

LEDGER

FEBRUARY 17, 2016

Vol. 4, No. 25



**PINAL
COUNTY
CHAMBER**

page 6

**scientific
learning
made fun at
circle cross
page 4**

BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN SAN TAN VALLEY AND QUEEN CREEK

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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

Obituaries

Guadalupe Gomez-Nila

Guadalupe Gomez-Nila, age 60, last saw
 the Arizona daylight on Friday, Feb. 5,
 2016.

He is survived by his loving wife, Petra,
 8 children, 27 grandchildren and 12 great-
 grandchildren.

Lupe, as he was known, had been working
 on the fields for the past 20 years. Besides
 being a great and dedicated employee, he
 was an amazing and devoted husband,
 father and grandfather. To the grandkids
 and great-grandkids he was known as Tata.
 Always smiling, happy and very friendly,
 not only to his family, which he loved, but
 to everyone who crossed his way: friends,
 neighbors and the community.

Lupe always loved to sing, whistle and
 dance with his children when they were
 small, then it was the grandchildren and
 the great-grandchildren. He liked to spend
 time with everyone. He made sure they
 all gathered together in harmony. To his
 family, he was the center of attention.

Gatherings were planned around his
 schedule. Lupe left a piece of him in
 every single person in his life. His legacy
 will be passed on
 to the following
 generations. Lupe will
 forever be loved and
 remembered.

Family greeted
 friends for a visitation
 on Thursday, Feb.
 11, 2016 at San Tan
 Mountain View
 Funeral Home Chapel
 in Queen Creek. A funeral mass was
 held Friday, Feb. 12, 2016 at Our Lady
 of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Queen
 Creek.

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Obituaries

Jimmie Carole (Stephenson) Bernick

Jimmie Carole Bernick, 62, passed away on Jan. 30, 2016.

She is survived by her husband, David, of San Tan Valley; daughter, Tara Jean Price, of San Tan Valley; son, Skylar Eugene Bernick, of San Tan Valley; the greatest grandson in the world, Alex O'Neill Price; great-granddaughters, Jaid Rosalie Price and Emeri Mae Price; sister, Linda Green; nieces, Cheri, Ginny, Libby, Jimela and Keri; nephews, Rick, Brian, and Chad; as well as many great-nephews and nieces.

Jimmie is preceded in death by her father, James Stephenson; her mother, Ima Jean Randolph; sister, Ginger Barnhill; grandparents, Dovey and Hiram Elliott; and uncles, Billy Elliott and Max Elliott.

She trusted our Lord Jesus and, thanks to her children, followed Him in Baptism and grew in His grace. She was an avid sports fan and loved playing Scrabble with her husband, poker with anybody, cooking for her family, and reading. She delighted in being a grandmother and loved being Big Mama to all of the children of her extended family. And she kept faithfully to her New Year's resolution to eat more ice cream.



Jennie Simon Phelps

Jennie Simon Phelps was born on Oct. 10, 1927, to Ike and Mary Simon in Sioux City, Iowa. Jennie was one of 12 siblings.

Jennie married Paul J. Phelps, II on Dec. 11, 1948, and together they had three children, Deborah, Paul and Pamela. Jennie is survived by her daughters, Deborah Emerson and Pamela Barba, 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Jennie was the rock of her family and held us all together through any situation.

Graveside services were held on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at

San Tan Memorial Gardens, 22425 E. Cloud Rd, Queen Creek, Arizona.

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CORRECTION: In the Feb. 3, 2016 edition of the Ledger, it was stated that the Olive Mill in Queen Creek provided the gift certificates for our longest Valentine's Day couple, the Jermans. This was in error. The restaurant was the **OLIVE GARDEN** in Queen Creek. The Ledger regrets the error and thanks the Olive Garden for their generosity.

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calendar FEB-MARCH 2016

FLORENCE COPPER COFFEE

18

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. Event repeats Feb. 25.



FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY

21

Boyce Thompson Arboretum has a class in wildflower IDs on Feb. 21 from 1-4 p.m.; and a \$40 wildflower photography class Feb. 28. Cass Blodgett's wildflower ID class Feb. 21 starts with two hours in the classroom and then heads outdoors for a wildflower walk. The class is included with \$10 daily admission; free to BTA annual members - also free if you have an AZ State Parks pass. Please RSVP by email to lpacheco@cals.arizona.edu so organizers know how many handouts to print. Feb. 28 enrollment is \$40 for a three-hour workshop about wildflower photography by Scottsdale Pro Photographer Lisa Langell, and geared for beginner-intermediate level photographers. Enroll/pay by phone 520-689-2723 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



POWWOW FARMERS MKT.

12

On Saturday, March 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.



Circle Cross Ranch K-8: FUSD's first S.T.E.M. Academy

By **Andrew Luberd**
Southeast Valley Ledger

Circle Cross Ranch K-8 School is currently in the first year of a three-year transition, moving from being a public traditional school to becoming an accredited public S.T.E.M. Academy.

The transition is the result of research by school and district administrators that indicates S.T.E.M. education is the wave of future. Additionally, the transition also aims to increase enrollment in a S.T.E.M. diploma program when students reach high school.

"We know that's where 90 percent of the jobs are going to be," Circle Cross Ranch Principal Rebecca Hendry recently told the *Ledger*. "We have a great partnership with Poston Butte High School and they have a S.T.E.M. diploma program."

According to Hendry, the first year of the transition has focused primarily on professional development, including all teachers acquiring their S.T.E.M. accreditation.

Tanielle Kazmierczak is in her first year as

the school's S.T.E.M. Master Teacher. Her responsibilities include training teachers to use a S.T.E.M. project and working with them to make it a fully-integrated unit. She'll also help teachers who want to teach a particular topic and extend it to include S.T.E.M.

"Our hope is that our teachers will have complete comprehensive units based on S.T.E.M.-related topics that are cross-curricular every quarter by the end of the three-year implementation plan," Hendry said. "Our goal this year to build our first (unit) and next year we'll continue building until we reach every quarter where our teachers have a comprehensive unit to present."

Kazmierczak currently works with K – 5 students, who report with their respective teachers to her classroom every other week. During a class's assigned S.T.E.M. day students work on projects such as using ice cubes to learn how glaciers erode away sides of mountains. They'll learn about erosion and deposition in the Grand Canyon and Mount McKinley in Alaska.

Second and third grade students are

currently learning about robotics through the use of Lego-brand robotics kits – WeDo 2.0 – that were purchased through APS and Phoenix Suns mini-grants. Through the use of tablets, students will follow to directions to create Mini Milo and then learn how to computer program the robotic Lego figure. The innovative hands-on experience that

S.T.E.M. education allows keeps more students engaged in learning.

In her previous position as a fourth-grade teacher, Kazmierczak said attendance was never an issue when it came to S.T.E.M. projects.

"My students knew when we had a half-

Continued on page 9



ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

The students are reviewing the 26-step instructions to assemble Milo.
Andy Luberd | Ledger

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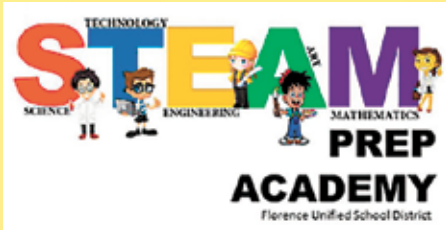
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S.T.E.A.M. Prep Academy

Pre-School & Child Care



The Treehouse



Another shaded playground area on the S.T.E.A.M. Prep Academy campus.



Cribs in the baby and infant daycare room at S.T.E.A.M. Prep Academy.

