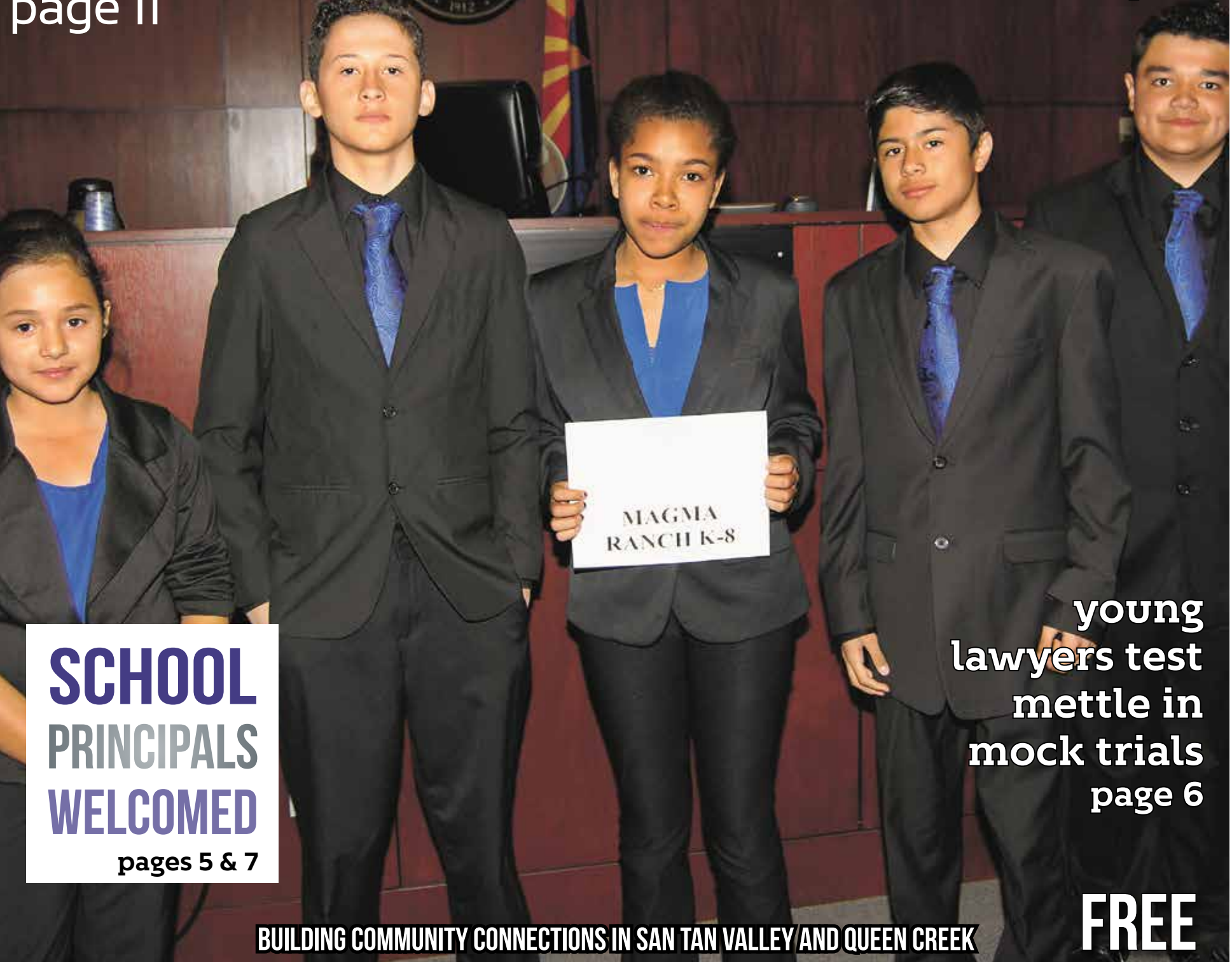


lemon  
cheesecake  
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bubbly hostess,  
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# LEDGER

MARCH 16, 2016  
Vol. 4, No. 27



**SCHOOL  
PRINCIPALS  
WELCOMED**

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young  
lawyers test  
mettle in  
mock trials  
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Published the first and third Wednesday  
 of the month by Copper Area News  
 Publishers. Mailing address is Southeast  
 Valley Ledger, c/o Copper Area News  
 Publishers, PO Box 579, Kearny, AZ  
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 country in the world where the press has  
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David Brinkley

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 also request our newspaper through the mortuary or funeral home.

## Obituary

### Walter Lewis Garland

Walter Lewis Garland, 89, passed away peacefully on Feb. 29, 2016 in Apache Junction, AZ.

