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# San Tan Valley Right to Vote

**By James J. Hodl**  
 STVDailyPRSS.com

San Tan Valley residents will have to wait a bit longer for the opportunity to vote on whether to incorporate the community as a city. Legislation that would have eased the way for holding an incorporation vote died in the early morning hours of May 7 when the Arizona legislature adjourned for the year.

The failure of House Bill 2384 to receive a final vote before adjournment could have an impact on the race in the Arizona’s First Congressional District, if some supporters of the measure have their say.

As drafted and introduced earlier this year by State Rep. Eddie Farnsworth (R-Gilbert), HB 2384 would have eliminated the “six-mile rule” in Pinal County that allows an incorporated city or town within six miles of a community seeking to incorporate to block a vote in that community if it feels the newly incorporated town would have a detrimental impact on the existing city. The town of Florence used that rule to block an incorporation vote by San Tan Valley in 2010. Since 2011 Pinal has been

the only county in Arizona where the “six-mile rule” is still in effect.

HB 2384 (then known as HB 2385) passed on a unanimous 60 to 0 vote in the Arizona House on February 25. Retitled HB 2384 while in the Arizona Senate, the bill was amended slightly and passed on a 27 to 2 vote on March 25 with all state senators representing a piece of San Tan Valley (Barbara McGuire, Andy Biggs and David C. Farnsworth) voting in favor.

All that was needed was for the Arizona House to vote for the bill as amended in the Senate to send HB 2384 to Gov. Doug Ducey for his signature. But because House Speaker David Gowan chose not to schedule HB 2384 for its third reading, the bill expired along with the 2016 legislative session.

Following this setback, Tisha Castillo, who has long spearheaded efforts to pass legislation similar to HB 2384, promised on her Facebook page that supporters will regroup and will come back stronger in the future. Detailed plans on future lobbying efforts will be announced shortly, she promised.

The disappointment of San Tan Valley

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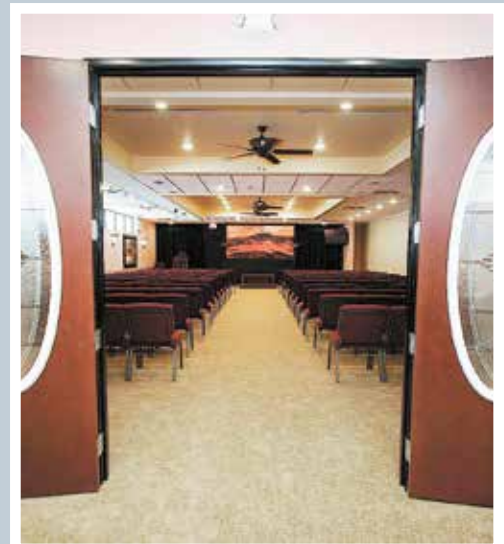
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# measure (HB 2384) fails

residents with Gowan blocking the final vote on HB 2384 spilled over onto Speaker Gowan's Facebook page promoting his bid to be elected to the U.S. Congress in Arizona's First Congressional District.

"You may think he (Gowan) is protection your freedoms," Jeanne Stockton chided an earlier poster. "But he just denied your fellow Arizona residents the right to vote on the future of their communities. You may want to reconsider your support for this individual."

When the earlier poster demanded clarification, the flood gates opened with other San Tan Valley residents posting links to news articles on HB 2384 and to Gowan's campaign financial statements. Several posts noted \$20,000 in campaign donations from officers of Johnson Utilities, which has opposed San Tan Valley incorporation for years in the newsletter it stuffs in with its monthly bills.

"You may have stopped our voice for now, but not from telling others whose pockets your hands have been down," Tina Hill posted.

"I am telling all my friends not to vote for you. Why wouldn't you support HB 2384? Everyone I know really wanted the bill to happen," said Tiana Gray.

"I am astonished beyond belief that you are the reason we in San Tan Valley will not have the right to vote on our community's future. We are a growing community of nearly 100,000 people. Alienating such a large block of voters does not strike me as smart," said Alden Wright.

