullying was happening on the bus the cameras captured it all. Nothing was done about it. Not surprised but should have happened sooner in my opinion!






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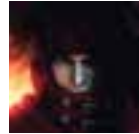




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Trending

inMaricopa.com

- 1

Ariz. Supreme Court denies appeal against Maricopa, Apex
- 2

Principal on leave in MWMS administrative shakeup
- 3

Chandler PD searches for robbery suspect in Rancho El Dorado
- 4

MHS Rams coast to Homecoming victory over North Canyon
- 5

Peñascos owner says closure ‘a legal issue’
- 6

P&Z gives nod to plans for Circle K
- 7

Car fire that caused injury investigated as arson
- 8

MCSO: Fatal crash caused by passing in oncoming traffic

For these stories and more local news 24/7, visit **InMaricopa.com.**

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SPOTLIGHTS





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Things to do

October Calendar

1

Narcotics Anonymous

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

2

Grief Chat

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

Maricopa Historical Society Meeting

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

SPA Volleyball v. Heritage-Laveen

5:30 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19265 N. Porter Road

MHS Volleyball v. Sunnyslope

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

3

Coffee with Friends of the Maricopa Library

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

MHS Boys' Golf

3 p.m., Ak-Chin Southern Dunes
48456 W. Hwy. 238

Celebrate Recovery Coffee & Karaoke

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

Maricopa City Council Work Session

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

MHS Volley v. Raymond S. Kellis

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

Maricopa City Council Regular Session

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

4

Babytime

9:30 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Harrah's Club 777 Toastmasters

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

Sequoia Pathway Boys' Soccer v. PCA

4:30 p.m., Pacana Park
19000 N. Porter Road

Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting

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

State of the City Address

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

AWANA

6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of Maricopa
18705 N. John Wayne Parkway

5

Movers & Shakers

9:30 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Li'l Explorers

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

SPA Volleyball v. Desert Heights

7 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19265 N. Porter Road



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The photo contest Maricopa Shutter Shots is the only city-sponsored event left of Stagecoach Days. The community is asked to create activities of its own.

Stagecoach Days in community’s hands

By Michelle Chance

Maricopa’s two-week celebration of its history and heritage will sink or swim on the efforts of community members. Once the community’s biggest annual event, Stagecoach Days has had difficulty maintaining its existence. In its heyday, before incorporation, Stagecoach Days events were organized by community members and local organizations. Events included stagecoach rides, a barbecue, a community dance and much more. As events dried up, city staff tried to carry on the tradition with attempts at a variety of events. Due to low interest in previous years, Special Events & Marketing Manager Niesha Whitman said the city will not hold a large Stagecoach event nor Pecan Pride, but will instead focus its autumn efforts on the large holiday celebration, Merry Copa. The one Stagecoach Days event the city will sponsor is the annual photo contest Shutter Shots on Oct. 15 from midnight to 11:59 p.m., however. “It’s a good time for families to get out and enjoy the weather cooling down. It’s an opportunity to do some fun and exciting things,” Whitman said. The purpose of the Maricopa Shutter Shots Digital Photo Contest is to capture a typical day in the life of Maricopa in 2017, to be saved in the city’s archives. Winners will be put on display at the library Oct. 21-28. Learn more at Maricopa-AZ.gov/Web/Shutter-Shots. For residents and organizations that wish to create a Stagecoach Days event or two, the time set aside for Stagecoach Days is Oct. 9-23. Event organizers can email specialevents@maricopa-az.gov to request promotion by the city. Autumn in Maricopa will see other events including the annual Mud Run on Oct. 28 at Copper Sky and the return of the Second Saturday Market in November.

Things to do

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

6
CPR & First Aid Basic
5:30 p.m., Copper Sky
Multigenerational Center
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr.
Blvd.

MHS Football v. Apollo
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

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

7
Old Fashioned Hymn Sing
7 p.m., Maricopa Community
Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

8
Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., Maricopa Community
Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

9-13
Fall Break Fun & Fitness Camp
1 p.m., Copper Sky
Multigenerational Center
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr.
Blvd.