Walter was born on Oct. 7, 1926 in Ludington, Michigan to George Washington Garland and Lizzie Aurelia LaParr. He married Vera Wheeler (later divorced) with whom he had a daughter, Linda Kay Garland Marg. He then married Ruth Virginia Kollberg and was stepfather to her three children, Judith Ann Hoyt Loveall, Carol Jeanne Hoyt Krueskamp, and Charles Leslie Hoyt.

Walter worked as a factory worker and on the car ferries on Lake Michigan. He and Ruth later moved to Grand Rapids, MI where he worked at American Seating. He and Ruth were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple in 1970. In 1972, Walter and Ruth moved from Grand Rapids, MI to Mesa, AZ due to Ruth's health. He retired as a custodian from the Mesa School System. He told Ruth he was finally able to go back to school. After Ruth's death, Walt married Zola Mortenson (deceased). They served as missionaries in the Nauvoo Mission.

Walter loved playing Santa Claus to family and friends for over 40 years. His favorite

hobbies were wood carving and making things with wood. He compiled volumes of family history, spent many hours in the Family History Center and loved attending the Mesa LDS Temple. During his last five years, he lived with his daughter, Carol Krueskamp.

Walter is survived by his daughter, Linda; his grandson, John Lewis Gregory, both of Camdenton, MO; his sister, Lillian Holmstrom of MI; his step-children, many step-grandchildren and step-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his six siblings; his step-daughter, Judith; his step son-in-law, William Howard Krueskamp; and his step-grandson, Mark Charles Hoyt.

Services were held on Friday, March 4, 2016 at the Ironwood Crossings 2nd Ward, 41246 N. Barnes Pkwy, San Tan Valley, AZ. Family greeted friends for a visitation at 9 a.m., followed by a funeral service at 10 a.m. Burial took place in Mountain View Funeral Home, 7900 E. Main St., Mesa, AZ.

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# Obituary

## Linus Carol Hunter

Linus Carol Hunter passed away Feb. 21, 2016.

Carol was born in San Juan, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, to Josephine Thomas and Reynold Greene. Carol attended elementary and secondary school in Trinidad. In 1970, Carol immigrated to the United States and graduated in 1973 from South Shore High School in Brooklyn, NY.

Carol loved the United States. She served in the U.S. Air Force from 1977-1980, receiving an Honorable Discharge, and went on to become a U.S. citizen in 1990.

Carol is survived by her husband of 23 years, Larry Hunter. In addition, the Lord blessed Carol with three children, Alfaroh II (Sherry) Corney, James Hunt, and Arriel Hunter. She was also blessed with 10 grandchildren, Anthony, Tevon, Aliah, Azshanay, Alfaroh III, Seyenne, Elijah, Aunnah, Yahzmeen, and little James, who welcomed her into Heaven. Carol is also survived by her sisters, Gloria and Angela, as well as many other family and friends. She was preceded in death by her brother, Terry.

Carol was an Aviation Avionic Electrician. She was employed through the years by various defense contractors, retiring from Boeing in 2009. Carol's dedication, enthusiasm and skill were an integral part of the manufacturing and maintenance of the Space Shuttles, B-1 Bombers, Airborne

Laser, and SpaceShip 1 programs. Carol was also a member of the Shuttle Recovery Team.

Carol received salvation through Jesus Christ in 1984. She gave her life as a servant worker, helping as a Sunday School teacher, an usher, and in various capacities as needed to help build the Church. In 2008 she became an Ordained Church Mother, and in this capacity she became a great example of Rev 12:11, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony and did not love their lives to the death." She shared her life's testimony to help others in their faith walk, and she did this without concern for her image or reputation. She shared for the benefit of those who listened and for the Glory of God. She will be greatly missed. Well Done!!!

Services for Carol were held on Saturday, March 5, at Mountain View Funeral Home, 7900 E. Main St., Mesa, AZ. Family greeted friends for a visitation at noon, followed by a memorial service at 1 p.m.

San Tan Mountain View Funeral Home is providing exceptional family care. 21809 S. Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek, AZ 85142 Ph. 480-888-2682 www.santanmountainviewfuneralhome.com



Obituaries are published free of charge in the Southeast Valley Ledger. If you have an obituary you would like us to print, please email it to [info@SEVLedger.com](mailto:info@SEVLedger.com) or submit it online at [www.copperarea.com](http://www.copperarea.com). You can also request our newspaper through the mortuary or funeral home.

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Call Mila Besich-Lira at 520-827-0676 or email at [mila@sevledger.com](mailto:mila@sevledger.com) to be included in the directory!