How much effect residents in San Tan Valley can have on Gowan's quest to be the next Congressman in the first District is open for debate. Nearly all of San Tan Valley is in Arizona's Fourth Congressional District with Apache Junction and the sparsely populated ranch lands running along the western border of the state up to Nevada. But some posters indicate they'll donate funds and provide other support to Gowan's opponents. Two posters said they would pressure State Rep. Vince Leach, whose district does take in a sliver of San Tan Valley, to recant his support for Gowan for Congress.

As of noon on May 7, in the first two postings on Gowan's Congressional

Campaign Facebook page, angry HB 2384 supporters contributed 38 comments to three hailing Gowan as a supporter of freedom, and one incoherent comment on "gun writes." Many of the earliest comments on HB 2384 are reported to have been taken down from Gowan's Facebook page since then.

Leading supporter Castillo admitted that there has been some misinformation on HB 2384. The purpose of the measure was only to sweep away the impediment to San Tan Valley one day voting on whether to incorporate, not to trigger an immediate vote on incorporation.

"It will likely take several years before an actual vote on incorporation can be considered," Castillo told *STVDailyPRSS.com*. "There are too many things to consider, such as the type of government to be created and how it will be financed. And giving San Tan Valley the right to vote on its future also can include some areas opting to be annexed by Florence and Queen Creek – if they so desire.

"But when we are ready to vote, we want to be able to do so without interference from a neighboring town," she added.

"Much of the opposition to San Tan Valley incorporating from adjacent towns like Florence, Apache Junction and Maricopa results worries that state funds will be redistributed, causing their current financial worries to get worse," Castillo noted. "Funds are distributed based on population and by adding a town of nearly 100,000 residents would make the pie smaller for other Pinal County towns."

One benefit to San Tan Valley incorporating is that it will make it easier to attract new businesses and retail firms to the community, Castillo added. Many are holding back fearing that the ground rules will change radically should the community to opt to become an incorporated city. Incorporating sooner rather than later will set the San Tan Valley identity and make it more attractive to development.

According to the League of Arizona Towns and Cities, if San Tan Valley incorporates, it would immediately become the largest city in Pinal County (nearly double the size of Casa Grande) and the 11th largest city in all of Arizona.

## calendar MAY-JUNE 2016

### FLORENCE COPPER COFFEE

19

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 May 26.



### FULL MOON HIKE

13

Discover the beauty of the Sonoran Desert at night, as we hike under the light from the full moon. Head over to the San Tan Mountain Regional Park on Saturday, May 21, for a pristine 2.2-mile stroll along the Stargazer Trail. Listen for the sounds of wildlife and explore the night-life atmosphere. The pace of the hike will be relatively mild or slow to help enjoy the surroundings. Flashlights are welcomed. No pets, please. Meet at the Flag Pole. Event starts at 8 p.m. and is included with the \$6 per vehicle entry fee. For more information, go online to: <http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/santan/> The Park is located at 6533 W. Phillips Rd., Queen Creek, AZ 85142.



### POWWOW FARMERS MKT.

11

On Saturday, June 11, 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.



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# Poston Butte's Dinh and Joss are top academic scholars

By Andrew Luberda  
STVDailyPRSS.com

Poston Butte Principal Dr. Shannon Anderson was ready

to name Rachael Dinh and Jacob Joss the Class of 2016's top academic scholars, but with grades not being finalized until next week she could not announce which was the Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

Nonetheless, the STV Daily PRSS spoke with scholars during a brief Q & A, which is listed below along with the school each is attending, their GPA, awarded scholarships, and areas of study.



RACHAEL DINH

**RACHAEL DINH – University of Arizona**  
GPA: 4.714  
Awarded scholarships: Wildcat Excellence Award  
Area of study: Neuroscience and Cognitive Science  
**What was your favorite class at PBHS and why?**

My favorite class was AP Psychology during my sophomore year. It was the class that helped me to determine what I wanted to major in at college and what I wanted to do in life. I also really liked my teacher, Mr. Jones.

