

chocolate
mascarpone
pound cake
from the bubbly
hostess, page 11

LEDGER

APRIL 6, 2016
Vol. 4, No. 28

DUST D

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PINAL
COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION

pages 4-5

new rewards
for respectful
Copper Basin
Dust Devils
page 6

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

McCafe School Gardens Grow:

Arizona McDonald’s is announcing the
 launch of “McCafé School Gardens Grow!,”
 a coffee grounds recycling initiative.
 McDonald’s restaurants are partnering
 with schools statewide to recycle their used
 coffee grounds and help school gardens
 grow. Kathryn Sue Simonton and Ranch

Elementary schools are participating in the
 program and are picking up coffee grounds
 weekly from Queen Creek McDonald’s
 restaurants. The restaurants are also
 making the coffee grounds available daily
 to the Queen Creek community for local
 gardens and composts.

The new initiative is part of McDonald’s
 “Good Neighbor Good Grounds” recycling
 program, designed to divert used coffee
 grounds from the waste stream by
 promoting the reuse of coffee grounds to
 add nutrients to soil or compost.

According to Queen Creek McDonald’s
 owner Catherine Sanchez, 130 schools
 with the Arizona Department of Education
 School Garden Program have already
 signed up and are currently utilizing their



COFFEE GROUNDS

Queen Creek Store Manager Alicia
 Morain provides coffee grounds to
 Simonton Garden Coordinator Sherri
 Crosslin.

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QC schools first to sign up

local McDonald's coffee grounds in their gardens and composts.

"Kathryn Sue Simonton Elementary is excited to be a part of McDonald's coffee grounds recycling program to help our garden grow," said Sherri Crosslin, Kathryn Sue Simonton garden coordinator. "Community partnerships like this are so important and I look forward to teaching my students the importance of recycling and reducing waste."

Sanchez stated that Arizona restaurants participating in the school garden coffee grounds recycling program expect to divert thousands of pounds of waste from going into the waste stream. According to a recent waste assessment audit by Waste Management, a McDonald's restaurant has 29.5 lbs. of coffee grounds waste each day or 11,000 lbs. a year.

"Our McDonald's restaurants serve a lot of coffee," said Sanchez. "The opportunity to partner with schools in our communities to reduce our coffee grounds waste is a win for everyone. We hope to expand this program this Spring and make our coffee grounds available daily to the community for local gardens and composts. Concern for the environment is important to us as well as our customers. We practice responsible coffee sourcing. The majority of our certified coffee purchases are from Rainforest Alliance Certified™ farms, including 100% of our espresso in the U.S."

Our restaurants work hard to reuse, reduce and recycle," she continued. "We also currently recycle used cooking oil in nearly all of our restaurants. Our napkins are made out of 100% recycled content and we are the first in the industry to have the "How2Recycle" label on many of our recyclable packages, bags and clear cups. We've also set a time-bound goal to achieve

100% of our packaging from certified or recycled sources by the year 2020."

Schools or community gardens interested in participating in the coffee grounds recycling program can call Rhonda Grundemann at 602-739-8810 to be assigned to a local McDonald's restaurant.

About McDonald's of Arizona

The 300 Arizona McDonald's restaurants employ more than 15,000* people and annually feed \$329.5 million into the Arizona economy. We make good food that is served fast, with a focus on responsible sourcing. Our McDonald's supply chain includes suppliers of all sizes including family-owned farms and ranches in Arizona. In 2014, McDonald's spent more than \$49.7 million on locally sourced food, purchasing 28.9 million pounds of lettuce, 8.2 million pounds of flour and 16.6 million pounds of beef.

*McDonald's and McDonald's independently owned and operated franchisees are equal opportunity employers committed to a diverse and inclusive workforce. McDonald's and each of McDonald's independently owned and operated franchisees are the exclusive employer of their employees and as such are solely responsible for all employment related matters in their restaurants.