## calendar

# MARCH-APRIL 2016

### FLORENCE COPPER COFFEE

17

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 March 24 and 31.



### WELCOME BACK, BUZZARDS

26

The Arboretum will host the annual "Welcome Back Buzzards" seasonal salute to migratory Turkey Vultures on Saturday, March 26, beginning at 7 a.m. Events are included with adult admission of \$10; free to BTA annual members and AZ state parks pass-holders. World-traveled ASU Professor Dave Pearson is the guest 'Vulture-ologist' from 7-8:30 a.m., talking about the big black birds, answering questions and sharing his appreciation for the soaring scavengers until the vultures take to the skies. Guided birdwalks will be offered through the gardens at 8:30 a.m., and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. volunteer wildlife rehabbers from Fallen Feathers Wildlife Rescue will have a popular living exhibit of raptors set up near the Smith Building, so visitors can have close-up views of a real, live Turkey Vulture along with other birds. Confirm times for guided tours and other events at [cals.arizona.edu/bta](http://cals.arizona.edu/bta).



### POWWOW FARMERS MKT.

09

On Saturday, April 9, 7 a.m. to noon, 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 480-STVFM48.



# Volunteer seats open to those who want to be a voice for young kids

If you are passionate about children and want to impact the early childhood programs available to young kids in our community, First Things First needs you!

Research has shown a child's early experiences lay the foundation for a lifetime of success in school and beyond. First Things First partners with parents and communities to give children birth through age 5 the tools they need to arrive at kindergarten prepared to succeed. Regional councils made up of community volunteers inform decisions about which programs First Things First funds in their area to strengthen families, expand early learning opportunities and increase access

to preventative health services.

Volunteering on a regional council is a unique, high-level leadership opportunity to make a positive impact on children and families in our community. Regional council members help define priorities for funding and strengthen the services and supports available to young children and their families. By collaborating with other dedicated community members, they provide opportunities for young children to get a strong start in life.

First Things First is accepting applications in the Pinal Region from various backgrounds for the following seats that are open either due to vacancy or terms

about to expire: At Large, Business, Child Care Provider, Educator, Faith Community Representative, and Health Services Provider. Parents of young children and individuals from the business, education, health, faith and philanthropic communities who want to be a voice for children in our community are encouraged to apply. Regional council members must live or work in this region.

If you or someone you know has 10 hours per month to make a difference in the lives of young children in our community, please visit [aztff.gov/serve](http://aztff.gov/serve). There, you can learn about the volunteer positions available in our area, read a detailed description of the position, and fill out an application.

The job of getting kids ready for school starts the day they are born. Please consider lending your expertise, insight and community spirit to help ensure that all Arizona children are ready to succeed in kindergarten and beyond!

About First Things First – First Things First



is a voter-created, statewide organization that funds early education and health programs to help kids be successful once they enter kindergarten. Decisions about how those funds are spent are made by local councils staffed by community volunteers. To learn more, visit [aztff.gov](http://aztff.gov).

## Public Notice

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Central Arizona Governments (CAG) will conduct two (2) Public Hearings to receive public comments on the 2015 DRAFT Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan. This document is an agreement between CAG, wastewater utilities, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement local strategies and processes to protect water quality within the CAG region which covers all of Gila and Pinal Counties and their communities. This new plan is a user friendly document that focuses on strategies for future water quality protection and improvement.

Hearings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

Thursday, May 5, 2016, 6:30-7:30PM at the Gila County Courthouse, 1400 E. Ash, Globe, Arizona, 85501

Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 6:30-7:30PM at the Historic Pinal County Courthouse, 135 N. Pinal St., Florence, Arizona, 85132

Individuals who wish to comment on this 208 DRAFT Plan are encouraged to attend the public hearings and/or to send written comments to Alan Urban, Community Development Manager, at 1075 S. Idaho Rd., Suite 300, Apache Junction, Arizona, 85119; via fax at 480-474-9306; or via e-mail at [aurban@cagaz.org](mailto:aurban@cagaz.org). Comments must be received by Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 5:00 PM.

The 208 DRAFT Plan is available for public comment. A copy of the 208 DRAFT Plan is available on the CAG website at: <http://www.cagaz.org/Departments/208/waterquality.html>

A hard copy of the 208 DRAFT Plan is available for public inspection at the public libraries in these communities:

Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Coolidge, Eloy, Florence, Globe, Hayden, Kearny, Mammoth, Marana, Maricopa, Miami, Payson, Queen Creek, Superior, San Tan Valley (Located at Central Arizona College, San Tan Campus)

See library addresses on the CAG website at:

<http://www.cagaz.org/Departments/208/waterquality.html>

Individuals with disabilities who require special accommodations, may contact Alan Urban, Community Development Manager at 480-474-9300 or [aurban@cagaz.org](mailto:aurban@cagaz.org). Requests for copies of the 208 DRAFT Plan in an alternate format must be made at least two weeks in advance, or no later than Monday, April 19, 2016 at 5 PM.