**What is something that you can take away from your academic experience at PBHS that will benefit you in college and perhaps the rest of your life?**

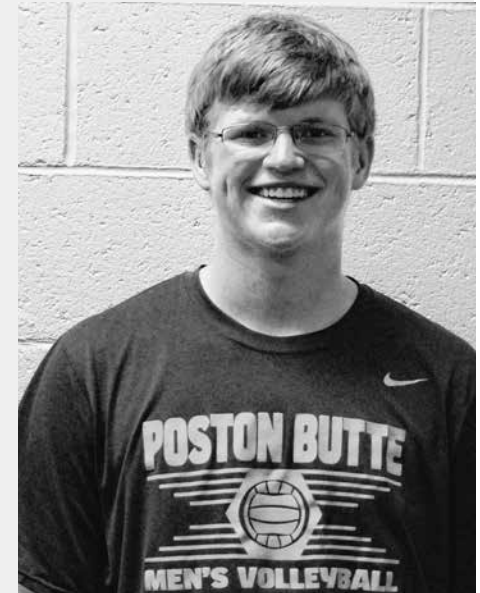
One thing I've definitely learned is to ask questions and it's OK to not know something. I sometimes didn't ask questions because I felt like I should've known the answers and didn't want to appear I wasn't as smart. I've also learned to make friends with all sorts of people and how to work with a diverse group.

**JACOB JOSS – Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University**  
GPA: 4.785  
Awarded scholarships: ASU President Scholarship and Solutions Grant  
Area of study: Dual Major – Computer Systems Engineering and Political Science  
**What was your favorite class at PBHS and why?**

My sophomore year I took Honors Chemistry and it was my favorite class because of the people in (it) and the teacher, Mr. Potts. That's the class that really excited me about learning. I'm not sure whether it was the subject material or the teacher, but it just made it fun to learn, in general.

**What is something that you can take away from your academic experience at PBHS that will benefit you in college and perhaps the rest of your life?**

Just because people may say no or that you can't do something doesn't mean that it's the end for you. There are so many more options other than what you may have wanted in the



JACOB JOSS

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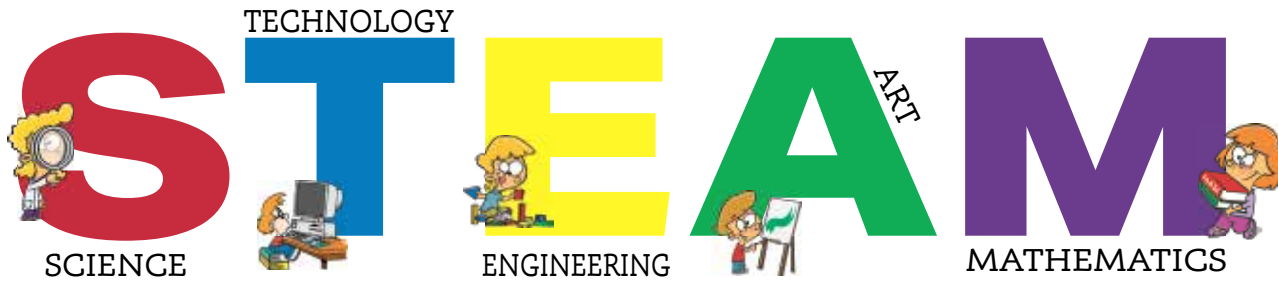
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# Circle Cross Ranch K-8 S.T.E.M. Academy earns excellence award

By Andrew Luberda  
STVDailyPRSS.com

It's been quite a school year for the Circle Cross Ranch K – 8 S.T.E.M. Academy, beginning the year in the first of three-year transition to becoming an accredited public S.T.E.M. Academy and now finishing it by earning the Arizona Educational Foundation's A+ School of Excellence Award.

The award, which lasts three years, is given annually to a select number of K – 12 schools across the state from a list of finalists generated by the Arizona Education Foundation (AEF). An AEF committee tours the each finalist school to make site visits before determining which schools best fit their criteria for the award.

Circle Cross Ranch K – 8 S.T.E.M. Academy is the second Florence Unified School District School to earn the A+ School of Excellence Award, joining Poston Butte High School, which won the award in

2015.

"The Florence Unified School District is extremely proud of all the time and effort our students, teachers, administrators and staff at the Circle Cross Ranch K – 8 S.T.E.M. Academy have done to earn this prestigious award," FUSD Superintendent Dr. Amy Fuller said in a statement.

The goals for schools that earn the award are as follows:

1. Administer high quality, well-known and sought-after programs that develop and celebrate excellence in Arizona's students, teachers, schools and school leaders.
2. Serve as a resource to facilitate sharing of best practices among educators to promote excellence in education.
3. Foster partnerships and raise awareness about AEF and its mission among educators, government offices, the private sector and the public to benefit the educational community.

