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LEADING OFF

Editor's letter **4**
Contributors **4**

HISTORY

Politics, prejudice and history **6**
This month in history **6**

YEAR IN REVIEW

Top stories: A troubled intersection and tales of stolen valor **8**
A booming year in business **14**
New police station, courthouse on way **16**
The housing market slows slightly **18**
Education recovers from pandemic **20**
The sporting scene in Maricopa **22**
Deadly and disturbing crimes **23**
More public safety stories **24**

GOVERNMENT

AZ state Sen. T.J. Shope's plans for Maricopa **28**
Maricopa announces plans for industrial park **30**
Permitting **31**

COMMUNITY

New Year, new you **32**

BUSINESS

Restaurant inspections **34**

HOME

The city council's favorite foods **38**
Who's serving the best in Maricopa **40**
All about restaurant inspections **42**
Food trucks worth a try **44**
Nandos looks to impress **46**
The Roost overcomes odds **48**
City embraces first Thai joint **50**
Seafood van a local staple **52**
Maricopa's monster menu item **54**
International food served locally **55**
Restaurants by the numbers **57**
Next on the menu **60**

ON THE COVER

In this photo illustration, InMaricopa toasts the new year, takes stock of the past year (Page 8) and celebrates the local food and beverage scene with our restaurant guide on page 37.



8



48



69

HOME

January a great time to start a garden **61**
Justifying an early eviction **62**
Most, least expensive homes **63**
Don't flush these items **64**
Simplifying decor helps some homeowners **65**
SENIORS
A reading party **66**
Seniors, students make gifts for needy children **68**
All about this year's senior expo **69**

EVENTS

Calendar **71**

TRENDING

A look at what's hot on InMaricopa.com **79**

PARTING SHOT

Psychedelic sunset **80**



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Peaches and cream

For those of us who live a routine lifestyle, time flies by. Days blend together and fall off the calendar like peaches from a tree.

Nothing slowed the clock quite like the pandemic — the greatest disruption to our routines with lockdowns, time away from work and so much more. Perhaps that's why — for me and many like me — 2023 felt so inexplicably fast. In many ways, we returned to normal. In other ways, we finished our adjustment to the new normal.

In any case, my first year in charge of *InMaricopa* really flew by! But that doesn't mean we didn't report a whole lot of news last year. We won our first Arizona Newspaper Association awards and published more than 1,400 articles for our largest audience ever. While 2023 feels like a blur, some of those stories will stick with me forever. Take a trip down memory lane in this issue as we reflect on the biggest news events of the year in Maricopa.

Now, we've been handed a New Year and there's no telling what local storylines are begging to be uncovered betwixt the leaves of the 2024 calendar. It's an election year in the city and the nation. Artificial intelligence is expected to proliferate and goad misinformation online. NASA will put another man on the moon, while COVID-19 will become endemic like the common cold.

Pantone named peach fuzz as its Color of the Year for 2024. Whether that conjures images of the juicy stone fruits that symbolize my southeastern home state or a, ahem, *derrière* — Pantone's color experts say the muted bluish tone epitomizes the year ahead, describing it as "warm and welcoming."

I've found Maricopa to be warm (literally and figuratively) and very welcoming. I have no doubt peach fuzz will aptly symbolize the coming annum as this city — now among the three fastest-growing locales in the west — continues to welcome more new neighbors.

And speaking of peaches — it doesn't take an analyst of news trends to figure out Maricopans buzz more over new restaurant whispers than just about anything else, save maybe the 347 and all its woes. That's why this edition contains a comprehensive local restaurant guide that's certain to leave even the most fervid foodies salivating.

Truly, a champagne clink sums up this issue best — that's why I put it on the cover. What could more adequately symbolize ringing in the New Year with a celebration of our city's food and drink?

On the global stage, the coming year could be chaotic and unpredictable. Wars brewing in Israel, Ukraine, Guyana and Ethiopia, major elections in the world's largest countries, rapid advancement of AI and insecure public health. It's the Year of the Dragon, according to the Chinese zodiac, and that implies such anxieties. But it's also the luckiest in the 12-year cycle.

We'll see what the New Year brings for the world. In Maricopa, I'd say it's all peaches and cream.



ELIAS WEISS
MANAGING EDITOR

CONTRIBUTORS



RITA BRICKER

Rita educates on the benefits of planting your garden in January. It might be the coldest month of the year, but it's the best time to start.



TERRY LEAMON

Terry, a local plumber, offers a list of items you shouldn't flush down your toilet. He's dealt with it all, so you don't have to.



RONALD SMITH

Ron is back in this month's edition with some tips about how to get the most out of this year's Senior Expo.



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Politics and prejudice

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visits a Japanese internment camp in Maricopa's backyard April 23, 1943.

The controversial camp housed Japanese-Americans forced by politics, prejudice and paranoia to live in barracks built by the U.S. government on the Gila River Indian Reservation. It is widely regarded as a dark point in American history.

The Gila River camps, built on the reservation despite loud objection from the tribe, had a capacity of 10,000 people but housed more than 13,000 prisoners of war. There was no barbed wire or guard tower, just a single sentry on duty. The desert heat and lack of surrounding resources were enough security.



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THIS MONTH BACK IN...

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2009

More than a dozen nurses gathered around the bed offering loud and fervent words of encouragement around midnight Jan. 1. Maricopa resident Elaine Garza gave birth to the first baby of 2009 in Arizona. "With all of the encouragement, it made the delivery really easy," Garza said. The child, an 8-pound, 12-ounce baby boy named Conner Jordan, was Jerry and Elaine Garza's fourth child.



2014

Dairy Queen owner Vimal Patel said an employee put new oil into a deep fryer as part of a regular routine Jan. 4. A fire started after the employee turned the fryer on and stepped away. Maricopa firefighters evacuated the building and doused the fire once. There were no injuries.



2019

Maricopa High School suffered two mercury spills. Maricopa police reported a student brought a traditional thermometer to a science lab Jan. 24 and accidentally shattered it, spilling a toxic amount of mercury. Four days later, just after the school reopened, a second thermometer broke. Student Joe Lambert said he was in the room during the incident. "The lab assistant was in the lab prep room cleaning up the area when a thermometer fell," he recalled.

Maricopa Historical Society | Brian Petersheim Jr.

InMaricopa readers spoke loudly of their favorite stories in 2023.

InMaricopa.com published more than 1,400 stories last year, but readers flocked to two of them unlike all the others.

The first was the tale of a Maricopa Marine who lied extensively about his military service — or lack thereof — and turned it into a lucrative occupation. This story was *InMaricopa's* most viewed ever with more than 50,000 reads.

Our most popular series involved the Sonoran Desert Parkway. At its groundbreaking ceremony in June 2022, Ak-Chin Indian Community Chairman Robert Miguel was all smiles and handshakes but later tried to derail the project. Over a series of stories from September to November, this saga garnered more than 70,000 reads. Maricopans tuned in as the drama unfolded.

Here's a look back:



Entangled in a web of lies, a former Marine in Maricopa found himself ensnared in the sticky grip of stolen valor accusations. Like a black widow spinning artificial silk, his own web became his prison.

"This is f*cking r*tarded," Billy Zinnerman told *InMaricopa* the morning the story was published.

For Zinnerman — who falsely purported to be a retired sergeant major of the U.S. Marine Corps decorated with the most portentous service medals — it was time to pay the piper.

Zinnerman crafted and advanced his spurious saga since at least 2010, when, ironically, he pontificated about moral upstanding on PBS' bygone Ethics NewsWeekly. In retrospect, it was a scintilla of

credibility that metastasized into a whole new identity for Zinnerman.

Suddenly, he was no longer a low-ranking pawn with a lengthy criminal record, booted from the service amid accusations of repeated misconduct. He was a war hero and Maricopa City Council hopeful.

Zinnerman parlayed those lies into a feature story where he made the cover of *InMaricopa's* November 2022 magazine.

In July, *InMaricopa* kicked over Zinnerman's house of cards and exposed his lies one at a time.

Zinnerman hoodwinked Maricopa's American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, the Marine Corps League of Arizona and eventually the Marine Corps itself.

In November 2022, Zinnerman appeared at the 247th Marine Corps Ball as its guest of honor. A few months later, in May, he was lauded by U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters as he delivered the keynote speech at a commemoration in Inglewood, Calif., and accepted an award from the city's mayor.

At the event, Zinnerman recounted fantastical tales of a helicopter crash in Afghanistan, surviving gunshots in Kuwait and rescuing his comrade from a burning car in Hawaii. He brazenly described a quarter-century of military service that culminated with an honorable discharge in 2002.

Zinnerman said he was a gunnery sergeant in Iraq in the years leading up to 9/11, leading a unit that identified targets for

laser-guided missiles. Public records paint a different picture of Zinnerman at that time — one of a career criminal in Los Angeles.

By 2002, Zinnerman had been charged with nearly two dozen felony counts of burglary and theft, among other things. He was convicted at least four times, public records show.

The records also suggest Zinnerman never left Southern California between 1980 and his reputed retirement in 2002. He's now the subject of an FBI investigation.

Sonoran Desert Parkway Saga

Installation of a controversial traffic signal at an embattled intersection in southern Maricopa began in late November and wrapped up in December as the city finally put the finishing touches on its portion of the Sonoran Desert Parkway, a byway that will one day give Maricopans an additional route to Interstate 10 and hopefully ease traffic concerns in the city.

The plan was for the city and the Arizona Department of Transportation to fund the purpose-made parkway, which would lead to the front door of Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino. Everything seemed fine as Ak-Chin Chairman Robert Miguel was on hand for the parkway's groundbreaking in 2022 and spoke glowingly of the project.

The only cost to the Ak-Chin Indian Community was to allow city workers on 50 feet of its property to install a stoplight, which would direct patrons onto the casino property or allow them to safely turn left or right at the intersection.

This wasn't your average installation, however. It took months to get resolution as

thousands of taxpayer dollars were squandered each idle day.

Problems arose early last year when Ak-Chin filed a complaint with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, which in turn issued a cease-and-desist letter to the city stating right-of-way concerns had not been properly handled.

The city, on the other hand, had paperwork stating the opposite, and more than three decades ago, right-of-way was transferred to ADOT and Pinal County, which handed those rights to the city.

Things came to a head in September when Ak-Chin tribal leaders sent their police force to the intersection to arrest unsuspecting workers installing the signal. The workers left before anyone was arrested, but the message from Ak-Chin was clear.

As a result, the city set up a messy four-way stop with traffic cones and stop signs in September. The "permanent traffic condition" blocked access to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino at that intersection from the new Sonoran Desert Parkway.

Mayor Nancy Smith said Ak-Chin would pay for the traffic light if it did not acknowledge the city's permits by Sept. 11. After months of negotiation, Ak-Chin approved the permits in November. The city still shouldered the cost, proving its threat empty.

In the November magazine, through interviews with city leaders past and present and Freedom of Information Act requests, *InMaricopa* uncovered Ak-Chin's history of renegeing on its promises and agreements with municipal leaders, and just how contentious the relations had gotten between the city and Ak-Chin.



Go Fund Yourself

For police officers injured in the line of duty, the ending isn't always favorable. When injured officers can't immediately return to work, it's not always a given they'll be made whole by worker's compensation and the municipality that employs them.

Such a situation caught *InMaricopa's* attention when Maricopa Police Cpl. Joshua Fox bravely chased down suspected auto thieves after one opened fire and shot him one night in June. A few weeks later, the family organized fundraisers for him to buy necessities like groceries.

From there, *InMaricopa* examined the system and how injured police officers in Arizona are denied benefits after injuries and often neglected by their employers.

InMaricopa reached out to the city to find out why one of Maricopa's finest would even need such fundraisers in the first place.

Initially, the city refused to comment on Fox's situation, but eventually had to respond.

Our story ran online on Aug. 11. On Aug. 15, the city ended its silence about injured employee pay, stating: "What is not paid by workers' compensation is covered by the city to make the employee's salary whole."

The question still remains: If that's true, why did Fox convey to the public he couldn't afford to eat and solicit them for handouts?



Wild West Music Fest

By many accounts, the Wild West Music Fest was a finely tuned operation. The event, held for three days in mid-October to celebrate the city's 20th anniversary, ran on time, traffic issues were nil and police made no arrests.

Aside from the operational success of the event, many questions remained months later. The city had no idea whether it made any money or even what the official attendance figures were.

And the kicker was the promoter, Steve Levine Entertainment, wasn't contractually obligated to supply those figures until mid-February.

InMaricopa took a deep dive into the contract, the \$350,000 spent on the event and details from the limited documents the city had on hand after the festival had run its course.

Was it in fact worth it? You make the call.

TOP STORIES

MPD didn't arrest felon who admitted to shooting

Gunshots rang out on the quiet streets of Senita in July, and no one was arrested, a fact that left folks living in the neighborhood frustrated.

Maricopa police responded to gunfire in a central part of town near Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway that night. When they arrived on West Cowpath Drive — a well-manicured suburban street lined with happy adobe houses — they didn't find the gang of drive-by gunmen a witness described.

Instead, they found the witness himself — 47-year-old Shawan Harris, who was armed — and a parked car spattered with bullet holes.

Harris allegedly told officers he shot back at assailants, but missed his target and struck the parked car instead. "I answer back, and I'm in the wrong?" Harris said in a social media message days later. "Can we not protect our land and family?"



Harris, a convicted felon, isn't legally allowed to possess a gun. To date, Maricopa police haven't charged him with anything — even though officers observed him commit a felony.

Harris was labeled a witness — not a suspect of any crime. Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon is a felony crime in Arizona punishable by two and a half years in prison.

Discharging that gun on a residential road could carry more severe charges, both state and federal. Maricopa police seized the gun that night but didn't lodge charges. Neighbors said they believe Harris owns more guns.

City squandered taxpayer dollars on startup failure

In our August issue, *InMaricopa* looked back to 2016, when the city entered the business of offering startup loans to small businesses.

Quietly, a list of nine erstwhile startups owes the city hundreds of thousands of dollars. The city sat on its hands for years as eight of those enterprises went out of business. A feeble attempt to collect seems too little too late.

When the bygone Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship loaned its final dollar nearly seven years ago, it expected its debtors to pay back what was owed.

Most never did.

But, for some, it was not for lack of trying. Multiple MCE loan recipients told *InMaricopa* they had no way to repay what they owed.

When the debt inevitably mushroomed, they gave up.

MCE launched a decade ago as an incubator for startups and a resource for existing ventures in the city. A \$50,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant for rural business development and \$120,000 of taxpayer funds seeded the program.

Today, the city is owed more than twice the sum it loaned. When the incubator went belly-up in 2018, the roster of mostly defunct businesses owed more than \$98,000 and the city was tasked with collecting the debt. But after years of inertia, that number ballooned to nearly \$200,000 by 2020, according to data *InMaricopa* obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.



Slim Chickens' fat first-day sales

"I have a feeling we may break some records Monday," Slim Chickens operating partner Lucas Barnett told *InMaricopa* prior to the restaurant's grand opening.

And by dinnertime, Barnett was proven right as the new location had the highest-grossing first day in sales in company history.

Slim Chickens, a company with 180 other stores around the globe, served nearly 3,000 guests Monday, Barnett said.

That's more than 4% of Maricopa's population.

"For multiple hours, we had over 50 cars in the drive thru," Barnett said.

Barnett said over 2,500 pounds of chicken were sold. That's more than the weight of two concert grand pianos.

The Fayetteville, Ark.-based fast-food restaurant serves tenders, wings, sandwiches and salads in three dozen states and three countries.

Homeless restaurateurs wander the city

Food truck owners along John Wayne Parkway were evicted over the summer. The nomadic restaurateurs weren't sure where to go or who exactly wanted them gone.

Complaints from a property owner sparked the eviction of more than a dozen food truck operators in July.

From breakfast burritos to Puerto Rican empanadas, the busy Fry's Marketplace parking lot became a sort of culinary hub. It was a central, consistent gathering place for months, owners said.

The harmony was disrupted when a dispute with the property owner led to an abrupt eviction and a crackdown by city officials that made most food trucks find other places to set up shop.

By the end of the year, however, a businessman stepped up with a plan for a food truck park in the Heritage District.

Maricopa-based Verily Enterprises LLC submitted paperwork toward the end of the year.

Dubbed Maricopa Eats, the park would sit on the southwest corner of Honeycutt Road and Plainview Street, currently a vacant half-acre lot. It would house a dozen food trucks, picnic tables on artificial turf and a parking lot.

Owner José Meza said he wants to create a "clean and safe environment" for food trucks, particularly amid recent struggles to find space to park and sell food.

TOP STORIES

InMaricopa wins first awards

InMaricopa, the most-circulated magazine and most-read daily online news source in Maricopa, took home 10 awards in nine categories as a first-time contestant in the 2023 Arizona Newspapers Association's Better Newspapers and Excellence in Advertising contests in August.

Publisher and founder Scott Bartle said taking home this many awards marks a big milestone for the



publication that has told Maricopa's stories for nearly two decades.

"I'm very proud of our team," Bartle said. "Winning 10 awards in our first attempt at such recognition is a testament to the talented, hardworking professionals we have serving our readers and viewers. Earning Best Website honors and having journalists, photographers and advertising professionals all win awards is awesome."



Viral drunk driver nabbed again

Kio Thomas found herself in police custody once again when she was charged with aggravated DUI while driving with a revoked license for DUI.

Thomas first caught attention when she was arrested in March 2022 on suspicion of underage DUI, and assaulting cops and firefighters, after she landed her car in a ditch.

The video, which can be seen on *InMaricopa's* YouTube page, garnered more than 3 million views, making it the most viewed in the history of the channel.

She pleaded guilty in May that year to attempted aggravated assault on an officer in a plea bargain.

In the video, Thomas is seen fighting officers, pulling away and kicking them while hollering profanities. When placed in the back of a police vehicle, Thomas tried to kick the door open.

Bud Light boycott

Bud Light's controversial collaboration with transgender influencer Dylan Mulvaney and the ensuing nationwide boycott that started in April made its impact in Maricopa.

