



# Maricopa

THE MAGAZINE

Winter 2015

## PEOPLE

Ceylan Gentilella's  
dance class 'inspires'

## GOVERNMENT

Rocky Brown  
makes 'big impact'

## FAMILY

Fitness during  
and after holidays

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**With degrees in dance and recreational therapy, Ceylan Gentilella has brought dance to the autistic and others who otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate.**

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Jake Johnson

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**ON THE COVER:** Andy Estes of Desert Rat Aviation stands ready to repair and restore classic airplanes. *Photo by Jake Johnson*

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Volume 10, Issue 4

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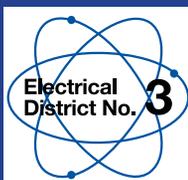
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# Letter

## FROM THE EDITOR

**H**ere in the desert, winter is not a time of hibernation but a time of renewal. It is even the time to soar.

For the Winter Edition of InMaricopa The Magazine, we have stories of restoration, regeneration, rejuvenation – you get the idea. While those living in other parts of the country are settled in for a long winter’s nap, Maricopans are refreshing their outlook for the new year and finding new ideas for replenishment.

Meet Andy Estes of Desert Rat Aviation, where he resurrects aircraft so dead they are down to the bones. He and Casa Grande couple Bill and Joyce Wold turned a 1937 plane into an award-winner, and Estes has even more waiting to come back to life at his facility near the Ak-Chin Regional Airport.



If the holidays are ruining your diet, health expert Aaron Gilbert of Longevity Athletics has advice for keeping the weight off during the greatest time of temptation. USDA also has basic reminders for slimming down and revitalizing for the new year. Those who stay fit and green by cycling around Maricopa will find helpful tips from local cyclists on exercising in a desert winter.

Shawn Rosefeld puts new faces on old cabinets with the mission to “brighten people’s homes and lives.” Learn about his five-star rated business Star Cabinets. Someone else who brightens people’s lives in a completely different way is Richard

Hall, the service officer for Maricopa’s VFW. His work helping veterans through bureaucratic red tape and government paperwork has made many lives easier.

Rocky Brown is all about building a bright future through Maricopa Parks & Recreation. Learn why he has received two state awards, including one as an emerging leader. Staying on the government theme, Nancy Smith looks back on her first year as a member of the city council, and former councilmember Alan Marchione catches us up on his status as a community leader.

In the creative world, Maricopa High School’s theater department is bringing new life to classic plays and musicals, and Sonia Cardona is staying up with the trends in invitations.

I hope you find inspiration and new ideas for bringing a spark to your new year in these pages. Enjoy the Maricopa winter!

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**1.** Coach Demond Williams and the Sequoia Pathways Academy football team finished second in the state in Canyon Athletic Association Division II. They played Heritage (Mesa) in the championship game Nov. 6, losing 28-22. *Photo by William Lange*

**2.** The Miss City of Maricopa Scholarship Pageant awarded five crowns Nov. 21: (from left) Miss City of Maricopa Outstanding Teen Dimon Sanders, Miss City of Maricopa Aundria Littlejohn, Miss Estrella Mountains Courtney Ortega, Miss Pinal County Payton Patane and Miss Pinal County Outstanding Teen Theodora Baker. *Photo by Raquel Hendrickson*

**3** Maricopa Fire Department personnel were kept busy this fall responding to calls of swarming bees. The worst incident was Halloween Night on Van Loo Drive in Rancho El Dorado, where six people were taken to the hospital. *Photo by Raquel Hendrickson*

**4.** The City of Maricopa presented an Internship/Service Learning Fair Nov. 16 at the Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center as part of its Youth Internship Program to bring businesses and youth together. *Photo by Dick Barkley*



3



4

4



**5.** The zombie crew at the annual Maricopa Mud Run warmed up its act before challenging the participants at Copper Sky Nov. 24. *Photo by Raquel Hendrickson*

**6.** Eric Wittermann and Joseph Bailin made balloon animals at Art on the Veranda at The Duke at Rancho El Dorado on Nov. 7. *Photo by Raquel Hendrickson*

**7.** At 10 years old, Karma Crossland became the youngest Maricopa artist to be featured in Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship's series of month-long exhibits, with an opening Dec. 2. *Photo by Raquel Hendrickson*



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Jake Johnson

**Ceylan Gentilella works with her son Michael, 7, and Noah Ghee, 7, at her dance studio Desert Sun Performing Arts, where the Inspire class is dedicated to children with autism.**

When Glennwilde Groves resident Ceylan Gentilella was in college, she moved from dance to recreation therapy. It was a choice that would impact the lives of those around her as much as her own.

The New Jersey native attended Montclair State University and earned two degrees — one in dance and one in therapeutic recreation. With her newfound passion for helping those with special needs, she started a wheelchair dance program and in 2003 was approached to start a dance program for youth with severe and nonverbal forms of autism.

“It worked really well,” Gentilella says. “There is so much we take for granted in working with youth who do not have autism.”

Today, Gentilella continues to make a difference in the lives of children through her dance studio Desert Sun Performing Arts (DSPA). The studio is the only brick-and-mortar dance school in Maricopa and is celebrating its 10th season in business.

Providing both recreational and intensive dance to youth age 2-18, the studio also offers a program called “Inspire” for children with autism. Gentilella also founded the studio’s nonprofit DSPA Gems, which helps those without the financial means to access dance classes. To date, the program has awarded \$20,000 to youth in Maricopa.

“Everyone and anyone who wants to dance can,” Gentilella says. “Boys and girls, as well as those who may not be able to pay for it.”

And this includes children with autism — many of whom require additional considerations when learning to dance.

“Will their shirt fit properly? Can you touch the child to fix their movement? What is their comfort level with the music and bass acoustics? Will they have a meltdown?” Gentilella says.

There are accommodations that must be made to ensure a positive experience for youth with autism, but they are also accommodations Gentilella has come to know well. Seven years ago, she gave birth to her son Matthew, who was diagnosed with autism at age 3.

“I think all of my training was God preparing me,” Gentilella says.

## DSPA’s Gentilella ‘inspires’ autistic to dance

By Katie Mayer



Jake Johnson

As a small-business owner in Maricopa in a traditionally tough industry to survive, Gentilella has worked hard for years to keep the doors to her business open and her studio thriving.

“It’s a big learning curve,” Gentilella says. “You stumble; you fall and you keep going.”

And although her business success has not come easy, her greatest challenge has been raising her son.

