

## Polarfest 2015 at new location Saturday

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## Planned tiny home community

By Andrew Luberda  
Southeast Valley Ledger

By now you may have heard of tiny houses, which are literally small houses that typically measure 100 to 400 square feet. Some tiny homes are built on foundations and some are built on wheels.

Tiny house communities or villages are a growing trend and are developing around the United States for people who desire a simple life. Others are designed to house the homeless, including one tiny home community in Portland, Oregon.

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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

# has San Tan Valley connection

Angelese Calderon and Fred Fazil, is in the planning stages of building a tiny home community near Casa Grande, closer to the Arizona City and Eloy areas. The plan is to provide housing for needy teen mothers, who are exiting foster care, and their children as well as other youths aging out of foster care.

"Tiny home communities are an inexpensive way to house the needy," Calderon recently told the *Ledger*. "There are several companies that are having success (building them)."

San Tan Valley residents Nadia Meagher and Angela Johnson, who each have extensive non-profit experience, are

serving as Eagle Pathway volunteers.

Sierra Vista Estates, a mobile home community located at 9431 E. Corabell Ave. in Mesa, is hosting a Christmas Bazaar Fundraiser to benefit Eagle Pathway and the proposed tiny home community.

The fundraising event, which will take place on Dec. 5 from 12 p.m. – 6 p.m., will feature vendors, food trucks, raffles, and Disney characters who will provide face painting. K-LOVE radio station will also be present.

For more information please contact Angelese Calderon at 916-380-1032 or email eaglepathway@yahoo.com.

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

## 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.



### 5 Queen Creek Holiday Festival & Parade

The Queen Creek Holiday Festival & Parade is hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Queen Creek and the Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce. The festival begins at noon and the parade starts at 3:30 p.m. The parade will run north on Ellsworth Rd. and will end at the Recreation Annex/Library where attendees will continue to enjoy the fabulous holiday festival until 9 p.m. Attendees will enjoy craft vendors, food vendors, live local entertainment, activities, photos with Santa and so much more. Be sure to stay for the Tree Lighting Ceremony in the Library area at 6:30 p.m. For complete information, visit <http://www.queencreekparade.org>.

## DECEMBER

### 3 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.



### 5 San Tan Valley Polarfest at Combs Middle School

Get ready to celebrate Polarfest this year with food, rides, shopping and much more at a brand new location! This year, Polarfest will be at J.O. Combs Middle School, 37611 N. Pecan Creek Dr., San Tan Valley, on Saturday, Dec. 5. The annual event brings together vendors from around the area, as well as attractions such as carnival rides, petting zoo, train rides, over 70 local vendors, 7 tons of snow, and so much more!! For more information please visit [www.Polarfest.net](http://www.Polarfest.net).



### 12 POWWOW comes to Farmers Market

On Saturday, Dec. 12, 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.

# Poston Butte's PRIDE program helps incoming student athletes

By Andrew Luberda  
Southeast Valley Ledger

Evolving from a K – 8 school student athlete to a high-school student athlete can be overwhelming for many incoming freshmen. The ability to balance academics and athletics as well as make the necessary social adjustment can

be a challenge that prevents success in one or more of those areas.

Poston Butte High School is addressing those potential challenges and concerns with PRIDE – a program that was implemented last year by school administrators and coaches to foster the athletic, study-habit and social skills in new ninth-grade student athletes.

“What I love about PRIDE is it supports – at the same time – athletics and academics at the freshmen level,” Poston Butte Principal Dr. Shannon Anderson recently told the *Ledger*. “It is such an adjustment for kids – socially and academically – to go from a K – 8 to a high school and I think part of what PRIDE does is help with that transition a little bit.”

Certain freshmen student-athletes have the privilege of starting their day in PRIDE during the first two periods of the school schedule. They practice under the direction of the varsity coach of their respective sport, which allows them to return home after school to work on their studies as opposed to attending after-school practices. The only time freshmen

student-athletes are required to stay beyond regular school hours for athletics is on game days.

In addition to nurturing athletic development, coaches are engaged academically with their student athletes and can more closely monitor grades.

“PRIDE helped me a lot, actually,” said sophomore Kevin Johnson, who was in the program as a freshman and is currently the starting point guard on the Broncos' varsity basketball team. “It helped me keep my grades up so I could play every day and continue being a model student-athlete.”

The opportunity to work with the varsity coach helps develop continuity throughout the respective athletic program, which benefits both the team and the athlete later in his high-school career.

