

COMMUNITY

IMPACT

NEWSPAPER

LOCAL. USEFUL. EVERYONE GETS IT.®

IMPACTS TRANSPORTATION

You're seeing news from



ADVERTISE | CAREERS | COMPANY INFO

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

GILBERT

FIND YOUR COMMUNITY ▾

DINING THINGS TO DO

E-NEWSLETTER LATEST EDITION

Gilbert teen Marcus Behling earns every Boy Scout merit badge





Marcus Behling gives his mother, Sheryl, much credit for his earning every merit available through the Boy Scouts of America. (Chandler France/Community Impact Newspaper)

By Chandler France

✉ | 2:28 pm Jul 17, 2019 MST | Updated 2:56

pm Jul 17, 2019 MST



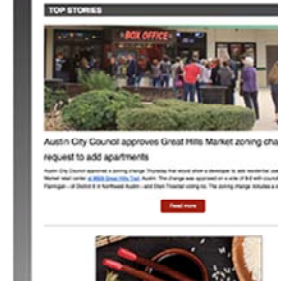
Marcus Behling earned his Eagle Scout rank when he was 13. That same year, he won the Arizona State Spelling Bee and tied for 11th place at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. He just graduated from Perry High School ranked No. 1 in his class.

Now, Behling has also earned every single Boy Scout merit badge possible, 138 in all.

Marcus finished his final badge, for bugling, June 13 and will be awarded it at a Court of Honor on July 20.

More than 110 million Americans have participated in the Boy Scouts of America program since its inception in 1910, according to its website. Behling is one of only 427 scouts confirmed by the [Merit Badge Knot](#) website to ever earn every merit badge.

"I'm glad it's over," Marcus said.



**GET MORE LOCAL
MORE OFTEN**

Subscribe



POPULAR



Town prep
fresh look
employee



Marcus said his one of his favorite badges to earn was the leatherwork badge. He worked with leather, stitching and dyeing it to make a few different projects, one being a knife sheath. He was quick to answer what his least favorite badge was: scuba diving.

More than just the practical skills learned through earning the badges, Marcus said he has learned valuable life lessons as well.

"More than anything, getting through things when it's not fun. I can look back on these with so many unpleasant memories. I had to just get through it at some points," he said.

Family affair

Boy Scouts runs in the Behling family. Behling's mother and father are merit badge counselors. His brother, Mitchell, was also an Eagle Scout and went to the National Spelling Bee.

Behling's mother, Sheryl, said he was following in his brother's footsteps at first but quickly blazed his own trail.



LOCAL EVENTS

Looking for something local
weekend?

[Find Events](#)



RELATED

Gilbert sets Sept. 21 as date to open Regional Park

The town of Gilbert will hold a ribbon-cutting Sept. 21 for Phase I of the planned 272-acre Gilbert Regional Park,... >

“At first, it was, ‘I’ll do it; Mitchell did it.’ Then it was, ‘Yeah, I’m going to do that and a lot more,’” Sheryl said.

Sheryl said when Behling first started as a Boy Scout, he had an unpleasant experience at a campout that left a bad taste in his mouth. However, he persevered through that, as well as physical challenges, to reach this achievement.

“He’s faced a lot of challenges, [but]he’s always up for a challenge,” she said. “To see him finally done, it’s awesome. I knew he would finally do it. It just took a while, but he never gave up.”

Sheryl said she was there every step of the way helping Behling achieve a goal only few have accomplished.

“I was just there as support, or motivation or [to be]annoying,” she said with a chuckle.

Mom-son time

Behling said his mom played a much larger role in helping him earn every merit badge than she would admit.

THE LATEST EDITION

COMMUNITY IMPACT
NEWSPAPER
LOCAL. USEFUL. EVERYONE GETS IT.™

A DIVERSE MIX OF INDUSTRIES
More than 50% of the employees in the Southwest Center are in construction, manufacturing, agriculture, scientific and technical services. Officials say manufacturing and professional, scientific and technical services are industries that they focus on. Here's a snapshot of those jobs in the center.

Town preparing to take fresh look at oldest, largest employment area
By TOM BLODGETT
The Southwest Center, Gilbert's oldest and largest employment area will get fresh scrutiny as the community looks for ways to make it more vibrant. City officials are not yet calling it a redevelopment district, but that's the idea—much like the Heritage District has had for 30 years in case of an event or crisis that can be used to provide relief on the area again. Before making any decisions, however, officials plan to do an extended effort to focus on stakeholders in the area—from employees and employers to residents to people who drive or walk through the area. “We don't want to create a red line and then back everything in the solution to justify it,” Gilbert Economic Development Director Dan Henderson said. “I would rather, in a very subtle way, ...”

Athletics driving enrollment as Park University starts up
Most students are athletes, but officials will look to bring more balance, growth in future
By TOM BLODGETT
When Park University opened in Gilbert on Aug. 19 for its first traditional academic year, nearly 300 students walked through its doors—and more than 90% of those students will also compete on one of the 12 athletic teams Park is fielding this year. College officials said they expected a high athletic enrollment rate and said starting with a strong athletic program helps establish strong footing for enrollment to grow.