About McDonald's

McDonald's USA, LLC, serves a variety of menu options made with quality ingredients to more than 27 million customers every day. Nearly 90 percent of McDonald's 14,000 U.S. restaurants are independently owned and operated by businessmen and women. Customers can now log online for free at approximately 11,500 participating Wi-Fi enabled McDonald's U.S. restaurants. For more information, visit www.mcdonalds.com, or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

calendar APRIL 2016

FLORENCE COPPER COFFEE

07

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 April 14.



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.



RIDE WITH A RANGER

09

Enjoy the beautiful scenery of the San Tan Mountains as you navigate the park atop your trusty steed during the San Tan Mountain Regional Park's 'Ride with a Ranger on a Horse.' Our ranger and riding professional from MD Ranch will guide you through the Sonoran Desert on a trail ride you will never forget. Learn about the plants and animals that call San Tan home, and grab your cowboy hat for this exciting ride through the park. Horses must be reserved ahead of time through MD Ranch at (480) 331-7893. Spots are limited. Trail rides are available any time. Call to set up your own personalized horseback adventure. Event will be held Saturday, April 9, from 4-5:30 p.m. The Park is located at 6533 W. Phillips Rd., Queen Creek, AZ 85142. For more information, please call (480) 655-5554.



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Major upgrade of Pinal County transportation

North-South Corridor linking U.S. 60 with Interstate 10 is biggest project in PRTA proposal

By James J. Hodl
Copper Area News

An effort to sell Pinal County residents on a 20-year plan to improve transportation throughout the county primarily by building new roads and improving existing roads – and to fund these projects through a 0.5% increase in the

Public Notice

Request for Comments and Notice of Public scoping ON RESOLUTION COPPER PROJECT AND LAND EXCHANGE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE, TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

The Tonto National Forest (TNF) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate and disclose the potential environmental effects from: (1) approval of a plan of operations submitted by Resolution Copper Mining, LLC (Resolution Copper), for mining operations on Forest Service lands associated with a proposed large-scale mine; (2) the exchange of land between Resolution Copper and the United States; and (3) amendments to the Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Resolution Copper proposes mining and ore processing activities, which would take place near the town of Superior, Arizona on a mixture of private, state and Forest Service lands. Copper concentrate would be pumped approximately 22 miles southwest along an existing railroad corridor for additional processing near Magma, Arizona. Tailings disposal is proposed to take place approximately 5 miles northwest of Superior, on 4,400 acres of Forest Service land.

The congressionally authorized land exchange will transfer to Resolution Copper 2,422 acres of federal land around Oak Flat, located east of Superior. In return, Resolution Copper will transfer parcels of private land located throughout Arizona to the United States and, if requested, the town of Superior.

A Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register and is available online at: <http://www.ResolutionMineEIS.us/>. The notice and supporting documentation is also available for review at the Tonto National Forest, 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85006.

Public open house meetings will be held as follows. Each meeting will take place from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; a presentation will take place at 5:30, followed by a brief question and answer period:

1. March 31, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Queen Valley Recreation Hall, 1478 East Queen Valley Drive, Queen Valley, Arizona.
2. April 4, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Superior High School, Multi-purpose room, 100 Mary Drive, Superior, Arizona.
3. April 5, 2016, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Elks Lodge, 1775 East Maple Street, Globe, Arizona.
4. April 6, 2016, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Southwest Regional Library, 775 North Greenfield Road, Gilbert, Arizona.

Additional information regarding the project can be obtained from Mark Nelson, Project Manager; (602) 225- 5222; mrNelson@fs.fed.us.

The proposed project is subject to the Project-Level Predecisional Administrative Review Process under Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 218, Subparts A and B.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Specific written comments (36 CFR Part 218.2) on the proposed project will be accepted for 60 calendar days following publication of the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register. If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day. The publication date in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 218.2). If you are including references, citations, or additional information to be considered for this project, please provide a copy, specify exactly how the material relates to the project, and also indicate the part of the material (page or figure numbers) you would like us to consider.

