

FFA at Florence High School Pages 10-11



Andrew Luberdia | STV Daily PRSS

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Scott Johnson is the interim principal at Copper Basin K-8.

Copper Basin K-8 welcomes new principal

By Andrew Luberda
STV Daily PRSS

When Copper Basin K-8 students returned to school earlier this month they were introduced to one of the newest Dust Devils on campus, Interim Principal Scott Johnson.

Johnson, who served as an Assistant Principal at Skyline Ranch prior to moving over to Copper Basin, is fulfilling a goal he established when he was an elementary-school student years ago.

"I had one teacher who, when I was in her classroom, the lightbulb went on," Johnson told the *STV Daily PRSS* during his first week in his new job. "She made that classroom fun and an environment that I wanted to be in."

As a result, Johnson developed an interest in education, earning his bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Mich., before obtaining his master's degree from Northern Arizona University in Educational Leadership.

"I enjoy leading and I enjoy teaching,

so what better way to do that than working with kids," Johnson said. "The main reason I went into education was to create relationships with students, parents and community members."

Johnson is married and a father to a pair of sons – Jaiden and Trey – who both attend FUSD schools. His wife, Karen, is a math teacher at Basha High School.

Although his current position is only known through the end of this school year for now, Johnson will witness his first class of graduates later this year before sending them off to high school.

"A confident student, a student with a direction or path, a student who, when they enter one of the local high schools – San Tan Foothills or Poston Butte – we've given them opportunities as far what careers they might be interested in," Johnson answered when asked what he expects a Dust Devil graduate to look like. "We want them to be empathetic, which is also one of our schoolwide expectations."

Welcome to Copper Basin K-8, Mr. Johnson.

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Mrs. Valencia Coppel, International Baccalaureate Coordinator at Florence High School with Mrs. Melissa Haugen, FHS Visual Arts Teacher who won the award.

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Poston Butte teacher named as 'mentor' for S.T.E.M. educators

Poston Butte teacher, Alise Kraus, has been chosen to serve as a Mentor for the Arizona Science Teacher Leadership Program, which supports STEM educators across the state.

She joins 12 other teachers from across the state who will serve as mentors and protégés in this unique professional learning program.

The Arizona Science Teachers Association (ASTA) is focusing on retaining STEM teachers in AZ classrooms. Through the Teacher Leadership Program (TLP) new STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) teachers (protégés) as well as experienced teachers (mentors) collaborate to support professional learning that meets the needs of new teachers as well as developing teacher leaders. This mentoring program uses a hybrid face-to-face and electronic communication approach to build instructional and leadership skills of science teachers throughout Arizona.

Mentors and protégés apply to participate and commit to a 3-year cycle of ongoing learning in a carefully designed, implemented, and assessed program. Funding support from the APS Foundation allows the program to reach teachers across the state. ASTA partners with the Arizona Association of Teachers of Mathematics and the Arizona Technology in Education Association to deliver the induction and leadership program that meets the needs of STEM teachers. The program is carefully and skillfully organized and facilitated in order to meet the goals and objectives that result in retaining our science/STEM teachers.

The TLP serves dual roles – it provides a statewide induction program for novice teachers of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) (K–12) as well as leadership training for experienced K–12 teachers of STEM. ASTA couples face-to-face professional development via an annual science conference and regional professional development meetings with on-line experiences to develop relationships among K–12 teacher leaders (mentors) with novice K–12 teachers (protégés). The TLP has two main goals:

- 1) Support novice science teachers



Poston Butte High School Teacher Alise Kraus was named Mentor for other STEM educators.

(protégés) by providing them a mentor, resources, and a professional learning community; and

- 2) Develop leadership skills in current classroom teachers (mentors) by providing them the opportunity to be mentors to protégés, training and resources, and a network of leaders in implementing science education reform.

The objectives of the TLP include:

- Increase the science, technology, engineering and/or math pedagogical content knowledge of mentors and protégés
- Increase the knowledge and leadership skills of master teacher-leaders as mentors
- Increase the degree of collegial support provided to participants

Participants in the TLP will meet throughout the 2016-17 academic year. Joining Ms. Kraus as mentors are: Kristi Goeke (Yavapai County), Vicki Massey (Maricopa County), Geneva Baker (Pinal County), Svea Anderson (Pima County)

Continued on page 5

FUSD launches mobile app at no additional cost to district

The Florence Unified School District has launched a fully integrated mobile application for parents, students, teachers, staff and community members. The app will allow parents to check their student's grades, school calendars, bus route information, cafeteria information and updates from the schools they choose to follow. The app will also include a tip

line for anonymous submissions and the district will use the app to alert parents, via push notifications, if there is ever an emergency.

The app can be downloaded by typing, "Florence Unified School District" in the search bar of the App Store or Google Play Store. It can also be downloaded by using the QR Code in the accompanying photo.

The app was developed and designed without the use of new funds. The Technology Department at FUSD joined the Blackboard Connect Consortium over the summer and the savings from joining paid for the mobile app and an update to the district's communication system.