“It’s been the hardest thing I’ve ever done in my life, to be a mother of an autistic son,” Gentilella says.

She has fiercely advocated for Matthew both inside and outside of the classroom and fought for the critical resources he needs. Her experience prompted her to start Parent Support Maricopa, which brings parents of children with autism and special needs together for advocacy and resource-sharing.

“We had a lot of obstacles to overcome with my son and his school just understanding his autism,” Gentilella says. “We are here to help and do what we need to do ... it comes from a place of wanting positive change.”

Sarah Doyle, dance instructor for DSPA, says she admires Gentilella’s perseverance as both a businesswoman and a mom to a youth with special needs.

“She is very smart and super organized,” Doyle says.

Doyle’s children, ages 6, 9 and 12, also dance at the studio and love it. Two of her children are boys and take hip-hop classes.

“It’s been so fun to see them grow and appreciate music and dance,” Doyle says.

Even those families who haven’t traditionally

**“We are here to help and do what we need to do ... it comes from a place of wanting positive change.”**

– Ceylan Gentilella

been involved with dance have found Gentilella’s dance studio to be a positive place for youth to dance and grow.

One of those is Maricopa resident Karra Hathaway, whose 11-year-old daughter Chandler has danced at DSPA all 10 seasons. Chandler has danced competitively and takes every class offered, including hip-hop, jazz, ballet, tap and even clogging.

“I never anticipated my daughter being a dancer, and this is a new world for me,” Hathaway says. “Ceylan has really taken Chandler under her wing and always seems to care greatly for the girls and boys who dance.”

Hathaway jokes that she will never be a “dance mom,” but said she appreciates the discipline that dancing has taught her daughter.

“It teaches her hard work and that things

don’t always come easy,” Hathaway says. “She has to work for it and it has taken her years to really show the improvement that she is wanting to show.”

For Gentilella, that is just one of the reasons she’s kept her doors open through the tough years and continues to do so today.

“It’s the most gratifying thing seeing my students grow,” Gentilella says. “The measure of success for a business is the company you keep, and I feel strongly that all of our families are wonderful people and I’m really grateful just to be a dance teacher.”

She also follows her dream in honor of her mother, who was a big supporter of Gentilella’s dance career, but passed away before she could see her daughter’s success. In fact, it was her mother who was going to play piano for Gentilella’s ballet productions.

“She always told me to follow my dreams,” Gentilella says. “She was my greatest advocate.”

And today Gentilella has become that advocate for others. 

 [DesertSunPerformingArts.com](http://DesertSunPerformingArts.com)  
 [DSPAGems.com](http://DSPAGems.com)  
 [Search Parent Support Maricopa on Facebook.com](#)



# What would you like to see happen in Maricopa in 2016?



**Charles Linn:**

"I'd like to see them start work on the overpass over the railroad tracks. I've been here a year and a half, and every day that's been a headache."



**Larry Gardner:**

"I would like to see a really nice steak and seafood restaurant instead of all these fast foods."



**Mark Force:**

"A highway from Tortosa to I-10 to get to Phoenix faster."



**Johanna Gillies:**

"Better schools. I have friends that send their kids to Tempe. Why can't we have that quality here?"



**Karin Helton:**

"Just a family, sit-down restaurant. Everything here has got bars associated with it and alcohol. If we want to go have a lunch or a dinner for a celebration, we go to Casa Grande. But Mayor Price is doing a phenomenal job bringing things here. The overpass is coming and things are happening, but people aren't patient enough to let it happen."

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# Vietnam vet clears red tape for local vets

**Richard Hall helps 30 veterans a month as the VFW service officer.**

By Raquel Hendrickson

**R**ichard Hall is the service officer for the Maricopa post of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In that capacity, he helps veterans submit the right paperwork in the right order to receive all the benefits they are due. He serves about 30 veterans a month.

“When you find a good one, you keep him, and he’s a keeper,” VFW Commander Mike Kemery says.

Issues with Vietnam vets like Hall are usually health-related. “A lot of Vietnam vets are frustrated by the paperwork,” Hall says. “I can calm them down and give them straight answers.”



Raquel Hendrickson

For younger vets, it’s red tape.

“There was one younger vet who was able to get four years’ back-pay, and I’m proud of the fact I helped put that together,” Hall says.

He often has to sit down with vets more

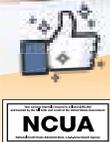
than once to get all the facts of a case and all the correct forms. Sometimes that means correcting “help” from previous self-styled veteran advocates.

Hall is a de facto liaison between local

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veterans and the office of Veterans Affairs. He also serves as a Victim Advocate with the Maricopa Police Department.

**Why did you join the military?** To find a job and in response to radicals in college.

**Where did you serve?** Vietnam

**What brought you to Maricopa?** The solitude and the opportunity to own a nice property.

**What incident in your military experience has had the biggest impact on your life?** After a helicopter crash and the trek back to base, I appreciated the training and thoroughness of the abilities of those around me. I wasn't infantry, but suddenly I had to be infantry.

**What was the most notable act of heroism you witnessed?** The ability of our airmen in helicopters to go in and pick up soldiers on a hot LZ (landing zone).

**What were some challenges you faced**

## Richard Hall

**Age:** 69  
**Hometown:** Phoenix  
**Residence:** Antelope Valley (south of Thunderbird Farms)  
**Family:** Son, daughter and three grandchildren  
**Pets:** Sara the puppy  
**Hobbies:** Golf and fly fishing  
**Greatest talent:** Service to veterans  
**Age of enlistment:** 19  
**Years in military:** Four years active, 19 total  
**Branch of service:** U.S. Army  
**Highest rank:** Staff sergeant

**entering civilian life?** Adjusting from a war environment to family and school. People didn't even acknowledge I had been in Vietnam. And college had gotten so radical, even in the way they talked to the teachers.

**What was the best advice you received during your time in the military?** Do the job to the best of your ability because you've

got to learn the job so you can react without thinking.

**What is your proudest moment?** Helping veterans at the Service Office.

**What is the one thing you would like civilians to know about the U.S. military?** It's your family, your sons and daughters, your aunts and uncles, and they're there to serve and protect. 