The AEF recognized the efforts of the

Continued on page 7



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Circle Cross Ranch K-8 STEM Academy students, teachers and administrators worked together to earn the A+ rating.

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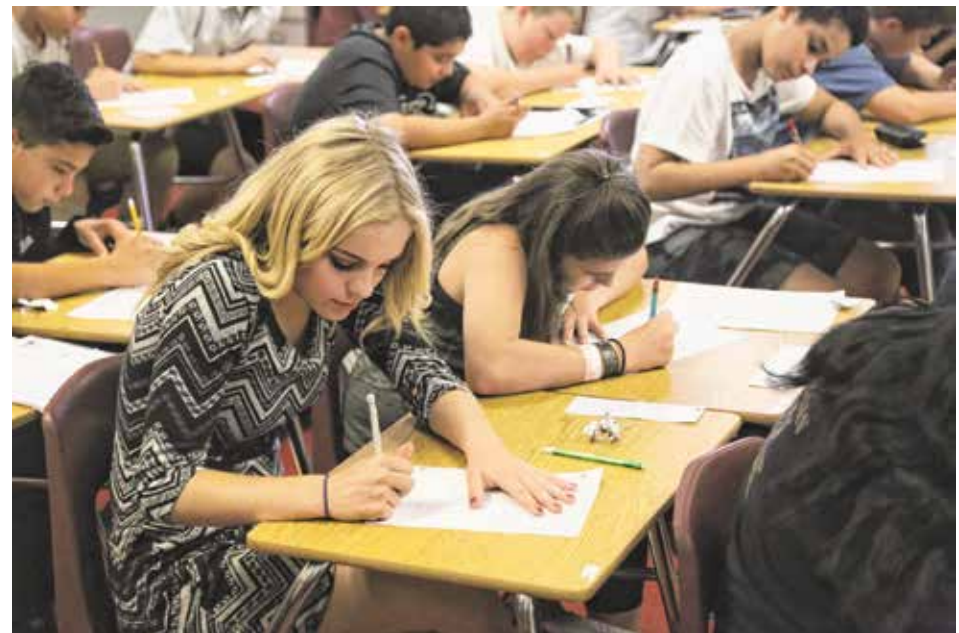


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## EXCELLENCE

Circle Cross Ranch K-8 STEM Academy counts academics as one area of excellence.



### ALL GRADE LEVELS

It takes students at all grade levels to help Circle Cross Ranch K-8 earn the A+ Excellence Rating.

## Circle Cross STEM

Continued from page 6

Academy to administer “sought-after programs,” which was the result of FUSD school and district administrators who knew S.T.E.M. education was the wave of the future. That fact alone is a testament to what the AEF thought about the success of CCR’s first-year implementation plan despite its infancy stages.

“It’s incredibly rewarding because we took a huge risk converting to a S.T.E.M. Academy for our district, which had never been done before,” CCR Principal Rebecca Hendry said. “Our district administration and board members supported our plan and approved the funding that we needed to implement this new concept.”

“Throughout the first-year implementation, our team surpassed the goals we set for ourselves,” Hendry added. “I believe that the A+ judges saw many other examples of program excellence.”

Hendry believes the award will have considerable impact in several areas over the next few years, including the second

year of the S.T.E.M. implementation plan, the development of new community partnerships, and enrollment at both CCR and Poston Butte High School.

“This award is very special to our team and community,” she said. “Another goal is to see a large number of eight-grade students sign up for the S.T.E.M. Diploma program at Poston Butte when they become freshman as well.”

What does this award say about the teaching staff at the Circle Cross Ranch K – 8 S.T.E.M. Academy?

“I think this speaks volumes about the team that works at our school,” Hendry responded. “Our teachers and support staff are extremely committed to our vision and to our students success.”