9
Grief Chat
11 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

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

10
**Coffee with Friends of the
Maricopa Library**
1:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

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

11
Babytime
9:30 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

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

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

AWANA
6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of
Maricopa
18705 N. John Wayne Parkway

11-14
Sweeney Todd
7 p.m., Leading Edge Academy,
18700 N. Porter Road

12
Chamber Breakfast Mixer
7 a.m., Elements Event Center at
Ak Chin Circle
16000 N. Maricopa Road

Movers & Shakers
9:30 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Li’l Explorers
10 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

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



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

Things to do

13
Al-Anon Meeting
7 p.m., Community of Hope
Church
45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

14
Brave Little Brielle Run 5K
9 a.m., The Duke at Rancho El
Dorado
42660 W. Rancho El Dorado
Parkway

15
Stagecoach Days Shutter Shots
Midnight-11:59 p.m., various
locations

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

16
Grief Chat
11 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

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

17
**Coffee with Friends of the
Maricopa Library**
1:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

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

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

SPA Volleyball v. Heritage-Mesa
6:30 p.m., Sequoia Pathway
Academy
19265 N. Porter Road

**Maricopa City Council
Regular Session**
7 p.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

18
Babytime
9:30 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

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

**Sequoia Pathway Boys’
Soccer v. Canyon State**
4 p.m., Pacana Park
19000 N. Porter Road

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

**SPA Volleyball v.
Sequoia Charter**
6 p.m., Sequoia Pathway
Academy
19265 N. Porter Road

AWANA
6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of
Maricopa
18705 N. John Wayne Parkway

19
Movers & Shakers
9:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Li’l Explorers
10 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road



Raquel Hendrickson

Expect Maricopans to go all out once again for Halloween and the city’s Mystery Mansion contest.

City hosts Mystery Mansion Mayhem contest

By Michelle Chance

The city is recruiting participants for its annual Halloween-themed home-decorating contest. Registration for this year’s Mystery Mansion Mayhem runs through Oct. 9 at 10 p.m. on the city’s website. Participants can register in outdoor and indoor categories. Special Events and Marketing Manager Niesha Whitman said outdoor decorations must abide by HOA guidelines. Indoor entries billed as “Haunted Houses” are participants who compete with Halloween decorations inside their homes. Entries in both categories are encouraged to be original and, of course, spooky, Whitman said. The city website will have a map of the home participants once registration has closed. Outdoor decorations will be judged by the community Oct. 27-29 online. The winner of residents’ choice in the outdoor category will receive \$250. The Parks, Recreation and Library Committee along with the Youth Council will judge outdoor decorations and “haunted houses” Oct. 25 and 26 between 6 and 9 p.m. They will decide the top three winners: Outdoor First Place: \$250 Outdoor Second Place: \$100 Outdoor Third Place: \$75 Haunted House: \$150 Entries will be judged on creativity, theme, lighting and overall execution. Last year’s top prize in the outdoor category belonged to a home in Cobblestone Farms whose creative owners also took home the Haunted House prize.



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



Slam Master The Klute.

Submitted

Maricopa Arts Council spotlights all Maricopa poets

Maricopa Arts Council (MAC) continues its performance poetry thread in the 2017-18 season with a Poetry Evening at Maricopa Public Library on Oct. 27. The two-part, free event is devoted to Maricopa’s own poets from kindergarten-age up to adults performing original poems before a hometown audience.

From 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. there will a Kids’ Poetry Open Mic for students K-8, each reading poems

they wrote themselves. These young poets can be in costume and make-up if they wish. MAC plans to award a modest Artist’s Grant to the young poet whose words receive the greatest audience acclaim, as an encouragement to continued creativity.

A 30-minute refreshment period will follow during which poets for the main event, All-Maricopa Poetry Slam, must register with the Slam Master to compete. The All-Maricopa Slam will begin at 7 p.m. and is expected to proceed in three rounds. It is open to poets from high-school age on up and is conducted according to the guidelines for all official slams — without costumes, music, scenery — as an artistic competition for performance of original poetry where the poets themselves perform their own work before an audience.

And “perform” is the keyword here. Not only must the words themselves paint a vivid picture in the minds of the listeners, but the poet’s delivery needs to be equally compelling, too.

Slams can be intense and confessional, and because these are adult slams they do not have

to be G-rated. These are free-speech events.

Entrants should have three poems ready to perform. Each poem has a firm 3-minute time-limit for performance. Only the first 14 poets who show up between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. to register will have the chance to perform.