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYEES
Wholesale trade	583
Accommodation and food services	529.15 million
Retail trade	1,481
Professional, scientific, and technical services	18,682
Manufacturing	5201.54 million
Other	283
Construction	1,481

STUDENTS AND ATHLETES
Having many athletes in the student population is not an unusual situation at national member private schools that offer sports. Here is a look at those schools' enrollments.

SCHOOL	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	PERCENT ATHLETES
Arizona Christian University	950	44.7%
Beaumont University	950	61.1%
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University	3,000	5.8%
Ohio State University	800	71.9%
Park University	285	93%

DO YOU HAVE

COMMUNITY

EVENT

SHARE IT WITH US

HERE

"I think she's underestimating her role a bit," he said. "There were a lot of them, especially towards the end, that I just didn't feel like doing, but she pushed me to keep going."

Even though she is proud of her son's accomplishments, Sheryl said she thinks it is best that it is over now. However, she said she will miss the time she spent with him and will always reflect on the many funny and weird times they had together.

Behling described one such story that occurred while earning his American labor badge. He said to earn the badge, he could either watch a 2 1/2-hour movie, or do a task he said probably would have taken five minutes. For some reason, he said he choose the movie.

"It was a movie about labor unions, so that tells you how good it was," he said.

Now that Behling has graduated from high school, he said he will be attending Brigham Young University and, for the moment, plans on studying mechanical engineering.

SHARE THIS STORY

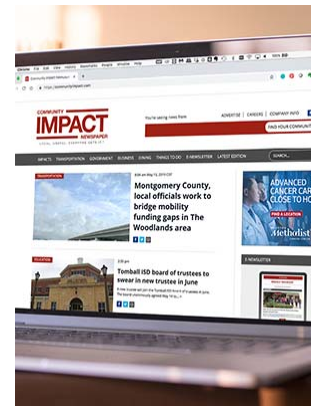


1 COMMENT

COMMENT



HYPERLOCAL ADVERTISING



In-Paper Advertising, Spec Direct Mail, Inserts, Sticky Mail Advertising, E-Newsletter S

Contact Us Tod



Town preparing to take fresh look at oldest, largest employment area

The Northwest Corridor, Gilbert's oldest and largest employment area, will get fresh scrutiny in the coming months from town leaders... >

Athletics driving enrollment as Park University starts up

When Park University opened in Gilbert on Aug. 19 for its first traditional academic year, nearly 300 students walked through... >

Higley district sets goals after employee survey

Higley Unified School District's human resources department has set two "wildly important goals" in the wake of an employee climate... >

Gilbert sets Sept. 21 as date to open Regional Park

The town of Gilbert will hold a ribbon-cutting Sept. 21 for Phase I of the planned 272-acre Gilbert Regional Park,... >



Local News **MORE OFTEN**
CI E-NEWSLETTERS SIGN UP NOW

The banner features the text "Local News MORE OFTEN" in a mix of script and bold sans-serif fonts. Below it, "CI E-NEWSLETTERS" is written in a smaller font, followed by a dark grey button with the text "SIGN UP NOW" in white. To the right, a laptop and a tablet are shown displaying news content, including a "WEEKLY ROUNDUP" section.

Gilbert Road reconstruction project reaches paving portion

Construction continues this week for the Gilbert Road Improvements project from Guadalupe to Baseline roads. Paving of the surface course,... >

Gilbert Public Schools addressing continuing bus problems

Late buses continued to plague Gilbert Public Schools in the first days of the school year, but the buses are... >

Chandler USD school board moves forward with land for new school

The Chandler USD board voted to approve the purchase of about 14.5 acres of land in Gilbert for its new... >

Prepare for overnight Loop 101 ramp closures this week

As work continues on the Loop 101 widening project between Baseline Road and Loop 202, the Arizona Department of Transportation... >



Higley USD approves new hiring schedule for classified employees

The Higley USD governing board unanimously approved a new hiring schedule for fiscal year 2019-20 at its Aug. 7 meeting.... >

Paving starts on Gilbert Road project between Baseline and Guadalupe roads

Paving began Aug. 7 on the center of Gilbert Road as work on the street project between Baseline and Guadalupe... >

Gilbert Public Schools talks cybersecurity as attacks grow

Gilbert Public Schools is frequently a target of cyberattacks, which is driving the district's efforts for a more comprehensive cybersecurity... >

Construction begins on premier shopping center coming to Gilbert

Gilbert Warner, a 95,000-square-foot shopping center, has broken ground at the intersection of Gilbert and Warner roads. The project is...
>



[COMPANY INFO](#)

[ADVERTISE](#)

[E-NEWSLETTER](#)

[CIRCULATION](#)

[CAREERS](#)

[CATEGORIES](#)



[TERMS OF SERVICE](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [FEEDBACK](#)

© 2005-2019 Community Impact Newspaper Co. All rights reserved.