"The Florence Unified School

District has always taken pride in being technologically advanced," said Superintendent Dr. Amy Fuller. "The launch of our district mobile app will allow us to communicate with our parents more efficiently and allow them a one stop shop for everything they need from FUSD."

We've added one last thing to your school supplies.
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New
FUSD
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ALISE KRAUS

Continued from page 4

and Kimberly Dugdale (Apache County). Serving as protégés are: Audrey Corners (Yuma County), Josiah Sanchez (Maricopa County), Maggie Cannon (Maricopa County), Mark Calton (Pima County), Ariana Gowda (Maricopa County) and Kelley Hawley (Yavapai County).

About Arizona Teachers Association (ASTA)

ASTA represents science educators statewide—in every science discipline at every grade level, Kindergarten through

University. ASTA demonstrates leadership in science education in the state by organizing and participating in statewide reform initiatives and provides leadership opportunities for members who wish to serve on committees and promote quality science education in their school and community.

Visit the ASTA website (<http://www.azsta.org/>) to learn more about our organization and how you can get involved!

Poston Butte High School greenlighted to offer U.S. Air Force JROTC

By **Andrew Luberda**
STV Daily PRSS

A two-year application process is nearing completion and resulted in

Poston Butte High School being selected to offer the only United States Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) Program in Pinal County. Poston Butte Principal Steve

Tannenbaum announced in November that the school was one of 120 schools approved across the nation to offer the program, which is funded by the U.S. Air Force.

“We want our students to have as many choices and options as learners,” Tannenbaum told the *STV Daily PRSS*. “When we can offer a quality program like the AFJROTC it gives students a variety. It allows another direction for a different group of students, who maybe aren’t into taking S.T.E.M. courses like we offer or some of the advanced placement classes, sports or the arts.”

“When we have the opportunities that we do here at Poston Butte, it gives every single learner a chance to find their path or their way.”

The mission of the AFJROTC program is to, “Develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community,” according to its website.

The objectives of AFJROTC are to educate and train high school cadets in citizenship, promote community service, instill responsibility, character, and self-discipline, and provide instruction in air and space fundamentals.

The curriculum for the new program, which will be available for enrollment in the fall of 2017, is currently under

development. Some of the courses that will be available to students include:

- *Aerospace Science: A Journey into Aviation History*
- *The Science of Flight: A Gateway to New Horizons*
- *Cultural Studies: An Introduction to Global Awareness*
- *Exploring Space: The Higher Frontier*
- *Survival: Survive and Return*
- *Aviation Honors Ground School*
- *AFJROTC Honors Senior Project*

It should be noted, students who join the program are under no obligation to join the armed services upon graduation.

“Poston Butte High School, along with all of our schools, has expanded the options for students who want to expand their horizons in high school,” Florence Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Amy Fuller said in a statement. “The AFJROTC Program will give students in our community one more option to meet their needs.”

Space is limited, so students interested in the program are being encouraged to sign up now for classes in Fall 2017. Check with counselors at Poston Butte High School to sign up.

For more information on the AFJROTC Program visit: www.airuniversity.af.mil/Holm-Center/AFJROTC/.



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at Florence Unified School District

The Florence Unified School District uses the PBIS Program to encourage students to make good choices by reinforcing them with positive reinforcement when they are “caught in the act.”

This program has decreased our referrals across the district and has helped to reduce bullying and fights. Students are excited to make positive decisions and want to be caught in the act doing something good.

For more information, please visit: fusdaz.org/mtss

Want to keep up with everything happening at San Tan Foothills High School and Poston Butte High School?



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the school
news!**



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Keep up with your favorite High School sports team online at STVDailyPRSS.com

Florence Unified School Board welcomes new member, re-elects leadership

The Florence Unified School District School Board welcomed newly elected member Katrina Solis to the board for her first meeting on January 10th. She joins re-elected members Bob Dailey and Jim Thomas to serve a 4 year term. School Board President Denise Guenther and School Board Vice-President Steve Johnson's seats were not up for this election cycle.

The first order of business was to elect the leadership of the school board and Denise Guenther, nominated by Jim Thomas was unanimously voted to be retained as Florence Unified School District School Board President. Steve Johnson, nominated by Bob Dailey, was also unanimously retained as Florence Unified School District School Board Vice-President. Each will serve in this role until January, 2018.

"The Florence Unified School District has a dedicated and knowledgeable school board that serves our community," said Superintendent Dr. Amy Fuller. "We are



Newly Elected FUSD Board Member, Katrina Solis.

grateful for their continued guidance and support."



Steve Johnson, FUSD Board Vice-President; Denise Guenther, FUSD Board President.

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Walker Butte K-8 Leadership School earns national award

Walker Butte K-8 Leadership School was recently notified that they were one of only 14 schools in Arizona to be named receive the "2016 Let's Move! Active Schools National Award."

The award celebrates a school's outstanding efforts in creating an Active School environment and commitment to integrating at least 60 minutes of physical activity before, during and after the school day. To earn a Let's Move! Active Schools National Award, a school must have met significant benchmarks in five areas: physical education; physical activity before and after school;

staff involvement and family and community engagement. (Information taken from the Let's Move, Be Active Website.)

