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Football, an indoor sport? It was this week at STFHS

Page 6



Andrew Luberda | Ledger

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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

Joanne Arla Hicks

Joanne Arla Hicks, beloved sister, aunt, mother, and grandmother, passed away on July 31, 2015, in Gilbert, Arizona, after a long illness.

Born Joanne Webb in Detroit, Michigan on Aug. 2, 1945 to George and Edna Webb, Joanne proudly served her nation as a member of the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1989. She had a distinguished career that took her to several duty stations around the country and the world. Achieving the rank of Petty Officer First Class before her discharge, Joanne would later serve as the first woman post commander of VFW Post 3901 in Algonac, Michigan while working in her civilian life as a school age child care professional.

Joanne was preceded in eternity by her first husband, Alexander Martinez, and her second husband, Earl "Butch" Hicks. She is survived by her brothers, John Webb, Tim Webb, and George Webb; her sister, Lois Payette; her son, Don Martinez; and her granddaughter, Kahlan Martinez. She will be dearly missed.

Services were held at San Tan Mountain View Funeral Home in Queen Creek, Arizona on Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015.

San Tan Mountain View is located at 21809 S. Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek, AZ. 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 or submit it online at www.SEVLedger.com. You can also request our newspaper through the mortuary or funeral home.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Boy Scout writes letter for Communications Badge

My name is Xander. I am a Boy Scout in Troop 136. I am writing this letter as part of my Communication Merit Badge. I want to thank you for all of the positive articles you print in the Ledger. I attend J.O. Combs Middle School. There are a

lot of great things happening here. Maybe you could come to my school and write an article about our football team.

Sincerely,
/s/ **Xander Howell**
San Tan Valley

Take a Tour of the Resolution Copper Project

Resolution Copper will be hosting bi-weekly tours on Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon in Superior, Arizona.

The tour will consist of a trip to our West and East Plant sites. Participants will have the opportunity to interact and ask questions with our RCM professionals during the tour.

Sign up today by visiting
www.resolutioncopper.com/media/site-tour/



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IT'S THE WEEKEND

AUGUST

12 Meteor Madness at Lost Dutchman State Park

Join Dr. Sky (Steve Kates), a leading authority on the skies, at the BEST meteor shower of the year, the Perseids. What makes it so special is that we get to experience the Perseids, with NO MOON... creating the best dark sky conditions for viewing and the best place for viewing is in the lost Dutchman State Park at the foot of the beautiful Superstition Mountain. For more information please visit bit.ly/1Hl6zT9.

14 Perseids Meteor Shower Hike and Viewing

For thousands of years the night sky has been more than just a break from the day. The stars can be a sight of great beauty, a puzzling mystery and a familiar beacon guiding you home. They can be seen from all over our planet and have been the inspiration for many of the stories we have come to enjoy today. Head over to the San Tan Mountain Regional Park for an unforgettable night hike (roughly 1.3 miles) and uncover the stories and myths from past cultures as we explore the constellations, planets and stars of the night sky. Please bring a flashlight, water, and proper hiking attire. Meet at the main trailhead area. Then join us at the main trailhead area for a Perseids Meteor Shower viewing. This event starts at 8 p.m. For more information please visit 1.usa.gov/1MCjTpN.

15 Scorpion Scavenger Hunt at San Tan Park

On a warm summer night, scouring the desert floor, the scorpions of San Tan look for their next meal. But who are the "BIG 3" of San Tan? Learn about the facts, myths and reputation behind these mysterious creatures during a short presentation in the Visitors Center at the San Tan Mountain Regional Park. Once you have learned all about scorpions you will be ready to meet them face to face on an exciting Scorpion Scavenger Hunt starting at 8 p.m. For more information, please visit 1.usa.gov/1WvK07.