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# 10 Winter cycling tips

Compiled by Janet Buckwalter



Here are some tips from Maricopa Cyclists for those enjoying the desert winter in bicycles:

1. **Hydrate.** It's way too easy not to drink enough water because you don't feel hot or exhausted. It will save you from the bonk and make the ride infinitely more enjoyable. — Tyler Jump
2. Since it stays dark longer in the winter, make sure to have the **lights on your bike fully charged. Wear bright colors.** I even wear a reflective vest. On really cold mornings you can place hand warmers in your gloves. — Jamie Cunningham-Knudsen
3. The cardinal rules of cycling remain the same in any season: **Be visible; stay hydrated and fueled; wear a helmet;**



4. **obey the rules of the road** (cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as cars).
4. With the shorter days of winter, it's easy to unexpectedly run out of daylight. Always **ride with a rear facing red light and, preferably, a white front facing light.** — Janet Buckwalter
5. Cover your toes. — Saul Hernandez
6. Booties and wool socks work great! If it's below freezing, watch out for ice. — Kevin Craig
7. If you're comfortable when walking out the door, you're over dressed. Overheating will cause you to sweat, make you colder and, depending on how long you're out, even hypothermic.

8. **Use sunscreen** on exposed skin, but not your forehead (will run into your eyes when you sweat).
9. **Use a skull cap** but not something so thick that you'll overheat. You may use a thin shower cap over your helmet to keep your head warm.
10. **Wear gloves** (warm hands go a long way), but don't use real thick gloves that prevent use of shifters and brakes. — Pete Masiel

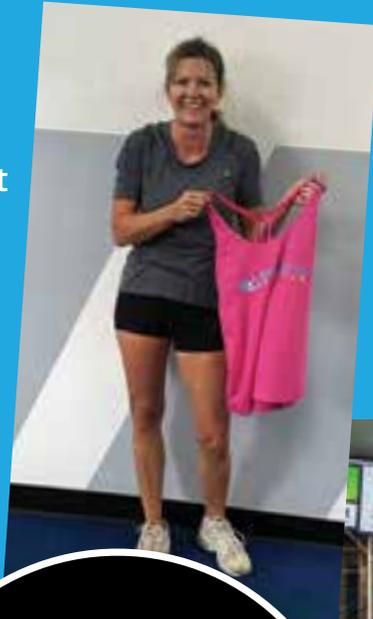
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- Pam Dugan, The Villages



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# Top pet names in 2015

## CATS

### Male kitten

1. Toby
2. Mikesch
3. Oliver
4. Leo
5. Milo
6. Blade
7. Harley
8. Tigger
9. Cassidy
10. Garfield

### Female kitten

1. Angel
2. Mittens
3. Charlie
4. Milkshake
5. Oreo
6. Lily
7. Pepsi
8. Amber
9. Ellie
10. Molly

## DOGS

### Male puppy

1. Gus
2. Trapper
3. Finn
4. Cooper
5. Bailey
6. Boomer
7. Otto
8. Hawkeye
9. Wrigley
10. Ace

### Female puppy

1. Stella
2. Bailey
3. Bella
4. Coco
5. Sophie
6. Katie
7. Zoey
8. Molly
9. Pandora
10. Lexi

Source: PetMD



FINALIST  
2015 BEST in Maricopa  
PET PHOTO

**Eddie**



FINALIST  
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## 5 Tips for a healthy holiday

1. Put healthy twists on comfort foods (less bread and more onions in stuffing, skim milk in mashed potatoes, remove skin and fat from your meat serving).
2. Keep plate balanced with vegetables and fruit.
3. Elevate your heart rate with 20-minute activities daily.
4. Reduce salt or find a salt substitute.
5. If you've fallen off your exercise routine during the holidays (or never had one), get moving!

Source: Aaron Gilbert

## 5 Tips for losing weight – and keeping it off

1. Set a weight goal and learn your body mass index (BMI)
2. Eat less – you decide how
3. Keep track of what you're eating
4. Add activity - it burns calories
5. Stay motivated

Source: USDA



### Getting to Know

#### AARON GILBERT

Owner, Longevity Athletics

**Age:** 38

**Family:** Wife, brother, mother and half-sister

**Hometown:** Phoenix

**Maricopa since:** 2007

**Pets:** Chihuahua and three cats

**Hobbies:** Reading, anything outdoors and table tennis

**Like most about Maricopa:** I like the small town feel in comparison to other places I've lived. You get to know people and there is more of a sense of community.

**Like least about Maricopa:** Out of all the things, I'd like to see the passageway widened to the I-10.

**Favorite Food:** Homemade bunless burger

**Favorite Drink:** Coconut water



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**Shawn Rosefeld has owned Star Cabinets since 2008 and moved to Maricopa in 2013. He builds new cabinets, refaces old cabinets and even does kitchen remodels.**

Raquel Hendrickson

# Star Cabinets 'brightens' homes by refacing cabinets

By Adam Wolfe

Since 2008, Star Cabinets and Refacing has lived by its mission to "brighten people's homes and lives" by providing them with new or refaced cabinets.

Star Cabinets owner and Sorrento resident Shawn Rosefeld has been working on homes for as long as he can remember. He has managed to have a successful career by sticking to his core values for getting the job done.

"I [chose this career] a long time ago because it was exciting," Rosefeld said. "The best advice I've received is to work hard, be thorough and do it right the first time."

He moved to Maricopa two years ago.

Refacing replaces the core of existing cabinets with upgraded doors, drawer fronts and handles. It allows residents to save money and replace their cabinets without starting from scratch.

"Refacing is cheaper," Rosefeld said. "It allows you to get more out of what you have. You can make your existing cabinets into a custom set without tearing apart your whole kitchen."

For those who want to tear apart the whole kitchen, Star Cabinets also does kitchen remodels. 

 [StarCabinetsRefacing.com](http://StarCabinetsRefacing.com)

## BUSINESS PROFILE

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## So Inviting

One of the big decisions in planning a major event like a wedding, a quinceañera or anniversary celebration is the style of invitations. Because formal invitations have been around for decades, planners and creators are always looking for something new.

Sonia Cardona of Maricopa hand-designs and creates invitations in her Sorrento home studio and sells nationally and internationally. She sees both modern and vintage trends and also creates her own. She started her online business in Surprise in 2011 and moved to Maricopa in 2014.

### LACE

In a variety of styles and colors, but even familiar vintage or French lace can be used in new ways to create covers and pockets. When not done precisely, lace



glue can leave marks or "sweat," as Cardona calls it, on paper stock, something for clients to watch for.

### SILK

Not just used for ribbons anymore, silk is used to create flowers, pockets and borders for invitations in classy and playful forms.



### RHINESTONES & PEARLS

Again drawing on old-fashioned elements to create new looks, faux gems fit an array of modern styles from fancy to shabby-chic without being gaudy.