Mrs. Tammy Sutterby taught Physical Education at Walker Butte K-8 and with the help of her students and Principal, Mr. Paul Hatch, we able to qualify for this award.

"We are very proud of all of our physical education programs," said Superintendent Dr. Amy Fuller. They are consistently doing great things for our kids and support an active and healthy life."



Mrs. Tammy Sutterby, far left, and Principal Paul Hatch are joined by Walker Butte K-8 Leadership School students to celebrate their achievement with the "Let's Move! Active Schools!" national award.

FLORENCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR

JANUARY

16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

No School!



18 Early Release Day for All Schools

Kids are out of school early today.

24 100th Day of School at FUSD

Make sure you attend school today!



1 Early Release Day for All Schools

Kids are out of school early today.

14 Florence School Board Meeting

The Governing Board of the Florence Unified School District will meet on Feb. 14 at 6 p.m. at Poston Butte High School. All are invited to attend.



20 Presidents' Day

No School!



27 I Love to Read Week

FUSD celebrates reading all week long.

MARCH

1 Early Release Day for All Schools

Kids are out of school early today.



3 Championship Games to Begin

Football and volleyball K-8 championships start on Feb. 3 at 5 p.m.

7 Florence School Board Meeting

The Governing Board of the Florence Unified School District will meet on March 7 at 6 p.m. at the District Office. All are invited to attend.



11 Spring Break

No school! The FUSD Spring Break is March 11-26 with students returning on March 27.

For more information, see the FUSD calendar online at <http://bit.ly/2d6H8gx>



FFA students build their own chicken coops. There is even a bit of a competition to see who can build the best one, which is auctioned off at the end of the year. Andrew Lubberda | PRSS



Tiny goats, being raised by FHS FFA. Andrew Lubberda | PRSS

An average of nearly 100 Florence High School students has enrolled in the school's Agriculture class during the last four years with many of them also joining its chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Club.

Both the class and club, which are natural fits in Florence's rural community, are part of the Career and Technical Education Program at the school, which is designed to prepare students to enter the workforce with the academic and vocational skills needed to compete successfully in the job market.

"We have a variety of elective options for our students," Florence Principal Thad Gates told the *STV Daily PRSS*. "FFA and Agriculture is definitely a program we've seen grow a lot in the last four years."

Gates credits the growth of the program to Angelica Rudow, who he hired four years ago to teach Agriculture and head the FFA Club.

Rudow, a Dobson High School alum and University of Arizona graduate, was one of Gates' first hires when he started at Florence and is the "kid magnet and go-getter" who has displayed the passion he was seeking.

The program's curriculum, which is science and biology based, includes raising and caring for pigs, goats, rabbits, calves, and chicken. The school partnered with Arizona Grain to assist

Florence H Agriculture & THRI

By Andrew
STV Dai

in raising calves for research; charting their diets and weighing them. The students also learn to breed and raise chickens, collect eggs, and hatch chicks in the school's incubator.

Students raised, plucked, processed and packaged 30 chickens to give to needy families for Thanksgiving dinner.

"That was super humbling," said Rudow. "We put an ad in the paper and families contacted us if they couldn't afford a meal for Thanksgiving. The students brought in stuffing, scalloped potatoes and other food so we were able to give families meal packages."

A former storage area and parking lot now serves as on-campus land lab, where students learn accountability and commitment in addition to raising animals. Agriculture students are responsible for feeding animals and cleaning chicken coops, even during breaks. As class enrollees and members of FFA, students make a 365-days-per-year commitment.

High School FFA programs WELDING

by Andrew Lubberda
for the Daily PRSS

Many, but not all, students in the class and club have a history in ranching and/or farming, including sophomore Sarah Smith, whose family owns a custom bailing company. Still, Smith and others have learned something new in the program.

"I knew the class would offer me a lot things like welding," Smith said. "I never knew how to do it until I came here."

The consensus among Smith and her classmates was that welding was the favorite part of the class. Students learn mig and stick welding.

According to Rudow, second-year students build chicken coops for class use as well for sale to community members. Rudow, who acknowledged she likes to create competition in the program, says the best built coop is auctioned off at the end of the year as a fundraiser for the program.

"Ms. Rudow is the best welder," junior Samuel Espinoza said. "She's showed me how to weld and cut metal."

"Welding is a big thing for most of the students," Rudow added. "It's the way that we end the year and we spend the whole last quarter on it."

Some students hope to pursue agriculture as a career path post-graduation. Others, like FFA President Jasmine Lorefice have other plans. Either way, all of them will take away something from the program that will benefit their future.

"You don't need to be involved in the agriculture industry to take this class," said Lorefice, who wants to study Dermatology. "Without any background, a person can come in, learn and take something away from it."

Sophomore Reagan Rimmer believes learning about agriculture is important to everyone and for good reason.

"It's important to learn what agriculture really is," she said. "Where we get our food and what it provides our everyday life."