22 Fourth Annual Prickly Pear Festival

The Superior Chamber of Commerce is planning its fourth annual Prickly Pear Festival for Saturday, Aug. 22, 2015 in the mining community of Superior. A fun filled day awaits those attending with desert hikes on the mountainside at dawn; a pancake breakfast with prickly pear food and wares at the old high school; the Cactus Lounge with art and entertainment and prickly pear beer, wine and margaritas; talks and demonstrations on how to use the ubiquitous prickly pear; lunchtime menus in the local restaurants featuring the fruit or the pad; food trucks with more delicacies; topped off by an evening Edible Desert Dinner and entertainment. Admission is free. Tickets for the dinner and entertainment are \$25 and are being sold by the Chamber of Commerce 520-689-0200. For more information please visit bit.ly/1JIPoJv.



22 Butterfly Walk at the Arboretum

Adriane Grimaldi is the education director at Butterfly Wonderland in Scottsdale - and Saturday Aug. 22 she's the Arboretum's special guest tour guide leading a walk to see butterflies ranging from Empress Leilia to Queen, Spring Azure and more. This relaxed and slow-moving walk that explores the BTA's Hummingbird-Butterfly Garden, Demonstration Garden and Children's Garden collections. Tour start time is 8:30 a.m. For more information, go online to <http://bit.ly/1eNDENj>.

Combs School District proposes \$40 Million bond issue for infrastructure, technology improvements

By James Hodl
Southeast Valley Ledger

A \$40 million bond issue to fund necessary improvements in the J.O. Combs Unified School District will be offered for voter approval in November. The Combs district covers San Tan Valley north of Empire Boulevard and Hash Knife Draw Road and some surrounding areas.

Unanimously approved by the Combs Governing Board in early July, the bond election will enable the District to address assorted infrastructural and classroom needs, said Dr. Gayle Blanchard, Superintendent of the Combs District. These include

- School and building renovations and improvements
- Technology upgrades, along with new classroom furniture and equipment
- Student transportation (buses) upgrades
- New construction to include community auditorium at Combs High School, and
- Maintenance/Transportation Facility and District Service Facility (construction to be on land already purchased, located south of Ranch Elementary and Combs High School).

These recommendation from administration were

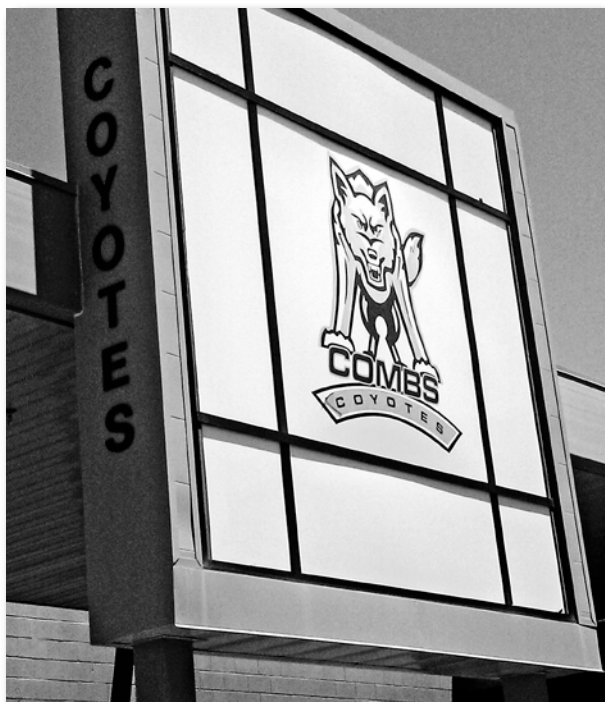
compiled after careful consideration and study, as well as consulting with and hearing from interested groups. In addition, the community phone survey demonstrated a base of voter support for the proposed \$40 million bond, Blanchard said.

The community auditorium would be located on the Combs High School campus at 2505 E. Germann Rd. Specific features of the facility have not been finalized but preliminary plans include a concert hall with stadium seating for 800-1,000, an integrated sound, lighting and video system, general dressing and costume rooms and an orchestra pit. This auditorium would be used to enhance course offerings at Combs High and would provide a venue for community activities and events.

To promote approval of the \$40 million bond issue, a political action group called Combs Kids Count has been organized. In addition to getting the word out as to why the bond issue is necessary, the group also will encourage voter registration.

