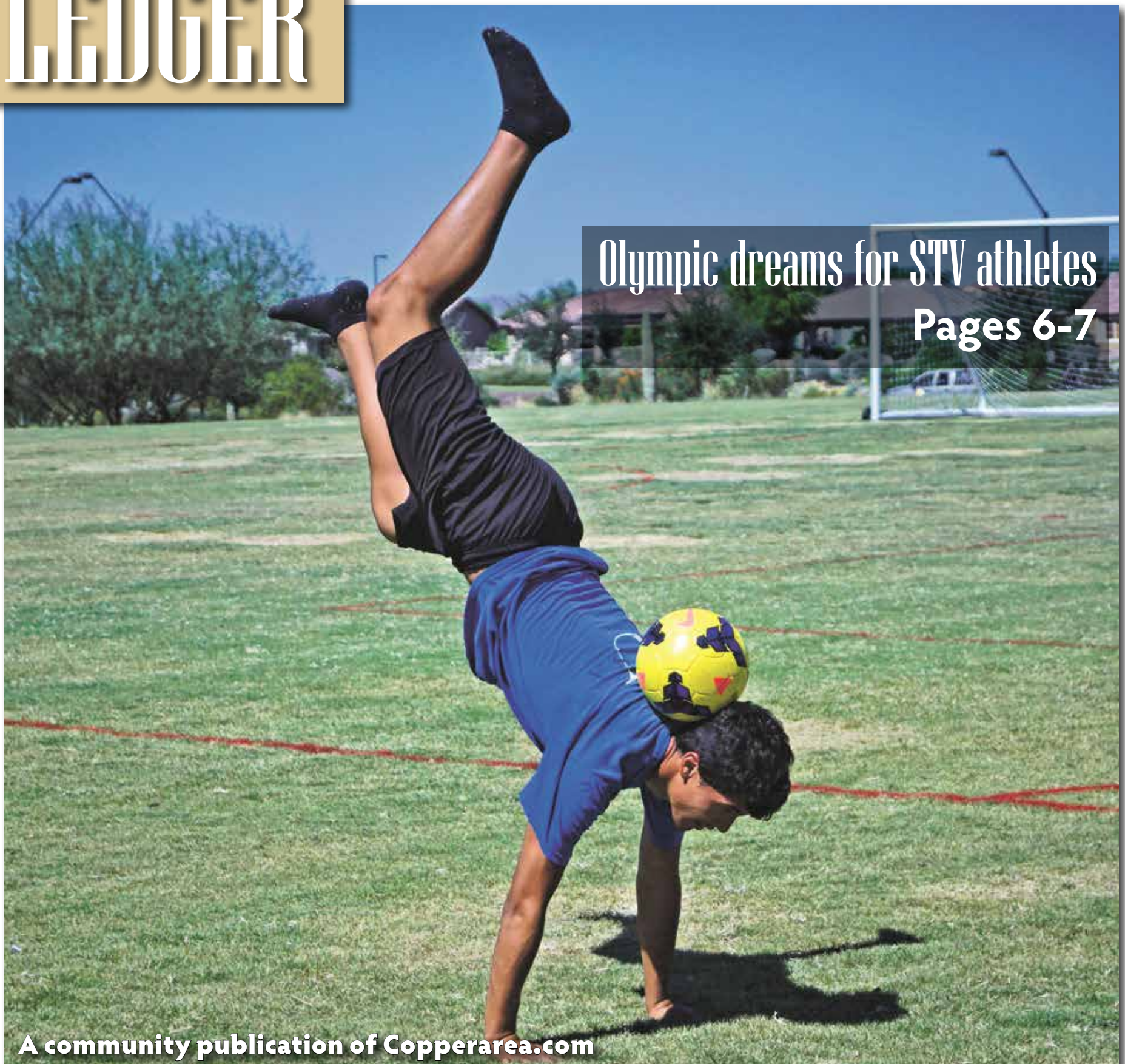


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Olympic dreams for STV athletes Pages 6-7