“I know the sophomores who were in the PRIDE program last year are further along in their development than any other sophomore group I've had,” Poston Butte boys' varsity basketball head coach Noel Nafziger said. “Both in the weight room and basketball-skill wise.”

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# Polarfest welcomes winter to San Tan Valley, Saturday, Dec. 5, at new location

Are you ready for the holidays to begin? Then head over to the J.O Combs Middle School at 37611 N. Pecan Creek Dr. in San Tan Valley and prepare yourself for the event of the season (winter, that is).

The 12th annual Polarfest kicks off at 11 a.m. and will feature live music by TRIDON and People Who Could Fly. Enchanted Entertainment will present Elsa and Anna from Frozen who will entertain Polarfest goes young and young-at-heart. There will also be performances by Dance Spot, Natia O Le Pasefika Polynesian and C3. Entertainment will continue all day until 5 p.m.

Other events this year include:

- Pet adoptions by AZ Care Rescue and Central Arizona Animal Rescue.
- Pictures with Santa Claus.
- Carnival Rides.
- Bounce Zone will be ready for the kids with bounce houses galore.

• Vendors with lots of goodies to purchase for holiday gifts.

• And SNOW, of course!

“Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy Polarfest. It is a positive, local event that was born and bred in San Tan Valley. It’s something we can truly call our own,” stated director Carrie Ribeiro.

This year’s event is sponsored by: JO Combs Unified School District, Cemex, Southeast Valley Ledger, YMCA, SRP, Rural/Metro Fire, Spartan Investigative Agency, Carpet Cleaning Inc., EVB Magazine, Walking M Farms, Bounce Extreme, Jungle Jumpers, Radical Reptile Fun, Ozone Media Group.

Head over to [www.polarfest.net](http://www.polarfest.net) to pre-purchase wristbands for the carnival rides or for more information. Find Polarfest on Facebook at PolarfestSTV. For more information, please email [info@polarfest.net](mailto:info@polarfest.net) or [events@riggsservices.com](mailto:events@riggsservices.com).



San Tan Valley’s TRIDON will perform at this year’s Polarfest.



Head over to J.O. Combs Middle School for carnival games, snow, entertainment and so much more at the annual Polarfest.

## POLARFEST 2015

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# Queen Creek hoopsters expect return to form

By Andrew Lubberda  
Southeast Valley Ledger

After averaging almost 20 wins per season and reaching the playoffs in each of the 2012-14 seasons, the Queen Creek boys' basketball team ended the 2014-15 season with only 11 wins and without a playoff appearance.

Last year's Bulldogs struggled down the stretch after a strong start, losing six of their last seven games, largely due to a loss of confidence.

"Sometime after Christmas we just lost our focus," said Queen Creek head coach Troy Gibson, who is entering his 12th season leading the Bulldogs' program. "Mainly, with that group, I think they just stopped

believing they could get it done."

The Bulldogs return an experienced group this season, including expected starters Frigny Niclasse, Bradley Woods, and Braxton Smith.

Smith, who will miss the start of the season with a foot injury, led the Bulldogs in scoring a year ago, averaging more than 14 points per game. The junior guard is also the returning leader in rebounds from last season, when he averaged almost five per game.

"I think this group is a confident group," Gibson said. "As we get used to each other and I get used to the team, what we can do, and we focus on our strengths (then) I think we can be pretty good."

Niclasse, a senior point guard, believes this year's team is improved in the right areas to show last year was an aberration.

"I think we have more experience this year," Niclasse said. "We're stronger, so we should be able to outwork our opponents. We know what to do; we're a smarter team now."

Gibson isn't about to make any bold predictions, but so far he's liked what he's seen from his team, one that he feels is deep and athletic.

"Our effort has been really good, especially early on," Gibson said. "Our guys came

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Queen Creek basketball head coach Troy Gibson looks on during practice.

Andrew Lubberda | Ledger

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The Bulldogs' basketball team putting in work during practice last week.

Andrew Lubberda | Ledger

# Broncos take second in own tourney

## POSTON BUTTE

**Boys' Basketball** – The host team Broncos went undefeated in pool play of their Thanksgiving Classic, setting up last Friday's championship game versus undefeated American Leadership Academy, a team some consider one of the best in the state.