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# New Combs' principal likes small district, big-city feel

By Andrew Luberd  
Southeast Valley Ledger

On Feb. 10, the J.O. Combs Unified School District governing board approved the hiring of Brooke Davis as the new principal at Combs High School, beginning with the 2016-17 school

year.

Davis, whose educational career spans 26 years, has spent the past nine years in Englewood, Colorado, including the last three as a high school principal.

During a recent phone interview, Davis compared favorably her current position with

the one she's about to embark. She called her professional experience in Englewood "the best" she's had and enjoys working in a small district, finding similarities between her current district and the J.O. Combs USD.

A self-described small-district person with a big-city feel, Davis received input from college friends who live in the area and suggested she research the district, the high school, and the local community.

"The appeal to me of what Combs had is the family orientation," Davis answered when asked what attracted her to the position. "That is very important to me. I'm very much a relationship-centered person and I'm looking forward to the community aspect that Combs has."

After earning her bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism, Davis worked in advertising where she felt unfulfilled with many extra hours on her hands. A former collegiate basketball student-

athlete at New Mexico State University, she applied at an Albuquerque area high school to coach the freshmen girls' basketball team to minimize her abundance of free time. It was

Continued on page 9

## Meetings planned for conservation district

The Winkelman Natural Resources Conservation District, which includes parts of Pinal, Southern Gila, Northern Pima and Western Graham counties, will be hosting two meetings, both of which are open to the public.

On Wednesday, March 23, the Winkelman NRCD and Arizona Farm Bureau in partnership with Arizona Land and Water Trust, will present a workshop on Transitioning Ranching/Farming to the Next Generation. The meeting will be held at Central Arizona College-Aravaipa Campus Room E-102, 80440 E. Aravaipa Rd., Winkelman, AZ 85192. Lunch will be provided. RSVP by March 21 by

contacting Scott Bilbor at swilbor@alwt.org or Cameron Becker at cbecker@alwt.org. You can also call 520-577-8564. Space is limited.

On Monday, April 11, the Winkelman NRCD will be conducting a local work group meeting from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to identify and prioritize the district's, cooperators' and agencies' resource concerns. The meeting will be held at Central Arizona College-Aravaipa Campus Room E-102, 80440 E. Aravaipa Rd., Winkelman, AZ 85192. Lunch will be provided. RSVP by emailing clerk.wnrcd@gmail.com or contact Chris Postel, WNRCDClerk, at 210-380-5770.

## Open seat filled on Florence School Board

Pinal County Superintendent of Schools Jill Broussard has announced the appointment of Mr. Jim Thomas to the Florence Unified School District Governing Board. He will fill the vacancy

created by the resignation of Janeane Candelaria.

Mr. Thomas will be seated until Dec. 31, 2016. The seat will be on the November 8 ballot for a 4 year term.

## Workshop offered for prospective, new school board members

The Pinal County School Office and the Arizona School Boards Association are partnering to host a Prospective/Newly Appointed Governing Board Workshop. There is no fee to attend.

Anyone interested in running for a School Board seat in the November election is encouraged to attend, as well as any newly appointed School Board members. Current and former Board members are also invited to attend.

April 5, from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at the Pinal County School Office, 75 N. Bailey, Florence, AZ. A light dinner will be served at no cost to the participant. If interested in attending, please contact the Pinal County School Office at 520-866-6565 to register.

School Board packets will be available after March 15. You can contact Brenda Katterman at 520-866-6565 to request a packet or visit the website at [www.pinalesa.org](http://www.pinalesa.org) to download a copy.



### ALREADY FITTING IN

Brooke Davis (center) with Combs' High School students.



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# Pinal County hosts annual mock trials for middle schools, high schools

The Pinal County Juvenile Court Community Advisory Board (CAB), with sponsorship from the Pinal County Attorney's Office, hosted its 13th Annual Mock Trial Competition on March 11, 2016.

Over 200 middle school and high school students and their coaches competed during the day long competition at Pinal County Superior Court in Florence. Students had the opportunity to compete for best witness, opening statement, closing statements, cross examination, direction examination, and witness as they showcase their prosecution and defense skills.

Schools competing included: Casa Grande Junior High School, Cactus Middle School,

Villago Middle School, Freedom Christian Academy, Picacho Elementary, Legacy Traditional School, Circle Cross Middle School, Magma Ranch K-8, Poston Butte High School, Miami High School, and Apache Junction High School. There were a total of 18 teams competing.