Keili Luberdia | Ledger

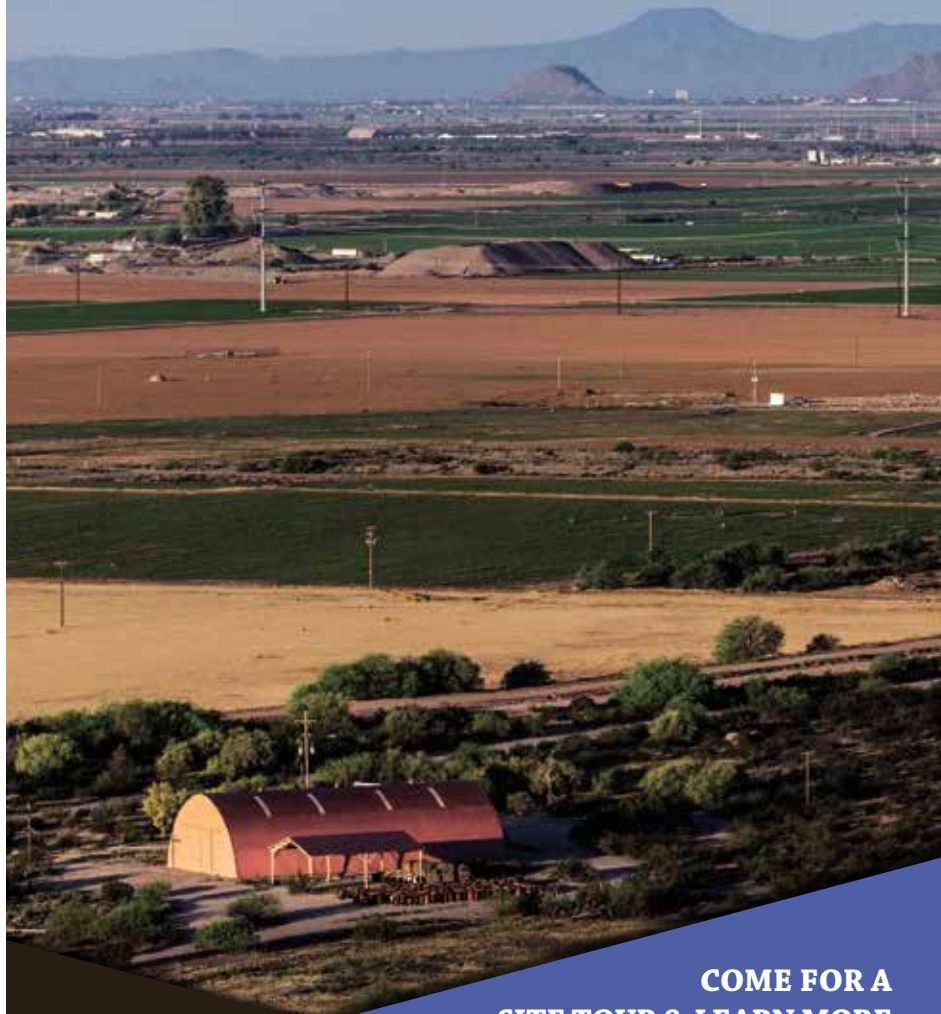


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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cuts to CAC budget, recall could force closure of Eastern Pinal County campus

From Pre-School to Community College, our state legislature has done everything they can to cut funding so they can proclaim that they do not raise taxes. Unfortunately, that leaves the burden upon county taxpayers to make up this shortfall with higher taxes.

I'm like many of you, I don't want to see my taxes raised. But I do not want to see our future citizens harmed by legislators who are penny wise and pound foolish.

Our own Central Arizona College has been put in a very precarious situation through these funding cuts.

A group of citizens now wants to help the legislature cut funding to our college-they want to recall two of the Board of Directors

so they can place their people in these seats.

The effects would be harmful for the students in the eastern part of Pinal County. If CAC were to cut any more from their budget-the Aravaipa Campus would be the first to close. Many students from Oracle to Superior would be left without a nearby school to attend. Not everyone can afford to stay in the dorms at Signal Peak.