After leading 23 – 16 at halftime, the Broncos saw ALA battle back to tie the game late in the second half. A tip in by ALA, which came with the game clock showing zeros and should not have counted, handed the Broncos their first loss of the season and prevented the hosts from lifting the Classic's



## FOUR CORNERS OF SPORTS

By Andrew Luberda  
Southeast Valley Ledger

championship trophy. Upcoming schedule: Dec. 7 at Walden Grove and Dec. 8 vs. Safford. All games are scheduled for 7 p.m.

**Girls' Basketball** – The Broncos went 3 – 1 in last week's Queen Creek Turkey Shootout. They defeated Catalina Foothills, Shadow Ridge, and Westwood with their only defeat against Mesa. Upcoming schedule: Dec. 4 at Yuma (5:30 p.m.) and Dec. 8 at Safford (7 p.m.).

Continued on page 8

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# Balanced scoring leads Poston Butte to decisive win

By Andrew Luberda  
Southeast Valley Ledger

Four Poston Butte basketball players scored in double figures in a 73 – 39 victory over Santa Cruz Valley last Tuesday. The win improved the Broncos to 2 – 0 in pool play as the host team of the Poston Butte Thanksgiving Classic.

Poston Butte shooting guard Preston Anderson, a senior, led all scorers with 16 points, shooting 60 percent from the field, which included 4-of-7 from behind the three-point arc.

Kevin Johnson (15), Qujuan Steward (14), and Josh Zaker (10) were the other Broncos who finished with double-digit scoring totals.

The Broncos were outstanding from three-point land in the win, hitting 54 percent as team on 14-of-26 shooting. Six different players had at least one three-pointer made with each converting 33 percent or better of their attempts.

“I like threes off ball movement and off reversal just because it’s a better shot,” Poston Butte head coach Noel Nafziger said after the game. “If the ball moves, we catch it off of a reverse, (or) we drive and kick it out, then we shoot a very high percentage and we’re going to continue to do that.”

Anderson drilled his first two three-point attempts of the game and hit all four of his made threes in the first half. He scored 14 of his 16 points before halftime, leading the Broncos to a 36 –

26 lead at the break.

“We’re in the gym every day, putting up shots,” said Anderson, accounting for the Broncos’ hot shooting. “We’re all practicing shooting and that’s why we made such a high percentage tonight.”

The Broncos put on an offensive clinic for most of the night, including after halftime when they opened with a 14 – 2 run to open a 22-point lead, 50 – 28. They outscored the Dust Devils 37 – 13 in the second half.

“We just knocked down shots,” Zaker said. “Tonight we moved the ball well and hit the open shots.”

In addition to the extra shooting work in the gym, the Broncos are benefitting from having 6-foot-7 junior center Tyson Berringer in the middle. His presence opens things up on the perimeter, which makes it easier to find open looks at the hoop for Broncos’ guards.

But make no mistake; the first-year varsity player is more than just a space-eater. He is a scoring threat who can dominate the boards. He scored nine points and had a team-high nine rebounds, including seven on the offensive end in Tuesday’s win.

“I’m a huge fan,” Nafziger said of Berringer. “The thing about him is this is only his third year of basketball and his second varsity game. I think he’s going to be really, really good when he gets it. If he plays well, that’s definitely going to help us.”



Perhaps lost in the 34-point victory was the Broncos’ defensive performance. They held the Dust Devils to less than 39 percent shooting and they did it, in part, using a defense they don’t practice and rarely use: a zone.

“We don’t practice it because I’m not a zone guy,” said Nafziger, adding that it’s difficult to play a zone defense without a shot clock. “But I’ll use it in certain situations. It only works if our guys move when the ball moves and they did that tonight. I was very happy with how we looked in it.”

Sometimes practice is not always needed to make perfect. Upcoming schedule: Dec. 7 at Walden Grove, Dec. 8 vs. Safford. Both games are scheduled for 7 p.m.

## Young Coyotes lose composure, then game

By Andrew Luberda  
Southeast Valley Ledger

There were bound to be some growing pains for the Combs boys’ basketball team that is young and inexperienced in one way or another. Several questionable and outright missed officiating calls threw several Yotes’ players off their games during last Tuesday’s 66 – 63 defeat to Walden Grove in pool play of the Poston Butte Thanksgiving Classic.

Dealing with adversity is something all athletes have to learn to overcome, especially the leaders on a team. For the Coyotes’ leaders it’s a role that’s new to them, while other players are playing extended minutes for the first time at the varsity level.

“This is the first time we’ve had to deal with some adversity and I was kind of looking forward to it,” Combs’ head coach Kirk Fauske said after his team’s first loss of the season.