Science

Technology

Engineering

Arts

Math

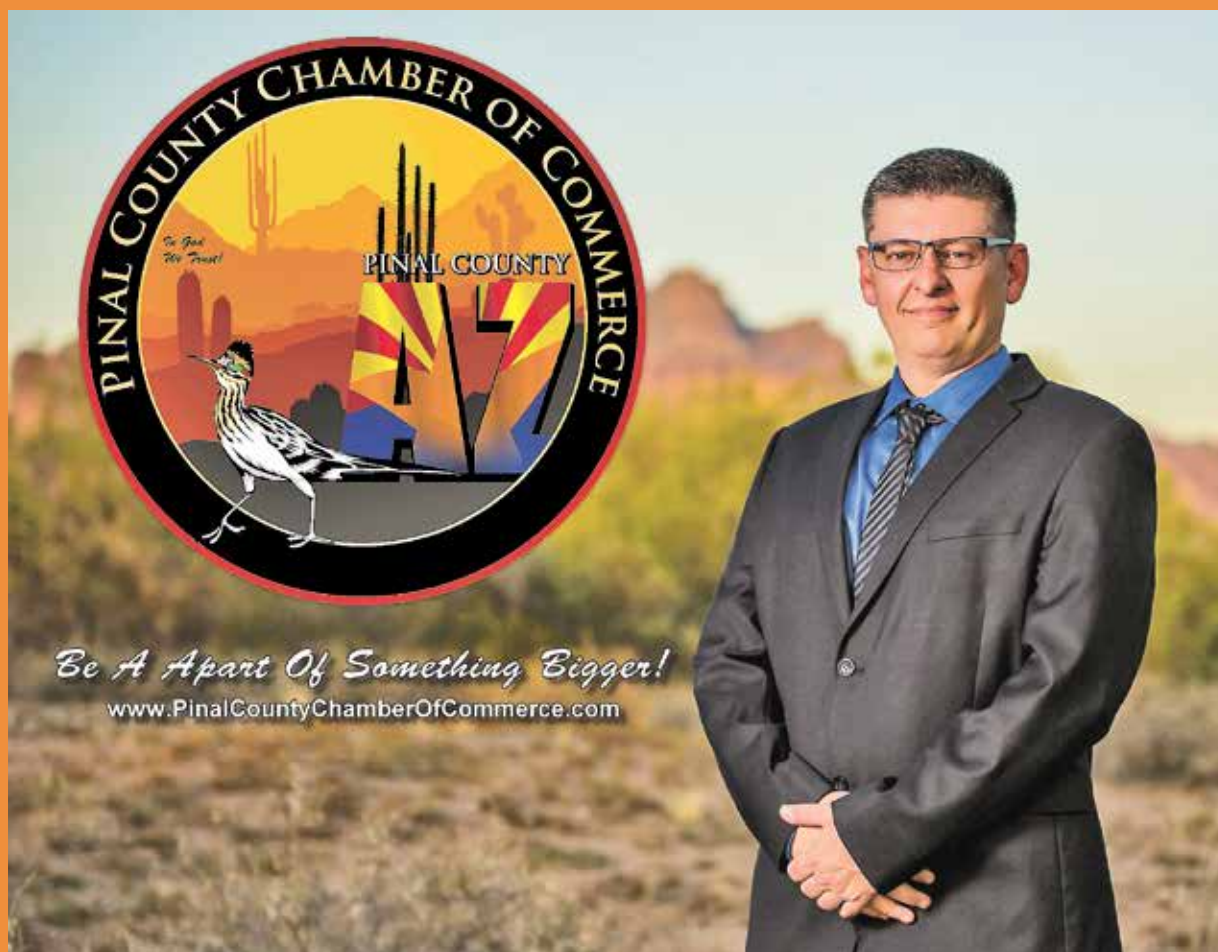


Outdoor play area where children can learn engineering by building things out of these foam pieces.



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





When I started looking for a solution to advertise my business county wide, and get out there affordably, I saw a hole that could be filled.

New Pinal County Chamber: a different kind of chamber

By Andrew Luberda
Southeast Valley Ledger

When Dave Malton moved to San Tan Valley from California nearly seven years ago he joined one of two existing local chambers of commerce to help promote his business in the local area. He noticed some differences in the structure and models of the chambers in San Tan Valley compared to those in California.