Join me and other education friendly citizens by saying no to this recall.

Sincerely,

/s/ **Pete Rios**

Vice Chairman

**Pinal County Board of Supervisors,
District 1**

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You can also request our newspaper through the mortuary or funeral home.

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"There are numerous countries in the world where the politicians have seized absolute power and muzzled the press. There is no country in the world where the press has seized absolute power and muzzled the politicians"

David Brinkley

Sun Life to help locals with access to food, proper nutrition; SNAP grant augments outreach efforts for Sun Life patients

Sun Life Family Health Center and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) have joined forces again this year to help local families gain access to food and proper nutrition.

This October, SNAP informed Sun Life that it would be a recipient of a \$33,474.40 grant for the 2016 year to help patients and area community members sign up for assistance through the food stamp program.

Nearly 1 in 5 Arizona households do not have enough food to last the month. Solving the hunger crisis requires more than just one community agency, faith-based organization, food bank, or government entity's commitment.

SNAP, the new federal name for Food Stamps, and its SNAP Partnership program offers a unique opportunity for nonprofit

organizations like Sun Life to join forces with a network of organizations committed to addressing hunger in Arizona through SNAP education and application assistance.

The partnership also allows Sun Life to have direct access to DES on behalf of those we serve, to pay for training and technical support to expand the skills of our outreach team, and a provides us with a 40 percent reimbursement on all allowable activities and administrative expenses.

Sun Life's Outreach and Enrollment team provides assistance with applying for the SNAP program at any one of our eight locations throughout Pinal County.

For more information on the SNAP program, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/>, or visit Sun Life Family Health Center's website at www.SunLifeFamilyHealth.org.

CAC to honor veterans

PINAL COUNTY, Ariz. – Central Arizona College will host Veterans Day events throughout Pinal County to honor veterans of the armed forces.

Local veterans and community members are invited to join CAC students, faculty and staff in honoring the many men and women who have and continue to put forth their lives to defend our freedoms.

Each campus tribute will feature a Presentation of Colors, singing of the National Anthem, special words of thanks and guest speakers.

In San Tan Valley, the CAC event is scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 10 a.m.

San Tan Campus
Room A101
3736 E. Bella Vista Road
San Tan Valley, AZ 85143

For more information about the Veterans celebrations please contact (520) 494-5517 or veterans@centralaz.edu.

For nearly 45 years, Central Arizona College has been serving and educating the diverse communities of Pinal County. With eight campuses and centers located strategically throughout the county, CAC provides accessible, educational, economic, cultural, and personal growth opportunities for those of all ages.

IT'S THE WEEKEND

Queen Creek Farmers Market

Every Sunday from Oct. 4- March 27 at the Queen Creek Library from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., patrons of the Queen Creek Farmers Market will have the opportunity to purchase Arizona grown fruits and vegetables while browsing goods from local vendors. There will be occasional entertainment, games (Chess, Tic-Tac-Toe, Jenga, Checkers, Cornhole, ect.) and food trucks. For more information please visit on.fb.me/1Lvn2pF.

OCTOBER



22 Florence Copper Coffee Club to Meet

Join Florence Copper on Thursdays at 10 a.m. for the weekly Coffee Club. Enjoy a hot beverage and pastry with other residents of the community as you chat about the Florence Copper Project, the future of Florence, or anything else. Coffee Club meets at the Florence Copper Community Center, located at 130 N. Main St. in Florence.

24 QC Post Office Customer Appreciation

Postmaster Rodrigo Sotomayor invites Postal Service customers from the Queen Creek and San Tan Valley communities to join him from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24, for a Customer Appreciation Day event at the Queen Creek Post Office, 22424 S. Ellsworth Loop, in Queen Creek. The event will include free refreshments and a drawing for door prizes. Information on services offered by the United States Postal Services will be available for residential and business customers.