### WOOD

Real wood is making a splash on the market, but Cardona did not settle for a wood-like paper stock or even creating just a flat wood card. Instead she labored for weeks to create an actual wood product that can be half-folded or tri-folded and makes a memorable announcement.

### BOLD COLORS

Color is the most changeable trend in the invitation business. The standards for weddings are whites, pale pinks and grays, but solid colors like plum, aqua and navy are pushing in. Even flashier hot pinks, reds and gemstone colors are becoming the norm for quinceañeras.

### ALTERNATIVE

With the legalization of same-sex marriage have come more requests for invitations specific to gay weddings. Cardona has adapted her ideas for both genders. 

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RESTORED TO LIFE

# Saving classic airplanes from the junk heap

By Raquel Hendrickson



**A**ndy Estes has a graveyard behind his workshop.

It is filled with skeletons and body parts of aircraft that died decades ago. They have been stripped down to the bone. One was a 1934; one a 1930; another saw its prime in the '40s.

Estes' passion is to give these airplanes new life. That would seem highly unlikely for a pile of rusty metal in the tall weeds.

It requires only a look inside his Desert Rat Aviation workshop at the Ak-Chin Airport to understand what is not only possible but also probable for the aeronautical remains.

Estes restores old airplanes, repairs and maintains newer aircraft and does some flight instruction on the side.

A 1972 Piper, practically modern compared to the corpses out back, is being rejuvenated in the shop. Other planes of various ages are in various stages of repair.

A 1937 WACO YKS-7 Estes worked on alongside owners Bill and Joyce Wold was the Grand Champion Restoration of the 2015 Copperstate Fly-In at Casa Grande Airport in October.

"It's hard to believe, when you see what it was," says Virginia Estes, Andy's wife.

It was the first WACO Estes worked on. It won't be the last.

"I love the history," he says. "It was from back when aviation was romantic."

The workshop at Desert Rat has space for mechanical repair, woodworking, metal work and painting. When Estes gets his hands on what others would deem a pile of junk, every facet of the shop is put to use.

He starts with the frame and whatever original parts might still be available. Then he finds other parts that will fit a project – "We've used a lot of car parts," he says – and then makes everything else he can't find.



**Andy Estes creates wooden ribs for wings in his aviation restorations out of Desert Rat Aviation in Maricopa.**

**Piles of airplane skeletons lie in weeds behind Estes' workshop next to the Ak-Chin Airport.**



Raquel Hendrickson



Joyce and Bill Wold with Andy Estes (center) show off their 1937 WACO that won Grand Champion Restoration at the Copperstate Fly-In.

“Andy can make a sheet of metal into anything,” Joyce Wold says.

Estes purchased the pile that had been a WACO in 1998. In 2009, he sold those pieces to Bill Wold, who was reigniting his love affair with flying after retiring. Off and on for nearly seven years, Wold worked with Estes to restore the plane to a semblance of its former glory.

Joyce Wold stepped in to recreate the upholstery and work on the exterior paint. She is also a history buff and happily did research on the WACO model. The WACO Aircraft Company built planes in Troy, Ohio, from 1919 to 1947.

Joyce Wold says some of the blueprints they used to rebuild the plane came from the Smithsonian Institution.

**BIOGRAPHY OF A PLANE**

**July 27, 1937**

NC-17734 completed at WACO Aircraft Company in Troy, Ohio

**1937-49** Provided non-scheduled charter flights between Mt. Prospect, Illinois, and Princeton, West Virginia

**1950-62** Changed private owners several

times in Montana, Oregon and California  
**June 2, 1962** Last logged flight

**1962-75** Disassembled for restoration and passed through more

owners in California

**1976-97** Owned by Howard Douglas of Tucson

**1998-2008** Owned by Desert Rat Aviation of Maricopa

**2009-present** Owned

by William and Joyce Wold of Casa Grande and restored at Desert Rat

**May 2, 2015** First flight in 53 years

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The Wolds' 1937 WACO, which last logged a flight in 1962, finally returned to the air on May 2, 2015.

Having the Wolds involved with the labor vastly cut expenses, Estes says, though it still was not cheap.

"They'll never get out of it what they put into it, but that's not why they did it," Estes says.

Estes also found Wold to be a quick study. He showed Wold how to create a couple of wooden ribs, and then Wold meticulously worked six months to complete all the ribs. He picked up other projects just as quickly.

The Wolds came to Estes when he still worked out of a Quonset hut near the tracks in the Heritage District. Shortly after, he set up Desert Rat Aviation on Bud Road next to the airport.

Virginia Estes points out that was right when the economy was starting to tank. Aviation in particular took a hit as an unnecessary indulgence for many pilots. Andy Estes said others in his line of work went out of business.

Desert Rat stuck it out, and Estes built a reputation around the Valley. The ongoing project with the Wolds could not have come at a better time.

"Bill made my payroll for a week," Estes says.

Estes has been putting together airplanes since he had toy models as a kid. He says he was never impressive in school because of a learning difficulty, but when he was tested at age 14 he was found to be "really good at mechanical stuff."

That teenager landed a job at Falcon Field in Mesa, where he swept up and worked at bits and pieces. He also got a look at some restoration work on a B-17 and knew what he wanted to do.

Estes bought into the Arizona Aviation Flight School, working there for 28 years before he and his partner decided to go different directions.

Andy and Virginia Estes moved to Maricopa in 1996. They have three children. Tina manages Desert Rat. Joy manages Great Clips in Casa Grande, and Andrew is career Army, aspiring to the rank of sergeant major.

As the Wolds prepare to take their WACO to a national fly-in next summer, Andy Estes has projects in his workshop not to mention the skeletons out back waiting to fly again.

"I just love the feeling of it, the three dimensional feel of what you can do and what they did then," Estes says. "People can do amazing things." 

 [DesertRatAviation.com](http://DesertRatAviation.com)



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Nancy Smith spends her downtime on family adventures like paramotoring.



Submitted

## Nancy Smith

**ELECTED OFFICE:** Maricopa City Council

**AGE:** Old enough to be an elected official

**FAMILY:** Married with two children and three step-children

**EDUCATION:** Associates of Science in Electronic Technology and Bachelor of Arts in Business Management

**OCCUPATION:** Project management at General Dynamics

**HOBBIES:** Art, golf

**MARICOPAN SINCE:** 2003 (before the city incorporated)

# Halfway through council term, Smith sees much to do

Nancy Smith has just finished one year of a two-year term on the Maricopa City Council. She was elected to fill a seat vacated when former Councilman Leon Potter resigned.