The first was the actual number of chambers. According to Malton, California has both city and county chambers of commerce.

The second difference was the cost of membership. The fees required to join multiple local chambers and others throughout Arizona were exorbitant.

“As a new business owner I couldn’t afford to join both (local) chambers,” Malton

recently told the *Ledger*. “My business can operate in Florence, Queen Creek, Apache Junction, Superior, and Mesa. I couldn’t afford to join all of those chambers too.”

His own experiences inspired him to create a chamber-of-commerce model similar to those he was a member of California.

“When I started looking for a solution to advertise my business county wide, and get out there affordably, I saw a hole that could be filled,” Malton said. “That’s what part of the inspiration was to start the Pinal County Chamber of Commerce.”

Malton, the chamber’s CEO, describes membership fees as the biggest difference between the new county chamber and other local chambers, which in some cases could be hundreds of dollars.

The PCCOC cost of membership for a business with less than 50 employees is

\$39 per year. Other memberships are available as well. There is a one-time application fee of \$25 for all new members.

“Establishing credibility and consumer trust is important to me,” Malton said. “Any new business coming into the area should not be priced out of the credibility and trust our chamber membership brings to the table.”

Malton says in addition to higher membership cost, other chambers charge additional fees for networking events; sometimes \$25 to \$50 per person, per event. The PCCOC does not charge for similar mixers.

Instead, businesses that host networking events ask for members in attendance to spend some money during the event and perhaps patronize the business at a later date.

As a PCCOC member, businesses have

the option to be listed in up to eight different business directories, all of which are search-engine optimized. Directories currently exist for Queen Creek, Apache Junction, Casa Grande, and Superior. Directories for Coolidge and Eloy are nearing completion with still others to follow.

Member businesses have the choice to be listed in as many or as few directories as they prefer.

“A local San Tan Valley restaurant may not want to advertise its business to Superior,” Malton gave as an example. “On the other hand a painter, a contractor and a pest control company may want to do business in a bunch of places. (Those businesses) can list their companies in other business directories for free and likely come up on Google’s front page using it.”

Walker Butte K-8: producing leaders

By Andrew Luberda
Southeast Valley Ledger

Two years ago Walker Butte K-8 launched its Leader in Me Program, which is based on similar principles in the popular book by author Stephen R. Covey, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. The Leader in Me program focuses on “The Seven Habits of Happy Kids” and “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens” to teach students the principles of personal leadership.

The goal is to help children learn how to lead their lives using the following seven habits:

Habit 1 – Be proactive; You’re in charge.

Habit 2 – Begin with the end in mind; Have a plan.

Habit 3 – Put first things first; Work first, then play.

Habit 4 – Think win-win; Everyone can win

Habit 5 – Seek first to understand, then to be understood; Listen before you talk.

Habit 6 – Synergize; Together is better.

Habit 7 – Sharpen the saw; Balance feels best

“We are trying to create a culture that is principal proof,” Walker Butte Principal Paul Hatch told the *Ledger* in 2014, the first of the two-year implementation process. “We’re trying to create a culture that will allow kids to succeed where ever they go.”

Now fully implemented, Walker Butte’s Leader in Me Program is a way of life for students.

There is measurable data, such as a decrease in referrals, which school and district administrators use for their own purposes. But the most important data is the results seen in the students’ personal leadership skills.

“I really liked when they started the Leader in Me Program,” said fourth-grader Cassidy Lopez. “I think it helped a lot of kids (perform) better. It helped me more when I was preparing for tests; I studied

more after learning the seven habits and my grades improved.”

Shelby Lopez, a seventh-grader, was elected the school’s student body president, an unusual occurrence considering an eighth-grader is typically voted into the position.

Habits 1 and 5 were the most influential of

the seven habits in Lopez’ decision to run for president and in her responsibilities in that role.