As late as mid-August, it appeared to be in full effect as one *InMaricopa* story pointed out during a busy week, the Circle K on Honeycutt and Porter Roads ran out of tallboys — almost. There were still Bud Lights available but nothing else.

A month later, an *InMaricopa* poll showed one-third of respondents wouldn't be caught dead with a can of Bud Light.

Anheuser-Busch cut ties with Alissa Heinerscheid, the marketing mind behind a \$27 billion fumble in market share and launched a fresh NFL campaign suiting up the classic blue cans with the Arizona Cardinals logo.

But the aftermath lingered — Modelo Especial jerked away the U.S. beer crown, toasting away investors' final consolation prize of year-over-year dominance. Some beer aisles and bar tops in Maricopa are testament to the boycott's durability.

"Across the board, we saw a dramatic boycott," Rand Del Cotto, owner of the Raceway Bar and Grill on Papago Road, told *InMaricopa*. "It is insane because Bud Light used to be the best seller."





TOP STORIES

John Wayne Parkway painstakingly widened

In October, Maricopa felt the short-term pain of inconvenient road construction with the promise it will shave a couple of minutes off their Phoenix commute by summer.

The Arizona Department of Transportation began a \$7.3 million project to improve and widen State Route 347 inside city limits to help relieve traffic congestion and reduce travel times.

The improvements include adding a third northbound lane on 1.3 miles of John Wayne Parkway from Smith-Enke Road to just north of the city limits; widening the SR 347/Lakeview Drive intersection and reconstructing the existing paved median; adding a northbound acceleration lane for traffic moving onto northbound SR 347 from westbound Lakeview Drive; and adding curb and gutter along the east side of SR 347 from north of SR 238 to Lakeview Drive and pavement repairs.

City leaders and residents alike fumed when ADOT closed



lanes during peak rush hour and shooed away pleas for night work, citing cost and safety.

When work is complete, ADOT will transfer long-term maintenance and operation of SR 347 to Maricopa.

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Dave & Cheryl Karsten

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BUSINESS

In 2023, Maricopa's retail economy made great strides with several businesses opening and more on the way.

In April, Home Depot confirmed its intention to open a store on Stonegate Road between Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and Alan Stephens Parkway on the city's southeastern side. The world's largest home-improvement retailer, with more than 2,300 stores across North America, broke ground last month and will open this fall.



The average construction time for a Home Depot from groundbreaking to opening is typically 10 months, a company spokesperson said.

Discussions with Home Depot began a long time ago.

In 2009, Brad Hinton, then a permit official with the city, said the home improvement retailer got site approval from city council in mid-2008 but did not submit construction drawings and the project died due to the Great Recession.

Home Depot filed paperwork with the city early in 2023 and

the process began anew.

The big orange box may bring with it a big green light for further development.

While it fills a need for residents whose closest stores are in Chandler, Ahwatukee and Casa Grande, it likely will mean much more to the city in the long term, City Manager Rick Horst said.

"Other things are likely to accompany it from just the fact we announced it," Horst said. "Home Depot is a significant retailer for us and, of course, they will attract others. If you look around the greater Phoenix

area and you see one of these big boxes pop up, a lot of other businesses like to sit next to them. They like to sit next to each other."

The home improvement store's site plan shows the project spans nearly 13 acres, which includes the addition of five proposed shops and restaurants just west of the main attraction along Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway.

"The additional retail is significant and will [measure] approximately 23,000 square feet," Horst said.



Lowe's likely, too

Holding true to form, Home Depot's biggest competitor, Lowe's Home Improvement, proposed a new store in the empty lot at John Wayne Parkway and Honeycutt Avenue in November.

Preliminary plans show a 109,000-square-foot store with garden and rental centers, as well as parking for up to 358 cars.

Second hospital canceled, then back on

The city faced a setback when it canceled a contract with Phoenix-based S3 BioTech to build the city's second hospital in October.

The reason? S3 reneged on its commitment to build here.

But then, two months after trespassing the healthcare company from that lot near Copper Sky, the on-again, off-again relationship went back on again as the city flirted with giving S3 BioTech a second chance — this time with the help of a California investor. Construction will begin in the early months of this year with an estimated opening in June 2025. The hospital will cost \$41.1 million and the medical office building will cost \$25.3 million.



Tractor Supply Co. opens this month

Tractor Supply Co. opens Jan. 6, selling agricultural products and pet supplies to Maricopa residents. The 21,702-square-foot building is just west of Walmart and includes a greenhouse and forage shed. The store, on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and Shea Way in Maricopa Wells shopping center, will provide 15 new jobs in Maricopa, at least half full-time positions.

The home improvement and ranch retailer operates more than 2,100 stores nationwide. The retailer held a soft opening the weekend of Dec. 9.

Surf park downsized

Waterpark PHX Surf quietly submitted updated, though downsized, plans to Maricopa's Development Services department.

Its new paperwork showed a size reduction — scaling back to one surf pool from two. The park now is proposed for 9.44 acres — down from 71 acres in the first proposal.

Other changes in the updated plan eliminate a lazy river and water slides as well as an outdoor music venue.

The development, still regarded by the city as a quality project, is expected to include housing, lodging and retail space. It was first announced in 2021, to sit between Loma and Green Roads at Garvey Avenue.



GNC joined Edison Pointe

Maricopa residents looking to stock up on vitamins and nutritional supplements saw another health store pop up in the city in October.

The health and wellness store GNC was among several new shops joining Edison Pointe shopping center near John Wayne Parkway and Edison Road, including Nekter Juice Bar, Petco and Nando's Mexican Café.

BUSINESS



Butcher-grocer added south-of-the-border flare

One of the Valley's best-known butcher shops opened in Maricopa.

Carniceria Sonora saw a steady line of customers since its debut in February in a refurbished building on North Maricopa Road that once was home to Good2Go gas station and market.

Carniceria Sonora, owned by Martha and Oscar Jimenez, is known for its marinades, authentic salsas, tortillas and guacamole. Shop personnel make the tortillas, guacamole and salsas on site daily. It sells certified Angus Beef.



Second urgent care opened

Maricopans gained a new option for same-day medical care in 2023.

NextCare saw its first patients in August at its new clinic next to Thai Chili 2go on North John Wayne Parkway. Clinic Manager Diana Sharp was fired up for opening day.

"I'm really excited because we now have urgent care

in Maricopa that can be affordable," Sharp said. "No one has to drive to Chandler or Casa Grande for care anymore."

Dallas-based NextCare is the second stand-alone urgent care facility in Maricopa. Dignity Health Urgent Care, located about a half-mile north on John Wayne Parkway, opened to much fanfare a decade ago.



Ak-Chin lost, regained sports betting license

The Ak-Chin Indian Community's foray into live event wagering wasn't so smooth in 2023.

The ink of then-Gov. Doug Ducey's signature legalizing sports betting had hardly dried when the tribe pounced to secure one of just 10 coveted licenses in 2021.

Lady luck frowned upon the tribe as it became the first and only in Arizona to lose its sports betting license.

Each tribe was partnered with a sports betting operator. But New York City-based Fubo Gaming wasn't all-in on Arizona, leaving its partner Ak-Chin high and dry after pulling out of the state in July.

At the end of August, however, the Arizona Department of Gaming allocated an event wagering operator license to bet365 as the designee for the Ak-Chin Indian Community, replacing Fubo Gaming.

Two big projects moved closer to fruition in 2023 with the completion of the new police station and the municipal court building imminent this year.

Police station

The city broke ground on the new station in February and hopes to complete the project in April.

In the last quarter of 2023, the team paved parking lots and installed other crucial pieces of equipment like chillers and electrical gear.

The facility will be an upgrade of MPD's current digs and include office space, training areas and interview rooms. There will also be a new and improved 9-1-1 dispatch center, which is built for growth. At the station's April opening, its jail capacity will be eight holding cells with the ability to expand to 20.



Bryan Moritt

Courthouse

Maricopa's new municipal courthouse is a 6,300-square-foot facility located next to City Hall. It is slated to open this month.

The new structure was funded by developer fees — not tax dollars — as City Manager Rick Horst explained.

"It will be 100% based on new development coming here," Horst said. "With those growth needs, they should be paid by the people causing the growth and not the people who are already here."

Maricopa Municipal Court is a standalone trial court with limited jurisdiction that works within the Arizona

court system. It adjudicates misdemeanors, petty offenses and civil violations, including traffic and city-ordinance violations. It is established as a separate, independent branch of city government with a municipal judge, Stephen McCarville, appointed by the city council.

Maricopa previously shared a building and judge with the Pinal County Justice of the Peace.

Like some aspects of the police station, the courthouse is built to expand with demand. Currently, it consists of one courtroom and a jury deliberation room. There is space to add a courtroom.



Bryan Moritt

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REAL ESTATE



The housing market was mild in 2023 as climbing interest rates took hold after the fed continuously bumped rates from the middle of 2022 until the end of 2023.

As of Dec. 11, 837 housing permits and 636 apartment permits were issued. The numbers were down significantly from the prior year, when 1,149 houses and 1,127 apartments were approved.

Apartments at Honeycutt Sonoran Village

In January, the city council unanimously approved two measures that moved what would be the city's largest apartment community — 574 units — closer to reality.

The Planning & Zoning Commission approved the project in March.

The Apartments at Honeycutt would have three categories: market rate, workforce and senior (age 55+).

The community would be accessible by State Route 347, according to city planner Derek Scheerer.

"The city will be constructing out Honeycutt Avenue to the east and then down to the south," Scheerer said. "That will connect and dead end into the site and will provide access to John Wayne Parkway for the site."

The overall unit mix would include 60% one-bedroom units, 29% two-bedroom units and 12% three-bedroom units at a density of 28.5 units per acre.

The complex would lie directly south of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks near the Amtrak station.

Scottsdale developer Geston Duffy Company expressed interest in building a mixed-use residential community near Edison Road and Wilson Avenue in September.

Dubbed Sonoran Village, the community will bring 136 residential and 20 commercial units across a trio of three-story buildings in the empty lot behind Sprouts Farmers Market. The developer detailed apartment sizes to range from small studios to cozy three-bedroom units.

Interest near old recycling plant

In October, Phoenix developer Sanks & Associates submitted paperwork to construct a gated apartment community at McDavid and Green Roads.

The complex would sit just north of the recently-shuttered city recycling center.

A project narrative stated the L-shaped community will comprise 288 rental units across a dozen one- and two-story buildings.

EVR at San Travasa

Local developer El Dorado Holdings is eyeing a 24-acre rental community on the northwest corner of Farrell and White and Parker Roads.

The proposal includes 186 cottages ranging from 800 to 1,500 square feet with small backyards. Amenities include a clubhouse, fitness center, pool, dog park and playgrounds.

Gunsmoke multifamily development

The 25-acre lot on the southwest corner of Gunsmoke and Honeycutt Roads saw a change of ownership.

Lincoln Avenue Capital is mulling building 217 single- and two-story rental units ranging from 900 to 1,200 square feet. Like EVR at San Travasa, the units would have small backyards and the community would boast a clubhouse, fitness center, yoga room and pool.

Red Valley Ranch

In December, city planners approved a one-time extension for this new subdivision at the southwest corner of Farrell and Anderson Roads. The plans were first approved in 2021 but the developer defaulted the following year. The extension allows Scottsdale-based Crescent Bay Holdings until the end of 2025 to submit final plans and start building.

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EDUCATION

Post-pandemic graduation rates improve, but still trail pre-pandemic era

From 2019 to 2020, the graduation rate at Maricopa High School tanked from 80% to 69%. Maricopa fared much worse than most school districts in Pinal County, where graduation rates on average fell less than 5%, and in Arizona where graduation rates fell on average just 1%.

In 2022, MUSD closed the gap at 75%, about two points behind county and state figures. By 2023, however, MUSD notched a tic above 75% — on par with other districts but still not back to pre-pandemic numbers.

MUSD retains teachers

In 2023, there was a severe shortage of teachers around Arizona, but Maricopa Unified School District defied that trend. At the end of the year, there were only about 10 vacancies with 471 teachers on staff at MUSD. That's just more than a 2% rate of teacher vacancies, compared to a 30% teacher vacancy rate around the state. A statewide trend of growing teacher shortages reached its eighth consecutive year in 2023, Arizona School Personnel Administrators Association survey results showed.

MUSD elementaries lauded

MUSD received glowing Arizona Department of Education report cards for three of its elementary schools, all of which

earned A grades. Butterfield, Maricopa and Pima Butte elementaries achieved excellence in the state administration's eyes. The state education department is required by state law to develop an annual achievement profile for every public school in the state based on an A through F scale. The report card is subject to final adoption by the state board of education.

Legacy, Heritage honored

Legacy Traditional School and Heritage Academy earned an A grade on their annual Arizona Department of Education report cards. They were the only two charter schools in Maricopa to achieve the top honor in the latest charter school grading period.

New schools

Proposed new schools in Hidden Valley would be the first in the district outside city limits. MUSD officials in October said the possibility of the district's first school outside Maricopa was only in early discussions. Proposals from developer Ashton Woods include elementary and middle schools in its 175-acre, 600-home development. The site is south of the Ak-Chin Indian Community bounded to the south of Peters and Nall Road, north of Papago Road, west of Green Road and east of Amarillo Valley Road.

Teacher paychecks in limbo

In September, MUSD teachers woke up to find their paychecks missing and were told a ransomware attack caused the issue. By early afternoon, Pinal County Superintendent Jill Broussard reported systems were restored. "We have been told we can expect paper paychecks this afternoon," MUSD Superintendent Tracey Lopeman told *InMaricopa*. "We will update employees with the time frame during which they can pick up paychecks at the district office. This situation has been stressful for our employees, and I truly hope our employees can find a sense of relief with this news."

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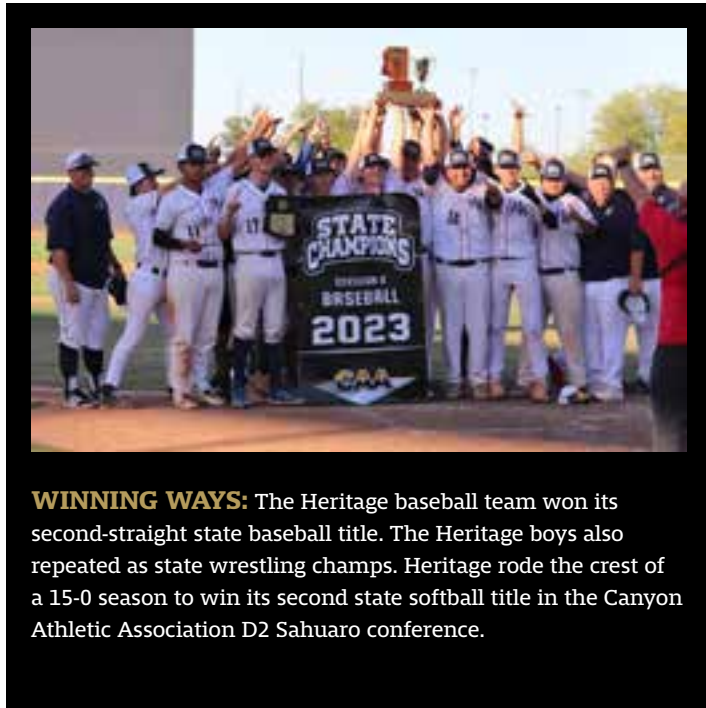
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GOOD SPORTS: Maricopa High School's baseball team earned the AIA 6A Sportsmanship Award for a consistent display of integrity and good character. Every year, umpires vote on teams that exemplify outstanding conduct, fair play and respectful behavior. The award was validation that the team is doing something right. Last season, the Rams went 12-9 and finished fourth in their conference.



WINNING WAYS: The Heritage baseball team won its second-straight state baseball title. The Heritage boys also repeated as state wrestling champs. Heritage rode the crest of a 15-0 season to win its second state softball title in the Canyon Athletic Association D2 Sahuaro conference.



HOT STREAK: Maricopa High School's softball team went 24-9 and finished the season third in its conference. The Rams caught fire midway through the season, going nearly a month without a loss. The Rams won 11 straight games during the streak, which started after a 9-0 loss to Millennium in mid-March. That same day, Maricopa responded with an 18-0 win over Agua Fria. Maricopa outscored its opponents 138-32 during the streak.

SOCCKER STAR: Maricopa High School soccer standout Abigail Kuehnl signed a letter of intent to play at Division I University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

LOSING STREAK: Sequoia Pathway Academy's football team started 0-4 and had to cancel the rest of its football season due to injuries.

SKID SNAPPED: Maricopa High's football team snapped a 19-game skid when it beat Browne (Phoenix) 49-7 in its second game of the season. The Rams went on to win four games in 2023.

A FIRST: Desert Sunrise High snagged its first-ever football win in a 28-12 victory over Alhambra (Phoenix). Desert Sunrise, a school in its second year of operation, finished the season 1-9.

LEAGUE TITLE: Maricopa High won a girls' soccer conference title with a perfect 5-0 record. The Rams won nine of their last 10 games to finish the season at 12-4-2.

SCORING MACHINE: MHS alum Jacob Cowing starred as one of the top receivers at the University of Arizona and earned a spot at the Reese's Senior Bowl. Cowing finished the regular season with 696 receiving yards, fewer than the 1,034 yards he racked up in 2022. However, Cowing has proven to be quite the scoring threat, scoring 11 touchdowns this year, an increase from the previous year's total of six. Cowing was second on the team in touchdowns, behind quarterback Noah Fifita, who had 25.



COLLEGE BOUND: Maricopa High School basketball players Andrew Hoxie and Triston Walters signed national letters of intent to play at the next level. Walters officially pledged to Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Hoxie, a Rams small forward, committed to Phoenix Prep. MHS's Sapphira Reyes signed to play basketball at Benedictine College in Mesa, while Josh Garcia will play soccer at Paradise Valley Community College.