That leaves her less time than others to make headway on campaign promises. Married to a county supervisor (and former Maricopa mayor), she has had to create a public identity of her own and deal with a pace of government that is even slower than she expected.

**Why did you want to be on Maricopa City Council?** I've been very involved in Maricopa in various ways since moving to the city. I decided to be on the city council to help residents have their voices heard and to help provide policy that continues leading the city in improving our economic development, transportation and quality of life.

**How has your background (project management) benefitted you in your first year on council?** By understanding how to work with large groups of people in accomplishing major projects, being able to ask the right questions at the right time, and being able to see the big picture to better understand my role in making decisions.

**What have been your unexpected challenges since taking office?** When working on projects at General Dynamics,

things move very fast. I knew government worked at a slower pace, but I didn't realize how much slower. That is a big challenge for me to accept. However, I've seen some instances where partnering with others has helped to move projects a little faster, and that's a great way to approach things.

**One of your campaign promises was tackling Maricopa's utility costs (specifically Global Water). How would you describe the city's progress?** Given

that we've only really started talking seriously about what the city can do in regards to Global Water within the last couple years, I'm excited about the progress on this issue. Earlier this year the people and businesses of Maricopa spoke loud and clear about their desire for the city to "conduct a feasibility study of the City's acquisition and operation of water systems and utilities" by placing it as a priority strategy in the 2040 Vision document. That is a great first step because it is now stated as a goal in the vision document. Recently, at the council retreat city staff presented their Draft Work Plan which includes the need to evaluate water and sewer needs. Both of these documents, the 2040 Vision and the Draft Work Plan, are critical steps for progress. This topic consistently is a top priority for residents and businesses in public opinion polls.

In addition to water, residents and

businesses will see a 5-percent reduction in the cost of electric through ED3. That is fantastic news for all of us!

**What are your favorite things about being on council?** My most favorite thing about being on city council is the opportunity to help residents with specific questions and/or concerns they have regarding the city. Our city has an awesome community spirit and I'm very happy to be a part of it by serving on city council.

**What has been your biggest disappointment in office?** I hear residents say, "There is nothing to do in Maricopa." I can't believe my ears when I hear that because one of my disappointments is that I'm not able to attend all of the events that go on in our city. We call several weekends in the October and November months "Super Weekends" because there is so much going on there is no way one person can get to it all.

**Who were your biggest influences in how you approach your office?** When I first moved to Maricopa, I met Rusty Akers, the pastor at the Community of Hope Church in Maricopa. My husband and I helped Rusty get the church started many years ago, and one of the values Rusty wanted for our church family was to be a servant within the city. He wanted the church to serve, to collaborate, to give selflessly, to bring joy and to bring hope to our wonderful city. That is a great goal and one that I consistently go to when I serve as your council member.

**You are filling a short term on council. What are your future political plans?** I have learned so much already in my first year

**Where are they now?**

# Another run at city council not out of the picture for Marchione

Alan Marchione is in the final year of a three-year term as president of The Villages at Rancho El Dorado Homeowners Association.

When that is complete, his public future is wide open. That may include a return to city politics.

"I'm not ruling it out," Marchione says.

Marchione was a member of the Maricopa City Council for two and a half years. He resigned in 2012 after the initiation of a recall effort in the wake of a complaint of inappropriate conduct filed by then-City Manager Brenda Fischer.

But he has remained a Maricopan and his politics are unchanged.

He has been on The Villages HOA board for seven years and has lived in The Villages since 2006. He works at Intel but says his most important occupation is being dad to 10-year-old Alivia and 5-year-old Holden.

"Some people asked me to run in 2014, but I elected not to because I wanted to focus on raising my young children," he says.

Marchione initially got involved in city politics because he is very serious about the U.S. Constitution and the "local government controlling our own future."

He is proud of the fact that during his time on council, the city had two balanced budgets. He said a lot of good councilmembers over the years put in the work to make projects like the railroad overpass come to reality, and current council is reaping the benefits of that. 



Submitted

**Former councilmember Alan Marchione with daughter Alivia and son Holden.**



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Rocky Brown manages Maricopa's parks and recreation facilities and activities, including Copper Sky Multigenerational & Aquatics Center. This year he won two statewide awards for being an outstanding young leader.

Adam Wolfe

## Award-winning parks & rec manager striving to make city, his kids proud

By Adam Wolfe

For five years, Maricopa Recreation Manager Rocky Brown has expanded the classes and programs the city offers to the community.

It has not gone unnoticed. In August, he received an Employee Excellence Award from the city. Then he received two statewide awards: the Emerging Leader Award from the Gabe Zimmerman Public Service Awards and the Young Professional Award from the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association.

Brown calls the Zimmerman award “one of the most humbling experiences of my life.”

He drew notice for establishing the city's Youth Council, the largest in the state, and award-winning Maricopa in Motion Mobile Recreation.

“The opportunity to create programs and activities from scratch was something that I thought was a great opportunity,” Brown says. “Just to be able to come out here and be creative and open new facilities made me feel like a pioneer.”

A young pioneer at that. Brown is 33 years old. He and his wife Tiffany have four children, so they know a bit about youth activities.

Like many city officials before him, Brown came to the city of Maricopa from Mesa. A long journey from Grand Island, Nebraska, first brought him to the Grand Canyon State.

After earning his bachelor's degree from Arizona State University and a master's degree from Northern Arizona University, Brown worked in the car business with his father. Despite the success and wealth he found, he felt the need to do more; he felt a calling to make a difference in his community.

“My father-in-law was a firefighter for the city of Mesa for 40 years, and I thought serving the community you live in was the most honorable job you could have,” Brown says. “He was my mentor in government and got me interested in community service. He actually pushed me out of being a fireman because it's hard to be a fireman and go to church every Sunday, so parks and recreation was more of a natural fit for what I want to do. I want to do something that my kids will be proud of one day.”

While working for the Mesa Parks and Recreation Department, Brown's job typically consisted of maintaining the infrastructure built over the last 50 years. When an opportunity to come to Maricopa arose, Brown jumped at the chance to build something from the ground up.

From his first day in the Community Services Department as the youth coordinator, the staff around him knew he was going to be special for the city.

“He's an incredible individual,” management analyst Brenda Campbell says. “From the day he started he has been a great relief to me. I've watched him grow over the last five years. At a young age he has made a huge impact on the community.”

The 2014 opening of Copper Sky Multigenerational Complex created countless possibilities for the city to add programs and activities. Once Brown was promoted to recreation manager that year, this became his mission.