Specific written comments may be submitted via mail to Resolution EIS Comments, P.O. Box 34468, Phoenix, AZ 85067-4468, by fax to 866-546-5718, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, excluding holidays) to: Mr. Neil Bosworth, Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest, 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85006. Verbal comments may be provided via voicemail at 866-546-5718, or in person at one of the public meetings. Electronic comments including attachments may be submitted by email in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html) to comments@ResolutionMineEIS.us. Electronic comments may also be submitted via the project website (www.ResolutionMineEIS.us/comments).

Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR Part 218.2) who submit timely and specific written comments (as defined by 36 CFR Part 218.2) about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are defined by 36 CFR Part 218.25 (a)(3) and include name, postal address, title of the project and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments. Individual members of an entity must submit their own individual comments in order to have eligibility to object as an individual. A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR Part 218.25 (a)(4). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted. Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection and will be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

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MINER, CBN, SUN Legal 3/23/16; NUGGET Legal 3/30/16; LEDGER Legal 4/6/16; CRIER Legal 4/13/16

county sales tax – moved into high gear recently.

Between March 21 and April 5, the Pinal Regional Transportation Authority (PRTA) held five public meetings where citizens saw the plan unveiled and could learn how these road projects would benefit them. Meetings were staged in the towns of Apache Junction, Coolidge and Maricopa; the communities of San Tan Valley and SaddleBrooke.

Nearly all of the proposed transportation projects are in western Pinal County, where about 88% of the county's population resides, according to Andy Smith, director of PRTA and transportation planning manager with Central Arizona Governments (CAG). The plan was created with a big assist from Phoenix-based Dibble Engineering.

The major new road proposed is the North-South Corridor that will run 51 miles, connecting U.S. 60 in Apache Junction with Interstate 10 southeast of Eloy. Although the exact route of the North-South Corridor has not yet been determined, it will likely run just east of San Tan Valley, through Florence, and to the east of Coolidge and Eloy. A 5-mile road extending State Route 24 from Maricopa County to the North-South Corridor north of San Tan Valley also is planned.

Additional road improvements include the widening of State Route 347 from the Maricopa County border to the town of Maricopa, Selma Highway running through Eloy and Casa Grande, and assorted streets in Coolidge and Casa Grande. Another new road will divert traffic south of Maricopa to Interstate 8.

San Tan Valley will see Gantzel Road extended south of

Bella Vista Road to Hunt Highway.

In southeastern Pinal County, Golder Dam Road near SaddleBrooke and Oracle will be widened.

The PRTA transportation plan also calls for creation of Park and Ride lots throughout the county. According to Smith, these lots will serve as hubs where individuals can park their autos for the day while joining carpools with people working at the same places to commute to their final destination. Smith hopes that existing (or new) transit systems will eventually link to these hubs to take people to their jobs by bus or light rail. At least one is targeted for San Tan Valley near intersection of Combs and Gary Roads.

Although hinted last Fall, the PRTA plan includes no proposals for creating public transportation systems in Pinal County at this time. However a dial-a-ride program, where residents who do not drive can call for rides to a local hospital or other locations, is proposed.

Although no big transportation projects are proposed in eastern Pinal County, PRTA promises to provide a minimum \$300,000 annually each to the towns of Superior, Kearny and Mammoth to fund local road projects from revenues collected by the proposed county sales tax hike.

Speaking at the meetings, Smith said the transportation improvements included in the PRTA plan are necessary to keep up with the rapid growth in county population. Between 2000 and 2015, the number of people living in Pinal County grew from 180,000 to more than 400,000. Vehicle traffic has increased dramatically, resulting in severe rush hour congestion on many roads leading into

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infrastructure unveiled at five public meetings

Maricopa and Pima counties, and an increase in traffic accidents and fatalities.

The current system of roads is inadequate, Smith noted. There is a desperate need for a high-capacity route to get from northern to southern Pinal County. There are inadequate connections to Interstate 10 from local routes and businesses. Many east-west routes in the county are two-lane or dirt roads. And San Tan Valley, which has more than 88,000 residents, as only two major roads for travel (Ironwood/Gantzel Road and Hunt Highway).