Rudow's passion was evident during a recent tour and it extends to her "kids," a term she uses in place of "students." She wants to see each of them succeed beyond high school.

"Agriculture gave me a positive direction in my life," she said. "I like to give my kids different options because I know there are jobs available in the industry that are not getting filled. I care about them and I want them to do something they're proud of. I don't think there is any excuse to leave high school and not make something of yourself."



Above is one of the completed chicken coops built by the FFA and Agriculture students. This one is already in use.

Andrew Lubberda | PRSS



More chickens.

Andrew Lubberda | PRSS

Schedules *and* Scores

FHS Boys Basketball

Date	Gophers		Date		
1/5/17	Miami, 40 - 35	W	1/16/17	@ Santa Cruz Valley, 52 - 75	L
1/5/17	Superior, 60 - 30	W	1/17/17	@ Safford, 70 - 43	W
1/6/17	Metro Tech, 41 - 42	L	1/20/17	Coolidge	7:00 PM
1/6/17	Ft Thomas, 63 - 33	W	1/24/17	ALA	7:00 PM
1/7/17	Sahuarita, 49 - 37	W	1/27/17	@ Benjamin Franklin	7:00 PM
1/7/17	Marana, 73 - 71 (OT)	W	1/31/17	@ Globe	7:00 PM
1/10/17	Benjamin Franklin, 76 - 22	W	2/3/17	Safford	7:00 PM
1/11/17	@ Northwest Christian, 63 - 71	L	2/7/17	@ Coolidge	7:00 PM
1/13/17	Globe, 87 - 73	W			

FHS Boys Soccer

Date	Gophers	
1/3/17	Coolidge, 4 - 1	W
1/5/17	Casteel, 1 - 5	L
1/6/17	Scottsdale Prep, 0 - 2	L
1/10/17	Globe, 1 - 3	L
1/13/17	Miami, 6 - 2	W
1/17/17	@ Thatcher, 0 - 5	L
1/20/17	@ Coolidge	6:00 PM
1/24/17	Safford	6:00 PM
1/26/17	@ Globe	6:00 PM

FHS Girls Soccer

Date	Lady Gophers	
1/3/17	Coolidge, 4 - 3	W
1/5/17	Casteel, 0 - 9	L
1/10/17	Globe, 1 - 3	L
1/13/17	Miami, 3 - 1	W
1/17/17	@ Thatcher, 0 - 6	L
1/20/17	@ Coolidge	4:00 PM
1/24/17	Safford	6:00 PM
1/26/17	@ Globe	4:00 PM

FHS Girls Basketball

Date	Lady Gophers		Date		
1/10/17	Benjamin Franklin, 47 - 29	W	2/3/17	Safford	5:30 PM
1/11/17	@ Northwest Christian, 57 - 27	W	2/7/17	@ Coolidge	5:30 PM
1/13/17	Globe, 43 - 28	W	2/10/17	@ ALA	5:30 PM
1/16/17	@ Santa Cruz Valley, 55 - 43	W			
1/17/17	@ Safford, 36 - 63	L			
1/20/17	Coolidge	5:30 PM			
1/24/17	ALA	5:30 PM			
1/27/17	@ Benjamin Franklin	5:30 PM			
1/31/17	@ Globe	5:30 PM			



STFHS Boys Basketball

Date	Sabercats		Date		
1/5/17	Ray, 45 - 43	W	1/18/17	Santa Cruz Valley, 59 - 74	L
1/5/17	Marana, 23 - 62	L	1/24/17	@ Arizona College Prep	7:00 PM
1/6/17	Miami, 37 - 33	W	1/26/17	Gilbert Christian	7:00 PM
1/6/17	Sahuarita, 34 - 54	L	1/27/17	@ Leading Edge Aca.	7:00 PM
1/7/17	Valley Union, 71 - 26	W	1/31/17	Gilbert Classical Aca.	7:00 PM
1/7/17	Scottsdale Prep, 43 - 55	L	2/3/17	@ Arete Prep	7:00 PM
1/10/17	Leading Edge Academy, 47 - 57	L			
1/12/17	@ Gilbert Classical Aca., 47 - 50	L			
1/13/17	Arete Prep, 69 - 37	W			

STFHS Boys Soccer

Date	Sabercats	
1/10/17	Horizon Honors, 2 - 8	L
1/12/17	@ Arizona College Prep, 0 - 9	L
1/13/17	Trivium Prep, 0 - 9	L
1/17/17	Benjamin Franklin, 3 - 6	L
1/19/17	@ Santa Cruz Valley, 2 - 9	L
1/26/17	@ Arete Prep	6:00 PM

STFHS Girls Basketball

Date	Lady Sabercats		Date		
1/5/17	@ Miami, 30 - 55	L	2/1/17	Santa Cruz Valley	7:00 PM
1/10/17	Leading Edge Academy	L	2/3/17	@ Arete Prep	5:30 PM
1/12/17	Gilbert Classical Aca., 31 - 32	L			
1/13/17	Arete Prep, 34 - 10	W			
1/17/17	@ Santa Cruz Valley, 13 - 38	L			
1/23/17	Arizona College Prep	7:00 PM			
1/26/17	Gilbert Christian	5:30 PM			
1/27/17	@ Leading Edge Aca.	6:00 PM			
1/31/17	@ Gilbert Classical Aca.	5:30 PM			