BIG PAPA PICKLE: Three teams from the Province 55-plus community earned Arizona Pickleball Players League state titles during a tournament at Dave White Park in Casa Grande. In women's play, The Province Hot Shots won 23-20 in the state-championship match. The Red Hot Picklers won the championship match 24-23 after a 23-22 victory in the semis. On the men's side, Province Gold won its championship with a 28-15 victory. During the season, 371 teams with nearly 4,000 players competed in the Arizona Pickleball Players League.



WELL-SPIKED: Maricopa High School's girls' volleyball team finished second in league play with a 6-4 record and were 13-14-2 overall. The boys finished second with a 6-4 record and were 19-6 overall.

5 DEADLY AND DISTURBING CRIMES

Teen killed after shooting cop

June 28

The suspect killed in a June officer-involved shooting was a minor.

The shooting occurred around 1:30 a.m. on a Wednesday night in June after officers responded to a call of three people breaking into vehicles in Tortosa.

One suspect shot an officer during a foot pursuit in the fields north of the neighborhood on the Gila River Indian Community. Another officer shot the same suspect, who died on the way to a hospital.

Police confirmed the deceased was a 17-year-old boy. MPD arrested and jailed another 17-year-old boy. That teen faced three felony charges: armed robbery, burglary in the third degree, and criminal damage along with three misdemeanor charges of criminal trespassing, criminal nuisance and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

The third suspect is 20-year-old Jose Martinez of Phoenix, who was taken into custody by Gila River Police Department.

Editor's Note: All statements of fact are attributable to probable cause statements obtained from the Maricopa Police Department.

He threatened to kill baby used as human shield

Aug. 22

A man accused of brutally beating his girlfriend and roommate was arrested after barricading himself and using a baby as a shield.

MPD arrested 32-year-old Brennan D. Cheromiah after a standoff lasted more than an hour in Rancho El Dorado. His girlfriend said Cheromiah choked, kicked and bit her. Cops noted an injured eye and bite marks on her arms.

A roommate said Cheromiah dragged his girlfriend through the house and kicked her while she was curled up on the floor. Cheromiah allegedly punched his roommate in the throat and threatened to kill a child in the home.

Cheromiah barricaded himself in the home and used a baby as a human shield to evade arrest. After an hour-long standoff, officers tased him and took him into custody. Cheromiah's girlfriend was hospitalized and treated for serious injuries.

His case is pending.

He secretly filmed his grandchildren nude

Sept. 5

A trip to grandpa's house led to the disturbing discovery of a "spy camera" in the bathroom — loaded with nude videos of his family members.

Maricopa police arrested 71-year-old James H. Schmoker after two grandchildren stumbled across a hidden camera.

The grandchildren — police did not disclose their ages — told officers they were visiting from out of state when they found a USB wall charger with a small lens plugged into a bathroom outlet. They said they found a memory card in the device that contained a stockpile of videos of family members using the toilet and showering. Both victims said they saw videos of themselves on the memory card.

Schmoker admitted to buying the device and installing it in the bathroom.

A detective reviewed the memory card and saw several videos of nude people who did not know they were being recorded from two different bathrooms.

Schmoker was charged with one felony count of surreptitious recording, a charge that carries a presumptive sentence of 18 months in prison.

She burned the family dog alive

Dec. 12

MPD arrested 39-year-old Ambria R. Garcia and accused her of burning the family dog alive in a firepit, killing her.

Garcia admitted to pouring gasoline on her dog and setting her on fire. She told police the five-year-old Shih Tzu named Missy was a "possessed rat." She said she wanted to prevent Missy from hurting anyone and "needed to handle this problem as soon as possible."

Garcia believed she released a demon from the dog while burning her. Garcia's husband said he witnessed his wife light the live dog on fire, dance around and laugh, through a security camera.

Officers found a red gasoline container near the firepit and a "charred Shih Tzu" inside.

Garcia was charged with one felony count of animal cruelty.

Murdered woman found in landfill

Dec. 12

Homestead resident Crystal Uptain, 38, was found murdered at a landfill in Mobile last month. She was reported missing to Maricopa police in November. As of publication time, no one has been arrested or named a suspect in her murder — the first and only in Maricopa in 2023.

Scan code for more disturbing and bizarre crimes.





PUBLIC SAFETY

K9 KARMA HIGHLIGHT REEL

The last year was a busy one for K9 cop Karma, a Belgian Malinois police dog who serves as a valued member of the Maricopa Police Department. Here are some of the officer's exploits:

K9 made drug bust

Feb. 8

A nighttime traffic stop led to the arrest of a man on multiple drug-related charges.

MPD stopped Muktar M. Giundi, 37, near Fry's Marketplace in a silver Chevrolet Malibu with expired tags.

When Giundi denied a search of the vehicle, the officer deployed Karma for an "open-air sniff." A positive alert to narcotics gave the cops probable cause to search the vehicle.

Thanks to Karma's detective work, the officer found a container with 35 fentanyl pills, a red straw, burnt tinfoil and a glass pipe with meth residue. MPD arrested Giundi on charges of possessing dangerous drugs and paraphernalia.

K9 mauled cop fighter

July 18

Stanley J. Ulate, 20, learned a lesson in "Karma" early one summer morning after a warrant check escalated into a tussle with police.



During a stop for a registration violation near North John Wayne Parkway and Cobblestone Farms, Ulate, who was a passenger in the vehicle, gave cops a bogus name. Officers figured out his real identity and while they checked for warrants, Ulate resisted detainment and allegedly struck one officer in the face. Police tried to tase him but failed.

During the scrap, Karma bit Ulate, subduing him as he was handcuffed. While in custody, Ulate spit in the K9 handler's face.

MPD arrested Ulate on charges of aggravated assault on a peace officer, resisting arrest by fighting and false reporting.

K9 avenged her handler

Oct. 17

Police arrested 54-year-old Lawrence Bronson after he allegedly attacked an officer while resisting arrest.

Cops tried to stop Bronson's yellow sedan sporting expired tags near State Route 238 and Costa Brava Drive late at night. Police said Bronson ignored flashing lights and sirens and led them on a chase through Acacia Crossings, eventually pulling into a garage at West Miramar Drive.

As he stepped out, cops told Bronson he was under arrest and gave him commands to turn around and place his hands behind his back. According to police, Bronson ran away in an "aggressive manner" and refused to get on the ground.

As three cops tried to tackle Bronson to the ground, he attacked Officer Jake Gomez, bruising and lacerating his arm and knee. Karma avenged her human partner as she subdued Bronson, who continued to resist arrest until succumbing to the dog's powerful jaws.

STRANGE AND SCARY INCIDENTS

She ran herself over with her own car

March 28

A woman driving through Senita ran over her own leg after failing to put her car in park when she got out to attend to puppies on the road. Maricopa Police, Fire and Medical were dispatched to Maricopa Groves Parkway near North Meghan Drive and learned the pedestrian who got hit was also the driver of the car. The woman, who told officers she saw puppies running in the road and got out to help them, suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

2 drowned in swimming pools

May 23

As Maricopans flocked to the pool to beat the summer heat, Maricopa Fire and Medical Department advised residents to be vigilant in and around water. It's a heavy but timely topic. Maricopa saw two drowning deaths take place in 2023 — a 2-year-old girl who died in March after being pulled from a pool and a 55-year-old man in April.

Drowning is the leading cause of death of children age 1-4, according to the National Drowning Prevention Alliance. Since 2018, Maricopa has experienced 16 drowning deaths. All but three were children.

Body found in roadside ditch

July 25

Maricopa police responded to a call of a body spotted in a drainage ditch near Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and Stonegate Road. Shortly after arriving on scene, officers confirmed an adult woman had died.

The woman's body did not show any obvious signs of foul play. The Pinal County Medical Examiner retrieved the body and identified her as 47-year-old Melanie Pahe, a local resident.

Palm tree farm burned for weeks

July 30

Unincorporated Maricopa suffered a palm tree fire that sparked in July and crackled until mid-August. A palm tree nursery in Thunderbird Farms — the same one that burned for several weeks the previous summer — totally charred to ash. Maricopa residents smelled smoke in town as plumes rained into their lawns and pools. Crews from at least three municipal, rural and Indian fire departments contained the fire and eventually extinguished it.

Infant died in Hidden Valley crash

Sept. 19

Pinal County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a single-vehicle rollover crash at West Farrell and North Ralston Roads and found a vehicle with seven occupants. A 5-month-old baby boy was transported to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead. One adult female passenger was ejected from the vehicle. She sustained serious but non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to a nearby hospital. No one was charged.

Man found dead at Pacana Park

Sept. 26

The body of Allen Moore Jr., a 51-year-old Maricopa resident who lived in the Villages, was discovered in Glennwilde. Residents found the body Sept. 24 on the greenbelt around Pacana Park near Centennial Drive and Falcon Lane.



PUBLIC SAFETY

COUNTERFEIT FAILS

He fled cops on motorcycle bought with fake cash



Maricopa police arrested Luis Gomez, 27, accusing him of buying a cycle with counterfeit money with the intent of selling it for real cash.

Cops responded to Rancho Mirage just after 10 a.m. after a Kawasaki motorcycle was reported stolen. Five minutes later, an officer saw Gomez on the motorcycle driving west on Honeycutt Road near North Porter Road.

Gomez evaded police at first. Cops said Gomez jumped off the motorcycle and ran through the backyards of several houses before he was arrested near West Maricopa Avenue.

Gomez, who was charged with auto theft, fraudulent schemes and unlawful flight, later told officers he met the seller to buy the motorcycle even though he believed it was listed above market value. He reportedly said he gave the seller \$6,500 in fake cash and planned to sell it for \$4,000.



He considered murder in fake Rolex ruse

A man claimed he was a scam victim — but he's the one who ended up in jail after threatening murder.

Robert Wyatt, 43, said he bought a fake Rolex for \$5,000 and arranged to buy another one. He pulled a gun on the supposed counterfeiter.

When police responded to the parking lot between McDonald's and Dignity Health Urgent Care along John Wayne Parkway midafternoon, they found the two men behind the urgent care.

After finding out the Rolex he bought was counterfeit, Wyatt set up a "ruse" to get his money back at gunpoint. When the watch dealer told Wyatt he did not have the money, Wyatt reportedly brandished a handgun and said he would "put a bullet in his head."

Wyatt, who was charged with weapons misconduct along with misdemeanor counts of lying and making threats, denied pulling the gun, but later admitted it to police along with the thoughts of killing the alleged counterfeiter.

WEAPONS OF CHOICE



French fries

Maricopa police arrested 51-year-old William Brennan after he admitted to hurling French fries at his wife at the McDonald's restaurant on West Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway around dinnertime.

Someone at the restaurant called the police and followed the couple in their car until the cops intervened.

Police pulled Brennan over on West Green Court in Desert Passage. He got out of the car with his hands in the air.

Brennan told officers he didn't mean to hurt his wife. He said he threw the container of French fries at her instead of his fist.

Brennan was booked on domestic violence charges, including one for assault, and could face three years behind bars.

There are no further details available on Brennan's charges.

Eggs

MPD arrested Joseph L. Ricketts, 39, after he allegedly threw a carton of eggs at his girlfriend and threw her against a truck and punched her.

MPD responded to Anderson and Steen Roads after a woman reported her boyfriend attacked her.

She told officers she was on her way to pick up a visibly upset Ricketts up from work when she spotted him walking along the roadside. Ricketts got into the bed of the truck his girlfriend was driving and continued yelling at her. The woman got out of the truck and told Ricketts to get out of her truck — and her life.

The woman told officers Ricketts then threw a carton of eggs at her and pinned her against the truck. She collapsed as Ricketts allegedly punched her in the back of the head.

Ab roller

MPD arrested a mom after she and her daughter exchanged blows with exercise equipment. The spat started over accusations of being a "bad mother."

MPD said Flora E. Retana Escoto, 45, tried to hit her daughter with an ab roller.

Police responded to a home on West Amsterdam Road in Maricopa Meadows after the daughter reported a domestic aggravated assault. She told dispatch she struck her mother in the head with the ab roller after her mom swung at her with the same item.



Officers found Retana Escoto near the front door and she was bleeding on the pavement from a head injury. Police spoke with her adult daughter, who told them how the argument escalated.

Retana Escoto allegedly tried to attack her daughter, who managed to wrestle the



Two hours later, police found Ricketts driving near Honeycutt Road and Tarragona Boulevard and tried to stop him. They said he threw methamphetamine out of his window near Desert Wind Middle School.

Ricketts later admitted to punching his girlfriend and hurling a brick at her car because he was angry, cops said. He also admitted to throwing the meth out of his car when officers initiated the stop.

Police charged Ricketts with domestic assault and criminal damage related to the attack on his girlfriend, along with possession of dangerous drugs and possession of dangerous drugs in a school zone.

ab roller away. The daughter told officers she mistakenly hit her mother on the forehead.

Retana Escoto told officers she was tired of her daughter making accusations she was a "bad mother."

Police believed Retana Escoto was the primary aggressor after interviewing four witnesses, all of whom were children. Escoto was booked into the Pinal County jail on two domestic violence charges, including aggravated assault with a dangerous instrument.

BIZARRE CRIMES

PARTY FOUL

16 arrested at house party
Jan. 26

A weekend house party at a vacant home in The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado ended with the arrest of 16 people, 10 of whom were minors.

Demani L. Spivey, Kenyon G. Womack, Keyaun D. Christian and LaBron Peace were arrested and booked into the Pinal County jail on suspicion of first-degree trespassing and resisting arrest, police said.

Desmond S. Lewis and Kevin K. Sias were arrested and booked on suspicion of first-degree trespassing, resisting arrest and misconduct involving weapons. Sias, who is not a

minor, faces an additional charge of underage possession of marijuana, police said. Underage on this charge refers to those who are younger than 21.

Officers said the trespassing involved 16 males and females, ranging from 15 to 20 years old.

Sias tried to run from officers and was tased. Police later learned he had a loaded handgun. The silver Smith & Wesson reportedly fell and landed between his feet.

Sias was later found to have marijuana on his person and in his vehicle, according to Maricopa police. In December, police released body-worn camera footage of the incident, revealing cops tased one teen in the garage.

PAW PATROL

Pooch poacher nabbed in
bulldog theft ring

April 3

Darius Vilella of Maricopa was accused of stealing two pure-bred French bulldogs from a Glennwilde home and fleeing police in March. Three other suspected bulldog bandits remain at large.

In the wee hours of the morning, MPD was called to a home on West Capistrano Drive on a reported burglary when a caller informed dispatch someone had jumped

into her backyard and taken her two French bulldogs before getting away in a Dodge Charger.

An officer en route to the home was flagged down by the caller's husband, who told officers he saw and heard men jumping over the wall of his backyard with his dogs, which he valued at \$25,000.

After a pursuit around the neighborhood, police finally caught one of the culprits, and more importantly, recovered the two dogs. The other three remain at large.

Both dogs were returned to their owners.

MAIDEN VOYAGE

Teen's first time driving
ended in DUI

Aug. 24

A Maricopa teen skipped the usual first-drive jitters and ended her behind-the-wheel debut with a DUI arrest.

In Maricopa unearthed bodycam footage and police reports from the unusual arrest of two minors in Maricopa in July.

The high-school couple guzzled more than gas before Mr. Right took his sweetheart out for her first driving lesson — but neither kid has a license.

Maricopa cops pulled over a suspicious Toyota Prius on White and Parker Road near Honeycutt Road late at night

July 4. The car didn't have working lights, according to the police report.

"Is this your first time driving a car?" the cop asked. "Yeah," said Kaitlyn, whose last name was redacted from police documents.

Romeo and Juliet denied drinking, but after a sobriety test, Kaitlyn admitted to sipping on a White Claw. It was more than a sip as she blew nearly double the legal limit for adults.

Kaitlyn's foray into motor vehicle operation ended with cops lodging charges of DUI, underage drinking, driving without a license and driving with no lights.

Her boyfriend picked up counts of underage drinking and underage tobacco use after a hot pink Elf Bar vape slipped out of his pocket.

FOOD FIGHT

Couple beat workers over
chicken nuggets

Sept. 12

Police arrested Sheree N. Ross, 44, and Tavarus D. Ross, 43, after the couple hurled cups of soda and a display case at Burger King employees.

Officers found a "breathless" employee lying on the floor, surrounded by spilled food and damaged items.

Workers said Sheree Ross was angry over a long drive-thru wait and the number of chicken nuggets in her order.

Staff said Sheree Ross threw soda at an employee through the window. The

employee reportedly threw the cup back at her.

Sheree Ross threw glass display cases and ordered workers to fight her.

Tavarus Ross allegedly tried to fight a female employee before hurling a glass cookie display case at another employee who was under age 18, who sustained an injury to his hand.

Sheree Ross was charged with criminal damage and disorderly conduct. Tavarus Ross was charged with disorderly conduct, criminal damage and aggravated assault using a dangerous instrument.

A continuance was issued Nov. 14 in Sheree Ross's trial. The cases are pending.



Shope opera

State senator talks 2024 plans for city

BY MONICA D. SPENCER

WHEN ARIZONA STATE SEN. T.J. Shope started representing Maricopa earlier this year, he instantly fell in love with its residents and their community spirit.



Arizona state Sen. TJ Shope speaks to a crowd at a town hall event in Maricopa.

The sixth-term state lawmaker from Coolidge long represented Legislative District 8, which covered Casa Grande and most of Pinal County but ended at Maricopa's northern and eastern limits. After last year's redistricting, he moved to District 16 and inherited Maricopa for the first time in his lengthy tenure in the state chambers.

"Frankly, I love the people," Shope told *InMaricopa*. "There is a newness and positivity about the community."

It's that fresh idea of a young, burgeoning city — a stark contrast to others in the county — that he believes drives residents to move to Maricopa.

"I think that brings a spirit, a belief that we can shape the community into the way we want it to be," he said. "I want to do everything I can to give the people in Maricopa the opportunity to decide that for themselves."

How does he plan to do that?

Here's what Shope has planned this year.

The legislative session starts Jan. 8.

Keep roads money

"I think the No. 1 goal for me is ensuring that the money we have been able to get for State Routes 347 and 238 are kept. I know that's not a sexy item since we're not talking about adding more money, but we don't want to take from what we have just because we have another project that needs to move forward."