Road improvements haven't kept up with population growth since the economic recession hit in 2008. Federal highway fund has been flat since then, causing the county's Highway Trust Fund to fall short. And to balance the Arizona state budget, the legislature shifted highway funding to other government programs.

Yet Pinal County needs to improve its transportation system to spur economic development and create new jobs. When selecting a site for starting or relocating a business,

the executives look at the transportation infrastructure, especially as it relates to quickly getting their products to market. Enticing businesses to locate in Pinal County will not only create new jobs by also enable county residents to work closer to home and not have long commutes to jobs in adjoining counties, Smith noted.

The North-South Corridor could attract the businesses and retail areas on the east side of San Tan Valley that also could create the tax base the community needs to eventually incorporate as a town, one local resident said at the San Tan Valley meeting in the former Mountain Vista Middle School.

For regular citizens, new and wider roads will increase the flow of traffic, resulting in shorter commutes and less wasting of gasoline when stalled in slow traffic.

To boost transportation infrastructure improvements, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors last August voted to create PRTA with a representative from each town in the county on its management board. The first order of

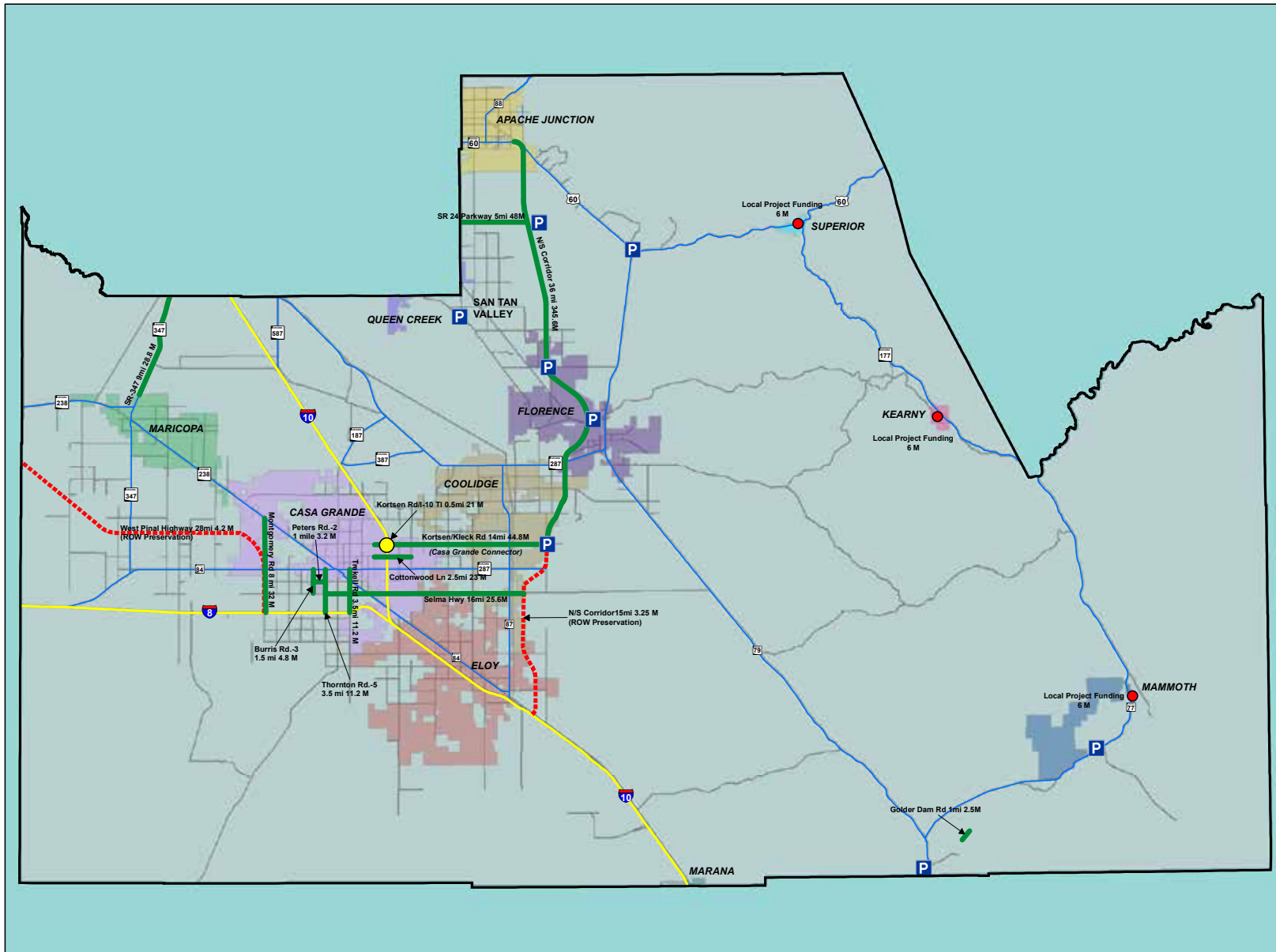
business was to draft the transportation plan that was recently finalized.