24 Geology at San Tan Mountain Park

Take an in-depth look at the rocks beneath your feet and the stories they tell at the San Tan Mountain Regional Park's 6-Foot Under: Geology program. From volcanic action to creatures that no longer walk the earth, head to the park for an exciting talk inside the Visitor Center as the story of the Sonoran Desert is brought to life through Geology. Feel free to bring food and drinks and "Rock" back in your chair as you explore the forgotten world of stone and sand. The event will be held Saturday, Oct. 24, 6-7 p.m. The event is included with the \$6 per vehicle park entry fee. For more information, visit maricopa.gov/parks/santan

NOVEMBER

14 POWWOW comes to Farmers Market

On Saturday, Nov. 14, Produce on Wheels Without Waste will return to the San Tan Valley Farmers Market. Buy 60 pounds of produce for just \$10. And you get to pick it out! Artisan breads will also be available for purchase. The Farmers Market is located at Combs High School, 2505 E. Germann Rd., San Tan Valley. For more information please call 602-684-5489.

Harvest Festival at Queen Creek Olive Mill

October through Dec. 6, 2015 Harvest Season- 2015 Queen Creek Olive Mill harvest season is here! Check out our events calendar for special events during the weekends. Olive Oil 101 Classes/ Tours are at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Classes fill up fast. Please call and make a reservation for groups of 8 or more. Cost is \$5 Per person. Children under 12 are free. Please call ahead to see if they are pressing olives. Pressing times not guaranteed. Weekend events include food trucks festivals, art shows, food demos, the Pit bar and grill, games in the grove, live music, wine tastings, and more! Check out the events website for specific events during this year's Harvest Season! <http://bit.ly/1SB8N5S>

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Poston Butte Team Depleted by Injuries; San Tan Foothills Needs Win Over Miami to Keep Playoff Dreams Alive

POSTON BUTTE

Football – With a roster that seemingly gets further depleted by injuries each week, the Broncos remain winless after a 35 – 19 loss to No. 12-ranked Marana Mountain View last Friday night.

Week after week the Broncos make enough to plays to get a lead or make it close before eventually coming out on the short end.

Friday was another example, when the Broncos, who trailed 21 – 6 at halftime, pulled within 21 – 19 in third quarter after a Josh Hatfield touchdown run. But that's as close as they would get as the Mountain Lions scored 14 unanswered points the rest of the way for their sixth victory of the year.

Hatfield, the section's second-leading rusher, ran for 107 yards. Senior T'reek Hendrix added 74 rushing yards and two touchdowns. Keaton Bader caught one pass for 62 yards.

On defense, a pair of sophomores – Tyler Thompson and Jared Riley – each had a team-high six tackles. Senior linebacker Chase Taylor recovered a fumble.

The Broncos face another ranked opponent this week when they travel to No. 6 Ironwood Ridge.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.



FOUR CORNERS OF SPORTS

By Andrew Luberda
Southeast Valley Ledger

play while the Cats enter at 1 – 1.

Friday is the first of two remaining regular season games – both at home – for the Cats. A loss to Miami likely eliminates the Cats from playoff contention.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

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SAN TAN FOOTHILLS

Football – The Sabercats, who had a bye last week, can keep their playoff hopes alive with a win against Miami this week. The No. 12-ranked Vandals are 2 – 0 in section

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Three San Tan Valley soccer

By Andrew Luberd
Southeast Valley Ledger

Three local soccer players have made a commitment to pursue their dreams of playing for the United States Men's or Women's National Teams by participating in the Arizona Olympic Development Program (ODP).

Sebastian Hernandez (aka "Z"), Ashley Nelson, and Rodrigo Ramirez all are members of separate San Tan United Sports Academy (STUSA) club teams in addition to their respective high school teams.

The U.S. Youth Soccer ODP aims to identify players of the highest caliber who can contribute to increasing success of the U.S. National Teams.

According to the Arizona Youth Soccer Association website, "The ODP was formed in 1977 to identify a pool of players in each age group from which a National Team will be selected for international competition."

Development and training are at the forefront of the program.

Z Hernandez, a junior at Florence High School, is currently in the program and is one of 30 finalists remaining from which 22 players will be selected to represent Arizona in regional competition.

Hernandez, a center-midfielder, must go through one final tryout before the Arizona team is finalized in December.