I-10 expansion

"In budgets and bills I have sponsored with the help of my colleagues, we've been able to secure around \$800 million for the expansion of Interstate 10 between Casa Grande and Phoenix. I want to make sure not a dime from those funds is swept away. We have to get projects like this done because there are too many lives at stake here not to have it happen."

Bring health care options

"As the chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, health care is always at the top of my mind, and I want to make sure options are available. Just because you've chosen to reside a little distance from the Phoenix metro area doesn't mean you shouldn't have access to good health care. I also want to ensure that our seniors, especially, have access to the specialty care that may be needed."

Draw new business

"I think the business community in Maricopa today is surely different than it was 10 years ago. Any time a business or a large employer moves into Pinal County, it's a net positive because people can find good, stable employment without having to take the 347 to Phoenix every day. Now, there are companies like Lucid Motors hiring people from Maricopa. That's important because it's bringing historically good-paying jobs that offer an opportunity for people to be home more often. We want to attract as much of that as we can because we want to have a family-friendly and positive place for people to live." 

Monica D. Spencer

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DAVID & KELLIE HUFFAKER

Maricopa announces plans for industrial park

The city of Maricopa is now accepting request for proposals for the master planning of an industrial park. This is another step in the city's maturation process. Such a facility can have substantial impacts on our local economy — and by and large, these impacts are overwhelmingly positive.

THE CITY OF MARICOPA IS NOW ACCEPTING REQUEST FOR Proposals for the master planning of an industrial park. This is another step in the city's maturation process. Such a facility can have substantial impacts on our local economy — and by and large, these impacts are overwhelmingly positive.

Industrial parks create jobs. Industrial parks typically offer sizable spaces equipped with the infrastructure needed to host a wide range of industry, from manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution to research, cold storage, data storage and more. And such spaces tend to attract large-scale enterprises that — no matter the industry or niche they serve — need a sizable and skilled workforce. Attracting these types of businesses typically represents a big win for the area's economy and residents, as it creates large numbers of high-paying, career-oriented jobs in the region — a clear key to developing and maintaining a thriving local economy.

Industrial parks improve the tax base. By attracting major industrial players to a region, industrial parks can grow the local tax base exponentially.

Industrial parks promote business diversity in the area. With an industrial park in place, an area has a much better chance of recruiting and placing an array of different industries and businesses — creating the kind of business and industrial diversity that can make a region's economy much more stable and less prone to collapse should a single industry suffer.

Industrial parks spur business growth in surrounding areas: Because industrial parks tend to attract large-scale businesses with sizable workforces, they also tend to draw new residents into the regions where they land. With more residents in the region, this creates a ripple effect in the local economy by attracting additional businesses to the area to serve the growing population. From services to retail and real estate, all kinds of businesses in the area can benefit from the added people and dollars that industrial parks tend to pull in.

To learn more about this project, contact the City of Maricopa, Office of Economic Vitality. [🗨️](#)

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MARICOPA BUSINESS PARK

- 1,262 acres — 550± City owned
- Potential rail access
- PPP opportunities
- Utilities well positioned
- East-West corridor
- Favored site — ACA
- 100k sf spec building



Permits

Nov. 6 - Dec. 1

COMMERCIAL

City of Maricopa to construct a detached structure for \$124,000 at Copper Sky. The contractor is Shade Industries Inc. Maricopa Development Services Director Rodolfo Lopez said the structure is part of ongoing upgrades at the public pool.

City of Maricopa to construct a shade parking structure for \$40,000 at city hall. The contractor is Caliente Construction Inc.

Apex Landco LLC to construct a garage valued at over \$1.1 million for its APEX Motor Club campus.

Queen Creek Fiesta LLC for tenant improvements valued at \$115,000 for Silk Press Xpress Hair Salon.

1889 LLC for tenant improvements valued at \$88,000 at 19756 N. Maricopa Road, Suite 101. State records do not show a business at the address, a former ED3 office vacant since 2020. The permit recipient is a real estate holdings company that will likely lease the space after improvements.

Omni Maricopa Self-Storage LLC for a retaining wall valued at \$50,000.

Roadhouse Blues Holdings LLC to complete demolition, including interior walls, floors, ceiling, exterior asphalt and concrete, for \$10,000 at 19395 N. Maricopa Road.

WS Gunsmoke 1 LLC a major development review permit for Gunsmoke Multifamily at 19550 N. Gunsmoke Road.

Clark Investments LLC a minor development review permit for Molly's House of Little Feet to modify the site and add on to the existing building.

Maricopa Station Partners LLC a zoning permit for renovations at the Starbucks on 21423 N. John Wayne Parkway.

RESIDENTIAL

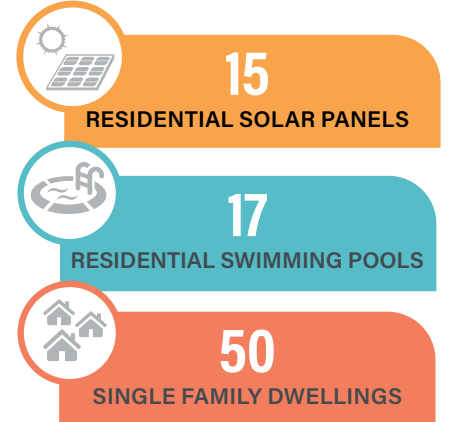
D.R. Horton Inc. to build eight homes in Sorrento, 11 in Tortosa South and one in The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado.

Lennar Arizona Inc. to build six homes in Anderson Farms.

Meritage Homes of Arizona Inc. to build 10 homes in Province.

Century Communities of Arizona LLC to build 14 homes in The Trails at Tortosa.

Permits Issued



New clinic location and additional cancer care services including PET/CT

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New Year, renewed you

BY DR. KRISTINA DONNAY DNP, FNP-C

HORMONES. THEY'RE LIKE LITTLE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS directing everything in the body — digestion, brain function, immune system, mood, libido and more. As men and women age, our hormones decline and fall out of balance, which has a big impact on our health and well-being.

BHRT pellet therapy delivers replacement hormones via pellets placed under the skin. Data shows this is the safest and most effective method of bioidentical hormone replacement therapy. The pellets are made from organic plant materials and share the exact molecular structure of hormones found naturally in the body. Each pellet is about the size of a cooked grain of rice. The procedure is painless.

Medical literature shows BHRT pellet therapy delivers consistent levels of hormones into the bloodstream, avoiding the fluctuations observed when using creams, pills, shots, patches or other methods. Pellets last three to four months in women and four to six months in men.

If you suffer from any of the following, you may have low or fluctuating hormone levels:

- Brain fog, loss of concentration or memory lapses
- Insomnia or disrupted sleep
- Hot flashes or night sweats
- Anxiety, depression or mood swings
- Weight Gain or changes in body composition
- Fatigue
- Dry skin, thinning hair or brittle nails
- Reduced libido or sexual function

Having balanced and optimized hormone levels can provide myriad benefits for the body. The many benefits of BHRT include:

- Relief from menopausal and premenopausal symptoms. These can include hot flashes, night sweats, mood swings and vaginal dryness.
- Improved bone health. Balanced hormones help prevent bone loss and improve bone density, reducing the risk of fractures and other bone-related injuries.
- Reduced risk for certain diseases including cardiovascular and Alzheimer's.
- Increased libido. BHRT is shown to improve sexual health, lubrication and satisfaction.
- Boosted energy levels. Studies show women who use BHRT report increased energy levels and reduced fatigue compared to those who don't.
- Increased muscle mass and strength. Optimal hormone levels help improve overall physical function and quality of life.

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine revealed women receiving testosterone therapy were able to lose twice as much

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body fat and gain more muscle mass than women who were given a placebo.

If you are seeking renewed balance in your life and think hormonal imbalance may be a factor, please reach out to us and schedule a consultation with Dr. Kristina Donnay DNP, FNP-C. [📞](#)

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22560R16	ASSURANCE MAXLIFE 98H BLK.....\$179.99
21545R17	ASSURANCE MAXLIFE 87V BLK.....\$217.99
21555R17	ASSURANCE MAXLIFE 94V BLK.....\$215.99
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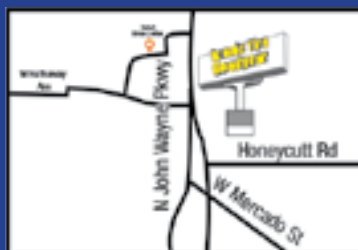
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If paid in full within 6 months See store for details.

NO CREDIT CHECK FINANCING AVAILABLE

Up to 1 year no interest. Ask for details. OAC

*Buy 2 select tires and get 2 free OR buy 3 select tires and get 4th free. Select tires only. Must purchase tire protection plan and nitrogen package, which includes valve stems, balancing, free tire rotations, free alignment checks, free flat repairs and free replacement for the first 25% of tread wear on a tire that is not repairable (with the nitrogen and tire protection plan purchased). Restrictions and exclusions apply. See store for complete details. Offer may not be combined with any other discounts unless otherwise stated. No dealer or carryout. Offer ends 1/31/2024.

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

Restaurant inspections



A summary of the Nov. 4 through Dec. 10 restaurant health inspections by Pinal County Environmental Health Services.

EXCELLENT

- Bahama Bucks
- Barro's Pizza
- Dollar Tree
- Domino's
- Dutch Bros.
- Fry's Marketplace
- Fry's Marketplace Bakery
- Fry's Marketplace Sushi
- GNC
- Gyro Grill
- KFC/Long John Silver's
- Maricopa High School
- Maricopa High School Culinary Arts
- Shamrock Farms
- Sprouts Farmers Market
- Sprouts Farmers Market Deli
- Sprouts Farmers Market Sushi
- Taco Bell
- Yogurt Jungle

EXCELLENT No violations found.

SATISFACTORY Violations corrected during inspection.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT Critical items noted during inspection cannot be corrected immediately requiring follow-up inspection.

UNACCEPTABLE Gross, unsanitary conditions necessitating the discontinuation of service.

SATISFACTORY



Cold holding
Temperature of cheesecake in cold holding display cooler 50-55° (≤41° required).

Cooling equipment
Air temperature in display cooler 50° (≤41° required).

Cooling methods
Temperature of cooked pasta stored in deep, plastic, closed tubs in walk-in cooler 57-66° (≤41° required). Pasta is to be placed in ice bath, then in a shallow, metal pan with no lid to chill quickly.



Food condition
White, fluffy mold on cut tomatoes in prep cooler, whole moldy tomatoes in walk-in cooler.

Cold holding
Temperatures of cheese held above chill line in the prep cooler 51-55° (≤41° required).

Date marking
No dates on open packages of precooked bacon, cheese and hotdogs in prep cooler.

Equipment maintenance
Storage cabinets at drive-thru and gaskets in ice cream machine broken.

Wall cleanability
Walls throughout restaurant damaged.

Cleaning ventilation systems
Build-up of dust on walls around air vents at cook line and in walk-in cooler.

Li's Garden

Food contact
Employee carried slip of plastic wrap to cook-line prep area with both hands. A corner of the wrap was in employee's mouth before being placed over cooked shrimp.

Sanitization
Sanitizer in dish machine tested at 0 parts per million (50-100 ppm required).



Hot holding
Temperatures of cream soup and marinara sauce in boiler pan on stove above low flame 107-110° (≥135° required).

Equipment maintenance
Puddle of oil behind cook line.

Cleaning
Build-up of debris on floor around walk-in cooler and cook-line equipment.



Sanitization
Employee washed and rinsed dishes before putting them in quat-based sanitizer for about five seconds. Sanitizer tested to be 0 ppm. Dishes are to be submerged in sanitizer for at least one minute, and sanitizer must be tested at 200 ppm.

Cold holding
Temperature of cut greens at prep table 69-71° (≤41° required).



When to wash
Staff cleaned dishes in sink and immediately began preparing food. Staff later picked pen off floor and began preparing food.

Contents of a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan
Entry for acidified rice log showed cook time and pH test at 9 a.m. Time of inspection was 8:15 a.m. Staff to maintain records in real time.



Cooling
Temperature of cooked chicken wings in reach-in cooler 70-81° (≤41° required).

in Maricopa



Restaurant Guide



City council's favorite foods

One of the best ways to learn more about someone is to find out what they love to eat.

Here's a peek at your city councilmembers' favorite foods and which restaurant they would like to see in Maricopa one day.

ERIC GOETTL

If it is food, I will probably eat it! I love to try new foods, especially foods that have a rich heritage and culture, foods that not only excite the taste buds but also tell a story.

My favorite dish, and maybe it's because we're coming off the holidays, has to be my late grandmother's four-generation recipe for stuffing. Each time I'm able to make this dish, it brings back wonderful memories of spending time with her and family around the Thanksgiving table.

When it comes to what restaurant I would like to see come to Maricopa, that's a hard one for me to answer. I don't necessarily have one dream restaurant I wish would come. Instead, I'm excited for any new restaurant to come to town, especially one that might be built around one of their grandmas' favorite recipes!

AMBER LIERMANN

My favorite food depends on my mood. I love Mexican, Chinese, Italian, American, Thai. My new favorite food is Filipino.

I would love to see a Cheesecake Factory here in Maricopa and a Peter Piper Pizza for the young families.



VINCENT MANFREDI

I grew up in a primarily Cuban neighborhood, so my favorite food is Cuban, followed closely by my family's Italian dishes. My favorite dish is bistec res empanizado, con arroz y frijoles and platano maduro frita, which is a thin cutlet of choice top round steak, seasoned in classic Cuban spices, lightly breaded and fried golden brown, served with white rice and a black bean soup, and fried ripe plantains.

There was a Cuban restaurant in West New York, N.J., where I grew up named Las Palmas Restaurant, and I would do anything to have that here.

BOB MARSH

My wife and I are omnivores and I have worked as No. 2 in a 4-star restaurant. My favorite dish is Pacific Northwest Salmon. Why? Omega-3 fatty acids in the fish. Healthy.

I would love to see a revival



of the old North Scottsdale traditional favorite Pinnacle Peak Patio, with the addition of salmon to their menu. Pinnacle Peak cooked their cowboy steaks over mesquite flames, served with very cold beer, and they cut off your necktie if you ordered your steak well-done.

Pinnacle Peak Patio Version 2 would be a real addition to Maricopa. A real cowboy bar with real cowboy steaks cooked over mesquite by real cowboys. That would get Valley residents driving out to Maricopa for a night out.



NANCY SMITH

My favorite food is Italian. My favorite meal is an Italian feast with lasagna, spaghetti, French bread and salad. This creates a community feel where people share a meal and engage in laughter and great conversations.

Something like RigaTony's would be great for Maricopa.



HENRY WADE

My favorite food is Mexican and that's probably because I grew up in Los Angeles. I was born in East L.A. and moved to another part of L.A., so those flavors call to me.

I love chicken tortilla soup because it's so flavorful and so warm. It feels comforting. I want it even if it's 100 degrees outside.

There's a restaurant in Los Angeles, a small restaurant where I had my first date called El Torito. It would be nice to have a replica of that because it takes me back to my history.



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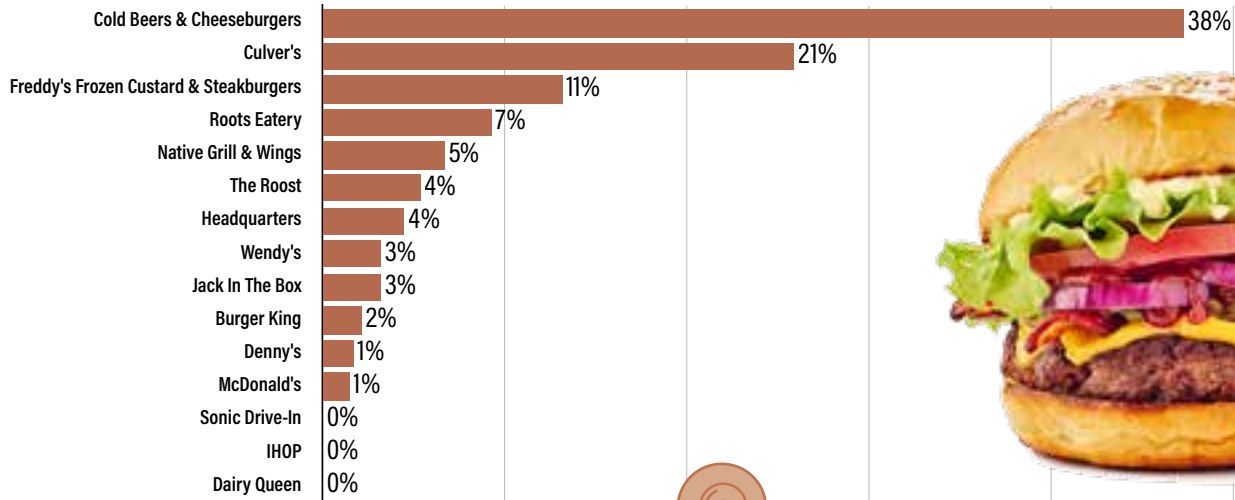
Signature Cocktails

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TheRoostAz.com

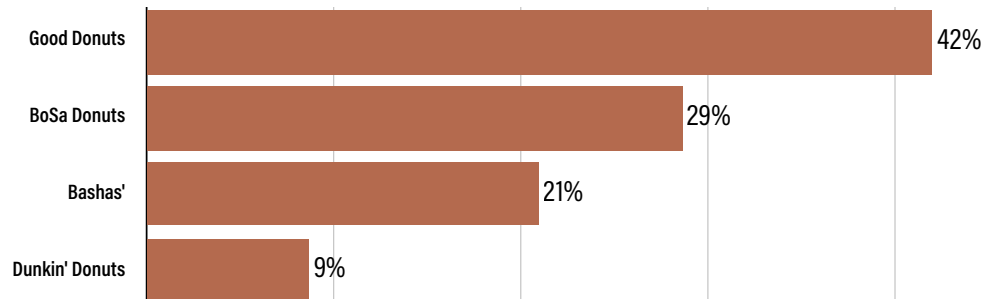




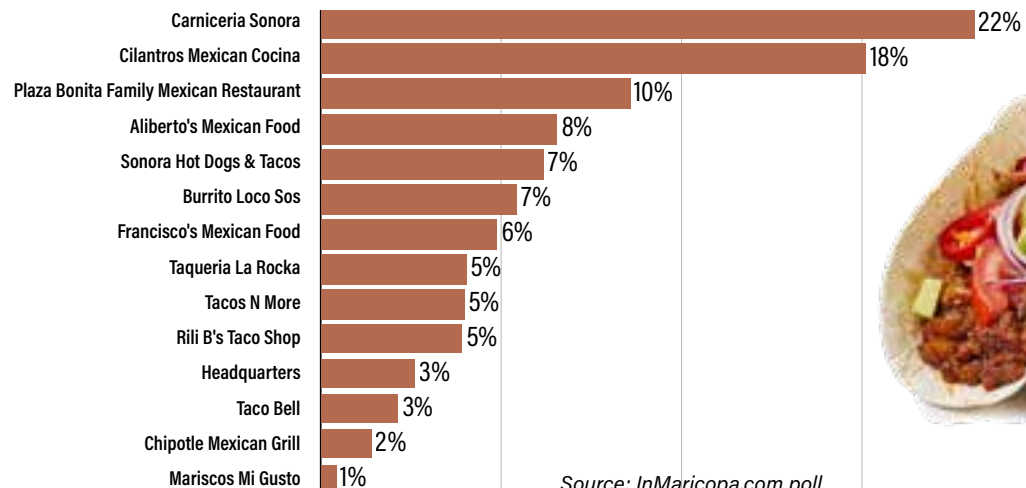
Who serves the best burger in town?