STFHS Girls Soccer

Date	Lady Sabercats	
1/10/17	@ Horizon Honors, 0 - 6	
1/12/17	Arizona College Prep, 0 - 8	
1/17/17	@ Benjamin Franklin, 0 - 4	
1/19/17	Santa Cruz Valley, 0 - 1	
1/20/17	Trivium Prep	4:00 PM
1/24/17	@ Scottsdale Christian	6:00 PM
1/26/17	Arete Prep	6:00 PM



Present is improved, future bright for Sabercats' basketball

By Andrew Lubarda
STV Daily PRSS



Kevin Tucker (10) puts up a shot for the Sabercats in a Jan. 13 victory against Arete Prep.

Kelli Lubarda | STV Daily PRSS

What a difference a year makes.

For far too many times a season ago, the San Tan Foothills boys' basketball team found itself on the opposite side of games like the one on Friday night, a 69 – 37 lopsided victory against visiting Arete Prep.

The win was the Cats' ninth of this season, more than double the four-win total from a year ago with still at least six games remaining on the 2016-17 schedule.

Youth, inexperience, a short roster and lack of quantifiable talent accounted for most of last year's struggles. The youth and inexperience can still be found on the current Cats' roster, but other areas have been vastly upgraded.

"This year we were really lucky to be blessed with a couple of transfers, but more importantly, a player who was in our program last year and really grown up, and a couple of young freshmen who have stepped up in a big way," San Tan Foothills' head coach Joe Galish said after Friday's win. "We've played a lot of basketball, starting in the summer through the fall leagues and it's starting to pay off."

Commitment to his style, basketball IQ and an increase in quantifiable talent are a few things that Galish attributes to the success his team has experienced so far. It's well known that the Sabercats' head coach demands that his players play defense and there's a significant consequence if they don't.

"Let's be honest, if you're not going to play defense at San Tan Foothills, you're just not going to see the floor," Galish said. "But our kids play defense because they want to play."

The Cats' were dominant against Arete Prep on the defensive end, where they held the Chargers scoreless for the first four minutes of the game and limited them to single digits in two of the game's four quarters while only allowing 10 points in other two.

Offensively, it was one of the young freshmen who led the way on Friday night.

Kevin Tucker, a 5-foot-10 point guard, scored a game-high 20 points, including 17 in the first half, which ended with the Cats leading, 40 – 17.

"Team chemistry and the way that we all know how to play with each other," Tucker answered when asked how he's been able to perform so well as a freshman at the varsity level. "It just makes it easier to move the ball and have each person score more."

The 69 points was the Cats' fourth-highest scoring output of the season. At just past the midway point of this season, the players and coaches agree they can feel how close they are to playing quality basketball – now and in the future.

"Our ball movement was good and we've started playing as a team," said junior post player Gabe Martinez, who scored 14 points in Friday's game. "No more selfish basketball, just team ball now."

Broncos return to winning form

By **Andrew Luberda**
STV Daily PRSS

The Poston Butte boys' basketball team started its season with wins in two of its first three games, which were played as part of the annual Thanksgiving Classic, hosted by the Broncos.

Then the unexpected happened. The Broncos dropped eight of their next nine contests, which was unthinkable before the start of the season. But more recently, the Broncos have won three out of four, including a

59 – 58 overtime win at Flowing Wells on Jan. 13.

Now 1 – 1 in Sonoran-region play, the Broncos control their own destiny and need to play with the consistency they expected when the season started.

“I like that we make simple plays,” Poston Butte head coach Noel Nafziger said following an 81 – 45 win against Payson in the Thanksgiving Classic event. “When we do that, we’re pretty good and it starts with (Kevin Johnson and Tyson Berringer).”

Johnson and Berringer are the two

returning starters from a year ago and big reason for the optimism entering the season. Both are averaging just less than eight points per game so far this season. The 6-foot-8 Berringer, a senior, has averaged two blocks per game on the defensive end.

Junior Jacob Motley is leading the Broncos in scoring at 11 points per game and is second on the team, behind Johnson, in minutes played.

“We have a lot of young guys and they all have a really good basketball IQ,” Berringer said, referencing players like

Motley, Cory Barnes and others. “They can all knock down shots and that’s the main thing.”

Johnson knows that he and Berringer need to play like the leaders and captains that they are in order for the Broncos to finish the season the way they expected when the season started.

“I think me and Tyson have picked up where the guys from last year left off,” Johnson told the *STV Daily PRSS*. “We just have to (continue) to help everyone get into the mix and stay together.”

Sounds like a winning formula.



The Poston Butte MBB team huddles around head coach Noel Nafziger during a timeout in a game versus Payson.



Senior Tyson Berringer (34) is a Player of the Year candidate for the Broncos and is a difficult matchup for opposing teams.