“He's a great guy to work for,” Recreation Coordinator Heather Lozano says. “He helps all of us strive to be better and achieve more. He's a great boss, and he doesn't hold us back from trying new things and bringing in new programs.”

On a daily basis, Brown oversees all the programs and memberships taking place at Copper Sky. He and the nine members of the staff who report to him try to come up with ways to engage the community.

“He is the definition of a team player,” says his boss, Community Services Director Kristie Riester. “He loves what he does, and work never seems like work for him. He does whatever it takes to get the job done, and his love for the community always comes through.”

Brown and his staff at Copper Sky continue to build their membership base and increase the programs offered.

“I want us to keep helping people meet their goals and improve their lives,” Brown says. “We're always thinking of creative things to try and new things to do. We'd love to have a rock wall, increase our equipment upstairs and offer more programs and classes, but we know money is an object so we want to focus on making sure we are offering the best classes we can and making sure people feel like they're in a safe environment.”

“Copper Sky isn't just a city building, it's the central gathering point for the community,” Brown says. “We want to make sure we stay ahead of the curve.”



**President Patti Coutre**

## President Patti Coutre Maricopa Unified School District

Nov. 18, 2015

**BACKGROUND:** MUSD has unsuccessfully brought a budget override to voters six times, most recently in 2014. With the governing board in agreement that an override is needed to add programs, improve test results and reduce class sizes, the remaining questions were whether the public would support another attempt and, if so, when and for how much. A 2015 committee was formed and recommended placing a seven-year budget override of 15 percent of assessed value on the November 2016 ballot. The board debated the issue during two meetings and made a change.

**MOTION:** Approve budget override on 2016 ballot at 10 percent

**VOTE:** 5-0 Approval

**RATIONALE OF AYE VOTES:** Gary Miller said he heard support from many conservative Republicans. Torri Anderson said she heard from Province residents saying they would support an override for the first time. AnnaMarie Knorr said it was a “no brainer” that MUSD needs an override. Board President Patti Coutre said she had been on the fence wondering if even 10 percent would be enough to make a difference.

**GET ENGAGED:** The Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board typically meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Its meetings can be viewed on the district’s YouTube channel.

 [MaricopaUSD.org](http://MaricopaUSD.org)  
 [YouTube.com/user/MaricopaUnified](https://www.youtube.com/user/MaricopaUnified)

## Maricopa City Council

Nov. 3, 2015

**BACKGROUND:** The Age-Friendly Maricopa Advisory Committee and Maricopa Seniors Inc. planned a Senior Expo and Health Fare for Jan. 16 and requested \$4,161 from the city’s Contingency Fund to be committed along with \$1,000 from Councilmember Peg Chapados’ Discretionary Fund. Other council members expressed concern about impacting the city budget and encouraged organizers to cut costs and find more partners and sponsors. Councilmembers Nancy Smith (\$500), Henry Wade (\$300) and Vincent Manfredi (\$450) committed money from their respective Discretionary Funds.

**MOTION:** Approve a funding request not to exceed \$5,161 and the transfer of \$4,151 from the city’s Contingency Fund. Amended to clarify funds will come from council’s Contingency Fund and account for committed funds from individual council members to lower the cost to that Contingency Fund to \$2,911.

**VOTE:** 7-0 approval

**RATIONALE OF AYE VOTES:** Peg Chapados said the expo will be a great resource for the aging population. Nancy Smith said it is important for the city to support the event without using the General Fund. Henry Wade said he supported the effort but also wanted make sure the city was being consistent with funding cuts across the board after a difficult budget process.

**GET ENGAGED:** Maricopa City Council typically meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Meetings can be viewed on the city website and government access television channel.

 [Maricopa-AZ.gov](http://Maricopa-AZ.gov)



**Supervisor Steve Miller**

## Pinal County Board of Supervisors

Oct. 28, 2015

**BACKGROUND:** Pinnacle Consulting requested a special use permit for a Verizon project requiring a 120-foot Sunstate tower on seven acres near Casa Grande to fill a void in coverage. County staff listed its reservations and alternatives, and the County Planning & Zoning Commission recommended denial of the application.

**MOTION:** Approve application with 10 stipulations

**VOTE:** 7-0 approval

**RATIONALE OF AYE VOTES:** Anthony Smith said the P&Z denial recommendation was based more on aesthetics than technical merits. Steve Miller said the tower is important infrastructure for the county’s economic development.

**GET ENGAGED:** Pinal County Board of Supervisors meets at 9:30 a.m. on select Wednesdays in Florence. Meetings are broadcast live on the county website.

 [PinalCountyAZ.gov](http://PinalCountyAZ.gov)

### PREVIOUS OVERRIDE VOTES

Election	Yes	No	Total votes
November 2009	24%	76%	2,128
March 2010	48%	52%	2,313
November 2010	45%	55%	3,600
November 2011	33%	67%	3,820
November 2012	43%	57%	12,387
November 2014	43%	57%	4,627

**MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD**



**42497 W. SANDPIPER DRIVE**

Dick Barkley

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa in the past three months was a waterfront property in Province. Its selling price was \$15,000 under the asking price. Upgrades include casita, private pool and spa, custom shutters and closet system. The 3,101-square-foot, single-level home is pre-wired for surround sound and satellite.

**Sales price:** \$470,000  
**Square feet:** 3,101  
**Price per s.f.:** \$151.56  
**Days on market:** 25  
**Builder:** Engle Homes  
**Built:** 2007  
**Bedrooms:** 4  
**Bathrooms:** 3.5

**Community:** Province  
**Features:** New appliances, outdoor fireplace, pool and spa, private casita, man cave  
**Seller's agent:** Michael Barron, Re/Max Infinity  
**Buyer's agent:** Sheila Steidle, HomeSmart Success

**LEAST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD**

**46137 W. WINDMILL DRIVE**

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa in the last three months was a HUD-owned property in Maricopa Meadows. On the market for seven days, it sold for \$10,000 less than asking price on Oct. 13. The 10-year-old home was back on the market Oct. 30 for \$125,000, an increase of 25 percent.