Who's the donut king in Maricopa?



Who provides the best Mexican food in town?



Source: InMaricopa.com poll



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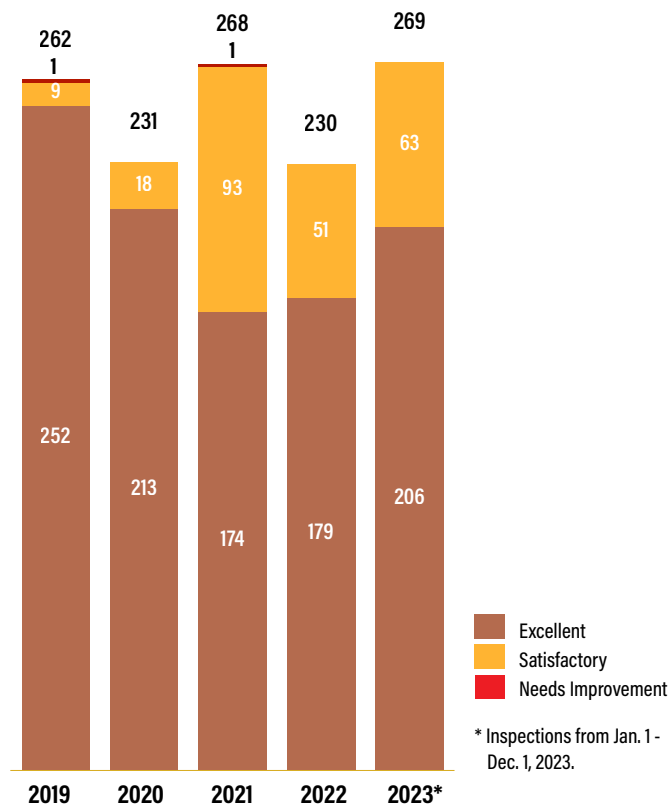
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NativeGrillAndWings.com

A look into food inspections

What exactly does each food inspector's rating mean?

Excellent: All priority standards are observed as compliant.
Satisfactory: One or more priority standards is out of compliance. All priority standards are corrected at the time of inspection.
Needs improvement: One or more priority standards is out of compliance. At least one violation is not corrected at the time of inspection. When violations are corrected to the satisfaction of the department during a follow-up inspection, a satisfactory rating will be given.
Unacceptable: One or more violations observed are an "imminent health hazard." Hazards include the misuse of poisonous or toxic materials, onset of an apparent foodborne illness outbreak and unsanitary conditions that may endanger public health. Hazards can stem from fires, floods, electrical or water problems, and sewage backup. When violations are corrected to the satisfaction of the department during a follow-up inspection, a satisfactory rating will be given.



Below is a list of some of the restaurants that received perfect inspections, and repeat offenders between Jan. 1, 2023 – Dec. 1, 2023

PERFECT RECORDS THE LAST TWO YEARS

Culver's	Received five "excellent" ratings in a row.
Gyro Grill	Received "excellent" ratings all three times they were inspected.
Papa Murphy's Pizza	Received four "excellent" ratings in a row.
Pizza Hut	Visited by inspectors three times and received "excellent ratings" each time.
Neaux Coffee	Since the opening of Neaux Coffee Company last year, inspectors rated the shop with "excellent" ratings both times they visited.
Raceway Bar and Grill	Inspected five times, receiving all "excellent" ratings from inspectors.
Roots Eatery	Has earned four "excellent" ratings.
The Slab Premium Meats	Food inspectors visited The Slab Premium Meats three times and gave them all "excellent" ratings.
Water & Ice	Has earned four "excellent" ratings in a row.
Yogurt Jungle	Has been visited three times, receiving "excellent" ratings every time.



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 Fish Fry 4:00pm – 7:00pm

HAPPY HOUR

2:00pm – 5:00pm Monday-Thursday
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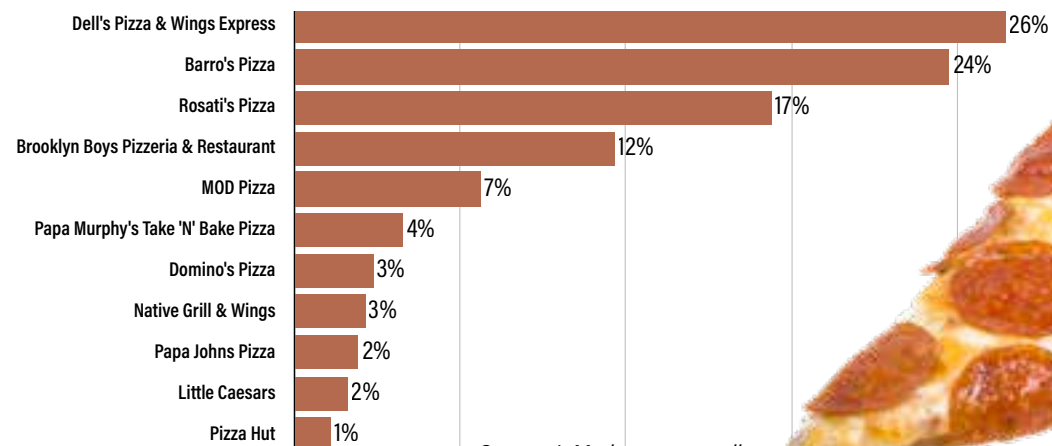
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www.TheDukeGolf.com/Grill



Which restaurant serves the best pizza in town?



REPEAT OFFENDERS THE LAST TWO YEARS

Barro's Pizza	Visited four times, receiving three "satisfactory" ratings.
Carniceria Sonora	Inspected three times since its February 2023 opening, receiving all "satisfactory" ratings.
Francisco's Mexican Food	Visited six times, receiving five "satisfactory" and one "excellent" rating.
Li's Garden	Inspected five times, receiving four "satisfactory" and one "excellent" rating.
Plaza Bonita	Inspected five times, receiving four "satisfactory" and one "excellent" rating.
Sonic Drive-in	Inspected four times, receiving three "satisfactory" and one "excellent" rating.
Tacos N' More	Inspected five times, receiving four "satisfactory" and one "excellent" rating.



19 tasty food trucks to try

BY MONICA D. SPENCER AND KAYLIN HANSEN

With two new food truck parks opening soon and food truck expos slated at Ak-Chin Entertainment Circle and Central Arizona College, Maricopa is slowly growing a reputation as a haven of rolling restaurateurs.

Wonder what eats you'll find in the parks and around town? Here's a peek at 19 food trucks that happily call Maricopa home.

SLOPPY TOPPINGS SNACK BAR

Mexican

Make sure you grab enough napkins and wet-naps before eating here. Bowls are served dripping with chamoy, nacho cheese or whipped cream, looking delightfully Instagrammable. Our favorite? The Sloppy-Lote, which is a large elote cup topped with mayo, queso cotija and plenty of Hot Cheetos crumbs.

[SloppyToppingsSnackbar.com](https://www.facebook.com/SloppyToppingsSnackbar.com)

ASIAN SEOUL FOOD

Asian fusion

Maricopa experienced a recent explosion of Asian dining options, but this long-time option continues to prove you can find delicious bulgogi fries or spam and egg-topped breakfast bowls on the go.

[Facebook.com/AsianSeoul](https://www.facebook.com/AsianSeoul)
Maricopa

BURRITO LOCO HOT SOS

Mexican

Burritos, tacos and Sonoran hot dogs are just a few menu items you'll spot at this food truck parked on John Wayne Parkway in front of Arizona Law Dogs. The tacos are always winners but for an especially hearty meal, try the carne asada burrito.

[BurritoLocoAZ.com](https://www.facebook.com/BurritoLocoAZ.com)

COPAS ALA CART

Fair food

This colorful food truck sells a host of indulgent snacks and sweets like fried chicken, churros and funnel cake.

[MCopasAlaCart.com](https://www.facebook.com/MCopasAlaCart.com)



POOR SAM'S ITALIAN BEEF

Hot dogs

At this food truck, you'll find plenty of treats that will remind you of the Windy City: Chicago-style hot dogs, Italian sandwiches and pizza puffs. Other menu item favorites include their homemade cannoli and an intriguing take on Italian-style nachos.

[Facebook.com/SamAltaliano](https://www.facebook.com/SamAltaliano)



COAST 2 COAST BBQ

Barbecue

Between the pounds and pounds of brisket served at Coast 2 Coast, you'll also find pulled pork, racks of ribs and handmade sausage.

[C2CBBQ.com](https://www.facebook.com/C2CBBQ.com)

SONORA HOTDOGS QUESABIRRIAS

Mexican

A meal at Sonora Hotdogs Quesabirrias will leave you with a smile on your face with a large menu of tacos, hot dogs, burritos and tortas. Find the food truck parked at the Stage Stop Marketplace.

TAQUERIA LA ROCKA

Mexican

This bright yellow truck keeps your options simple but delicious. The tacos are always delicious, but we recommend trying the Lorenza: a tostada topped with beans, carne asada and cheese.

[Facebook.com/TaqueriaLaRockaOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/TaqueriaLaRockaOfficial)

SOFRITO TAN RICO

Puerto Rican

Who knew you could find New York-style Puerto Rican food in the middle of the desert? You'll find popular options like mofongo, a dish of smashed plantains topped with your choice of meat.

[SofritoTanRico.com](https://www.facebook.com/SofritoTanRico.com)

DR. COFFEE

Coffee

Dr. Coffee gives a new meaning to drinks on the go. Find a variety of cold brew, espresso, teas and energy drinks served in the little food trailer often parked near Exceptional Community Hospital.

[DrCoffee.cafe](https://www.facebook.com/DrCoffee.cafe)

MONSOON COFFEE CO.

Coffee

This black and purple truck features fancy and unique flavor combinations. Take their monsoon drink, which combines espresso with tonic water, lime juice and a splash of simple syrup over ice.

[MonsoonCoffeeCo.com](https://www.facebook.com/MonsoonCoffeeCo.com)



CREAMYLETA

Ice cream

Ice cream, paletas and churros sit at the top of the list of menu items to order from Creamyleta. We love the iced churro, which features a toasty churro topped with ice cream and a drizzle of syrup.

[Creamyleta.com](https://www.facebook.com/Creamyleta.com)

SARIO'S CUISINE

Various cuisines

From the hefty 347 Burger to a South American version of fried rice, you'll find a variety of dinner options at this little food truck.

[SariosCuisine.com](https://www.facebook.com/SariosCuisine.com)

SAVAGE SUSHI

Sushi

Indulge in one of Savage Sushi's specialty rolls, poke bowls or a sushi burrito. One of our favorites is the agua chile roll, a tempura-fried crab meat and avocado roll topped with shrimp, mango, more avocado and agua chile sauce.

[Facebook.com/SavageSushi](https://www.facebook.com/SavageSushi)

RASPADOS LOCOS

Mexican snacks

Looking for the perfect weekend treat on a warm, sunny day? The raspados — snowcones for the non-Spanish speakers — come topped with fresh fruit and an optional scoop of ice cream, for

a refreshing take on a typical hot day snack.

[Facebook.com/RaspadoLoco](https://www.facebook.com/RaspadoLoco)

MARISKOS MI GUSTO

Mexican seafood

As the name suggests, you'll enjoy the seafood menu items featured at Mariskos Mi Gusto. The ceviche is always a winner but the tostada mixta — a mixture of shrimp and octopus — is a nice variation.

[Facebook.com/Llesy.Garcia.986](https://www.facebook.com/Llesy.Garcia.986)

BANEZ KITCHEN

Filipino

It's not easy finding Filipino food in Arizona but if you have a craving for lumpia, check out this little food truck. Other menu options include pork adobo, empanadas and pancit.

NAMKEEN DHABA

Indian

This fairly new food truck brings Indian flavors to Maricopa with a menu full of street foods and curries. Try a new twist on comfort food by sampling the butter chicken mac and cheese, which is topped with a tandoori-marinated chicken.



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Nando's seeks to 'knock it out of the park'

BY TOM SCHUMAN

The wait — the long, long wait — for the expansion of the East Valley's Nando's Mexican Café to Maricopa is nearly over. And it seems no one is more excited than Tim Shaughnessy, one of three owners of the soon-to-be five-unit family gathering spot.

"It was 2020 when Maricopa first came on our radar," said Shaughnessy, who teamed with partners Fernando "Nando" Rios and Sean Whalen. The pandemic and a series of developer delays slowed earlier plans, "but we're moving forward now," he said.

The targeted opening is late this month. Shaughnessy is confident residents and visitors will be pleased with what they find.

"I think it's a great area, a great community," he explained. "We've been really happy with the response so far from the city. Everyone is very friendly. The sky's the limit. We want to knock it out of the park right off the bat."

Shaughnessy and Rios launched Nando's in Gilbert in 2003. Growth came in neighboring areas over the next 20 years — Mesa in 2009, Chandler three years later and Queen Creek in 2019. The latter provided some guidance for the owners of what to expect in Maricopa.

"There are a lot of snowbirds and their guests here. It's a busy time of year. We really have to set the tone with our service," Shaughnessy shared. "You can't overprepare for these openings."

"Our demographic is families. When you grew up with your



family and you went to a certain restaurant to celebrate special occasions — that's what we want to be."

An experienced team with proficiency at the other locations will be coming in to manage the Maricopa restaurant.

"Our demographic is families. When you grew up with your family and you went to a certain restaurant to celebrate special occasions — that's what we want to be."

—Tim Shaughnessy, Co-owner

Approximately 50 new employees, evenly divided between full- and part-time, will be on board.

Shaughnessy explained it was fitting he conducted his interview with *InMaricopa* while driving in his car. He and the other owners employ a hands-on philosophy, constantly traveling between the various locations.



The expansive Sonoran-style menu includes a broad range of family favorite recipes originating from Rios and his family. The fajitas, enchiladas and burritos are accompanied by appetizers such as a Mexican pizza and pizza blanco.

Two unique offerings include the popular pollo rico, a crisp chicken burro topped with jalapeño cream cheese and cheddar cheese, and the faja pasta, grilled chicken or steak sautéed with a spicy chipotle cream sauce, bell peppers, onions, tomatoes and fresh jalapeños served on a bed of fettuccine.

Maricopa resident Julie Harris recently visited the

Chandler location and came away impressed — beginning with the expansive menu and timely service and continuing with the quality of the food.

"I've been to Nando's several times, and it never disappoints," she said. "Our entire group loved their entrees. The food is outstanding with plentiful

portions that allow you to enjoy your meal and have some leftovers to relish at home."

The new Nando's, at the northeast corner of Edison Road and John Wayne Parkway, will be open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday. A special brunch menu will be available Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Each restaurant has at least a dozen daily lunch specials, and happy hour from 3 to 6 p.m. weekdays will include a variety of unique offerings.

The Maricopa location will seat about 150 customers indoors and another 40 to 50 on the patio. Live entertainment has been featured in a smaller patio setting at Queen Creek.

Shaughnessy said Nando's will be an active participant in the community, already sponsoring softball and Little League teams.

"We do a ton of fundraisers. We feed high school football teams all the time," he said. "We have a Christmas Angels program where people can buy a present for someone in need."

A mural unveiling, featuring a local symbol, will be part of the grand opening in Maricopa.

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Ralph Skrzypczak, owner of The Roost, with a sampling of the eatery's expanded menu items.

Rooster tales

How our local watering hole overcame the odds

BY JEFF CHEW

It was a rocky beginning for The Roost Sports Bar & Café nine years ago.

It was then known as True Grit Tavern, a tip of the cowboy hat to the popular 1969 John Wayne flick "True Grit".

Owner Ralph Skrzypczak, who jokes about his last name being a good online password, remembers well the struggles of starting up the business in a strip mall on North John Wayne Parkway.



For those looking for a quiet night in, The Roost offers pickup and delivery options.

That was a few years before entrepreneur Jon Taffer's reality TV show, "Bar Rescue", renamed it The Roost. It is a branding that Skrzypczak interprets to mean a place where anyone can come in and hang out.

The eighth season of Bar Rescue covers The Roost's revamp travails, focusing much on Skrzypczak himself. Almost overnight, exposure from the show tripled The Roost's business.

Skrzypczak first planned to open a dispensary in Colorado after recreational cannabis was voter-approved there.

But in 2015, he got a call from his father who moved to Maricopa with intentions to retire here. His father told him True Grit Tavern's owner wanted to sell.

Skrzypczak initially balked at the thought of going into the restaurant and bar business because he had no experience in the industry. He said he only knew it was one of the toughest in existence.