For more information, individuals can go the Combs Kids Count Facebook page or attend an informational meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the SRP Call Center located at 3735 E. Combs Rd. San Tan Valley.

Voting on the bond issue will take place on Nov. 3.



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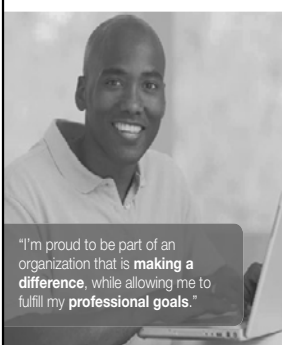
Jr High School: Sunday 10 & 11:30 a.m.; High School Sunday 5 p.m.

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Florence Copper Foundation bestows \$1,000 grant on Central Arizona College's Promise program

By James J. Hodl
Southeast Valley Ledger

The Florence Copper Community Foundation (FCCF) presented a \$1,000 grant check to the Central Arizona College Foundation (CACF) to help fund its Promise For the Future program during the group's weekly Coffee Club meeting on Aug. 6.

The ceremonial oversize check was presented by FCCF President Rebecca Rios to Margaret Dooley, CACF director, and Ashley Martinez, student currently benefiting from the Promise program. Promise For the Future is structured to encourage students throughout Pinal County to stay in high school and maintain at least a 2.75 grade point average in return for up to two years free tuition at Central Arizona College.

In presenting the check, Rios noted that for the FCCF's fourth grant check of 2015 it designated that the recipient be for an educational project. After going through all the submitted grant requests, FCCF chose the Promise program for its proven ability to spur students to continue their educations and help those who might not be able to afford college to attend.

On accepting the grant check, Dooley thanked FCCF for supporting a worthy initiative.

"Since its establishment in 1968, CACF has had the goal of keeping young people not only from dropping out of high school but also pursuing a college education," Dooley said.

"With the Promise For the Future program, a student signs a promise to complete all four years of high school with the goal of maintaining a minimum 2.75 grade point average on graduation. Students can pledge to achieve higher grade point averages for additional benefit. As part of the pledge, students also promise to perform 20 hours of community service," she noted.

"In return for fulfilling their obligation under the Promise, Central Arizona College provides the student with a tuition waiver for up to four semesters at any of the College's campuses (Coolidge, Apache Junction, Maricopa, San Tan Valley and Winkelman). Last year, the program awarded scholarships to more than 600 students," Dooley explained.

Helping accept the check was Martinez, who is one of the students benefiting from a Promise scholarship.

"I never thought I could attend college, but through the Promise program I earned two years of free tuition by maintaining my promised 3.8 grade point average," said



Present for the Florence Copper Community Foundation's (FCCF) presentation of a \$1,000 grant check to the Central Arizona College Foundation's (CACF) Promise for the Future program are: Rebecca Rios, FCCF president; Stacy Gramazio, FCCF senior community affairs advisor; Ashley Martinez, a student benefits from the Promise program; Margaret Dooley, CACF director; and Niki Cook FCCF community affairs advisor.

Florence Copper | Submitted

Martinez, who resides in Florence. "I now plan to go into Central Arizona College's nursing program and on graduation I plan to stay in the area and help the community."

FCCF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization funding by Florence Copper and its parent company Taseko Mines Ltd. of Canada. The Foundation regularly funds projects the benefit Florence and surrounding communities. Earlier this year, FCCF awarded grants to the Florence Food Bank, the Copper Basin YMCA, and the Future Florence Foundation, the latter working on senior citizen housing.

Also during the Aug. 6 meeting, Dan Johnson, general manager of Florence Copper, announced that the regulatory process for getting an underground injection permit the company's in-situ copper recovery production

test facility along Hunt Highway in north Florence. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) comment period that ended last April 30 went well for Florence Copper with testimony favoring the project far outweighing the four negative comments, and none of those comments gave Johnson "any pause." Johnson summed up the situation as "no longer if but when we get the EPA permit to begin tests. We could get that permit as early as late September."