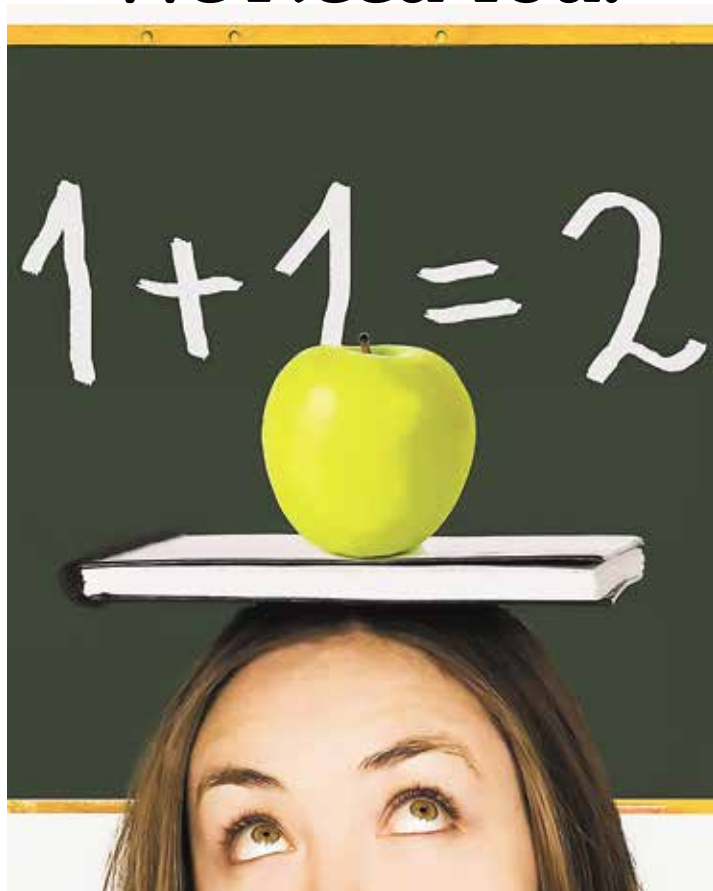
“There is nothing more rewarding than putting your heart and soul into a goal, working hard with people that you love and care about, and achieving victory together,” she continued. “It was a sweet moment for our team.”



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## TOP SCHOLARS

Queen Creek High School Academic Scholars  
from Lt to Rt - Austin Carpenter, Reigen  
Jensen, and Zach Murset.

## Q & A with trio of Queen Creek Academic Scholars

By Andrew Luberda  
STVDailyPRSS.com

The top three academic scholars of the Class of 2016 include co-valedictorians Reigen Jensen and Austin Carpenter. The class's salutatorian is Zach Murset.

Listed below are the GPA of each, scholarships they've been awarded, the college or university they are will attend and their area of study. Also listed is a brief Q & A with each scholar.

**AUSTIN CARPENTER – Brigham Young University**

GPA: 4.75

Awarded scholarships: Full tuition academic scholarship at BYU for freshman year.

Area of study: Pre-Med or other Physician-related studies

**What was your favorite class at QCHS and why?**

I have to say AP Chemistry because the teacher, April Morgan, just seemed to care more, on a personal level. She really helped us out wanted to be sure we were always prepared. It was a really fun class and we got to be in the lab to do a lot of experiments.

**What is something that you can take away from your academic experience that will**

**benefit you in college and perhaps the rest of your life?**

Just learning how to get things done and prioritizing to please people; know how to best utilize my time to please teachers and parents. I think a skill I need to have my whole life to make the people around you happy and in turn build relationships that will make me happier.

**REIGEN JENSEN – Brigham Young University**

GPA: 4.75

Awarded scholarships: Full tuition academic scholarship at BYU for freshman year and the Local Chapter Kiwanis Club Scholarship.

Area of study: Business Management or Entrepreneurship

**What was your favorite class at QCHS and why?**

My favorite class was AP Physics with Fred Claire. I really liked that class because of the classroom environment. There wasn't a ton of pressure to be perfect in class. Mr. Claire made us want to succeed (for our own reasons) and we demonstrated that. It helped me develop a sense of responsibility and made me realize that I'm the driver in my experience here. I get to decide what happens and that class helped create that

Continued on page 11



# Poston Butte's Zaker signs with Bethany College

By **Andrw Luberda**  
STVDailyPRSS.com

Soon-to-be Class of 2016 graduate Josh Zaker signed his National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Bethany College, located in Lindsborg, Kansas, during a signing event on May 11 at The Barn, aka the Broncos' basketball gymnasium.

"I wanted to get out of Arizona and be independent," Zaker answered when asked why he chose Bethany College over some other schools that offered him. "When I went on my visit I really liked the coaching staff and the atmosphere at the school."