**Sold price:** \$99,501  
**Square feet:** 1,447  
**Price per s.f.:** \$68.76  
**Days on market:** 7  
**Builder:** Unknown  
**Built:** 2005  
**Bedrooms:** 4  
**Bathrooms:** 2  
**Community:** Maricopa Meadows

**Features:** Stainless steel kitchen appliances, granite countertops  
**Seller's agent:** Colleen Bechtel, Keller Williams Legacy One  
**Buyer's agent:** Dayv Morgan, HomeSmart Success

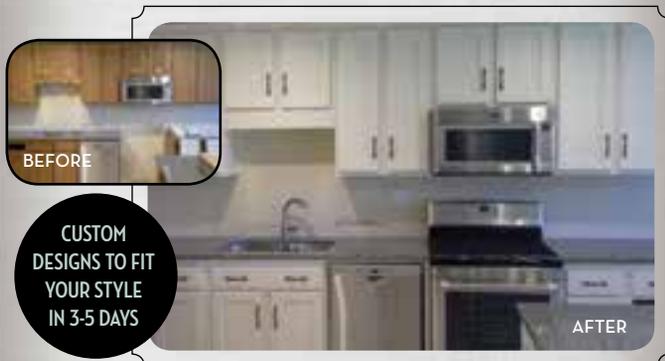


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**Extension Agent Rick Gibson teaches would-be Master Gardeners at the Maricopa Agricultural Center.**

**Tomatoes are grown in the demonstration garden at the MAC.**



Submitted

Submitted

# Residents grow with Master Gardener course

By Misty Newman

**M**aster Gardener certification through the Maricopa Agriculture Center (MAC) will help you get the green thumb you've always wanted.

The Pinal County Master Gardeners provide research-based, home horticultural information through educational programs and projects.

## What it takes

To earn and maintain Master Gardener certification, one must complete a specialized, 15-week training on gardening in the low desert, meet volunteer requirements and obtain the required number of hours in continuing education every year.

Horticultural experts teach the classes, which include botany, pest management, landscape design, cacti and pest management.

During the winter, trainings are held in Casa Grande and Apache Junction. In the fall, trainings are in Maricopa, San Tan Valley and Saddlebrook. The three-hour classes are held weekly for 15 weeks.

Certified Master Gardener Julie Olson says the Maricopa Agricultural Center (MAC) has a greenhouse, demo garden and fruit orchard, allowing students to get hands-on training on site.

"We've been lucky to have between 15-20 students every year," Olson says.

The Master Gardener program is reaching into schools as well. This is the first year for one teacher to be selected to get the Master Gardener certification.

"We've set up a scholarship for teachers to go through the program and take the information back to their kids," says MAC Master Gardener Bob Wurth.

To remain a certified Master Gardener the first year, 50 hours of volunteer service and 12 hours of continuing education are required. During the second year, 25 volunteer-hours and six hours of continuing education are necessary. The cost of the entire program is \$120.

## Benefits of Master Gardener certification

Master Gardeners assist with presenting to local groups, educating children, organizing conferences and programs, and giving garden demonstrations.

Master Gardeners also advise homeowners on their gardens. A Master Gardener is available by phone 9 a.m. to noon Mondays through Fridays to take calls from community

members seeking landscaping or gardening advice.

One of the Master Gardener graduates delivered a gardening workshop through the Maricopa Library. According to Wurth, the Master Gardeners work a lot with people who have moved to Arizona from other parts of the country.

"We are trying to teach people how to grow in the desert," he says. "We often have people tell us that they can't grow anything. Arizona has desert soil and has a high pH, which is a totally different gardening concept for people. In the Midwest, they plant in the spring and the crops freeze in the fall. In Arizona there are two different seasons. We also help people to set up the right irrigation."

Once you have received your Master Gardener certification, you will also receive materials for ongoing education. These include a monthly Master Gardener newsletter, bi-monthly *Journal on Horticulture*, specialized training on advanced topics and attending an annual conference. 

 [MAC-Pinal-MasterGardener.org](http://MAC-Pinal-MasterGardener.org)  
 520-374-6263

# 5 Uses for Christmas trees after Christmas



**1 Mulch.** Depending on the species of tree you use and the kind of soil you have, turn your tree into compost. Some evergreen varieties are more acidic than others.

**2 Home décor.** Branches can be used as a temporary door mat outside and the trunk can be sliced up for coasters, next year's Yule log and art projects. With the right talent, one piece of this year's tree can be turned into next year's Christmas ornament.

**3 Habitat.** Christmas trees are frequently sunk in lakes and ponds for fish habitat.

Residents who own large lots can leave the cut trees in remote areas to become new homes for wildlife. On smaller lots, trim down the tree and turn it into a bird feeder by hanging mesh bags of bird seed and other treats. Be sure to remove all tinsel.

**4 Recycling.** Look for a local recycling center, collection program or chipping program in town.

**5 Reuse in your landscape.** Strip off branches and cut the trunk for firewood in your outdoor pit or use the trunk to line a garden. Branches can be used as cover for perennials. 



## Marty's Heart

Maricopa's Laura Salter shares a story about an unexpected gift she has dubbed "Marty's Heart":

"I just lost my dad in May at the ripe old age of 81. About six months before my dad passed away he gave me a cactus as a present. It has been growing well except for one special arm of the cactus. Not only does it remain small, it is in the shape of a heart. Growing up, my dad, who has technically my step-dad, could be a bit ornery, but deep down he had a heart of gold, wanting the best for me and our family. Cacti were his favorite plants, which fit his personality ... tough on the outside, sweet on the inside. It's an awesome gift from my dad!" 



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# MHS the 'very model' of a modern theater department

'Pirates of Penzance' precedes 'Philadelphia Story,' 'Les Miz'

The ambitious Maricopa High School Theatre Company took on the challenge of classic comedy with their rendition of Gilbert & Sullivan's 1879 comedic operetta "The Pirates of Penzance" in November.

That is just the start of a challenging if stimulating season for the troupe. Students are not just learning lines and showing off singing voices. They are living up to their title as a theater company and not a basic drama club. That means learning stagecraft and all aspects of putting on a show.

"Students were tasked to put together this entire production - music, acting, costumes, sets, props, choreography, light and sound design, and more - within only two months," co-director and theater/drama teacher Cynthia Calhoun says.

The four-show musical was co-directed by theater tech teacher Kevin Piquette.

With a cast and crew numbering more than 50, the MHS Theatre Company handled "The Pirates of Penzance" in a professional manner. Gilbert & Sullivan's complicated music and lyrics and demand for precise comic timing were challenges turned into fun.

"Overall, I'm very happy with our production and what we have been able to accomplish within our theatre department," Calhoun says. "This is the first operetta we have performed and is more demanding than a traditional musical or straight play."

Calhoun says the production was the company's most financially successful. The proceeds are divided evenly between the theater company and technical theater programs.