After starting his soccer solely as a recreation player, Hernandez became more serious about the sport after suffering a broken back on the football field during his freshman year.

He was told by doctors he'd be lucky to walk again. He defied the odds and made himself into a potential Olympic-soccer player.

"When I first started, I was still a recreational player and never really had any skills for soccer," he said. "But going through the training and practices, starting with the STUSA first and then playing with the recreation league started progressing my skills."

STUSA President Ruben Hernandez (no relation) recalled Z being a little rough around the edges at first.

"Maybe three years ago," Ruben answered when asked when he knew Z was a candidate to participate in the ODP. "We started thinking we've got something (with Z). We sat down, told him he had potential and asked him what he wanted to do. He made the commitment."

Eventually, Hernandez made STUSA's club team and his goal of playing for the USMNT started to become a real possibility.

He also had other lofty aspirations.

"I wanted to go as high as I could and I want to try to play professionally," Z recently told the *Ledger*. "I started setting my goal for that back then."

Training and competing at the highest level requires long hours and commitment that most younger athletes can't comprehend. In Hernandez' case, that's six to seven hours per day, six days a week, including during the summer and in the heat. During the school year, the hours are reduced to four hours per day so he can concentrate on homework.

Ashley Nelson, a sophomore at Poston Butte High



STUSA staff and players include, from left, (back) Robert Biles, Ruben Hernandez and Rico Cruz; (front) Z Hernandez, Ashley Nelson, and Rodrigo Ramirez.

Kelli Luberd | Ledger

School, is not currently in the ODP, but is on schedule to be a participant at this time a year from now.

Nelson, a striker, started playing soccer when she was five years old. She enrolled in high school a year early as a result of achieving high academics and earned a spot on the Broncos' varsity team as a freshman, when she was the age of a typical eighth-grader.

When did she start dreaming of playing for the USWNT?

"When I was little," she responded. "This is all I wanted to do. Every day I wanted play soccer. I knew that's all I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

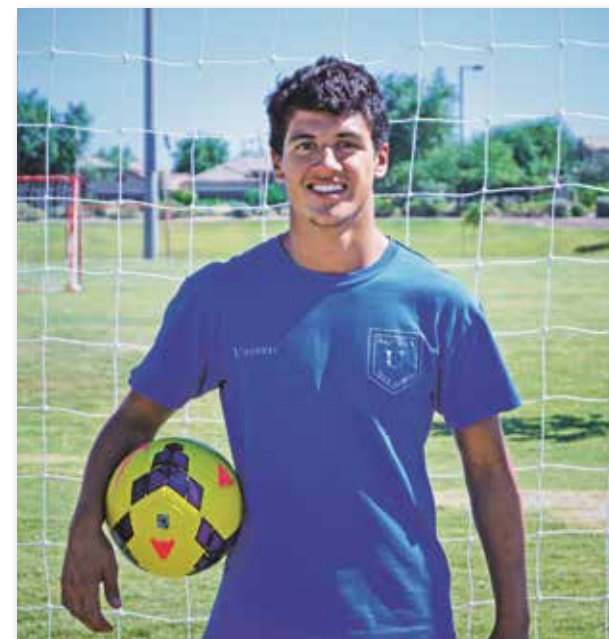
Like Hernandez, Nelson puts in long hours of training, practice, and competition. She understands she has to make sacrifices in her personal life in order to make her dreams a reality.

Parties, sleepovers, and going out to the movies with friends are just a few things she's had to take a pass on, although she does find time for such events on occasion.

Rodrigo Ramirez, a freshman at Poston Butte High School, started playing soccer at age 11.

During a short career – compared to other elite club players – the center-midfielder has learned quickly, according to the STUSA President.

"Once he started on the club team we saw his improvement," Ruben Hernandez said. "The skills that might take other athletes a year-and-a-half or even two



Z Hernandez, a junior at Florence High School, is a finalist for a spot in the Olympic Development Program.

Kelli Luberd | Ledger

players pursue Olympic dreams

years to develop, Rodrigo accomplished in one year.”