“I’ve seen from this team (in the first two games) what we can do, and it’s going to be special once we’re dialed in, but we needed to experience a little adversity and a tournament is the perfect place to have some youngsters grow up real quick.”

The first half was filled with scoring runs by both teams and several lead changes without either team leading by more than two points during about a five minute stretch in the middle of it.

After a timeout, and trailing 16 – 14, with about six minutes before halftime, the Yotes went on a 10 – 2 run to



take a 24 – 18 lead, but Walden Grove then went on a 10 – 4 run of their own to take a 28 – 24 lead at the half.

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## FOUR CORNERS

Continued from page 7

### QUEEN CREEK

**Girls’ Basketball** – The Bulldogs went 3 – 1 as the host team of the Queen Creek Turkey Shootout. Only a 36 – 30 loss in double-overtime to Coolidge in the season opener for both teams prevented the Bulldogs from starting their season a perfect 4 – 0. They are, however, now riding a three-game winning streak after victories against Benjamin Franklin, Mountain View, and Combs. In the 55 – 12 win against Benjamin Franklin last Monday, junior Amanda Allison scored a game-high 16 points while senior Kendyl Payne added 11 points. A total of 11 Bulldogs scored in the game against the Chargers, who were held to only one point in the second half. Allison led the team with eight assists and finished tied with Alexis Jones and Brittany Madril with a team-high five rebounds. Upcoming schedule: Dec. 3 vs. Tucson High,

Dec. 5 at Valley Christian (2:30 p.m.), and Dec. 9 at St. Mary’s. All games are scheduled for 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

**Football** – Bulldogs’ head coach Travis Schureman and linebacker Chase Thomas earned top honors among Division II, Section III coaches and players. Schureman was named Section Coach of the Year, while Thomas was tabbed the section’s Defensive Player of the Year. A total of 12 Bulldogs earned All-Section recognition in voting by Section III coaches. A complete list of honorees will appear in an upcoming edition of the *Ledger*.

### COMBS

**Girls’ Basketball** – The Coyotes starting their season by going 2 – 2 in last week’s Queen Creek Shootout, defeating Northwest Christian and Fountain Hills. The Yotes two losses came against

Phoenix Christian and Queen Creek. Upcoming schedule: Copper Cities Tournament in Globe, Dec. 3-4. Dec. 3 vs. Ganado (11 a.m.), Dec. 3 vs. Morenci (4 p.m.), and Dec. 4 vs. Superior (9 a.m.). Additional tournament games are TBA.

### SAN TAN FOOTHILLS

**Boys’ Basketball** – The Sabercats opened their 2015 season on Tuesday versus Hayden. Game results were too late for press time. Upcoming schedule: Dec. 3 vs. The Gregory School (7 p.m.), Dec. 8 vs. Bagdad (5:30 p.m.), and Dec. 9 vs. Superior (5:30 p.m.).

**Girls’ Basketball** – The Lady Cats are the last local area team to begin its 2015 season, starting on Dec. 3 vs The Gregory School at 5:30 p.m. Upcoming schedule: Dec. 8 vs. Bagdad (4 p.m.) and Dec. 9 vs. ASU Prep (2:30 p.m.).



## COMBS BASKETBALL

Continued from page 8

For the Coyotes, who scored 71 points in a season-opening win against Florence the night before, it was a sloppy offensive performance in their second game of the year. Fauske again attributed his team's play to its inability to handle things not going its way.

"We weren't ready to play," he said. "Right from the start, Clayten [McCarthy] gets held and then gets called for a (questionable) charge. He picked up early foul trouble and that took him out of the game."

"It's part of the immaturity of being a young team; they don't know how to bounce back from how the officials are calling a game," Fauske continued. "Every game the referees are going to be different and we have to learn how to adjust to how they're calling things."

The Red Wolves opened a nine-point lead midway through the second half and extended it 15 points before the Coyotes starting looking like the team Fauske envisions, fighting back to get within five

points late in the game.

A three-pointer at the final buzzer by McCarthy, a junior, who scored a game-high 19 points despite being in foul trouble or in Fauske's doghouse for most of the night, accounted for the final three-point margin.

"I thought we really battled back," Fauske said. "We were down 15 points and we fought back. It was just one of those games."

One of a few positives from last Tuesday's loss was the performance of sophomore Cory Pearson, who earned Player of the Game honors after going 5-of-7 from the field and 5-of-8 from the free-throw line to score 15 points in the game. He also had a team-high six rebounds and two blocks.