Florence Copper's process differs from traditional mining operations as it doesn't involve sending workers underground or moving earth for strip mines. Instead it uses the in-situ copper recovery process in which a solution consisting of 99.5% water and 0.5% sulfuric acid is injected deep underground through a concrete-encased well to dissolve

copper far below the ground surface. The resulting copper-containing solution is pumped back to the surface using a series of extraction wells that control where the solution moves. The copper can then be extracted from the solution and formed into sheets that are more than 99% pure copper.

The in-situ process not only can extract copper from hundreds of feet underground without harming the surrounding environment or drinking water resources, but also produce copper at a cost less than half the current price copper sells for on commodity markets, Johnson said.

The EPA will allow Florence Copper to use the in-situ process at its production test facility for up to two years, after which EPA will access if the company can proceed with wider use of the process.

No excuses from Sabercats after difficult coaching transition

By Andrew Luberda
Southeast Valley Ledger

First came the resignation of former head coach Rodger Schenks just before the beginning of spring practice. That was followed by a reneged commitment from a newly hired coach who had agreed to be Schenks replacement.

As the summer training programs started in June for high school football teams across the state, San Tan Foothills was without a head coach and left to compete in 7-on-7 passing leagues with little direction.

By the time July rolled around, the 'Cats were still without a coach and it appeared increasingly likely there wouldn't be a summer camp up north, where many other schools go to build team camaraderie and begin intense preparation for the upcoming season.

The situation was so exasperating that some players enrolled in other schools, leaving the Sabercats with a very limited roster for whoever the new coach might be.

Facing what appeared to be dire situation, Athletic Director Tom Black hit the lottery for the players by hiring state champion head coach John Sanders, who won several state titles at Saguaro High School.

Sanders spent the first few weeks on the job trying to lure discontent players back to the program and recruit new ones. During a recent interview the new head coach said there are still less than 40 varsity players in the program but more are returning or arriving almost daily.

He knows the challenges that lie ahead but is undeterred as the 2015 season approaches. He's here to do what he's done several times before.

"We only do this to win championships," Sanders said. "We don't do this to win eight games."

The Sabercats are behind other teams at this point of training camp and they know it, but don't expect them to use it as an excuse. After overcoming some commitment "hurdles," as Sanders called them, there are some positive signs emanating from the players.

"What I really like now, that I didn't have (when I first took over), is they're starting to buy in," Sanders told the *Ledger*. "They're starting to understand what it takes to win a championship – they have to actually lift (weights) and they actually have to practice every day."

"I see some real toughness," he added. "I like the mental toughness in some of these kids and I think they really want to hit."



Excessive heat forced the Sabercats indoors for a practice last week.

Andrew Luberda | Ledger

Sanders is forced to limit the amount of contact during practices to avoid risking injury and further depleting an already-thin roster. It's just another challenge the Sabercats have to overcome without using it as an excuse.

Building a strong foundation is one of Sanders' first order of business since taking over at San Tan Foothills. He knows he has to move fast and so far he's satisfied with the response from the players, although he senses the commitment he's demanding is more than some players have ever been asked to give previously.

"We talk a lot about high character, competing in the classroom, and discipline," Sanders answered when asked how he builds a foundation for success. "It's a commitment and character thing and (the players) have to understand that this is a full-time thing."

"I think they're coming around and we're going to end up with some pretty tough kids."

Sanders admitted he doesn't know much about the players right now but he's learning. It's difficult to know how and where certain players can make contributions. But make no mistake; he believes there's talent to work with at San Tan Foothills.

Returning players such as Kyle Stanifer, Joshua Smith, Caleb Ortiz, and Kaleb McCarn were among the best at their respective positions a year ago.

Transfer Manny Armenta and juniors Devon Ziman and Johnny Craig have



New STFHS offensive coordinator Mike Reardon gives instruction during last week's practice.

Andrew Luberda | Ledger

impressed their new coach so far during training camp.

Sanders, who will run the Sabercats' defense, hired former Mesquite head coach Mike Reardon as his offensive coordinator. The two best friends worked together to win a state championship in 2006 at Saguaro before Reardon left for Mesquite. Their relationship should expedite the installation of the team's offensive and defensive philosophies, strategies, and

concepts.