"We sold over 550 tickets, and the students earned \$2,800 toward



Adam Wolfe

**The MHS Theatre Company kicked off its 2015-16 season with an iconic comic operetta, Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance."**

future productions," she says.

That will include the comedy "The Philadelphia Story" (think Katharine Hepburn) by Philip Barry. It will be performed Feb. 4-6 in the more intimate Maricopa High School Lecture Hall. The spring musical will be the adaptation of the Victor Hugo classic "Les Miserables" in a student edition. It will be staged in April at the MHS Performing Arts Center.

"We've already invested our 50 percent into the spring musical," Calhoun says.

Piquette says the success of "The Pirates of Penzance" raised the bar of expectations for the future productions.

"I am excited for the future of both programs and can't wait to see what our students can build and perform next," he says. ☺

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UltraStarAkChin.com

**Agave's Restaurant**  
Harrah's Ak-Chin  
15406 N. Maricopa Road  
480-802-5000  
HarrahsAkChin.com

**Arroyo Grille**  
Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club  
48456 W. Highway 238  
520-568-2000  
AkChinSouthernDunes.com

**Luxe Lounge**  
UltraStar Multi-tainment Center  
16000 N. Maricopa Road  
520-568-3456  
UltraStarAkChin.com

**Barro's Pizza**  
44600 W. Smith-Enke Road  
Suite 101  
520-494-7777  
BarrosPizza.com

**Jersey Mike's**  
21423 N. John Wayne Parkway  
520-568-6584  
JerseyMikes.com

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

**Pizza Hut Wing Street**  
21101 N. John Wayne Parkway  
520-316-6116  
PizzaHut.com

**Raceway Bar & Grill**  
49237 W. Papago Road, Suite 7  
520-568-0808  
RacewayBarAndGrill.com

**Subway**  
21116 N. John Wayne Parkway  
520-568-4982  
Subway.com

**The Range Steakhouse  
Harrah's Ak-Chin**  
15406 N. Maricopa Road  
480-802-5000  
HarrahsAkChin.com

**YOGURT**  
**Yogurt Jungle**  
21101 N. John Wayne Parkway  
Suite E-105  
480-677-8222  
YogurtJungle.com

**Zoyo Neighborhood Yogurt**  
21423 N. John Wayne Parkway  
Suite 102  
520-374-6110  
Zoyogurt.com/Maricopa



**Want to have your business featured in the next edition? Contact InMaricopa at Advertising@InMaricopa.com or 520-568-0040.**



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## HEALTH INSPECTION RESULTS

### EXCELLENT

- [No violations found]
- 99 Cents Only Store
  - Carl's Jr.
  - Children's Learning Adventure
  - Cilantro's Mexican Cocina
  - Firehouse Subs
  - Jersey Mike's Subs
  - KFC
  - McDonald's – John Wayne Parkway

### SATISFACTORY

- [Violations corrected during inspection]
- Barro's Pizza
  - Bead & Berry Coffee House
  - Honeycutt Coffee
  - Honeycutt Coffee Express
  - Spoon's Cafe

(Barro's Pizza had to clean the walk-in refrigerator and pizza oven. Bead & Berry was warned about the temperature in a refrigerator. A refrigerator at Honeycutt Coffee was also over 41 degrees. Honeycutt Coffee Express in Province had no proper date markings on

some items and no sanitizer test papers. Spoon's Café did not have proper date markings on some food items.)

### NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

- [Critical item noted during inspection cannot be corrected immediately, requiring follow-up inspection.]
- Good Donuts
  - Helen's Kitchen
  - McDonald's – Walmart

(Good Donuts had no food thermometer or sanitizer test papers. Helen's Kitchen did not have proper food-contact gloves, had to replace a light shield and needed an undercooked-food advisory on its menu. McDonald's in Walmart had insufficient hot water generation to meet peak demands.)

### UNACCEPTABLE

- [Gross, unsanitary conditions necessitating the discontinuation of operation.]
- None

# 2015 BEST in Maricopa

Everybody has a favorite. Our readers at InMaricopa.com chose some of theirs in a variety of categories.

## Workout

- Crossfit Maricopa 35%**
- Copper Sky Jillian Michaels
- BodyShred 34%
- Longevity 20%
- The Green Zone 8%
- All others 3%



## Appetizer

- Raceway Bar & Grill 47%**
- Penascos 16%
- Cilantro's 14%
- The Range 14%
- Arroyo Grille 9%

## Haircut

- K'Bella Salon & Day Spa 55%**
- Hairfocus 18%
- Sport Clips 11%
- All others 16%

## Pet Photo

- King the Survivor 31%**
- Cosmos 20%
- Oreo 9%
- Eddie 6%
- Hazel 5%
- All others 29%



## Musician

- Laura Walsh 30%**
- Maricopa Music Circle 11%
- Genevieve Ehrbright 6%
- All others 47%



## Car Wash

- Fast & Friendly 44%**
- Circle K 30%
- Maricopa Auto Spa 26%



# ARROYO GRILLE

at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club

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Raquel Hendrickson

## Lobster in Vanilla Vodka Sauce

2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
 1 teaspoon hot red pepper flakes  
 1 clove garlic, minced  
 1 shallot minced  
 2 tablespoons capers  
 ½ cup vanilla vodka  
 1 raw lobster tail, cut into small pieces  
 ½ cup plum tomatoes  
 ½ cup heavy cream  
 sea salt to taste  
 ¼ cup grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese  
 French baguette sliced and grilled

Melt the butter in a large sauté pan (12-14 inches). Stir in the red pepper flakes and cook about 1 minute over medium heat. Add the garlic/shallots and cook until soft. Stir in the capers and cook 1 minute longer. Raise the heat to medium high and add the vodka; allow most of it to evaporate. Stir in the lobster and lower the heat to medium. Add the tomatoes and cook for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Slowly pour in the cream along the side of the pan and cook over low heat for an additional 5 minutes.



### ABOUT THE CHEF

## Colin Ribble

**Executive Chef**  
**Harrah's Ak-Chin**

**Family:** Wife Sera, children Nicolette (5), Maelynn (3), Liam (1) and Finnegan (1 month)

**Hometown:** Rochester, New York

**Residence:** Maricopa

**Why this recipe:** A dish he created for his mother as she was battling cancer.

**Favorite Chef:** Anthony Bourdain

**Cooking background:** 25-plus years' experience in multiple varieties of kitchens

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# WRISTBANDS



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