Pearson, like many other young Coyotes, is expected to log heavy minutes for the first time in his varsity career.

So far he is off to good start.

Upcoming schedule: Dec. 7 vs. Maricopa at Talking Stick Resort Arena (4:30 p.m.), Dec. 8 at Washington (7 p.m.), Dec. 9 vs. Chandler Prep (7:30 p.m.).

## QC BASKETBALL

Continued from page 6

out with some energy, some intensity, and it's carried over. We've been at it for three weeks and we've had solid practices outside of maybe one."

"It's been a while since we've been this athletic," he added. "Once we figure it out and the lightbulb goes on I think we have a chance to be really good. I just hope it's sooner rather than later."

One thing to count on from a Gibson-coached team is a commitment on the defensive end. A player who isn't committed to playing a quick, trapping-style of defense will find minutes hard to come by.

Gibson believes his style promotes an up-and-down game, which is what most players enjoy and prefer.

"He really wants us to get out in transition this year," said Woods, a senior. "He wants our defense to generate a lot of offense, getting easy layups."

Gibson was asked what he wants to see from his team on a nightly basis to give it the best chance for success.

"I want to see them have fun," he responded. "I want to see them play with a reckless abandon, trust each other, and trust what we're doing."

## PBHS PRIDE

Continued from page 4

Johnson and fellow sophomore Logan Hatch, both members of the Broncos' varsity basketball team this season, are proof of Nafziger's assertion.

"Having the extra time to practice always helps," said Hatch. "We had two hours in the morning to work on our skills, including the first hour of lifting to get us stronger."

It should be noted that not all freshmen athletic teams participate in the PRIDE program.

A varsity coach's academic schedule and responsibilities limit the number of athletic teams that can participate in PRIDE. Coaches who serve as physical education teachers can more easily adapt their schedule than coaches who may teach a

business or math class, for example.

As a result, varsity coaches whose academic commitments prohibit them from being available during the first two periods of the day can't oversee or direct a team in the program.

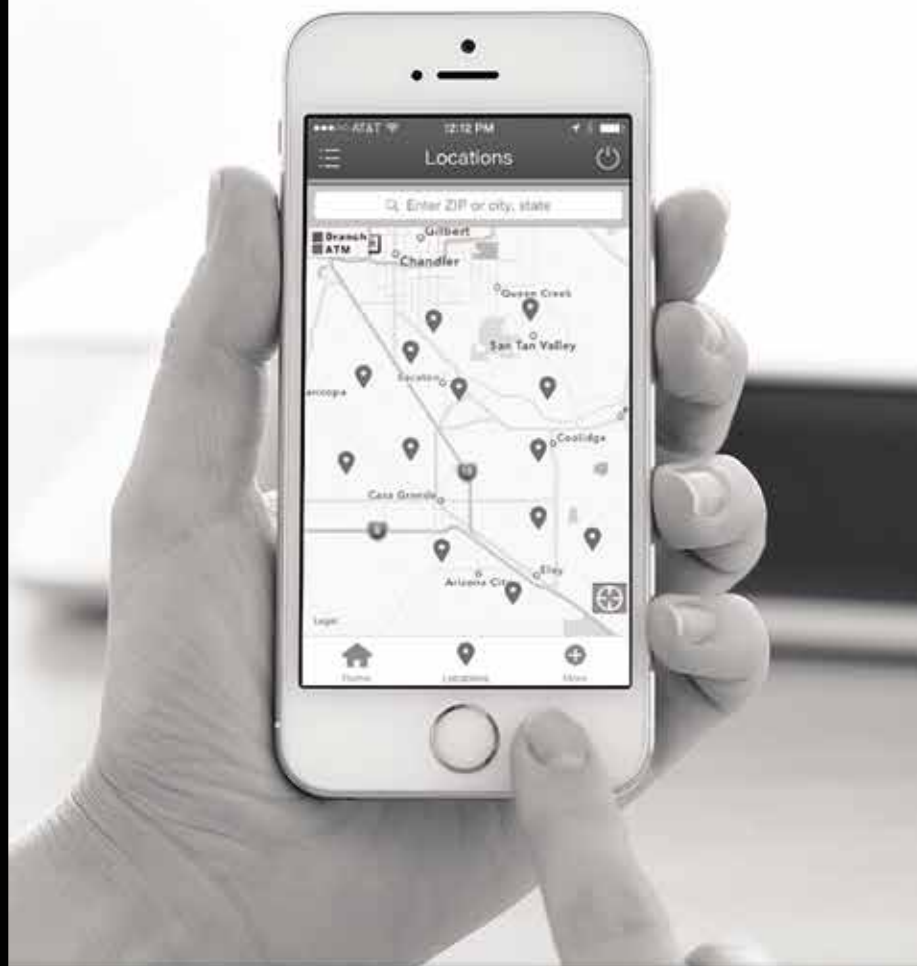
Dr. Anderson says it's a goal to increase the number of Broncos' athletic teams in PRIDE, which will allow more freshmen student athletes to benefit from the program.