Schedules *and* Scores

PBHS Boys Basketball

Date	Broncos	
1/12/17	Cholla, 46 - 59	L
1/13/17	@ Flowing Wells, 59 - 58	W
1/17/17	Marana, 67 - 63	W
1/19/17	@ Desert View, 48 - 36	W
1/20/17	@ Sierra Linda	7:00 PM
1/24/17	Willow Canyon	7:00 PM
1/26/17	@Cholla	7:00 PM

PBHS Girls Basketball

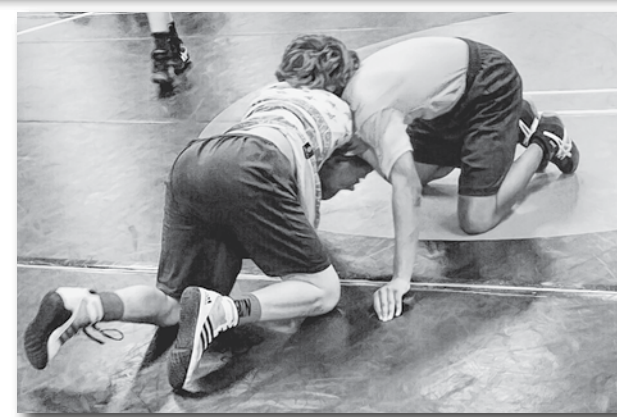
Date	Lady Broncos	
1/12/17	@ Cholla, 35 - 30	W
1/13/17	Flowing Wells, 36 - 52	L
1/17/17	@ Marana, 15 - 47	L
1/19/17	Desert View, 25 - 22	W
1/20/17	Sierra Linda	7:00 PM
1/24/17	@ Willow Candle	7:00 PM
1/26/17	Cholla	7:00 PM

PBHS Boys Soccer

Date	Broncos	
1/6/17	@ Chandler Prep, 1 - 2	L
1/10/17	@ Williams Field, 1 - 6	L
1/12/17	@ Cholla, 2 - 10	L
1/13/17	@ Ironwood Ridge, 0 - 7	L
1/17/17	Flowing Wells, 0 - 7	L
1/19/17	@ Marana, 1 - 3	L
1/24/17	Desert View	6:00 PM

PBHS Girls Soccer

Date	Lady Broncos	
1/10/17	Williams Field, 1 - 5	L
1/12/17	Cholla, 1 - 0	W
1/13/17	Ironwood Ridge, 0 - 8	L
1/17/17	@ Flowing Wells, 0 - 2	L
1/19/17	Marana, 0 - 3	L
1/20/17	Campo Verde	6:00 PM
1/24/17	@ Desert View	6:00 PM



Sabercats, Gophers succeed off the gridiron too

By Andrew Luberda
STV Daily PRSS

A number of local football players have already received numerous postseason honors for their performance on the field. Now Sports360AZ.com, a local digital media outlet with high-quality high school sports content, has released its 2016 All-Academic Football Teams, which represent “the best the state has to offer both on the field as well as in the classroom.”

Brad Cesmat, the founder and CEO of Sports 360AZ.com, told the *STV Daily PRSS* that former honored players have included the recognition on their college applications, adding that off-field performance is “more important than what a (player) can do on the field.”

“Our stance is, academics should play a role for every kid,” said Cesmat, who is also a faculty member of the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University. “If you notice, there are players on the team that don’t start or play

that much, but they are part of a TEAM. So why not honor them too?”

Indeed, and members of Florence Unified School District earned such honors.

Players were nominated by coaches and members of the Arizona High School Football community, according to the site. Nominees were required to be varsity level student-athletes with at least a 3.0 unweighted or a 3.5 weighted grade-point average.

SAN TAN FOOTHILLS

2016 All-Academic Conferences

4A-1A Honorable Mention: Danny Herrera (3.5 GPA), Devon Ziman (3.2 GPA), Brock LaPoint (3.8 GPA), Dominik Ciborski (3.5 GPA), and Cody Lewis (3.2 GPA).

FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL

2016 All-Academic Conferences 4A-

1A First Team: Nolan Susel (4.5 GPA), Shelton Mathis (4.6 GPA).

2016 All-Academic Conferences

4A-1A Honorable Mention: Quinton Tucker (3.5 GPA), Chase Hall (3.6 GPA).



San Tan Foothills' football players who received postseason recognition.



Florence High School's Chase Hall (11), Shelton Mathis (28), Nolan Susel (29) and Quinton Tucker (76) were named to the Sports360AZ 2016 All-Academic Team.

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QUEEN CREEK
SAN TAN VALLEY
dailyprss

FUSD well represented on AIA All-Region Football teams

By Andrew Luberda
STV Daily PRSS

Football players from all three Florence Unified School District high schools earned recognition from the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) for the performances during the 2016 season.

San Tan Foothills senior quarterback Danny Herrera and Florence senior quarterback highlighted the list, earning Offensive Player of the Year honors in their respective conferences.

The increasing success of the football teams in and around the San Tan Valley and Queen Creek areas has resulted in more recognition for local players.