In November, PRTA is asking voters to approve its transportation plans and to provide funding for the proposed projects by approving a 0.5% increase in the county property tax for the next 20 years. According to Smith, this will cost a typical Pinal County family about \$88 per year. But PRTA expects the sales tax hike to be a harder sell in Superior and Mammoth, where the local sales tax is already 10.7%.

By 2036, the tax hike is expected bring in a minimum \$500 million to fund proposed projects.

Pinal County would not be alone in taxing residents for transportation improvements. Voters in Maricopa, Pima, Gila and Coconino counties have already approved such taxes, he explained.

PRTA and CAG have filed to have the referendum on the transportation plan and the 0.5% sales tax increase put on the November 8 ballot.



Proposed RTA Projects

Legend

- RTA Projects
- Roads
- Right of Way
- Park and Ride
- Local Project Funding
- Traffic Interchange

<http://www.cagaz.org/rta.html>

Disclaimer: This map does not represent a legal survey. It is intended for general purposes only.
Map Date: March 17, 2016

Copper Basin K-8 School

finding new motivations for positive behavior

By **Andrew Luberda**
Southeast Valley Ledger

At Copper Basin K-8 School in San Tan Valley, faculty and staff members are well-trained with how to deal with students who

require academic interventions to achieve success in the classroom.

Now, those same faculty and staff members are in the first year of implementing a nationally-researched behavior program that addresses behavior at the school with

framework outlined by Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS).

According to Principal Jim Bock, Copper Basin students are encouraged to meet four expectations – Safe, Respectful, Responsible, and Empathetic. Students who display those expectations are praised

and/or are awarded “Dusty Tickets,” which qualify students to win prizes.

“If we see a student displaying one of those expectations we hand one of those to the students,” Mr. Bock recently explained to the *Ledger*. “The idea there is for a student

Continued on page 9

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Queen Creek's Glaess named AZNFF Top Scholar Athlete

By Andrew Luberda
Southeast Valley Ledger

Queen Creek football player Zach Glaess was among 60 college and high school scholar athletes honored at the Valley of the Sun Chapter of the National Football Foundation's 35th Annual Awards Banquet last Saturday night at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort and Villas.

Glaess, a senior, was among student athletes nominated from 186 high schools who were selected based on the combined criteria of 40 percent Academics, 40 percent Football Accomplishments, and 20 percent School & Community Citizenship and participation.

This marks the sixth consecutive year that at least one Bulldogs' player was recognized as a top scholar athlete by the AZNFF. Previous Bulldogs' honorees include Adam Brezek (2010), Andrew Sawyer (2011), Dean Wenger (2012), Carson Sawyer (2013), and Bryce Dobbs (2014). Additionally, Carson Jones won the 2012 AZNFF Frances Kush Dedicated Student Award.

"It's great for our school and football program to seemingly have a player or two (who) receive that honor every year," Queen Creek football head coach Travis Schureman told the *Ledger*. "It's just as important to be successful in the classroom as it is on the football field and the kids in our program are all solid people who try to do it all the right way."