That will require additional athletic staff members.

"The next level for PRIDE is for those head coaches, who are not physical education teachers, to work with their booster program to bring in an outside coach," she said.

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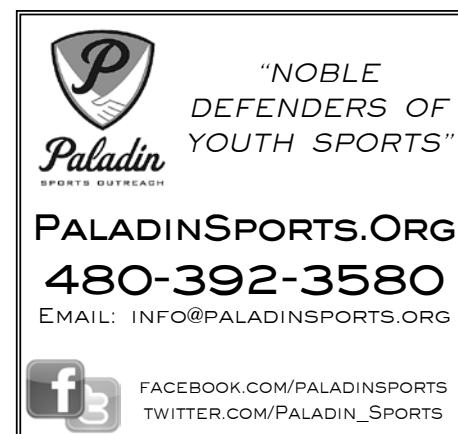
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# The Bubbly Hostess Serves an Affogato

Earlier this year at a Sur la Table cooking class I attended, I learned about this dessert...drink...well, I guess dessert – and I fell in love! It was a Date Night cooking class where a girlfriend of mine and I took our husbands – it was

a lot of fun and the food we made was delicious.

During the class, we learned how to make affogatos. In Italian, the word affogato means “drowned” and that is literally what you do to the ice cream with the espresso.

There are lots of varieties to this dessert, you can use chocolate, vanilla, or coffee ice cream or even gelato, add a liqueur, use different garnishes such as chopped nuts or crushed espresso beans, etc. Some recipes called for one scoop of ice cream, others two. This is certainly one you can play around with and find what suits your taste buds the best.

This is very easy and needs to be served immediately. If you don't have an espresso machine at home, you can substitute with strongly brewed black coffee.

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



## THE BUBBLY HOSTESS

By Heather Sneed  
Special to the Ledger

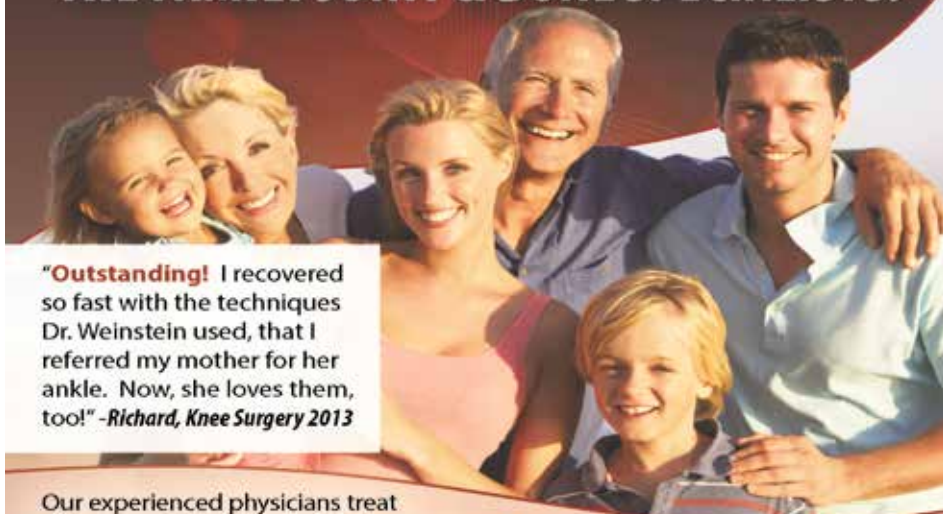
### Affogato Serves 1



1 scoop vanilla ice cream  
1 shot of espresso (or ¼ cup strongly brewed coffee)  
Chocolate curls, to garnish

In a serving dish or heat proof glass, add your ice cream. Top with the espresso. Garnish with chocolate curls. Serve with a spoon.

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Outdoor play area where children can learn engineering by building things out of these foam pieces.



Each room is designed with shelving units like this. Each child is assigned their own cubby.