"To this day, it was probably the worst thing I ever did without doing the inspection and my due diligence," Skrzypczak recalled. "I just said blindly, 'OK Dad, let's do it.'"

A week after cutting the ribbon, the father-son duo found the tavern was riddled with black mold, which cost \$125,000 to remove. The business loan was only \$150,000.

"We were left with \$25,000 cash to basically start this business with," Skrzypczak said. "We had huge, huge aspirations and then within a week into it we said, 'Oh my god, we're going to lose half of our startup money with like 90% of it going to a wall that nobody's going to see.'"

With the remainder of their loan money, they bought the booze to replenish a dwindling inventory.

The Roost also survived the pandemic years beginning with a total restructuring in 2020 when most restaurants shuttered for months or more. But the restaurant closed down for two weeks.

Skrzypczak had just expanded the business and there were loans to pay. But grocery stores were also running out of the products he needed to sustain the business.

"The toilet paper shortage had already started, and then the meats and grains had already started to slow down too, or at least you couldn't get them from the shelves," he said.

Doing whatever he could to survive, Skrzypczak offered customers free toilet paper rolls with their orders.

"I just pulled everything I could out because those bills were coming," he said. "It was totally bizarre world."

Ultimately, he said government entities left it up to

"There's just a lot more angst in the world today. From my feeling in the bar business, in the hospitality world, we're walking around on eggshells more than we were before." –Ralph Skrzypczak, Owner

businessowners despite the fact they knew little to nothing about health care.

Even though the business survived the pandemic, Skrzypczak said it took a severe toll.

"We ended up having to sell my mom's house in Colorado — the house that I grew up in — at the end of 2020," he said.

The government loans were intended to keep people employed at the bar, he said. It could not be used to pay off debt.

The business has a "lean" staff of 25 today, he said, down from 50 before the pandemic.

"The weirdest part is COVID changed human behavior, so we don't participate in things like we used to," he said. "There's just a lot more angst in the world today. From my feeling in the bar business, in the hospitality world,

we're walking around on eggshells more than we were before."

He said more online orders also changed the dynamic of business, along with higher pay for staff and rising costs in general.

Today, Skrzypczak said he's trying to give people what they want. Consequently, the menu covers everything from a hotdog and soda to a steak and a glass of fine wine.

"We want a place that the community is proud of to call their own," Skrzypczak said.

"Cheers," a nod to the TV comedy based on a bar "where everyone knows your name," is something Skrzypczak said he hears from customers when describing The Roost.

"When we celebrate, we do it here," he said, speaking of his regular diners and barflies.

He said he recognizes more such places are needed in Maricopa to keep customers from having to drive deeper into the Valley and metro Phoenix metro through the aggravating traffic of State Route 347.

New online ordering and delivery concepts are under consideration, he said. A popular promotion is raffling off a 85-inch TV during football season.

A \$6.99 "fire sale" breakfast and \$1 beers at 3:47 p.m. are among the bar's unique and rotating promotional offerings.

"As Maricopa grows into the future, I just want to have a place that can be represented across the board, generationally, for everyone," Skrzypczak said. "It's a place where everyone can just come and hang out and feel comfortable being themselves."



Victor Moreno

The Roost offers patrons a variety of appetizers and entrees.

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Thai the knot

City embraces first Thai spot

BY TOM SCHUMAN

Maricopa was the 15th location for Thai Chili 2go when the local restaurant opened last summer. But it has been distinctive for the Gilbert-based company in several ways.

“We love the community. It’s like a small town, but of course it isn’t,” said brand strategist Erin Banger. “It’s unlike anything we have been involved with. The people make it feel so personal. It’s one of our busiest locations.”

Banger noted the company, like many others, recognized the need for additional local food choices in Maricopa. The response has been robust.

She added some weeks are naturally a little slower than

others, but business has remained strong the first six months. While carryout is the most common option, is the in-house seating some prefer, and the catering end of the business rolled out in November.

“We do corporate parties, birthday parties and other events,” Banger revealed. “Those are good places to add foods like dumplings and spring rolls as appetizers.”

The menu favorites — like curry five ways — run deep. “The curries are always among the highest sellers, particularly as the weather cools,” according to Banger.

Two other popular choices are Pad Thai (rice noodles, bean sprouts, green onions, eggs, Pad Thai sauce and crushed peanuts) and drunken noodles (a smorgasbord of rice noodles, bamboo shoots, carrots, zucchini, bell peppers, mushrooms, basil, chili garlic and a special cooking sauce).

Gai Tod (chicken bites) is popular with the younger diners. The Pad Thai is one of several gluten-free choices, and there are vegan options as well.

“We pride ourselves on having something for everyone,” Banger shared.

For those not familiar with Thai Chili 2go, ordering online or through the company’s app is the most effective way to obtain your food. Each location operates on a first-in, first-out basis with its orders. As a scratch kitchen, the freshest ingredients available are used and preparation is not rushed to help ensure quality. A rewards system is also available through the app.

Maricopa resident Morrie Benveniste has been a frequent customer since the restaurant debuted. Pad Siew (rice noodles, broccoli, eggs, soy sauce and a special cooking sauce) and basil fried rice are his favorites.

He said he likes the flexibility and convenience of the app, including being able to schedule a pickup time.

“We’ve always had a good experience. The customer service people behind the counter are very helpful, knowledgeable

about the product,” Benveniste added.

More than 30 employees are part of the team, with the majority living in town. The manager has lived in Maricopa for several years.

The restaurant, near John Wayne Parkway and Hathaway Avenue, is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day.

Thai Chili 2go is involved in the community and recently conducted a food and toy donation drive for St. Vincent de Paul.

“We want to give back and not only take care of our people but our community,” Banger outlined. “We’re excited to see where that [community involvement] goes.”

Unlike the others

Thai restaurants are prolific throughout the country due to a Thai government plan launched more than 20 years ago. The Global Thai Program strived to increase the number of Thai restaurants worldwide. It did just that to the tune of approximately 5,000 in the U.S. and 15,000 globally.

The initiative provided training programs, grants and information to investors. Results included creating a more positive image of the country and enhancing both export and tourism revenues.

Since the launch of the Global Thai Program, there has been a 200% increase in tourism to the country.

Thai Chili 2go is a local restaurant and one of few in the country with no connections to that program. It does, however, have its own growth plans.

The company’s 16th location will open in Laveen next month.

The goal is to add three to five more stores per year, expanding throughout Arizona before going national and beyond. 📍

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Hooked

Residents say seafood van 'shrimply the best'

BY JEFF CHEW

Justin Ekelman sits on a small folding chair, huddled next to a freezer chest inside a white van.

The van is covered in handmade signs pitching shrimp from Rocky Point, Mexico's Sea of Cortez, alongside a menu of other seafood delicacies.

Who would think this humble, dirt-lot setting off State Route 347 at West Riggs Road would be a decades-old culinary institution?

The van on the Gila River Indian Community is a mobile family business that many Maricopans frequent on their commutes to and from work. Others simply make a seafood run about 15 miles north of the city limit, sometimes fighting traffic all the way.

As a measure of its popularity, one-third of voters in a recent *InMaricopa* poll named the roadside shrimp van their favorite food source.

How did this family decide to

sell seafood in the middle of the desert?

"I didn't come up with this idea. My father started this over 30 years ago," says Ekelman, a fast-talking fishmonger, quick to suggest the best way to pan fry or grill a customer's fine ocean-sourced purchase. "Dad had a friend who owned boats down there in the Sea of Cortez. My dad would just take us down as a family, and they got together, and he started bringing [shellfish] over the border, and he started selling it."

Carrying on his father's legacy, Ekleman today sells six sizes of shrimp from his freezer stuffed with product and powered by a gas generator at the end of a long

extension cord. Other products picked up over the years include Caribbean lobsters, East Coast scallops, Chilean black mussels, wild Alaskan sockeye salmon and wild-caught American catfish.

Ekelman has sold seafood off SR 347 for 12 years after he took over for his father, who sold there for 15 years before him.

Under the business name Shrimply the Best, Ekelman has a Gila River Indian Community business license posted in a conspicuous place near his sales chair.

The same distributor his father first connected with in Mexico years ago now has a seafood distribution business that ships product in from several international and domestic



Jeff Chew

locations. This allows Ekelman to buy directly, bypassing the international permitting process, including in Mexico.

Ekelman sells at a handful of other locations as well. Longtime repeat customers have allowed the business to serve all around the Phoenix area, including Queen Creek, San Tan Valley, East Mesa and beyond, he said. His seafoods for sale vary, depending on the time of year.

"I have multiple spots around the Valley," Ekelman says. "I go down into Casa Grande, Arizona City, I'm up in Rio Verde, I'm all over."


He's at the SR 347 and Riggs Road location Wednesdays through Fridays and every other Saturday.

"I use this spot more in the wintertime because there's more snowbirds in town," he says.

"I sell a ton of shrimp," the Chandler resident says, when asked what product sells the best at Riggs Road.

He says depending on the time of year, the Riggs location, which is just inside Maricopa County, can sell the most with almost all its customers coming from Maricopa. He says the location is normally in the top three for sales year-round.

What other products do Maricopans buy?

"On Mother's Day, I sell a ton of lobster tails," he says of the crustacean he buys from as far northeast as Maine, and south to the Bahamas. 

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Restaurant Row may come to city center

BY MONICA D. SPENCER AND BRIAN PETERSHEIM JR.

In September, Maricopa's Parks and Recreation Committee got the first look at a Restaurant Row concept that could anchor a new park complex around city hall.

The culinary strip would line Bowlin Road, just south of the Maricopa Library and Cultural Center.

The concept may include some East Valley favorites like West Alley BBQ, Ghett Yo Taco, Ginger Monkey Gastropub, Over Easy and Puro Lounge.

Maricopans want BBQ and brunch options.

In October, a reader poll showed Maricopans would gleefully welcome a new barbecue or brunch spot to town. *InMaricopa* asked readers which Restaurant Row candidate whets their appetite the most.

Nearly half of voters said they're most excited for a new smokehouse, voting for West Alley BBQ.

Coming in a close second was Over Easy, an Instagram-worthy brunchery that gathered 40% of votes.

"Over Easy would be awesome," local resident Angelina Havermahl said.

Maricopans were least excited about an urban taqueria coming to town. Ghett'Yo Taco claimed just 6% of votes.

\$\$\$

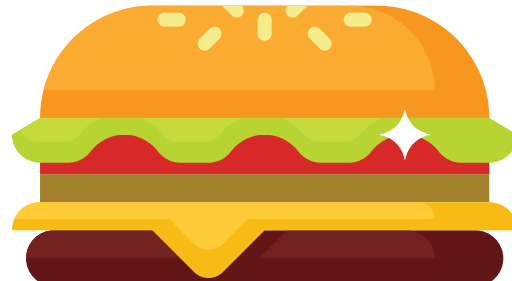
MOST EXPENSIVE MENU ITEM

Chop, Block & Brew

Bone-in ribeye – \$55

HIGHEST-CALORIE MENU ITEM

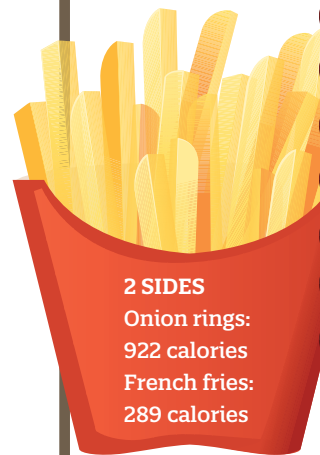
Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers



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Pounder burger patty (2)	2,304 calories
Pretzel bun (2)	540 calories
Gruyere cheese (2)	234 calories
Peanut butter	180 calories
Sugar cured bacon	161 calories
Guacamole	125 calories
1000 Island dressing	114 calories
Chipotle sauce	65 calories
Ranch dressing	65 calories
Sautéed onions	60 calories
Mayonnaise	57 calories
Jelly	40 calories
BBQ sauce	25 calories
Ketchup	20 calories
Tomatoes	16 calories
Buffalo sauce	15 calories
Teriyaki sauce	14 calories
Red onions	12 calories
Pico de Gallo	10 calories
Golden mustard	5 calories
Jalapeños	4 calories
Yellow mustard	3 calories
Pickles	3 calories

TOTAL 5,475 calories



2 SIDES
Onion rings: 922 calories
French fries: 289 calories



DRINK
16 oz. Coke: 190 calories



- 274% of the USDA's recommended 2,000-calorie diet
- It would take the average adult about 7 hours and 18 minutes of running to burn off this meal, according to the USDA

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Where to Eat

AMERICAN

- 347 Grill**
16000 N. Maricopa Road
- Agave's Restaurant at Harrah's Ak-Chin**
15406 N. Maricopa Road
- Arroyo Grille**
48456 W. Highway 238
- Chop, Block & Brew at Harrah's Ak-Chin**
15406 N. Maricopa Road
- Copper Cactus Grill at Harrah's Ak-Chin**
15406 N. Maricopa Road

- Denny's**
21195 N. John Wayne Pkwy.
- Headquarters Café**
19640 N. Maricopa Road
- Helen's Kitchen LLC**
20987 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #B-101

- IHOP**
20429 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Native Grill & Wings**
21164 N. John Wayne Pkwy.
520-568-6077
NativeGrillAndWings.com

- Oak & Fork at Harrah's Ak-Chin**
15406 N. Maricopa Road

- Raceway Bar & Grill**
49237 W. Papago Road #7

- The Roost Sports Bar & Cafe**
20800 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #101
520-568-5338
TheRoostAz.com

- Roots Eatery**
20046 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #104
520-340-3460
RootsEateryAz.com

- Silver Spur Grill at The Duke**
42660 Rancho El Dorado Pkwy.
480-844-1100
TheDuke.com/grill

- Vekol Market**
47021 W. Farrell Road

- Wingstop**
20555 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #108

ASIAN

- Asian Seoul**
20924 N. John Wayne Pkwy
- Li's Garden**
20928 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Panda Express**
20850 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Say Sushi**
21101 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #E103

- Thai Chili 2 Go**
20236 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #111
520-840-7953
TC260.com

- W & Z Asian Bistro & Sushi Bar**
21576 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #101

- Yummy Noodles**
20917 N. John Wayne Pkwy

COFFEE SHOP

- Dunkin'**
20595 N. John Wayne Pkwy.
- Dunkin Donuts at Harrah's Ak-Chin**
15406 N. Maricopa Road

- Dutch Bros**
20242 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Honeycutt Coffee Café**
44400 W. Honeycutt Road #109

- Neaux Coffee Company**
19428 N. Taft Ave

- Starbucks**
21423 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #101
20797 N. John Wayne Pkwy.
21044 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

DESSERTS

- Bahama Buck's**
17470 N. Porter Road

- Crumb Cookies**
20320 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #105
602-675-9660
CrumbCookies.com

- Good Donuts**
20924 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Sugar-N-Spice Dulces, LLC**
520-431-8595
sugarandspicedulcesllc@gmail.com

- Sweet Cravings**
44301 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

- Water & Ice**
20928 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #C-7
520-568-4740

- Yogurt Jungle**
21101 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #E105

FAST FOOD

- Arby's**
21600 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Burger King**
20699 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Copa Craze Nutrition**
20928 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Culver's**
20430 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Dairy Queen**
19680 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Freddy's Frozen Custards & Steakburgers**
21467 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Jack in the Box**
20975 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- KFC/Long John Silver's**
21566 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- McDonald's**
20700 N. John Wayne Pkwy.
41710 W. Maricopa Casa Grande Hwy.

- Slim Chickens**
41740 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

- Sonic**
21470 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Taco Bell**
20980 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Wendy's**
21000 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

GREEK

- Gyro Grill**
20987 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

ITALIAN/PIZZA

- Barro's Pizza**
44600 W. Smith-Enke Road

- Brooklyn Boys Pizzeria & Restaurant**
20800 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Dell's Express Pizza + Wings**
19975 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #110
DellsPizzaAndWings.com

- Domino's Pizza**
20024 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #104

- Little Caesars**
20800 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #106

- MOD Pizza**
20320 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #100

- Native Grill & Wings**
21164 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Papa John's Pizza**
41620 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

- Papa Murphy's Pizza**
20928 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #C13

- Pizza Hut**
21101 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Rosati's Pizza**
21423 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #102
520-568-7700
RosatisPizza.com/Maricopa-AZ

MEXICAN

- Aliberto's Mexican Food**
44480 Honeycutt Road, Suite 105
520-568-6883
Alibertos.com

- Carniceria Sonora**
19568 N. Maricopa Road

- Chipotle Mexican Grill**
21423 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Cilantro's Mexican Cocina**
21423 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Plaza Bonita Family Mexican Restaurant**
21141 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Francisco's Mexican Food**
20850 N. Maricopa Road

- Nando's Mexican Cafe**
NandosMexicanCafe.com

- Rili-B's Taco Shop**
19975 N. John Wayne Pkwy.
520-412-1157
RilibsTacoShop.com

- Tacos N More**
21596 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #104

- Firehouse Subs**
21083 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #C101

- Jersey Mike's Subs**
21423 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

- Jimmy John's**
20320 N. John Wayne Pkwy. #110

- Subway**
21116 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

Restaurants by the numbers

QUICK SERVICE
38 (53.5%)

Quick, cheap and everywhere. More than half of Maricopa's restaurants are classified as quick service — restaurants that emphasize inexpensive meals from premade ingredients that can be eaten on the go. Think places like Slim Chickens, McDonald's or any drive-thru establishment where orders are turned around in seconds and wait staff are nonexistent.

FAST CASUAL
12 (17%)

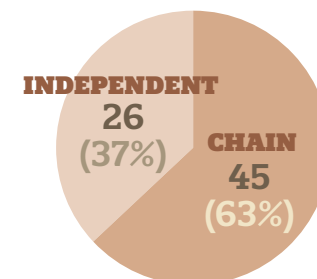
These restaurants are a couple of notches above fast food with a more upscale menu, but service is more limited than what you would expect at a typical sit-down restaurant. You may or may not need to go inside to order and you sit down at a proper table — but menus are fairly stagnant with a mix of fresh and premade ingredients. Service is speedier than cooking it yourself, but we're talking minutes rather than seconds. Don't count on a waiter or waitress here. Chipotle is a popular example.