“I realized to run for that position I needed to possess leader-like characteristics,” she said. “After learning about those characteristics, I felt like I was a good

Continued on page 8



YOUNG LEADERS

Madelynn Kennedy, Edison Campbell, and Cassidy Lopez all like the Leader in Me program at Walker Butte.



JACOB BELLO

Jacob says, “The habits have helped me become a better person at school and at home.”



SHELBY LOPEZ

Shelby, a seventh-grader, was elected the school’s student body president and attributes the habits with her success.



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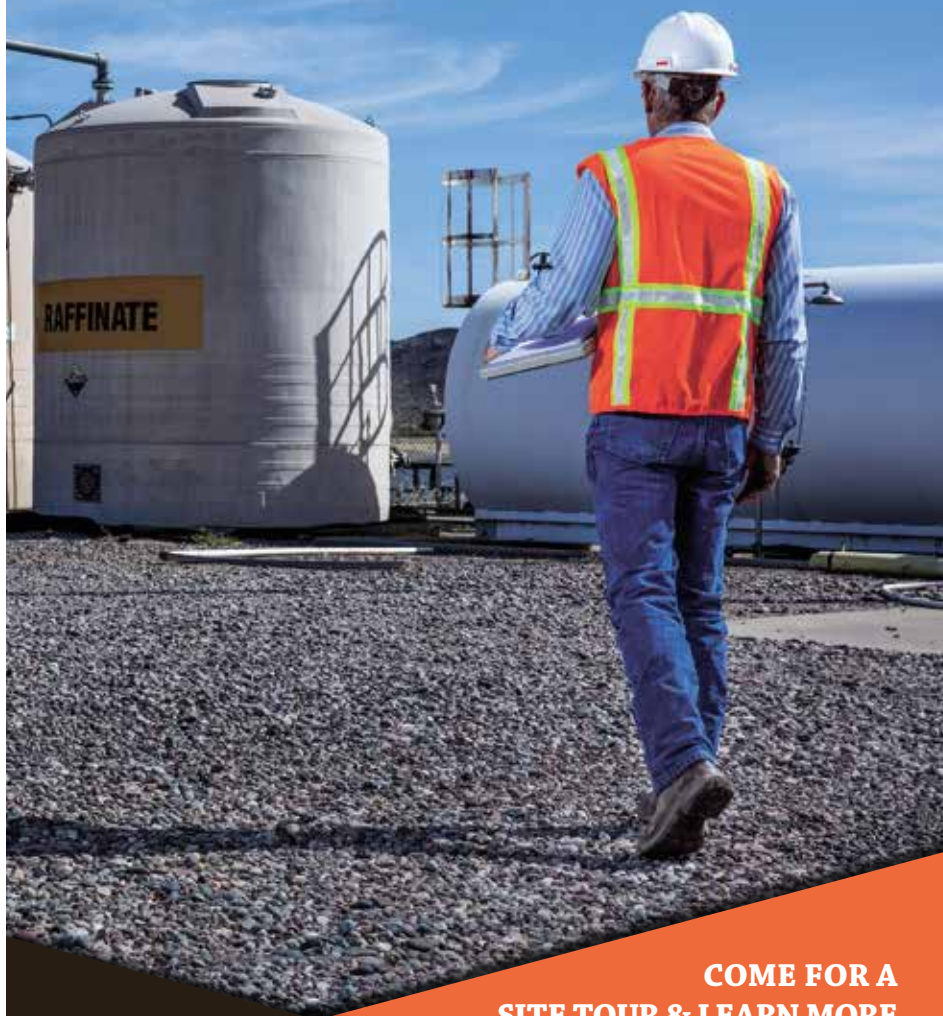
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Young Leaders

Continued from page 7

(candidate) for student body president.”

Madelynn Kennedy, a fifth grader, is the founder and president of Helping Hands, an on-campus group of students that provides assistance to autistic students at the school. Following the seven habits, especially Habit 6, have proved to be beneficial to the student-assistance program.