Ramirez, who started playing in STUSA as a 12-year-old, knew right away he wanted to participate in the ODP.

“I worked for a lot of hours to improve my skills,” he said. “And I knew this [ODP] is something I wanted to do. I’m passionate about it.”

All three players hope to fulfill their dreams, albeit separately. Still, through the ODP they each hope to show the powers-that-be the same thing.

“I’m looking forward to showing I’m a unique player,” said Ramirez, likely sharing similar thoughts of Hernandez and Nelson. “I can definitely help a national squad.”



Z Hernandez demonstrates one of his many skills.

Kelli Luberda | Ledger



Ashley Nelson shows off her goal-scoring skills.

Kelli Luberda | Ledger



Rodrigo Ramirez hopes to realize his dream of playing for the USMNT.

Kelli Luberda | Ledger

Coyotes beaten by themselves, not Dons

By Andrew Luberda
Southeast Valley Ledger

The consensus among Combs' football players and coaches after last Friday's 17 - 14 loss at No. 17 Coronado was the No. 10-ranked Yotes were not beaten by the Dons but themselves.

"We shot ourselves in the foot," Combs' head coach Jesse Hart said after the game. "In so many ways tonight, we shot ourselves in the foot."

Junior running back Erick Guerra capped off the opening possession of the game with a rushing touchdown and after a successful two-point conversion the Coyotes held an 8 - 0 lead.

The Yotes had several opportunities to increase their lead throughout the first-half, but untimely penalties, poor execution, and

turnovers - including an interception near the goal line just before halftime - prevented them from doing so.

"I'll take the blame for that," Hart said about his team's uncharacteristic performance. "It's my job as the head coach to make sure this football is disciplined and, obviously, I haven't done my job. We'll fix that starting (last Saturday)."

The Yotes' defense, which recorded eight sacks and an interception in the game, played well enough to win and held the high-scoring Dons to their lowest scoring output of the season. Coronado entered the game averaging almost 37 points per game but scored only seven during the first half and trailed the Yotes at halftime, 8 - 7.

The Dons took the lead in the third quarter after kicker Alfredo Marquez drilled a 50-yard

field goal to make the score 10 - 8.

More penalties on both sides of the ball, poor execution, and too many long-distance yards-to-gain for first downs kept the Yotes from any consistency on offense in the second half. As a result, Coronado eventually extended its lead to 17 - 8 with just more than five minutes left in

the game.

The Yotes pulled within three points after senior running back Jacob Green scored with less than three minutes remaining in the game.

Senior Coda McLaws came up big on a key third-down play when he recorded his third

Continued on page 9



Combs' RB Erick Guerra (32) runs away from a Dons' defender during last Friday's game.
Kelli Luberda | Ledger

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Bulldogs win fourth straight, clinch section championship

By Andrew Luberd
Southeast Valley Ledger

The No. 3-ranked Queen Creek football team extended its winning streak to four games after a 44 – 6 blowout victory against visiting Canyon del Oro last Friday night. The win, coupled with Poston Butte's loss to Marana Mountain View, clinched the Division II-Section III title for the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs' sixth win of the year did not come without a price, however.

Leading rusher Gavin Danielson, who ran for 173 yards and two touchdowns versus the Dorados, suffered a fractured fibula in the game and will be out for the rest of the season. The senior running back is the top rusher in the section and fourth overall in Division II with 1,154 yards.

Head coach Travis Schureman expects junior Jace Koester and sophomore Trey Johnson, who was recently promoted to varsity from junior-varsity, to make up for Danielson's absence. The loss of one of the state's best rushers is a difficult one, but Schureman is confident his team has the depth to overcome it.

Speaking of Koester and Johnson, the running-back duo combined for 135 of the Bulldogs' 319 rushing yards in Friday's win. Senior quarterback Kaleb Honea threw for 93 yards and a touchdown in addition to running for a score. Junior Armon McGuire, the team's leading receiver,

caught two passes for 32 yards and a touchdown.

Queen Creek's defense was stout once again and did not allow any points in the first half while the team built a 34 – 0 lead at halftime.