Miami High School had two teams who took home both 1st and 2nd place in the high school division. Middle School Division #1 ended with Cactus Middle School receiving 1st Place and Casa Grande Middle School coming taking 2nd place. In the Middle School Division #2, the two Picacho teams tied for 1st place against each other and

Continued on page 9



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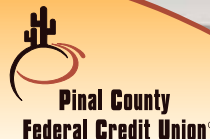
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## TEAMS OF LAWYERS

Teams from Legacy Traditional (top), and two teams from Magma Ranch K-8 competed in the 13th annual Mock Trials.  
 John Hernandez | Ledger

# Whirlwind month ends for new QC principal

By Andrew Luberda  
Southeast Valley Ledger

Over the course of a month, Paul Gagnon filled out the application, went through the interview process, was offered and subsequently accepted his new position, and then attended the Queen Creek Unified School District board meeting where his hiring as the new Queen Creek High School principal was approved.

Gagnon, who has been the Page High School principal for the past five years, will begin his duties starting with the 2016-17 school year.

“It has been a whirlwind process,” Gagnon told the *Ledger*. “But it is something my wife and I really talked about and thought about a lot to make sure this was the right move. Queen Creek attracted me for a lot of personal reasons but professionally as well.”

Family was among the chief personal reasons. Gagnon’s parents live in Tucson, where he was born, raised, attended Palo Verde High School, and the University of Arizona. His in-laws live in Tempe.

The opportunity for their four children to attend great schools in the area was also attractive to Gagnon and his wife, Cori.

Professionally, he saw similarities between Page High School and Queen Creek, including a similar curriculum and participation in professional learning communities.

“Queen Creek is just doing it at a higher level,” Gagnon acknowledged. “There is clearly a staff here that is amazing and doing great things with students. There is a great opportunity to expand that with some of the ideas I have.”

One of his ideas includes the implementation of AVID, an acronym for Advancement Via Individual Determination.

AVID is a college-going program that takes students who are in the middle academically and may not have the foundational skills to be in advanced placement and honors classes. AVID puts them in those classes and teaches them what it takes to get into college.

Continuing to enhance an already established college-going culture is one of Gagnon’s goals in his new job.

“I’m looking forward to being at bigger school where we have students who have a lot of that aspiration built in,” he said.

Prior to his stint as principal at Page, Gagnon served as an English and History teacher at the school. In between his time as teacher and principal, he earned a Master of Teacher Education degree from Eastern Oregon University and a Master of Education Administration degree from Grand Canyon University.

He served as an assistant principal and athletic director at Cottonwood Middle School for two years immediately after earning his degrees and before being recruited back to Page High School as the principal.

He was varsity assistant baseball coach and the boys’ varsity soccer coach while at Page as a teacher. Under his leadership as soccer coach, the school made its first and only state tournament appearance.

Gagnon has been briefed about the Bulldogs’ athletic department excellence and knows it goes hand-in-hand with the

school’s academic reputation.

“Having a successful athletic program improves the (culture) of the school,” Gagnon said. “It makes it so students want to attend Queen Creek.”

“My goal as principal is to put our students in the best position to succeed, especially academically,” he added. “Because I know athletics, for example, are super important, but if they don’t perform (academically) that scholarship can be taken away.”

Gagnon believes academics, the arts, athletics, and more, including CTE, which he says is near and dear to his heart, are all important to Queen Creek’s continued success.

“I love CTE because it gives students those life-long skills that they can take with them,” he said. “How many programs can a student walk away with a CNA certificate? Or an ASE certification for auto mechanics?”