The top two poets will be awarded the prize of an absolute spot to perform at an All-State Slam in January, to be held in Maricopa at Honeycutt Coffee. ☎

☎ **MACmaricopa@gmail.com**

Things to do

Narcotics Anonymous

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

20

Childcare & Babysitting Program

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

Sequoia Pathway Academy Football v. Heritage-Laveen

7 p.m., Pacana Park
19000 N. Porter Road

Al-Anon Meeting

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

21

Maricopa Fly-In

7 a.m., Millar Airport
53510 W. McDavid Road

Fossil Creek Backpacking

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

2017 Business Expo

10 a.m., Central Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

22

Narcotics Anonymous

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

23

Grief Chat

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

24

Coffee with Friends of the Maricopa Library

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

Celebrate Recovery

Coffee & Karaoke

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

MHS Volley v. McClintock (Senior Night)

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

25

Babytime

9:30 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Harrah’s Club 777 Toastmasters

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

Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting

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

AWANA

6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of
Maricopa
18705 N. John Wayne Parkway

MUSD Board Meeting

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

26

Movers & Shakers

9:30 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Li’l Explorers

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

Things to do

Narcotics Anonymous

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

27-29

Mysterious Mansion

Mayhem Voting

6-8 p.m., various locations

27

SLAM: Maricopa Poetry Evening

5:45 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Game Night

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

MHS Football v. McClintock (Senior Night)

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

Al-Anon Meeting

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

28

Maricopa Mud Run

7 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

29

Narcotics Anonymous

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

30

Grief Chat

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

31

Coffee with Friends of the Maricopa Library

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

Celebrate Recovery

Coffee & Karaoke

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

Halloweenie Zone Trunk or Treat

6 p.m., various locations

NOVEMBER

4

2nd Saturday Maricopa Market

One-time only on 1st Saturday
8-11 a.m., Sequoia Pathway
Academy
19265 N. Porter Road

MPD Awards Dinner

6 p.m., Province Town Hall
20942 Province Parkway

Veterans 5K

8:15 a.m., Copper Sky
Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr.
Blvd.

11

Veterans Day Parade

9 a.m., Legacy Traditional to
Pacana Park



Raquel Hendrickson

Halloweenie Zones will be in several neighborhoods within most HOAs this year.

Church connects with community through Trunk or Treat

By Joycelyn Cabrera

The Halloween season is almost here, and the Church of Celebration has begun to make preparations for its annual Trunk or Treat event. This year, the church’s family-life pastor, Ben Gores, has taken charge of the festivities with a plan to make a deeper connection with the community through expansion and compassion.

“Halloweenie Zones” will return and in most of the neighborhoods in Maricopa. The goal is to have enough COC families volunteer their homes and provide grills and decorations to have multiple zones for every homeowners’ association — hopefully reaching 30-40 neighborhoods.

The zones will be open 6-8 p.m. on Halloween night. Each home will provide food, drinks, games and — of course — candy.

This year’s Halloween event will include a canned-food drive benefiting F.O.R. Maricopa. Trick-or-treaters are encouraged to bring canned-foods to Halloweenie Zones in exchange for candy. The addition of a canned-food drive “gives an opportunity for people to not just give but receive,” Gores said.

This is all in addition to the usual menu of hot dogs and drinks provided at each home. Trick or treaters and families can come to one zone or visit all of them. Gores encourages people to visit as many as possible.

Gores hopes to bring the community together through family-friendly fun and food.

“We just want to meet people; the more the merrier!” ☎



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



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

Things to do



The cast of "Sweeney Todd" rehearses for the October production.
Mason Callejas



IF YOU GO

What: Sweeney Todd
Who: Maricopa Community Theatre
When: Oct. 11-14, 7 p.m.
Where: Leading Edge Academy, 18700 N. Porter Road
How much: \$15
Info: MaricopaCommunityTheatre.org

Bloody musical Sweeney Todd takes stage

By Michelle Chance

A murderous musical is coming to Maricopa this month.

The Maricopa Community Theatre will perform its production of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" Oct. 11-14 at 7 p.m. at Leading Edge Academy.

Matthew Ortega is pulling double duty as crew director and the play's title character. MCT Artistic Director Carrie Vargas will play his counterpart, Mrs. Lovett.

Together they make up a dreadful duo, hell-bent on revenge — and meat pies.

Ortega said the show is recommended for audience members 14 and older, and parental guidance is suggested.



The musical production is a scaled-down version of the Stephen Sondheim original.

"I'm really focusing on the story of what's going on rather than the spectacle," Ortega said. "Don't worry, there is still going to be blood spilled here and there, just in a different way."

The cast of 18 auditioned in May, rehearsed through the summer, and began blocking and choreography in August. Since then, Ortega said the crew has met weekly for music rehearsals to master the difficult score.