Senior linebacker Blake Miller was outstanding, recording a team-high six tackles, which included two tackles-for-loss and two sacks. He also recovered a fumble and returned it for a touchdown.

Overall, the Bulldogs' defense totaled six tackles-for-loss and five sacks. In addition to Miller's two, Justis Brown, Sam Oram, and Chase Thomas each had one sack.

Senior kicker Zach Glaess made 3-of-4 PAT attempts and was a perfect 3-for-3 on field goals, including his longest of the night from 36-yards out.

As a result of winning the sectional championship, Queen Creek earned an automatic playoff berth. Should the Bulldogs finish the season ranked in the top four they would host up to two games in the upcoming playoffs.

Only two games remain in the regular season, including this Friday when the Bulldogs close out their home schedule versus No. 5-ranked Westview, an important game in the division rankings.

The Bulldogs will honor their seniors on Senior Night as well as celebrate Homecoming before and during the game. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

COYOTES

Continued from page 8

sack of the game, forcing Coronado to punt with under a minute left and giving his team one last chance at a win.

But, again, a penalty caused the Yotes to start their final drive deeper in their own territory and they were unable to pull off any late game heroics.

The Yotes entered last Friday's game in control of their own destiny to win a sectional championship. The loss in no way eliminates their chances at a championship, but it does require them to win at No. 14 Casa Grande this Friday in what is likely one of the biggest games in the school's history.

"We can be in a three-way tie," Hart said. "Our season is not over in any way whatsoever. It's going to come down to power points and we (are in a good spot). So, it's a matter of us getting focused starting (Saturday), getting focused the whole entire week, and being ready to go versus Casa Grande."

It won't be easy against the now 7 – 1 Cougars, especially with as many as four starters out with injury. The Yotes' sideline resembled a mash unit with players on crutches, wearing casts or braces, and suffering from concussions.

"Football is a tough sport," Hart said. "Players get injured and it's all about the next guy coming up."

It'll be up to Yotes' leaders to make sure the team is prepared for a game that could perhaps decide the section championship and the automatic playoff berth that comes with it.

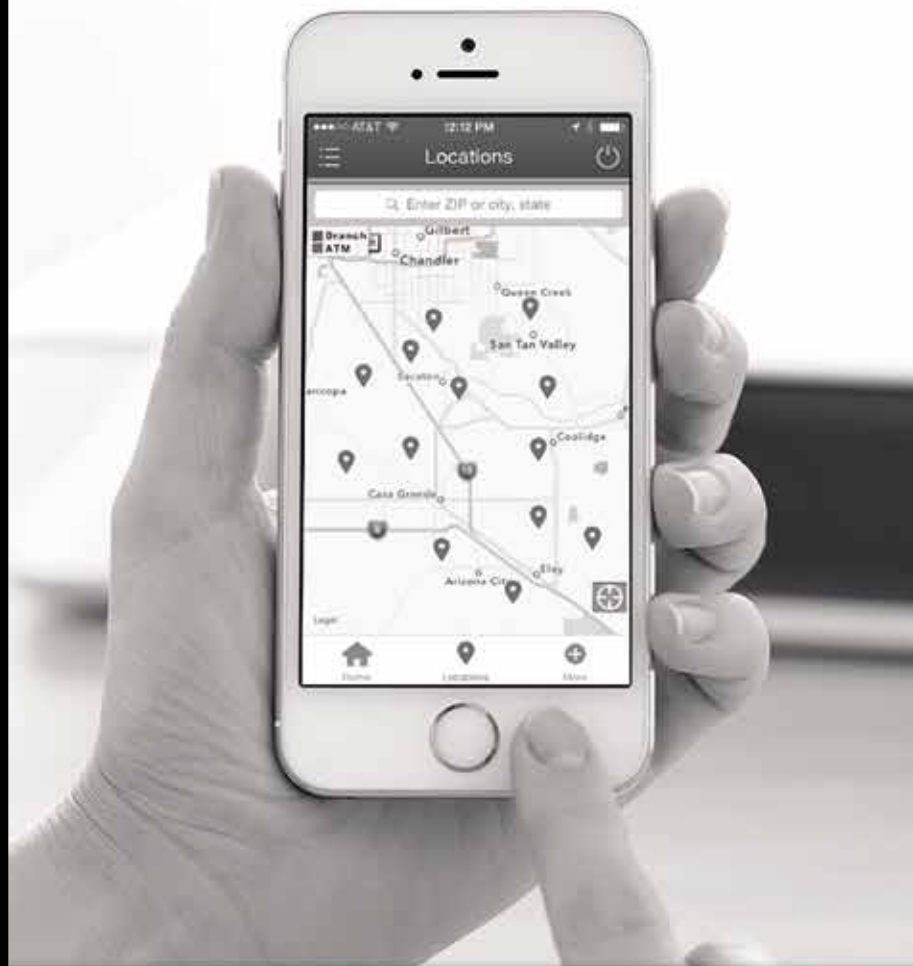
"I'm holding myself accountable as a senior leader," said three-year varsity linebacker Todd Goodman-Schweikart, who had a team-high nine tackles against the Dons. "I want to make sure we come out to practice focused."