"It means a lot for me to have a guy who knows me and is one of my best friends in the world," Sanders said about Reardon. "We're on the same page with everybody and with everything."

They better be.

There's no time to waste.

The Sabercats open their season at home on Aug. 21 versus North Pointe Prep at 7 p.m.

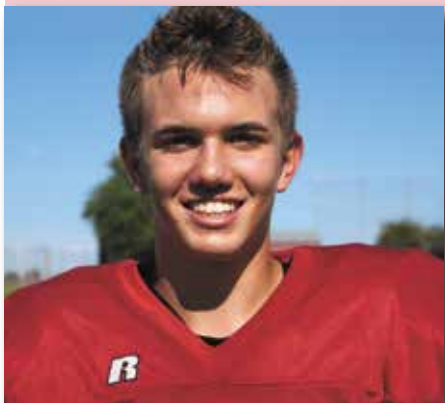
Under the Radar: Combs Coyotes

This is the second in a four-part series, by school, where the *Ledger* will profile football players who you may not know yet but will as the season progresses. For now, they are Under the Radar. Here is a list of Combs' players who are poised to have breakout seasons in 2015:



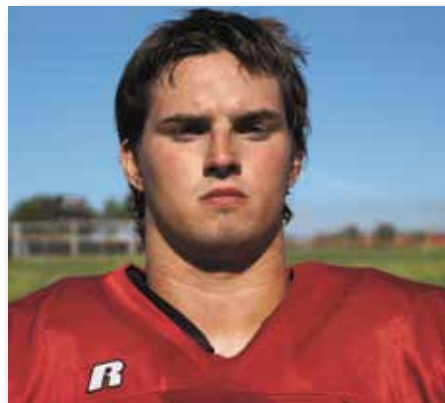
Ethan Hunt (Sr), QB – 5'10" 150

Hunt started the majority of the Coyotes' games last year, leading them to a second-consecutive playoff appearance. His stats – 801 passing yards, a 46 completion percentage, 11 touchdowns, six interceptions, and a 79.6 QB rating – were less than overwhelming in 2014. Hunt spent the offseason increasing his arm strength and accuracy, to the point that head coach Jesse Hart believes opposing defenses won't be able to stack the box this season. Hunt could spearhead a passing game that's been mostly absent in Combs' offensive repertoire.



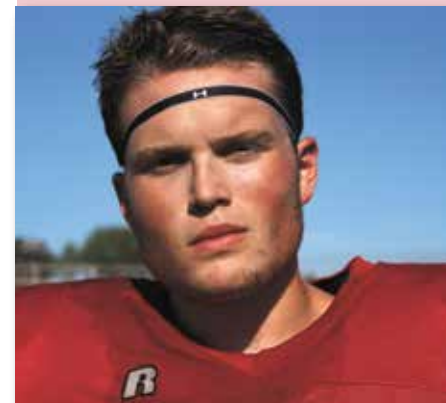
Todd Avery (Sr), LB – 6'0" 195

Avery is one of several Coyotes' defenders who earned postseason recognition a year ago. The All-Division linebacker finished fourth on the team with 68 tackles, which included four tackles-for-loss. He also had one interception and two fumble recoveries. Avery is one of several playmakers on a defensive unit that is undoubtedly the deepest and most talented ever at the school.



Jake Green (Sr), RB – 6'0" 210

Green is the Coyotes' leading returning rusher from a year ago, totaling 279 yards and three touchdowns. He came on strong near the end of last season, turning in his best performance against Coronado in the regular-season finale – 160 yards on 16 carries with two touchdowns. Green, who was part of running-back-by-committee approach last season, will carry the majority of the workload in the Coyotes' rushing attack this season.



Travis Cottle (Sr), OL/DL – 6'1" 220

Cottle is the Coyotes' lone returning starter along the offensive line, one of the few units on the team that lacks a number of experienced players. Cottle, a center, plays the most important position along the line and will be heavily relied upon to make the correct line calls and signals. Cottle is a part of a senior group that head coach Jesse Hart believes has shown the best leadership since he took over the Combs' football program. Cottle will be on top of his game, leading his fellow linemates by example in 2015.