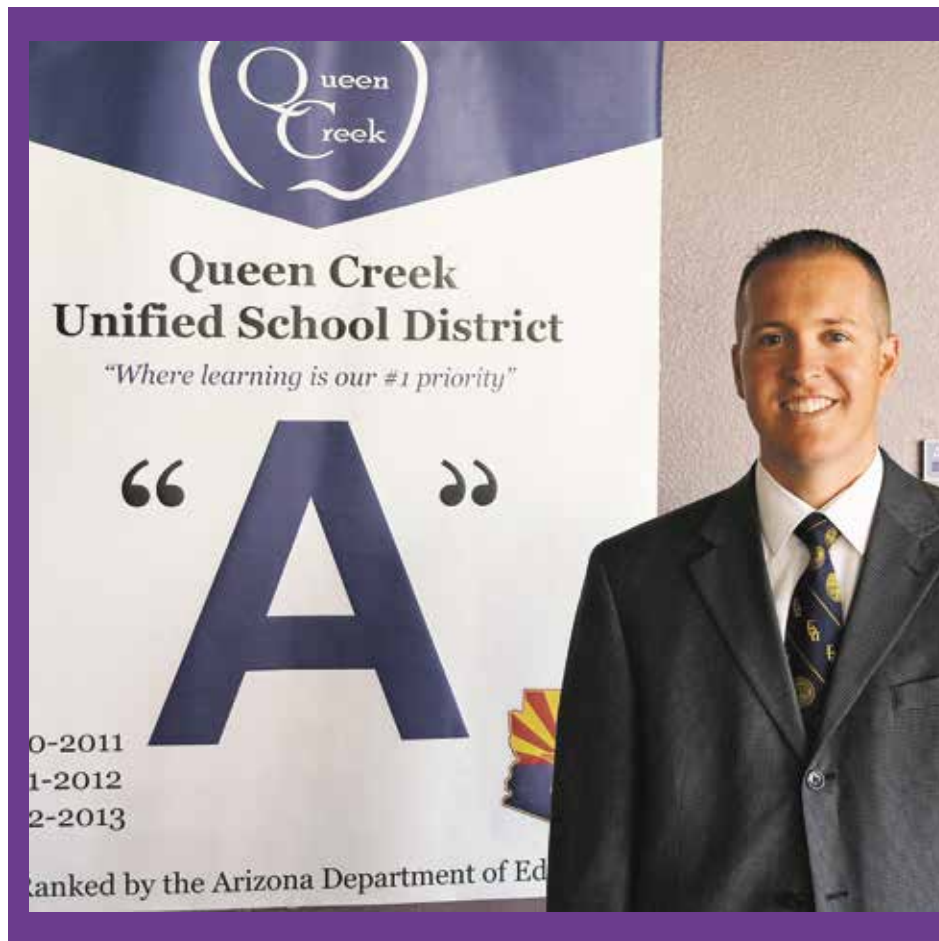
Students can put that on a résumé and get a job right away. There are so many opportunities.”

After working for 12 years at only two different schools, Gagnon is looking forward to making the move to a community he knows his family will love.

What is he most looking forward to in his new job?

“Working with the staff at Queen Creek,” he responded. “It sounds like it’s a great staff and I’m getting the chance to meet all of them on April 8.”

“There is so much support around here,” he continued. “What struck me during the interview is the people here are so positive and I’m a positive person. I’m anxious to work with staff and help them take their game to the next level in the name of helping our students achieve whatever their goals are.”



“

There is clearly a staff here that is amazing and doing great things with students. There is a great opportunity to expand that with some of the ideas I have.

# Vercoe, Kern lead Broncos to win

By Andrew Luberd  
Southeast Valley Ledger

Senior outfielder Keegan Vercoe hit a fifth-inning grand slam, providing starting pitcher Aaron Kern with far more run support than he needed in the Broncos' 9-2 win over Douglas last Thursday.

Kern, who was named Player of the Game, earned the complete-game win after allowing only five hits and two runs, both unearned. He finished with nine strikeouts and issued only one walk. The senior right-hander kept the Bulldogs' lineup at bay until Vercoe, an Azusa Pacific University commit, and the rest of the Broncos' lineup exploded for six fifth-inning runs, breaking a 1-1 tie.

"Aaron went out there and competed," Poston Butte head coach Chris Holcombe

said after the game. "We really liked how he pounded the (strike) zone and stayed consistent with throwing strikes. I think he only walked one guy the whole game. Anytime you throw strikes you're going to be successful."

Poston Butte scored its first run on an error to take a 1-0 lead in the third before Douglas got the run back in their half of the fourth. Freshman Cameron Vercoe broke the tie with an RBI-base hit in the bottom of the fifth with another run scoring on an error to make it 3-1. The Broncos followed those two runs by loading the bases, setting up Keegan Vercoe's blast.

"It was the third time through the lineup for our guys," said Holcombe, accounting for the big fifth inning. "Our guys had seen all of the (Douglas starter's) pitches and knew what he had, what he didn't have, and

were able to key in on certain pitches. They did a good job of being patient, getting good pitches to hit, and taking advantage when he left pitches over the middle of the plate."

The Broncos' closed out the scoring in the bottom of the sixth, adding two more runs

on RBI hits by Cameron Vercoe and Dylan Vanderlip.

**Upcoming schedule:** Mar. 14 at Northwest Christian (3:45 p.m.), Mar. 15 at Flowing Wells (4 p.m.), and Mar. 22 vs. Casa Grande (3:45 p.m.).