The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) is the first to release postseason honors, naming All-Region teams in each of the six divisions.

The following is a list of FUSD players, by school, who received recognition for their efforts:

SAN TAN FOOTHILLS

AIA 2A Metro East Region Offensive Player of the Year – Danny Herrera (QB).

AIA 2A Metro East Region First Team – Skyler Schwanbach (DL), Kevven Martinez (Def Flex), Dayton Valdez (LB), Chase Hawkins (LS), Pablo Garcia-Hire (OL), Raul Aranda (P & PK), Danny Herrera (QB), Johnny Craig (TE), Sebastian Penaflor (WR), and Dante Cheron (WR).

AIA 2A Metro East Region Second Team – Brandon McMahon (DL), Cody Lewis (LB), Steven Arant (OL), Dante Cheron (PR), and Devon Ziman (RB).

AIA 2A Metro East Region Honorable Mention – Amari Bailey (LB), Lorenzo Cruz (LB), Chase Hawkins (DB), Zach Herrera (DB), Brock LaPoint (LB), and Brandon Williams (WR).

POSTON BUTTE

AIA 5A Sonoran Region First Team – Larry Tripp (DB), Tyler Thompson (LB), William Baca (OL), and Carter White (TE).

AIA 5A Sonoran Region Second Team – Cameron Cheatem (DB), Bevan Jimenez (DL), Angel Boykin (LB), Gabriel Cude (OL), and Zack Piwniczka (P).

AIA 5A Sonoran Region Honorable Mention – Ricardo Estrada (DL), Thomas Gaitan (OL), Lucas Machado-Landis (OL), Connor McDonald (QB), Oscar Miranda (LB), and Peter Tuccio (WR).

FLORENCE

AIA 2A Metro East Region Offensive Player of the Year – Jared Wood (QB).

AIA 3A Central Region First Team – Ramazees Severe (DB/WR), Nikolas Arnold (DL), Garrett Mariscal (LB), Shelton Mathis (LB), Quinton Tucker (OL), Elijah Boyd-Volakis (OL), Jared Wood (QB), Joshua Williams (WR), and Nolan Susel (RB).

AIA 3A Central Region Second Team – Brandon Formato (LB), Tyson Trejo (OL), Ramazees Severe (PR), Chase Hall (WR), and Nathan Molina (WR).



A total of 13 Gophers were named to the AIA All-Region team, including Offensive Player of the Year Jared Wood (7).



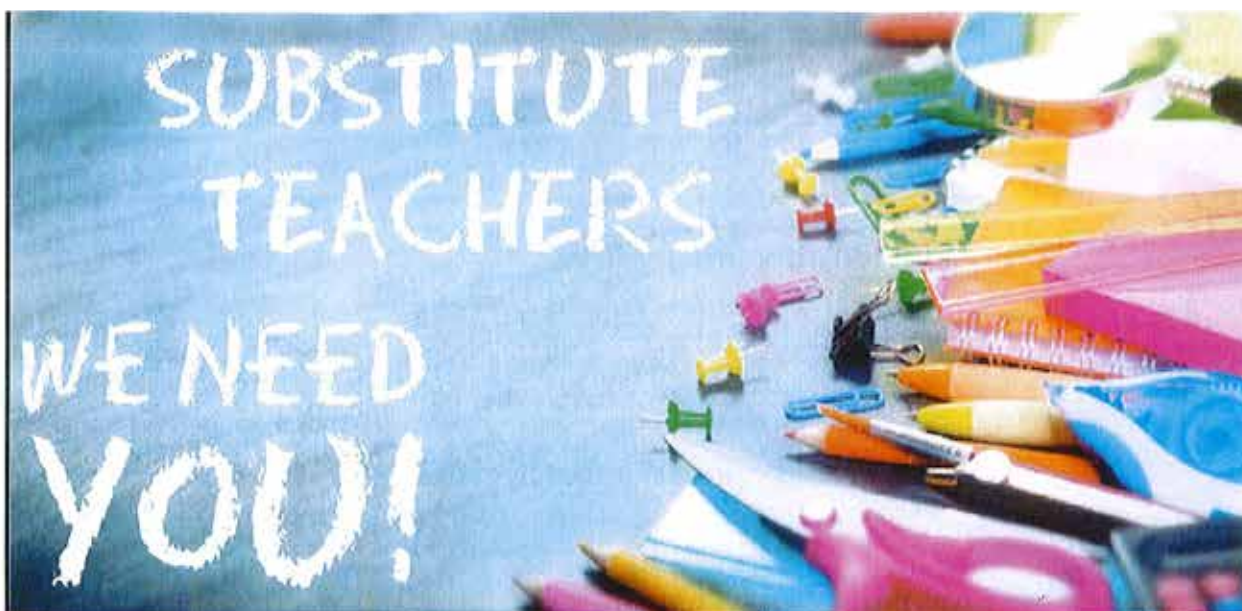
Poston Butte's AIA 5A Sonoran Region First Team (from left) - Larry Tripp, William Baca, Tyler Thompson and Carter White.