The now-former golf, baseball, and basketball athlete plans to study Business Administration and Business Management at the NAIA school, which is a member of the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Zaker was a three-year varsity player on the Broncos' basketball team, which allowed him to finish in the top-10 all-time in points scored and games played.

"We haven't had a lot of (three-year varsity players) here," Poston Butte head coach Noel Nafziger told *STVDailyPRSS.com*. "I think there have been only four or five guys that have played varsity here for three-years. Josh is the only one who played all five positions during his varsity career."

Zaker likely would've never moved from his original position in the post if not for

the commitment to transform his body between his sophomore and junior seasons, when he lost more than 30 pounds.

"I dedicated that summer to working on my guard skills instead of just being stuck in the post," Zaker said. "I also worked with coaches on my jump shot."

After entering his sophomore season at 245 pounds, Zaker now weighs 200.

"I've got pictures of him as a freshman when he came in," Nafziger said. "It's crazy the amount of work that he put in; he changed his diet, got after it in the weight room, and made the commitment that he wanted to change what he was about."

He added, "There are a lot of things to be proud of Josh for, but certainly his (transformation) is at the top."

In addition to benefiting his long-term health and well-being, Zaker's weight loss ultimately proved to benefit him athletically, allowing him the opportunity to attract the attention of schools at the next level.

"I know that (schools) want guys who can do a lot of things and certainly Josh can do them," Nafziger said. "He can post-up and score, he can shoot it, and he can put the ball on the floor a little bit too. He's got a lot of things that he can do to help a team and I think all of it will translate at the next level."

What is Zaker's greatest memory of his athletic career at Poston Butte?

"Mostly the coaching staffs that I've had here and all of my teammates," he responded. "I've always enjoyed being

around Coach Nafziger, all my other coaches, and my teammates. We always had a good time and got along well."



## COLLEGE CHOSEN

Josh Zaker - Photo by Andrew Luberda.

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# The Bubbly Hostess Serves Cosmoritas



## SUMMERY COCKTAIL

Cosmorita

## Cosmorita

Serves 1

Adapted from Sandra Lee's Cocktail Time Site

Ice cubes  
3 ounces cranberry juice  
1/2 cup Sandra Lee Cocktail Time® Key Lime Margarita  
1 splash sweetened lime juice  
Salt  
Lime slice

Fill a cocktail shaker with ice. Add cranberry juice, key lime margarita, and lime juice. Cover and shake vigorously. Wet the rim of a chilled martini glass with water. Dip the rim in salt. Carefully strain cranberry juice mixture into martini glass. Garnish with a lime slice.

## QCHS Scholars

Continued from page 8

ability.

**What is something that you can take away from your academic experience that will benefit you in college and perhaps the rest of your life?**

Queen Creek is really diverse and there are a lot of different types of people here. Interacting with all those people has given me a sense of perspective and helped me to see other people's points of view, and in a way develop my own.

**ZACH MURSET – Brigham Young University**

GPA: 4.6

Awarded scholarships: BYU New Freshman Scholarship, ASU President's Scholarship, and Central Arizona College Scholarship

Area of study: Finance or Accounting

**What was your favorite class at QCHS and why?**

It was probably Economics with Mr. Ruiz. He taught me a lot about real life and had some interesting perspectives on life that were eye-opening to me.

**What is something that you can take away from your academic experience that will benefit you in college and perhaps the rest of your life?**

For me, I'd say balance because it's something we're definitely going to need in college. The ability to balance school with sports, church and whatever activities I'm in will be need for me to remain productive.

**By Heather Sneed**  
Bubbly Hostess

It's week 3 of Cocktail Month and this drink combines a margarita with a cosmopolitan – and it's delicious!

Last year when Sandra Lee launched her new Cocktail Time Margaritas, I featured a few drinks including Passionpolitans using a recipe from her website, Pineapple Margaritas, and a fun, 4th of July drink, Strawberry Sparklers. You can find all of these on my site at [www.bubblyhostess.com](http://www.bubblyhostess.com).

With Cinco de Mayo taking place this month, I thought I would make

Cosmoritas, this is another recipe you can also find on Sandra Lee's website. These are super easy and will be a great addition to you Cinco de Mayo celebration... cheers!

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.



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