## Area basketball players receive post season honors

By Andrew Luberd  
Southeast Valley Ledger

Basketball players from local area high schools were honored for their performance this season, earning recognition after the Arizona Interscholastic Association recently released its All-Division and All-Section teams.

The following is a list of players, by school, who were named by the AIA:

### QUEEN CREEK

**AIA Division II Section VI Girls' Honorable Mention** – Jayden Kartchner and Kendyl Payne.

**AIA Division II Section VI Boys' Honorable Mention** – Frigny Niclasse, Bradley Woods, Malik Cobbins, and Kade Parks.

### POSTON BUTTE

**AIA All-Division III Girls' Honorable Mention** – Angelica Garrido and Gabby Musselman.

Continued on page 9

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## Athlete of the week

### Colt Chance

**JUNIOR – COMBS HIGH SCHOOL  
SPORT – BASEBALL**

**You dominated opposing hitters in your first two starts of the year, which included the following pitching line: 12 IP, 4 H, 0 R, 2 BB, 15 K, and a 0.00 ERA. To what do attribute your early-season success?**

An off-season workout program and solid defense from my teammates.

**What are some of the team's goals this season?**

To get a little better each game, help our younger players develop, and become stronger as a team.

**Baseball players are commonly known to be very superstitious. Do you have any superstitions and, if yes, can you share at least one?**

I have a pre-game work out I do.

**Finish this sentence: "My greatest athletic memory so far at Combs HS is..."**

My freshman year we had to finish a game that got called due to darkness. We were tied, Blue Ridge scored a run before we were up to bat and had to stop the game. Blue Ridge came down on a Saturday to

finish the last half of the inning. We had two runners on with two outs and I was up. I had two strikes on me when I hit the ball up the middle to drive in two runs for the win.

**What is your favorite sports movie and why?**

*Bull Durham*, because I can relate to the pitcher. It reminds me of my freshman year on varsity when Brayden Armstrong was my catcher and always giving me advice.

**Named one person you'd most like to meet and why?**

Nolan Ryan because he pitched in an era when there wasn't a five-day rotation. He would go out and throw inning after inning, never complaining. He would not take any flak from batters.





## Basketball Honors

Continued from page 8

**AIA Division III Section V Girls' First Team** – Gabby Musselman.

**AIA Division III Section V Girls' Second Team** – Angelica Garrido.

**AIA Division III Section V Girls' Honorable Mention** – TiAnna Bruce, Leonor Guardado, and Abigail Urquidez.

**AIA All-Division III Boys' Honorable Mention** – Preston Anderson and Tyson Berringer.

**AIA Division III Section V Boys' First Team** – Preston Anderson.

**AIA Division III Section V Boys' Second Team** – Tyson Berringer.

**AIA Division III Section V Boys' Honorable Mention** – Qujuan Steward.

### COMBS

**AIA All-Division IV Girls' Honorable Mention** – Landry Armstrong and Nikki

Ruiz.

**AIA Division IV Section V Girls' First Team** – Landry Armstrong and Nikki Ruiz.

**AIA Division IV Section Girls' Honorable Mention** – Ashlyn Allen, Cydnee Colpaert, Kyla Pena, and Ilaria Vesely.

**AIA All-Division III Boys' Honorable Mention** – Clayton McCarthy.

**AIA Division III Section V Boys' First Team** – Clayton McCarthy.

**AIA Division III Section V Boys' Honorable Mention** – Josh Allen and Brian Tucker.

### SAN TAN FOOTHILLS

**AIA Division V Section IV Girls' Honorable Mention** – Mikayla Eriacho

**AIA Division V Section IV Boys' Honorable Mention** – Nick Sauls.

## Combs Principal

Continued from page 5

then she realized her love for working with students and decided to earn her certification at the University of New Mexico. She continued coaching, moving up the ranks to head JV coach and then assistant varsity coach.

She eventually moved to Colorado where she was an English teacher and the girls' volleyball, basketball, and soccer coach.

During her 26-year career she's gone from being a high school freshman basketball coach to a high school principal and "everything in-between."

"I think it's very important for a principal to have comprehensive knowledge of all systems within the high school," Davis said. "Not only to support student achievement, but (also) the social-emotional piece that comes with high school students."

## Mock Trials

Continued from page 6

Villago Middle School took 2nd Place.

A distinguished group of Pinal County Superior Court and Justice of the Peace Judges were on hand to oversee the day long competition: Judge Kevin White, Judge Brenda Oldham, Judge Stephen McCarville, Judge Steven Fuller, Judge Jason Holmberg and Judge John Ellsworth (Casa Grande).