Glaess, with a 4.315 GPA, was named to the 2015-16 Fiesta Bowl Charities First Team. He earned several All-State and All-Section recognition at three different positions – punter, kicker, and defensive back – after last season. He was also named to the Sports360AZ.com All-Academic Team.

Despite all of the postseason accolades, Glaess was surprised by his most recent recognition.

"It's such an honor because I didn't know I was going to receive it," he said. "Coach Swartz had talked to me about it and I didn't expect to make it, especially first team, and then I (did). I was happy when I found out."

Visit www.aznff.com for a complete list of the 2016 AZ NFF Scholar Athlete Class.



HONORED ATHLETE

Zach Glaess (center) with Queen Creek asst. coach Mark Swartz (left) and AZ NFF host Kevin Ray (right).

Combs girls' soccer trio signs with Gateway CC

By Andrew Luberda
Southeast Valley Ledger

Coyotes girls' soccer teammates Willow Zimmerman, Dani DeWitt and Taylor DeWitt all recently signed to play soccer at Gateway

Community College, located in Phoenix.

Zimmerman, an All-Section III Honorable Mention selection, said she didn't necessarily choose Gateway.

"It was more like they chose me, to be Continued on page 9



TEAMMATES

This Coyotes' trio signed with Gateway CC. Lt to Rt - Dani DeWitt, Willow Zimmerman, and Taylor DeWitt.



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Combs' Baseball Program Reaches Milestone

By Andrew Luberd
Southeast Valley Ledger

The Combs' baseball team defeated Miami for its ninth win of the season on Saturday, Mar. 19, 13 – 1. Yotes' junior Jerek Bernhardt went 3-for-4 at the plate and drove in four runs in addition to getting it done on the mound, allowing one run on three hits with two walks and three strikeouts in four innings pitched.

Colt Chance had a hit and three RBI while Dalton Lupton and Josh McDevitt had two hits apiece with two and one RBI, respectively. Tyler Stading, a junior, pitched a scoreless inning in relieve to earn the save.

The win had more significance than just the ninth of the season for the No. 20-ranked Coyotes as it also marked the 100th victory in the baseball program's history, all of them under the leadership of sixth-year head coach John Scrogam.

The Yotes have won 19 or more games in each of the previous

four seasons, including 20 or more the last three. They've reached the state playoffs all four of those years, and with 10 wins so far midway through this season, they appear to be on track to extend both streaks this season.

In other words, the Coyotes' baseball program has been the epitome of consistency during the last five seasons.

"I think a large part of it is having high expectations and not lowering the standards," Scrogam answered when asked how his program has maintained its success. "It's not easy to play baseball at Combs High School."

"Players are expected to work hard and often," he added. "Because they do so, this often contributes to being competitive. For the most part we have been fortunate to have players to buy into our program."

The Coyotes are just as fortunate to have Coach Scrogam leading their program.

Congratulations, Coyote players and coaches!



100TH WIN

Combs' head coach John Scrogam. Photo courtesy of Kris Wood.

Soccer Stars

Continued from page 8

honest," she told the *Ledger*. "Gateway was the only school where I tried out and it was like, 'Cool, I can go play.'"

All three players acknowledged they are not sure what they will study when they arrive on campus, but are focused on the core classes that will allow them to transfer to a four-year college or university in the future.

Neither attending the same school nor signing together at Gateway was planned, but now that it has the players admit there is comfort in knowing there will be familiar faces on campus.

"Honestly, I think it helps a lot," said Dani DeWitt. "Having that support from your teammates who we've played with for a while definitely helped to sign with Gateway."

Each of them multi-sport athletes, the three Gateway signees credit their participation in Combs' athletics for providing the opportunity to continue their athletic and academic

careers at the next level.

"Both soccer and track have mental and physical elements to them," said Taylor DeWitt. "Over the years we've built on that and got a little stronger every year. It's nice now that we have this opportunity to play college soccer. It's a dream come true and definitely very exciting."

The trio was part of Combs' team that averaged more than 10 wins per year over the last three years. Head coach Chris Azanger knows he's losing good players who have contributed to that success.