“We work together to do fundraisers and other group functions,” Kennedy said. “So far we’ve done stuff for Diabetes and I found while we were doing that we were using most of the habits.”

First-grader Edison Campbell said Habit 7 – Sharpen the saw – is his favorite because likes to exercise by riding his bike.

When it comes to school work, the consensus among students interviewed was that Habit 3 – put first things first – was

the most important to their educational success.

“You have to do your homework and then you get to play,” Campbell said.

“I usually do my work before I start playing or doing other things,” added Jacob Bello, an eighth-grader. “I try to focus on my work before doing anything else.”

Bello acknowledged following the seven habits in other areas of his life as well.

“I have a whole new perspective on everything I do when it comes doing chores, homework, or when to play games,” he said. “I try to focus on what’s most important first. The habits have helped me become a better person at school and at home.”

Some habits are hard to break and at Walker Butte K-8 School that’s a good thing.

Athlete of the week

Cydnee Colpaert

**SENIOR – COMBS HIGH SCHOOL
SPORTS – BASKETBALL & SAND VOLLEYBALL**



The team has been ranked as high as No. 6 in the state this season. Are you surprised at the success the team has had so far? Why or why not?

I feel coming into this season we were all a little blind to what this year would bring. It is hard to know how a team is going to turn out until the first couple of games, but I think we realized early on that what we

had was special. We are a team in which each of us individually have our strengths and weaknesses, but we found we worked really well together and that’s what set our team apart and gave us hopes for a great season.

You currently lead the team in scoring and are in the top three in assists and rebounds. To what do you attribute your success?

Every practice I have something in mind that I want to work on especially. I know have weaknesses and in order to support my team I know I have to work on them. What I feel is most important is that we all have something to work and the girls and I know that all of us come to practice with a goal in mind and we

strive to challenge each other. My teammates go as hard against me as an opposing team would and I the same so there are always intensity and purpose at practice.

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to go the college out of state. My dream school would be Yale, but I hope that I get into any school that I apply for. I want to become a neurologist.

Finish this sentence: “My greatest athletic memory so far at CHS is...”

Creating the sand volleyball team at my school. It was a long process and something I really wanted to establish at my school. When we finally got word that the team was official, I was in shock. I couldn’t believe we had actually started a new sport at my school.

What is your favorite sports movie and why?

Forever Strong is probably my favorite. I love how the movie stresses morale and values in sports and the lessons playing sports bestows upon players.

Name one person you’d most like to meet and why?

If I could meet one person, it would definitely be J.J. Watt. He is my inspiration on the court and in life. He is arguably the best defensive player in NFL because he works hard all day and every day. Outside the field, he works hard to support and aid others which shows his love for his sport, his fans, and his community. Also, he’s super cute.

New Chamber

Continued from page 4

Another benefit of being a member of the PCCOC is member-to-member discounts offered by select business.

Those discounts are not limited to only business members, however. A residential membership is available, which gives access to the same discounts to non-business members.

"A resident can join the chamber for \$19 per year," Malton said. "They get a card, an online profile, and they get in on all of the chamber discounts."

Residential memberships provide another benefit to business members in addition to the local area.

"We're actually trying to get our residents to shop here, locally," Malton said. "According to Local First Arizona, if residents divert just 10 percent of their income locally, it creates nearly 700 local jobs and money circulates in the community, so it's a win-win."

Malton acknowledged he's surprised with the success of the PCCOC so far.

He was asked what he attributes the success to and how he defines it.

"I think first off is the (cost of a membership)," he responded. "It's affordable for every business."

"Chamber success is when members have received a return on their (investment)," he continued. "Did they get their membership and application fees back tenfold? That's success, when our members are not only staying in business but succeeding in their business because of things our chamber is doing for them."

The Pinal County Chamber of Commerce offices are located 21321 E. Ocotillo Road, Suite 111 in Queen Creek.

For a list available memberships, business directories and other information visit www.pinalcountychamberofcommerce.com.