CASUAL DINING
21 (29.5%)

Casual dining is traditionally the largest segment of a city's restaurant industry, accounting for most sit-down restaurants. A couple of local examples are The Roost and Native Grill & Wings. Nothing you'd don a tux for, but someone will wait on you, and you're expected to tip at the end.

FINE DINING
0 (0%)

Elegant, expensive and luxurious define this type of restaurant. Unfortunately, Maricopa has yet to bring in a restaurant that offers a truly upscale dining experience. Think Capital Grille or Fleming's in Phoenix.



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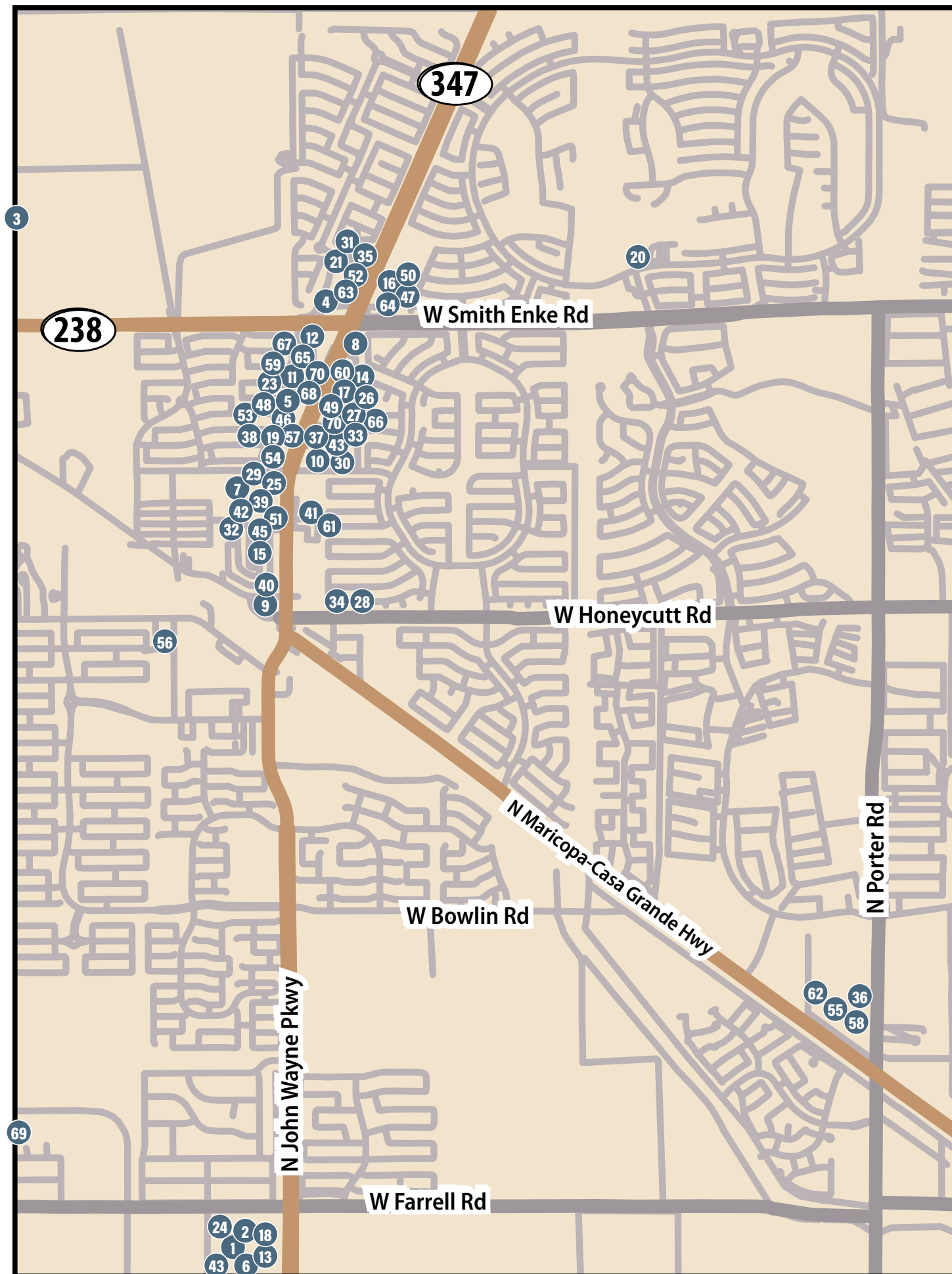
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- ✓ Alkaline Water
- ✓ Nostalgic Candy
- ✓ And More!

(520) 568-4740
20928 N. John Wayne Pkwy., Suite C-7



Restaurant Guide

MAP	RESTAURANT	CASUAL	FAST CASUAL	QUICK SERVICE	OWNERSHIP
1	347 GRILL	■	■	■	I
2	AGAVE'S RESTAURANT	■	■	■	I
3	ARROYO GRILLE	■	■	■	I
4	BARRO'S PIZZA	■	■	■	C
5	BROOKLYN BOYS PIZZERIA & RESTAURANT	■	■	■	I
6	CHOP, BLOCK & BREW	■	■	■	I
7	COLD BEERS & CHEESEBURGERS	■	■	■	C
8	DENNY'S	■	■	■	C
9	HEADQUARTERS CAFÉ	■	■	■	I
10	IHOP	■	■	■	C
11	LI'S GARDEN	■	■	■	I
12	NATIVE GRILL & WINGS	■	■	■	C
13	OAK & FORK	■	■	■	I
14	PLAZA BONITA	■	■	■	I
15	ROOTS EATERY	■	■	■	I
16	ROSATI'S	■	■	■	C
17	SAY SUSHI	■	■	■	I
18	THE LUXE LOUNGE	■	■	■	I
19	THE ROOST SPORTS BAR & CAFÉ	■	■	■	I
20	THE SILVER SPUR GRILL	■	■	■	I
21	WZ ASIAN BISTRO & SUSHI BAR	■	■	■	C
22	CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL	■	■	■	C
23	CILANTROS MEXICAN COCINA	■	■	■	I
24	COPPER CACTUS GRILL	■	■	■	I
25	CULVER'S	■	■	■	C
26	FIREHOUSE SUBS	■	■	■	C
27	GYRO GRILL	■	■	■	I
28	HONEYCUTT COFFEE	■	■	■	I
29	MOD PIZZA	■	■	■	C
30	NEKTER JUICE BAR	■	■	■	C
31	TACOS N MORE MEXICAN GRILL	■	■	■	I
32	THAI CHILI 2GO	■	■	■	C
33	YUMMY NOODLES	■	■	■	I
34	ALIBERTO'S	■	■	■	C
35	ARBY'S	■	■	■	C
36	BAHAMA BUCKS	■	■	■	C
37	BURGER KING	■	■	■	C
38	COPA CRAZE NUTRITION	■	■	■	I
39	CRUMBL COOKIES	■	■	■	C
40	DAIRY QUEEN	■	■	■	C



Restaurant Guide



MAP	RESTAURANT	CASUAL	FAST CASUAL	QUICK SERVICE	OWNERSHIP
41	DELL'S PIZZA	■	■	■	I
42	DOMINO'S PIZZA	■	■	■	C
43	DUNKIN' (JOHN WAYNE PKWY.)	■	■	■	C
44	DUNKIN' (HARRAH'S)	■	■	■	C
45	DUTCH BROS COFFEE	■	■	■	C
46	FRANCISCO'S MEXICAN FOOD	■	■	■	I
47	FREDDY'S FROZEN CUSTARD & STEAKBURGERS	■	■	■	C
48	GOOD DONUTS	■	■	■	I
49	JACK IN THE BOX	■	■	■	C
50	JERSEY MIKE'S SUBS	■	■	■	C
51	JIMMY JOHNS	■	■	■	C
52	KFC/LONG JOHN SILVER'S	■	■	■	C
53	LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA	■	■	■	C
54	MCDONALD'S (JOHN WAYNE PKWY.)	■	■	■	C
55	MCDONALD'S (MARI COPA-CASA GRANDE HWY.)	■	■	■	C
56	NEAUX COFFEE COMPANY	■	■	■	I
57	PANDA EXPRESS	■	■	■	C
58	PAPA JOHN'S	■	■	■	C
59	PAPA MURPHY'S	■	■	■	C
60	PIZZA HUT/WINGSTOP	■	■	■	C
61	RILI B'S TACO SHOP	■	■	■	I
62	SLIM CHICKENS	■	■	■	C
63	SONIC DRIVE-IN	■	■	■	C
64	STARBUCKS (JOHN WAYNE PARKWAY)	■	■	■	C
65	STARBUCKS (BASHAS')	■	■	■	C
66	STARBUCKS (FRY'S)	■	■	■	C
67	SUBWAY	■	■	■	C
68	TACO BELL	■	■	■	C
69	VEKOL MARKET	■	■	■	I
70	WENDY'S	■	■	■	C
71	YOGURT JUNGLE	■	■	■	C

Note: An 'I' denotes the establishment is independently owned and a 'C' means the restaurant is part of a chain.

Next on the menu

BY MONICA D. SPENCER

If there's anything that gets Maricopans going, it's talk of traffic on State Route 347 — or new restaurants arriving in town.

In 2023, *InMaricopa* reported on nearly two dozen new restaurants looking to set up shop in town. Here's a look at what's next up on the local menu.

DEFINITELY



"Arizona's favorite donut shop" made slow progress through December with signs of interior construction and a "coming soon" sign posted. Located in The Wells shopping center near Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and Porter Road, it will bring a third stand-alone donut option to Maricopa.



Sitting just two doors down from BoSa Donuts, Cold Stone Creamery also made steady progress on its newest location in The Wells shopping center. A company spokesperson told *InMaricopa* in November the business does not have an opening date.

This well-known chocolatier will share space with Cold Stone Creamery, offering a small selection of chocolates and caramel apples.



Construction delays pushed Nando's much-anticipated opening back a couple of months. However, a company spokesperson said the restaurant's owners hoped to open by February.



News of a second Taco Bell emerged in May and the company broke ground on its newest location near Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and Stonegate Road several months later. In October, developers predicted an opening in April.



In October, construction crews broke ground on a new Carl's Jr. restaurant at John Wayne Parkway and Hathaway Avenue. While a construction timeline was not available, developers anticipate opening this year.

LIKELY



Paletas, Dorilocos and fresas con crema may be headed to Maricopa. La Michoacana Cristeros submitted paperwork in November to establish a Mexican snacks and ice cream shop.



Nothing is set in stone for this Arizona fast food staple. While a suite has been earmarked for Filiberto's at the Sonoran Creek Marketplace on John Wayne Parkway, the restaurant has not submitted any paperwork suggesting the project is moving forward.



Two years on and Burger King's second location still has yet to break ground. Franchise owner Lucas Barnett said the project hit delays with construction and labor costs, but still hopes to open this year.

Duke's Roadhouse

In April, *InMaricopa* reported the former pawn shop on Maricopa and Edwards Roads may eventually become a new restaurant-bar concept. While pre-application paperwork was submitted in August, developers have yet to confirm any movement forward — but they added new signage sporting the company name last month.

HOT SEAT



The clock is ticking for this well-known Mexican restaurant to serve its first meals to Maricopa residents. City emails obtained by *InMaricopa* showed the restaurant has until March to get the restaurant "up and running," but the restaurant cut off contact in April.



In July, the iconic Tucson diner pulled the plug on plans to set up shop in Maricopa, only to reignite hope for locals a couple of months later by admitting the project was "on hold, but we'll pick it up again."



Excitement over fresh lobster rolls in the drive-thru lasted a mere month. In November, the city announced the much-anticipated Angie's Lobster won't come to town after all. "Unfortunately, Angie's Lobster has withdrawn their application for now," he said. But in early December, corporate told *InMaricopa* it might float a new concept here instead — Angie's Prime, featuring a menu of lobsters and steaks.



Plans to open a second Dutch Bros Coffee in Maricopa might be over-roasted after the company iced out city developers in recent months. The city's records department confirmed discussion between the city and Dutch Bros stopped in July. "The communication dropped off, and no new documents were submitted to Development Services," according to a city records clerk.



Do you seed what I seed?

Tips for your winter garden

BY RITA BRICKER
PINAL COUNTY MASTER GARDNER

WINTERTIME IS GLORIOUS IN Maricopa, particularly in the month of January. This is our coldest month of the year, but it is a surprisingly good time for growing plants.

Vegetables with few days until harvest can be planted from seeds or transplants this month. This group includes beets, carrots,

collard greens, endives, lettuce, radishes, spinach and turnips. Cruciferous veggies like broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower may fare better as transplants when planting now. January is also the perfect month to start asparagus from transplants and bulb onions from sets.

You can also plant many annual winter flowers this month. Colorful petunias, fragrant carnations and stocks, poppies and saucy snapdragons thrive in the chilly weather. Most of these flowers are available at our local garden centers ready to transplant into the ground or in containers.

Even heat-loving succulents will thrive during our Maricopa winters. While spring and summer are associated with planting succulents, they can be planted year-round in relatively frost-free locales. Many will survive a freeze — even temperatures in the teens or lower — without serious consequences.

Several species of aloe and cactus fall into this category: blue elf and tangerine aloes, blue glow agave, firesticks euphorbia and golden barrel cactus are a few examples.

When planted in pots, frost-tender succulents can easily be moved to warmer locations near a wall or under a porch if severe cold is predicted.

January is also the perfect time to plant bare root trees and shrubs. These plants are purchased soilless or bagged in sawdust. They are meant to be planted while dormant. While some bare root inventory is available in local garden centers or big box stores, you'll find a huge variety of bare root plants online or from mail-order sources for shipment directly to the homeowner. Bare root plants are typically cheaper than potted plants.

Fruit trees like plum or apricot, roses, grapevines and berry bushes can all be purchased as bare root and planted in January. The advantage of bare root plants is their roots are placed directly in native soil, enabling them to build that ever-important strong root system before growing leaves and flowers.

So, while we wait for springtime to plant our tomatoes, peppers and squash, we can still exercise our green thumbs by planting a winter garden in Maricopa.

GOT NEWS?

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How to justify an early eviction

BY SHERMAN AND EUPHEMIA WEEKES

BEFORE A LEASE EXPIRES, landlords might have valid reasons to evict a tenant — but they should not take this decision lightly. It can take a legal and financial toll on all involved.

The landlord must closely follow certain laws and maintain respectful and clear communication when evicting the tenant. The landlord should also carefully weigh the costs and benefits of eviction.

Here are three situations when the landlord may want to pursue an early eviction:



1 Failure to pay rent on time and in full. Because the tenant is obligated to pay rent on time and in full every month, non-payment is a common reason for eviction. If rent is not paid by the due date, the landlord can issue a notice to pay or vacate. This gives the tenant a brief window to settle the outstanding rent or move out. Failure to comply means the landlord can file for eviction in court.

2 Significant damage to the property. The tenant is responsible for keeping the property in good condition and reporting any maintenance issues to the landlord. When the tenant causes damage to the property and makes it less valuable, safe or livable, the landlord can issue a notice to make repairs or move out. If the tenant fails to comply, the landlord can file for eviction in court.

3 Violating the lease terms. The lease contains terms and conditions that the tenant must follow. That could mean stipulations about unauthorized pets, guests or sublets, smoking inside the home, causing excessive noise and engaging in illegal activity. If the terms of the lease are violated, the landlord can send the tenant a notice to remedy or leave the property. If the tenant does not do either, the landlord can file for eviction in court.

If you are having challenges managing your tenant, consider hiring a professional property manager. Please reach out to us at Crest Premier Property Management Team..

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most expensive HOME SOLD



Previous sale: \$345,000 (2018)

40966 W. Desert Fairways **SOLD** Dec. 8 \$ 725,000

This corner-lot home boasts a beautiful pool in its oversized backyard. It has a covered and netted patio with two firepits and a small dock, as it sits on the community's lakeside waterfront. In addition to four bedrooms and an office, the home has a large great room, kitchen and nook. It sold for \$25,000 under its original list price.

Community: The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado
Square feet: 3,137
Price per square foot: \$231.11
Lot size: 15,386 sqft.
Days on market: 2
Builder: Meritage Homes
Year built: 2013
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 3

- 2. 41926 W. Sussex Drive, Glennville\$565,000
- 3. 40985 W. Agave Road, The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado.....\$550,000
- 4. 19024 N. Lousandra Drive, Senita\$485,000
- 5. 17665 N. Avelino Drive, Sorrento\$485,000

least expensive HOME SOLD

45513 W. Sheridan Road **SOLD** Nov. 27 \$ 270,000



Previous sale: \$70,000 (2009)

This Maricopa Meadows ranch home has four bedrooms and two full baths. It has a formal living room and eat-in kitchen. It sold sight unseen for \$29,999 under its original list price.

Community: Maricopa Meadows
Square feet: 1,853
Price per square foot: \$145.71
Lot size: 5,176 sqft.
Days on market: 16
Builder: Richmond American Homes
Year built: 2005
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 2

- 2. 42081 W. Miller Lane, Province.....\$290,000
- 3. 44728 W. Alamendras St., Acacia Crossings.....\$295,000
- 4. 36226 W. San Pedro Drive, Tortosa.....\$299,990
- 5. 40853 W. Sanders Way, Homestead North.....\$300,000

Brian Petersheim Jr.

Source: MLS, Nov. 14 - Dec. 10

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12 items to never flush down your toilet

BY TERRY LEAMON, MY MARICOPA PLUMBER

TOILETS ARE A MODERN-DAY convenience meant to dispose of human waste, and nothing else. Flushing household products and other items can lead to clogged drains and expensive repairs. Sooner or later, you will find your toilet, house and even your yard backing up.