CAST

Sweeney Todd: Matthew Ortega
Mrs. Lovett: Carrie Vargas
Anthony Hope: Kris Ludlow
Johanna: Lindsay Decoste
Tobias Ragg: Julianna Goodrum
Judge Turpin: Christopher Goodrum
The Beadle: Mario Bandin
Beggar Woman: Nicole Fiscus
Adolfo Pirelli: David Vargas
Ensemble: Kalei Ashlock, Sergio Barrera, Rain Bovey, Genevieve Burno, Cherish Forbes, Grace Goodrum, Dylan Jaques, Britney Montgomery, Maria Santillan

UNDERSTUDIES

Johanna: Britney Montgomery
Beggar Woman: Maria Santillan
Crew Director: Matthew Ortega
Assistant Director: Brittney Randolph
Music Director: Lindsay Decoste
Choreographer: Kimi Cunningham Shackelford
Stage Manager: Mario Bandin
Costumes: The Sweeney Todd cast
Light Board Operator: Jerry Allen
Poster Designer: Noelle Wells
Box Office: Rachel Maas, JoAnn Ortega, Mario Ortega



Get out your Shop Local bags, it's time to play COPA BINGO!



Copa Bingo! is an annual component of the City's year-long Shop Local campaign, designed to inform residents on the benefits of spending in the community and encourage them to patronize local businesses. Copa Bingo! is played like traditional Bingo, residents simply pick up a Copa Bingo! card at any of our eight locations and shop at independently-owned Maricopa local businesses between October 4 and December 27.

Ask to have your card stamped on the icon that represents the business and get five stamps in a row, up or down. Once you have completed a row or column, drop off your card at one of the designated locations listed below and be entered into a weekly drawing for great fun prizes. A Grand Prize of a \$250 gift card will be awarded to a lucky winner on December 28.

Be creative and play Copa Bingo! using social media; take pictures of your purchases and post them on Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #CopaBingo, and be sure to tag the establishment and @MaricopaMatters. All the information on how to play is posted on the back of the Bingo card.

Why Shop Local? Did you know that for every \$100 you spend at a local business, \$73 remains in our local economy? These businesses are more likely to use local talent, local vendors and contribute to local charities; your dollars contribute 40% more to the region. This is a great opportunity to visit shops and hire service providers in Maricopa instead of leaving town or paying out-of-region service fees.

You can download your Copa Bingo! card off our website or pick up one at any of the following locations: Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship, Central Arizona College, Maricopa Chamber of Commerce, Copper Sky, City Hall, Maricopa High School, Province and the Maricopa Library.

Enjoy the holiday season and get to know the business community better by shopping local and playing Copa Bingo!

For more information go to www.maricopa-az.gov/shoplocal email: ShopLocal@maricopa-az.gov or call 520-316-6990

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\$19.99
24 WINGS ANY STYLE

Must present coupon at time of purchase.
Not valid with any other offer.
Valid only at Maricopa location.
Expires 10/31/17.





\$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 10/31/17.



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BUY ONE LUNCH GET ONE FREE
MONDAY - FRIDAY 11AM - 3PM

With the purchase of 2 beverages.
Must present coupon at time of purchase.
Not valid with any other offer.
Valid only at Maricopa location.
Maximum value \$7.
Expires 10/31/17.



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Kitchen Open 11am-11pm • Lounge Open 11am-2am
520-568-6077 • NativeGrillAndWings.com

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GWR
Global Water Resources

INVESTING IN MARICOPA PROJECT UPDATES

Maricopa is growing! As your water, wastewater and recycled water provider, we are investing in the community to enable continued growth. While doing so, we aim to further optimize the utility systems to ensure safe, efficient and reliable service. Our current projects include:

WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY Global Water is expanding the wastewater treatment facility that transforms wastewater in an eco-friendly resource for the community. The expansion, which includes state-of-the-art technology, will add capacity to accommodate growth in Maricopa and provide other operating efficiencies.

NEW WELL CONSTRUCTION Global Water is constructing a well that will increase potable water production, improve water quality and add redundancy within the city. The well will increase pumping and storage capacity at our Rancho Mirage Water Distribution Center.

NEW AND IMPROVED CUSTOMER PORTAL (U2You) In connection with new metering and advanced meter-reading systems, Global Water launched a new customer portal this summer. Sign up to received automated leak and high consumption alerts. The portal also makes it easier to view historical bills and make payments.
www.gwresource.com/access-your-account



NEW WELL CONSTRUCTION



WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY EXPANSION



44400 W. Honeycutt Road
Suite 101
Maricopa, AZ 85138

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