Poston Butte's AIA 5A Sonoran Region Second Team (from left) - Zack Piwniczka, Cameron Cheatem, Gabriel Cude, Angel Boykin and Bevin Jimenez.

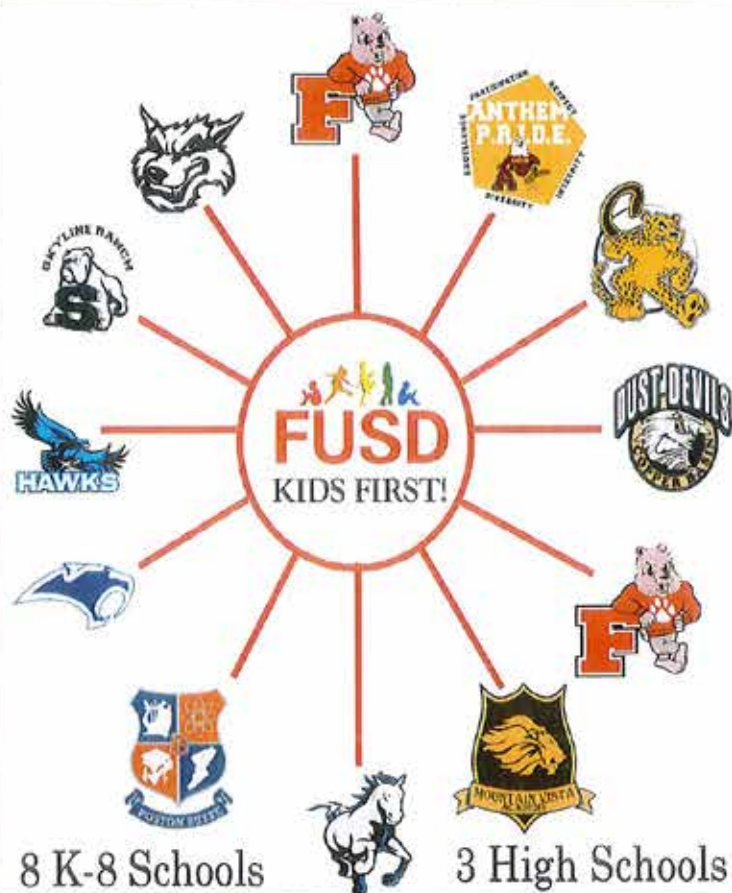


Poston Butte's AIA 5A Sonoran Region Honorable Mention (from left) - Peter Tuccio, Connor McDonald, Oscar Miranda, Ricardo Estrada and Thomas Gaitan.



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Ten combined Gophers, Sabercats earn All-State Honors

By Andrew Luberda
STV Daily PRSS

Seven Florence High School football players and three more from San Tan Foothills were selected to the AzCentral Sports All-State Teams in their respective conferences.

The honor is another in a long list of them for Florence Unified School District student-athletes following the 2016 football season.

The following is a list of players, by school, who were recognized by AzCentral Sports:

FLORENCE

AzCentral Sports 3A All-State First Team – Joshua Williams (WR) and Nick Arnold (DL).

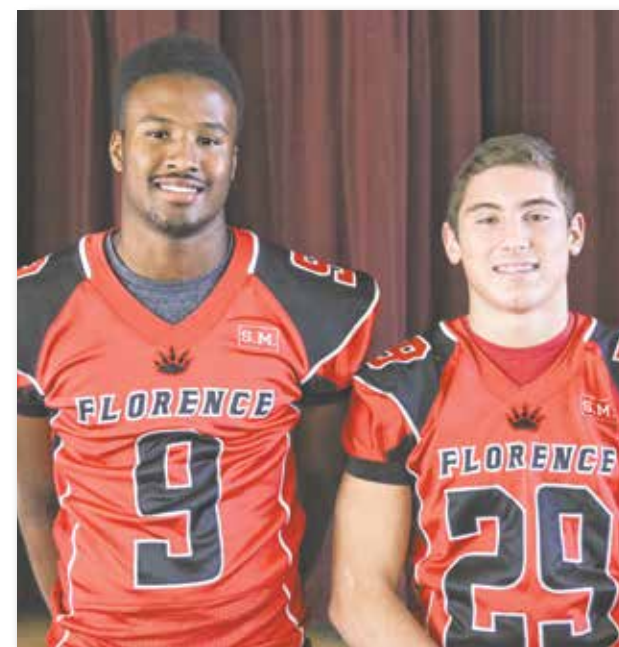
AzCentral Sports 3A All-State Second Team – Jared Wood (QB), Nolan Susel (RB), Quentin Tucker (OL), and Ramazees Severe (DB).

AzCentral Sports 3A All-State Honorable Mention – Shelton Mathis (LB).

SAN TAN FOOTHILLS

AzCentral Sports 2A All-State Second Team – Raul Aranda (P).

AzCentral Sports 2A All-State Honorable Mention – Dante Charon (WR) and Danny Herrera (QB).



Joshua Williams (9) and Nolan Susel (29) were named AzCentral Sports First and Second Team All-State.

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