The Yotes better be if they want to beat the Cougars and not themselves.

Kickoff for Friday's game is scheduled for 7 p.m.

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The Bubbly Hostess Serves a Healthy Halloween Snack



With Halloween right around the corner, I wanted to share a healthy Halloween snack you can add to your party tables this year – not only did my boys smile with delight when they saw this, they devoured it! This is incredibly easy and can be made large or small to accommodate any sized Halloween gathering.

I simply sectioned a bunch of Clementine oranges – enough to pile up and form a pumpkin shape, then used raisins to make the eyes, nose, and mouth. A cut celery stalk did the trick for the stem. Other ideas I had while pulling this together – using a dark fruit leather for the eyes, nose, and mouth and using the slice of a Granny Smith apple for the stem.

What are you serving at your Halloween Party? You can find more great Halloween ideas on my site at www.bubblyhostess.com.



THE BUBBLY HOSTESS

By Heather Sneed
Special to the Ledger

I love to hear feedback - please visit my blog at www.bubblyhostess.com. You can also follow The Bubbly Hostess on Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, and Twitter.

Combs High School plans Homecoming festivities

Combs FFA Homecoming Tailgate Extravaganza Monster Mash is going to be celebrated on Thursday, Oct. 29, at Combs High School. Bring your kids and grandkids and come out in support of your local schools and community. All active duty or veteran military are sought to participate in the parade. Come and enjoy the festivities of

your local high school to be thanked for your service and sacrifice.

Check-in for the parade is at 4 p.m. at Ranch Elementary, 43521 N. Kenworth Rd. in San Tan Valley. Bring your chairs and some candy if you would like to participate in the Trunk or Treat. Email Christa Moak with any questions at cjmoak@cox.net or

call 480-326-6245.

The Monster Mash parade begins at 4:30 p.m., setting out from Ranch Elementary and traveling to the Combs High School student parking lot to the Trunk or Treat tailgate at 5:30 p.m. Children from all over the community will be in costume moving from booth to booth. There will be games

and food trucks, bounce houses, a haunted house, a photo booth and, a little later, a bonfire.

Awards will be presented for the overall "Best Monster Mash", most creative High School entry and most creative other schools entry. Family-friendly costumes and candy throwing are encouraged.

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Resolution Copper Core Processing Facility Tour

Resolution Copper cordially invites you to a special tour providing a rare, inside view of the geological and geotechnical logging program at our Core Processing Facility. Geologists will be on hand to talk about the drilling program, answer questions and discuss how core samples support information gathering for engineering, planning and permitting.

The tour will be on Wednesday, Oct. 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Core Processing Facility, 2 N. Mesquite Rd., Superior 85173.

Please note, closed toed shoes are required for the tour.

Light refreshments will be provided.

If you have any questions about the public meetings, we invite you to call our information line at 520.689.3409, visit our Community Information Office at 402 W, Main St. in Superior, or visit ResolutionCopper.com.

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