"Just their dedication," Azanger answered when asked what each player does well that will translate to success at the next level. "Anytime we did anything in the offseason these girls always showed up, wanted to learn more, always wanted to play, and consistently asked how they could get better. Their dedication will go a long way at the next level."

Fun Incentives

Continued from page 6

to collect as many tickets as her or she can."

At the end of each day, the students submit their collection of tickets.

Each morning, during announcements, Mr. Bock pulls the names of student from the collection of tickets from the previous day and awards prizes that include a free hat day, a front-of-the-line pass, a free homework pass, or pencils and pens.

According to Bock, many faculty members found the prizes were "cool but not cool enough," especially among older students.

As a result, donated funds in addition to other donations from teachers, staff members and parents were used create game room with air hockey and foosball tables, as well as a mini-basketball pop-a-shot-hoop, two flat-screens televisions with X-Box One, and a pair of lounge sofas for sitting comfort.

"It's not going to be an everyday thing, probably a random

once-or-a-twice a month deal," Bock said. "We'll pull students in there by grade level when their name is pulled."

Students will have access to the game room for thirty minutes. Bock believes the game room provides a better incentive.

Copper Basin faculty and staff are trained, according to PBIS guidelines, to address students who don't meet expectations, which includes using positive interventions.

"I think it's been wonderful," Bock said about the new program. "We started off really well. We asked for staff and parent feedback on the program and learned that the students are talking about it at home. The parents have been very positive."

Bock acknowledged the referral count at the school has decreased, which was to be expected.

"We can hone in on the few problem areas," he said. "I feel like that is really beneficial to the continued improvement of the program."



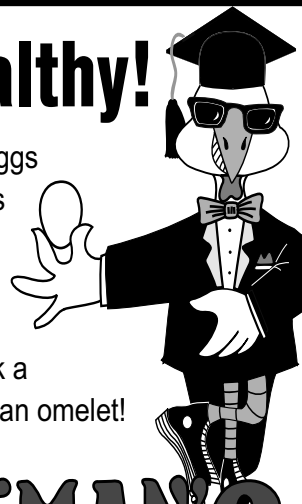
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The Bubbly Hostess

Serves a Chocolate Mascarpone Pound Cake



YUM

Chocolate Mascarpone Pound Cake. A righteous dessert!

Chocolate Mascarpone Pound Cake

Makes 1 loaf cake

Recipe from "Weeknights With Giada"

Cake:

Butter, for the pan
1 (16-ounce) box of pound cake mix, such as Betty Crocker
½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder, such as Hershey's
4 tablespoons (½ stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature
¼ cup (2 ounces) mascarpone cheese, at room temperature
⅔ cup whole milk
3 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 large eggs, at room temperature
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Glaze:

1 ½ cups confectioners' sugar
¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder, such as Hershey's
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

For the cake: Place an oven rack in the center of the oven. Preheat the oven to

350 degrees. Butter and flour a 9 x 5-inch metal loaf pan.

In a large bowl, combine the pound cake mix, cocoa powder, butter, mascarpone cheese, milk, vegetable oil, eggs, and vanilla extract. Using an electric mixer, beat on low speed for 30 seconds. Increase the speed to medium and beat for 2 minutes until smooth and thick.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake for 50 to 55 minutes, until a cake tester inserted into the middle of the cake comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes and invert onto a rack to cool completely, about 1 hour.

For the glaze: In a small bowl, whisk together the sugar and cocoa powder. Add the vanilla and slowly whisk in 3 tablespoons water, or a little more as needed, until the mixture is thick. Spoon the glaze over the cake and serve.

By Heather Sneed
Bubbly Hostess

We were recently invited to a friend's home for dinner and I offered to bring dessert. I was pretty excited about this, I don't typically make dessert, so it gave me a chance to comb through my cookbooks. I found this recipe out of my "Weeknights With Giada" cookbook by Giada De Laurentiis and it seemed perfect for the occasion.

I hope you will give this one a try – it's

very easy and will be a hit with your guests!

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



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