The Community Advisory Board (CAB) is a diverse group of citizens who work with Juvenile Court Services to evaluate and enhance services to young people in Pinal County. Their common interest is to ensure that Juvenile Court practices continue to reflect the best interest of youth, families, victims, and the community.

Davis is a self-proclaimed "do-it-all" principal who is known to mop floors, clean, and get students to the bus in addition to her more traditional responsibilities of providing leadership and supervising.

One of Davis' "in-between" jobs included a stint as an athletic director. What level of importance do athletics, the arts, or other extra-curricular activities have in lives of students in her view?

"They're all incredibly important," she responded. "I want a home away from home for every student. School is that place where (students) get to find, try, test, and learn all those soft skills that we want students to have that practically apply to their learning, such as time management, organization, and collaboration."

"All of those are 21st-century skills learned through sports, clubs, band, choir, or whatever it is," she added. "They are all incredibly important because it teaches students how to work with others."

Davis says she learned time management as a student-athlete at New Mexico State and those skills carried over to her job in

advertising, allowing her time to also coach the freshmen girls' basketball team.

"The things we are going to do at school need to practically apply to life," Davis said. "That comes in the classroom as much as in the sports arena, the concert hall, or the theater."

The new Combs High School principal will be on campus approximately once per month until the end of the school year in Colorado, which precisely coincides with Combs' school year. She will move to the area permanently after that.

Davis was asked what she's most looking forward to at Combs and responded by recalling the day of her interview, when she was sitting the school's front office and nearly 25 students came through – unaware of who she was or what she would eventually be – and almost all of them smiled at her and said, "hello."

"Those students took the time to welcome a stranger," she said. "And I said to myself, 'I want this job.' So let's meet each other at the door, and let's grow and go together."



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## SERVICE ORGANIZATION



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# The Bubbly Hostess

## Serves Lemon Cheesecake Bars

By **Heather Sneed**  
The Bubbly Hostess

It is lemon season in the Valley of the Sun and if you have a lemon tree - or if you are like me who has a neighbor with a lemon tree - lemons are ABUNDANT right now! I have been making several lemon based dishes recently and although this dessert doesn't call for a ton of lemon based ingredients, I knew my family would love it!

Product sites don't usually disappoint when it comes to recipes - this one from Kraft is no different. I made a couple of modifications to the recipe, using Nilla wafers instead of

coconut macaroon cookies, although I'm sure those would have been delicious - but I had the Nilla wafers in my pantry....and that's how I roll. I also used reduced fat cream cheese and the result was still perfection.

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.



**YUM**

Lemon cheesecake. Need we say more?

## Lemon Cheesecake Bars

Serves 16  
Recipe adapted from Kraft

1 1/2 cups crushed Nilla wafer cookies  
2 tablespoons margarine, melted  
2 packages (8 ounces each) reduced fat cream cheese  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 teaspoon lemon zest  
1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 eggs

Heat oven to 350°F. Mix cookie crumbs and margarine; press onto bottom of 8-inch square pan sprayed with cooking spray.

Beat cream cheese, sugar, lemon zest, juice and vanilla in large bowl with mixer until well blended. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing after each just until blended. Pour over crust.

Bake 20 to 25 min. or until center is almost set. Cool completely. Refrigerate 3 hours before serving.

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Have a story idea for us? Email your suggestions to [info@SEVLedger.com](mailto:info@SEVLedger.com)

## Consolidation: working on a smooth transition...



Dr. Tim Richard has been highly impressed with the warm welcome and helpfulness of the San Tan Foothills administration and staff. He has been having meetings with stakeholders, planning the student registration process and assessing students' and schools' needs. If you would like to meet with Dr Richard or discuss any thoughts or questions, please send your request to [info@fuadaz.org](mailto:info@fuadaz.org).

## Boundaries...

The new boundaries will only impact current 8th grade students moving to 9th grade. This means that if your child already attends a given school, they will stay there until they are promoted from 8th grade or if they are new to the district.

## Feeder Schools...

### SAN TAN FOOTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL

- San Tan Heights K-8 • Skyline Ranch K-8 (living in Skyline Ranch Proper)
- Walker Butte K-8 Leadership School

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### POSTON BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL

- Copper Basin K-8 • Circle Cross Ranch K-8 STEM Academy
- Students who live in the Skyline Ranch or Magma Ranch Boundary but not Proper

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### FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL

- Florence K-8 • Anthem K-8 • Magma Ranch K-8 (Magma Ranch Proper)

For an Interactive High School Boundary Map, visit: <http://bit.ly/1YHHnOM>

For an Interactive K-8 Boundary Map, visit: <http://bit.ly/1QKL4zR>

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Questions or concerns? Email [info@fusdaz.org](mailto:info@fusdaz.org)



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