Items not safe for sewer drains yet often flushed down the toilet include:

- 1 Flushable wipes**, despite the great marketing, are not flushable as they do not break down in the drains like your toilet paper.
- 2 Paper towels** are made to absorb water, not dissolve in water like toilet paper does.
- 3 Tissue products**, like paper towels, are absorbers, not dissolvers.
- 4 Cotton balls**, rounds and cotton swabs do not break down in water and tend to build

up in your lines resulting in blockages and bent or broken pipes.

5 Feminine products are made to absorb and swell, which will lead to sewer and septic system problems.

6 Dental floss builds up over time and gets caught up in and wrapped around other items going down sewer drains creating large clumps.

7 Hair, like floss, can stick to the inside of the pipes causing clogs and back-ups.


8 Band-Aids and their generic equivalents are made from non-biodegradable plastic and can pollute the water systems. The adhesive can also stick to other items resulting in larger clogs down the road.



9 Medications and hazardous material will contaminate the water system.

10 Cigarette butts introduce potentially harmful chemicals into the environment and don't always go down when flushed.

11 Fats, oils and grease will build up in the lines — just like they do in your sink drains.

12 Kitty litter not only backs up and clogs your lines but can also cause harmful parasites in the drains and water lines. 

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Streamlining design process has its advantages

BY DAYV MORGAN

WHEN MY FAMILY MOVED TO Maricopa in 2006, we bought a new build and I remember spending around six hours in the builder's design studio picking out all the details.

Back then, most builders offered endless customization. I had an idea of what I liked, but I never imagined there would be so many decisions.

We picked our favorite out of 30 different cabinet styles and colors, then viewed a selection of 50 countertops and 100 flooring choices and hoped when everything was installed, there would be some sense of cohesion.

Next, we picked out lighting, plumbing fixtures, door hardware, window treatments, appliances, and landscape packages. There were even multiple options for garage door openers. I had expected this to be fun but was left feeling stressed and overwhelmed.

Fast forward to today's market and the majority of builders don't offer nearly as many options, if any at all.

Most builders plan out the entire subdivision before the first house is started and decide for each lot the floorplan that will be built, and which options will be included.


Instead of customers going to a design center, they have several different interior packages to choose from, with professionally matched countertops, cabinets, and flooring choices.

Then, if a buyer decides they want a particular floorplan, the builder tells them which lots have that floorplan, and which interior package it will have. All the buyer has left to do is decide which lot they want. It takes what used to be a complicated




and lengthy process and makes it a quick decision.

This approach is cost-effective for both the builder and the customer. By keeping the options limited, builders can purchase materials in bulk, which means a lower final price.


It's easy to get carried away at the design center and add upgrades that push the home out of your price range. And even if you don't add much at all, you leave with a feeling of disappointment due to all the things your house won't have, that you never even knew you wanted.

Another advantage to limiting design options is that builders can complete houses faster when every house is nearly identical. There is less risk of supply chain issues waiting for a specific custom item, and for the buyer, less risk of the financing falling through due to rising interest rates or any other unforeseen problems. 

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

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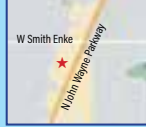
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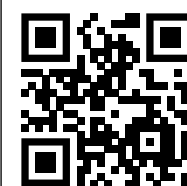
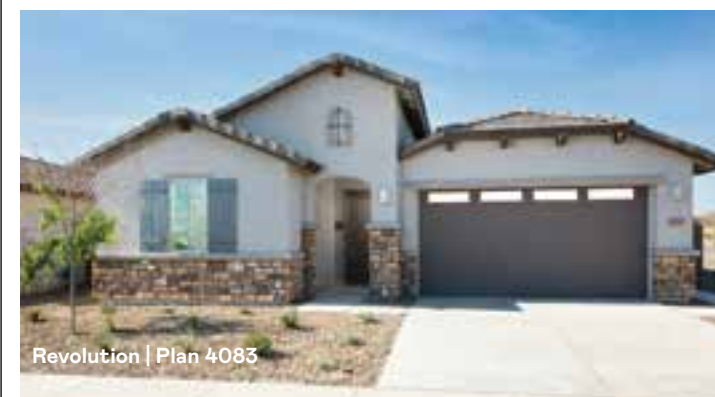
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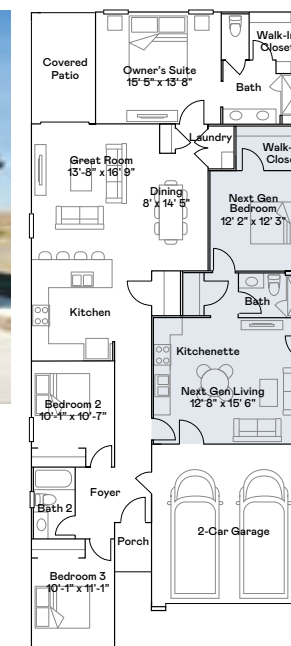
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Magazine reading party

BY ELIAS WEISS



Dozens of readers gathered at Susan Buonsante's Glennwilde Groves home Dec. 2 to read last month's issue of *InMaricopa*, which included a feature about her ex-husband, Stanley Wayne Wineberg Jr., who lied about receiving a Purple Heart while in the military and swindled her out of \$70,000 before she found out he was a fraudster.

Bryan Moridt

Happy New Year!

With the start of January comes a friendly reminder to change out your air filters.

As we gear up for cooler weather, it's important to make sure our HVAC units are working efficiently. This is the perfect time to schedule a maintenance check and make any necessary repairs to ensure that your unit is in tip-top shape before summer rolls back around.



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GETTING TO know

MERCED VILLALOBOS
Advertising Professional, InMaricopa

Hometown: Phoenix
Reside in: Rancho El Dorado
Maricopan since: 2023
Family: One daughter
Hobbies: Watching football, fantasy football, working out, trying new restaurants, playing poker, spending time with family
Pet peeve: Leaving the cupboards open
Dream vacation: The Bahamas
Like most about Maricopa: The small town feel and low cost of living



FAVORITE ...
Charity: The Salvation Army
Movie: The Sandlot
Musician: Drake
Team: Arizona Cardinals
Drink: Long Island iced tea

Meal: Chicken fajitas
Getaway: Camping and gym
Quote: "It ain't about how hard you hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward." - Rocky Balboa

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Sue Lash, left, along with a group of women living in Province and Maricopa Wells Middle School students partnered up to give gift bags full of holiday goodies to special needs students.



Sew far, sew good

Seniors handmade gifts for needy children

BY TOM SCHUMAN

The holiday season is filled with traditions. An unlikely one exists in the city between some of the youngest and eldest residents — a group of women living in the Province community and Maricopa Wells Middle School. For the seventh consecutive year, these senior ladies sewed gift bags — 240 of them — and filled each with holiday goodies for special needs students at the school. It is an undertaking that fulfills all involved.

“It’s just a blessing, all of this coming together,” said Joan McIntire, one of the Province residents who plans the annual effort. “We just want to keep Christ in Christmas.” Shalom Gindiri, an Exceptional Student Services (ESS) teacher at the middle school, said there are eight special education classrooms at Maricopa Wells. While top-performing academics and athletes frequently steal the spotlight, she noted that “often the special education kids are not recognized. It is so

special that they continue to do this every year.” Another ESS teacher, Courtney Turpen, told her students the gift bags were prepared “with a lot of love, a lot of time and lot of effort.” Students in one of the classrooms greeted McIntire and fellow Province women organizer Linda Helmer with thank-you cards they created in class one school day just before Christmas break last month.

“We get large manila envelopes filled with thank-you notes,” Helmer explained. “We read through each and every one of them.”

Every year, six or seven women from Province meet several times throughout the holiday season to sew the bags. It takes an estimated 20 to 30 minutes to create each one.

The fabric is all donated, but the women purchase the contents. They gather later to pack the bags, which this year included a pencil, fruit roll-up, Play-Doh, chocolate kisses, marshmallow treats and M&M’s.

Gindiri, who hails from Nigeria, said the generosity of the Province women extends well beyond city limits. In a separate project, the women compiled school supplies, hygiene items, flip-flops, toys and other items for delivery by missionaries going to her West African home country.

“They are reaching out across the globe,” Gindiri shared. “These are kids living in huts. It is wonderful what these women do.”

Tom Schuman



What you need to know about this year’s senior expo

BY RON SMITH

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN wondering where I have been for a while. I wish I could say my wife and I were off on a grand cruise around the world! My distraction has been local, but still an adventure.

Last summer, Maricopa City Council refocused the goals of its Age-Friendly Advisory Committee. As a result, we have a new name — the Senior Advisory Committee — and new tasks to achieve. One of those tasks is our role in the annual senior info/expo event. Instead of just providing recommendations and support to city staff, this year, the whole event is planned by the committee with support from city staff.

This has been both an exciting and challenging task. For starters, we couldn’t use the Copper Sky Recreational Center as our venue. No problem! After all, we have more than 300 years of combined work experience and a few ideas of our own.

As a very young city, we don’t really have a lot of choices other than Copper Sky, but Copper Sky’s recreational programming has become quite unfair to its patrons. We are fortunate to have another facility designed to accommodate city events — the Maricopa Library and Cultural Center.

This year’s event — the eighth annual — comes with one big change. At this new venue, we are no longer able to provide free lunch for attendees.

However, our new venue provides a comfortable room suitable for professional presentations. So, we will offer presentations from four industry specialists on scams and fraud directed at seniors, ways to reduce heart problems through preventative practices,

learning how to reach out for supportive services like palliative or hospice care, and navigating dementia.

We will have three workshop sessions provided by the Office of the Arizona Attorney General. The workshops will focus on advanced directives. The AG’s office will provide copies of its Life Care Planning packet for all attendees. The workshops will focus on why advanced directives are important and how to complete the packet. Presenters will also explain how the Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry works and why it is important.

For those wanting to reserve a spot in one of the three workshops, visit the city’s ActiveNet system to preregister. The workshops are hourly starting at 9 a.m. Jan. 20. Automatic waitlists will be created if demand requires them.

On the morning of the event, any remaining workshop seats will be filled from the wait list or on a first-come-first-served basis.

There is no charge for these workshops, but each session is limited to just 22 seats. Extra

advanced directives packets will be available at the AG’s table in the Pine Room.

Also new this year will be the chance to win one of several very nice door prizes that have been assembled with you in mind. Generous donations from members of the city council will help to ensure a good selection of door prizes. Deposit your event passport at the Senior Advisory Committee table when you leave the event to participate in the drawing.

IF YOU GO

What: Senior Info/Expo
When: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jan. 20
Where: Maricopa Library and Cultural Center
How much: Free

Ron Smith is a senior advocate, a member of the Senior Advisory Committee and a CAPS/CLIPP™ certified aging-in-place planner.

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VICTOR MORENO PHOTOGRAPHY

SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

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EVENTS

JANUARY

3

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

6

Maricopa Amateur Radio Association
8 a.m., Maricopa Public Library & Cultural Center
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

SafeHouse - Break the Ice

9 p.m., Water & Ice
20928 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

11

Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group
6 p.m., Northern Lights Therapy
21300 N. John Wayne Pkwy. Suite 103

13

Be the Gud Fundraiser
9 a.m. - 4 p.m., The Gud Ark Animal Sanctuary
50459 W. Papago Road

16

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

17

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

Blue Star Mothers of Maricopa

6:30 p.m., Maricopa Veterans Center
41600 W. Smith Enke Road

18

Open Bingo
2 p.m., Caliche Senior Living
1640 N. Peart Road, Suite 103

20

Teen Group
10 a.m., Northern Lights Therapy
21300 N. John Wayne Pkwy. Suite 103

25

Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group
6 p.m., Northern Lights Therapy
21300 N. John Wayne Pkwy. Suite 103

Sundays

Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., Maricopa Meadows Community Park
45511 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Mondays

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Tuesdays

Maricopa Cruise-in
5 p.m., Parking lot behind Burger King
20699 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

Alcoholics Anonymous

6:30 p.m., Mountain View Community Church
50881 W. Papago Road

Celebrate Recovery Large and Small Group

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

Wednesdays

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

Noon, Maricopa Library & Cultural Center
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

Art and Sip

7 p.m., The Roost
20800 N. John Wayne Pkwy. Suite 101

Narcotics Anonymous

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

Thursdays

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Fridays

Narcotics Anonymous
4:30 p.m., Maricopa Library & Cultural Center
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

Al-Anon - Strength & Home AFG

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


Alcoholics Anonymous

7 p.m., Mountain View Community Church
50881 W. Papago Road

Saturdays

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

ALL EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE

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

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UPCOMING ELECTIONS

PPEMarch 19
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911 Air Repair.....BC	Lennar Homes.....65
A+ Charter Schools.....33	Lizard Heights Glass.....61
Aliberto's Maricopa.....56	Maricopa Unified School District.....3,21
American Medical Associates.....64	Maricopa Wellness Center.....32
Arizona Renaissance Festival.....70	Mobile Elementary.....67
Cactus Mine.....70	My Maricopa Plumber.....64
Cancer & Blood Specialists of AZ.....31	Nando's Mexican Café.....45
Central Arizona College.....20	Native Grill.....41
City of Maricopa.....30	NextCare Urgent Care.....69
Cox Communications.....1	Next Level Scorpion and Pest Control LLC.....29
Crest Premier Properties.....62	Orbitel Communications.....IBC
Crumb Cookies.....53	Penguin Air Arizona LLC.....IFC
D.R. Horton.....19	Pinal County Recorder's Office.....71
Dell's Pizza & Wings Express Maricopa.....57	Restaurant Guide.....37
El Dorado Holdings, Inc.....63	Rili-B's Taco Shop.....50
Electrical District No. 3.....66	Roots Eatery.....47
Exceptional Community Hospital.....5	Rosati's Pizza.....49
HomeSmart Premier 1 Day Morgan.....65,77	Sequoia Pathway Academy.....7
Iconic Tire & Service Centers.....34	Thai Chili 2 Go.....50
InMaricopa.....75	The Better Shed - Urban Shed Concepts.....17
InMaricopa.com.....16	The Duke at Rancho El Dorado.....43
Iron City Polaris.....28	The Roost Sports Bar & Café.....39,48
Jiffy Lube.....55	The UPS Store.....77
Karsten's Ace Hardware.....13	Treasured Smiles Children's Dentistry.....12
Kooline Plumbing.....62	Victor Moreno Photography.....70
Leading Edge Academy.....73	Water and Ice.....57



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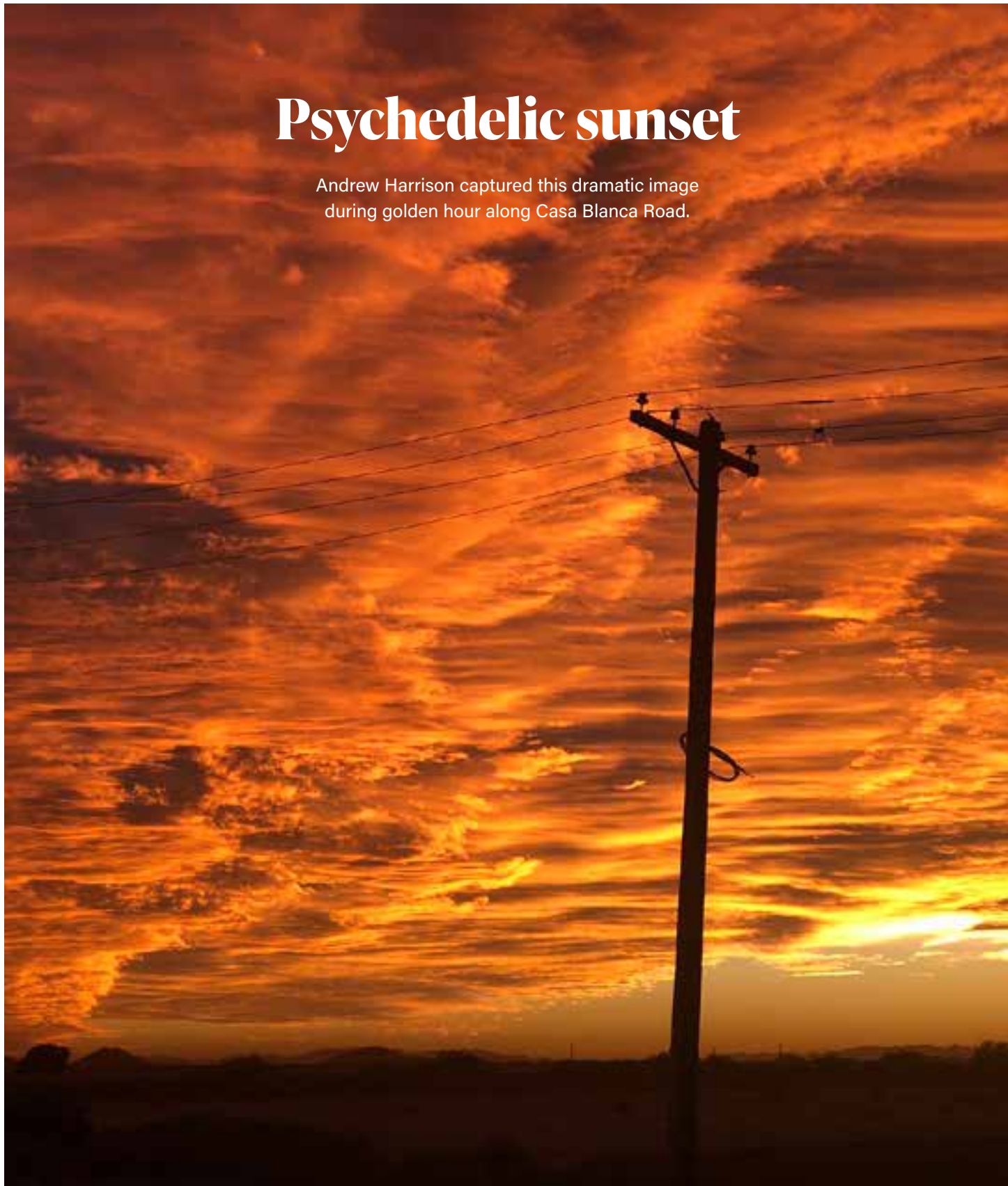
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