STEM Academy

Continued from page 4

day it was S.T.E.M. day in our classroom," she said. "I had 100 percent attendance every time on that day. I had kids coming in who were sick because they didn't want to miss the S.T.E.M. project."

"I know our students at Circle Cross Ranch are excited to come into the classroom for their S.T.E.M. day."

For more information on Circle Cross Ranch S.T.E.M. Academy and the year-by-year implementation plan visit the school's home page at <http://cc.fusdaz.com/Home>.

Area Schools honor basketball seniors

By Andrew Luberd
Southeast Valley Ledger

Poston Butte and Queen Creek were among the area high schools that recently hosted Senior Nights to honor the seniors on their respective basketball teams.

The Broncos' boys' team recognized six seniors – Preston Anderson, Chuy Rosales, Josh Zaker, Zach Merrill, T'reek Hendrix, and Qujuan Steward before the Feb. 5 game versus Scottsdale Prep Academy.

The seniors were honored in winning fashion as the Broncos defeated SPA, 52 – 30.

The Lady Broncos recognized five seniors and celebrated cancer survivors in a Breast Cancer Awareness game on Senior Night.

Abigail Urquidez, Angelica Garrido, Gabriella Musselman, Leonor Guardado, and Desiree Dublin were honored before the Feb. 2 game against Higley. The Lady Broncos dominated the Knights, 61 – 16.

"I wanted to breakdown the whole time, knowing that was my last time playing on the home court," Musselman answered when asked to describe her emotions on Senior Night. "It gave me more passion to lay it all out on the court."

Queen Creek seniors Tyler Bloom, Frigny Niclasse, Bradley Woods, Zane Whiting, and Malik Cobbins were honored before the Bulldogs' game versus Casa Grande on Feb. 4.

Bulldogs' head coach Troy Gibson knows it's a special group and hopes the team can continue playing with a long run in the postseason.

"Bradley and Frigny have been with us since sixth grade," Gibson said. "We've seen them grow up and we've been through a lot together, so we're going to miss them. Tyler and Zane have added a lot of toughness to our team. Malik came from Kansas and fit in really well."

"This is a pretty good group; I like them. We'd all like to be around [for the postseason] and keep it rolling."

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The Bubbly Hostess

serves baked orange soda hot wings



YUM

Orange Crush soda makes these wings extra tasty.

Baked Orange Soda Hot Wings

Makes 1 dozen wings

Recipe adapted from *The Cookie Rookie*

- 1 dozen chicken wings
- 1 tablespoon baking powder (NOT baking soda)
- salt and pepper to taste
- ¾ cup orange soda (I used Orange Crush, of course)
- ¼ cup hot sauce (I used Frank's Hot Sauce)
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ tablespoon minced garlic
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter

Preheat oven to 250 degrees F.

In a large bowl, combine the baking powder, salt, and pepper. Place wings in the bowl and coat with the mixture.

Place wings on a foil-lined baking sheet; it's OK if they are touching.

Bake for 30 minutes.

Increase heat to 425 degrees F and continue baking for another 30-40 minutes.

In a saucepan, combine soda, hot sauce, honey, garlic, and butter. Stir to combine. Over medium heat, bring to a boil – keep an eye on it.

Reduce heat to simmer and continue simmering for at least 30 minutes until sauce thickens and becomes more of syrup.

Remove wings from the oven and let sit for 5 minutes.

Toss wings in the sauce and serve hot.

By Heather Sneed
The Bubbly Hostess

I was super excited when I stumbled across this recipe from The Cookie Rookie and it was just in time to watch the Denver Broncos in the playoffs and then, of course, in the Super Bowl. I grew up in Denver and went to many Broncos games with my dad who had season tickets. This was the perfect dish to serve while cheering them on! This is very easy and is a crowd pleaser.

You can find more recipes from The Cookie Rookie on her website at www.thecookierookie.com. Enjoy – and Go Broncos!

Please visit my site at www.bubblyhostess.com. You can also find The Bubbly Hostess on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and Twitter – I always love new followers!



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