Continued on page 9

Under the Radar: San Tan Foothills

This is the third in a four-part series, by school, where the *Ledger* will profile football players who you may not know yet but will as the season progresses. For now, they are Under the Radar. Here is a list of Sabercats' players who are poised to have breakout seasons in 2015:



Manny Armenta (So), ATH – Ht/Wt Unknown

Even though his positions are yet to be determined, Armenta will be an impact player on both sides of the ball for the Sabercats, according to new San Tan Foothills' head coach John Sanders. Armenta, who transferred from Chandler High School, could play wide receiver and/or running back on offense. During a recent practice he even took snaps at quarterback. As of now, he's expected to play safety on defense. Sanders, remember, had a couple "athletes" during his time at Saguaro. Where ever Armenta is on the field, opposing teams will see a lot of this sophomore playmaker.

Kaleb McCarn (Sr), OL/DL – 6'0" 181

McCarn, the Sabercats' lone returning offensive line starter, earned All-Division recognition a year ago. The undersized three-year varsity starter is the only remaining member of a group that had combined for 85 starts entering last season. He's still undersized, but any coach would love to have a lineman with McCarn's experience to lead a group of new starters. It didn't take long for Sabercats' head coach John Sanders to recognize the type of player McCarn was, calling the senior a "very good football player." Indeed he is.

Continued on page 8



SAN TAN FOOTHILLS

Continued from page 7



Lorenzo Verdugo (Sr), OL/DL – 5'10" 210

Verdugo is a four-year varsity player who's made his mark primarily as a defensive tackle, but he's been overshadowed the last two years by two-time Player of the Year Ricky Wilson. The All-Division selection from a year ago registered 21 tackles-for-loss last season to go along with six sacks and a fumble recovery. He has been a disruptive force during each of the last two seasons on a Sabercats' defense that allowed only 45 points last season, good enough for second in Section IV. With the departure of Wilson and some others on defense, now is the time for Verdugo to be a leader on defense. He'll be a disruptive force again in his final high school season.



Johnny Craig (Jr), TE/DE – Ht/Wt Unknown

Craig looks the part of a prototypical tight end and was one of the first names to roll off the tongue head coach John Sanders when the new coach was asked to name a few impact players on this year's roster. Sanders said Craig possesses a high football IQ and knows every position on the field. The junior played sparingly as a sophomore, but figures to be a top option in new offensive coordinator Mike Reardon's spread-option offense.



Devon Ziman (Jr), LB/RB – 5'11" 165

Ziman put up some gaudy statistics in limited action last season, rushing for 104 yards and two touchdowns on only nine carries. That's an average of almost 12 yards per rush. Now it's up to the second-year varsity running back to prove he can sustain that type of production over a full season. He's certainly will have his chance to do just that in the Sabercats' spread-option offense. With the departure of Player of the Year Ricky Wilson and the unknown status of the injured senior Saige Waxter, it's Ziman's time to shine and he will.

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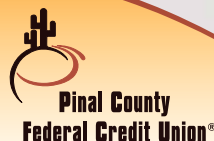
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Yotes seniors ready to make this season special

By Andrew Luberd
Southeast Valley Ledger

When Combs' head coach Jesse Hart volunteered to take over the Coyotes' football program two years ago the seniors on this year's team were entering their second season of high school football.

During their freshmen season in 2012 – the year before Hart took over – they watched as the varsity team won only one game.

As sophomores, some of them were members on a varsity team that “changed the culture” of the program, going 6 – 5 and reaching the playoffs for the first time in school history.

As juniors last year, most of them, if not all, were part of a 7 – 4 team that made a return trip to the playoffs.

Now in their final season, the group of seniors is ready to lead what most consider the deepest team ever at Combs. The plan is to parlay that depth and their experience into a run for the state championship.

“I like the leadership we're getting out of this team,” Hart answered when asked why he's optimistic about the upcoming season. “We have a good group of seniors who really want to be leaders.”

The seniors have seen both the best and the worst of Combs' football during their time in the program. That's not only on the field but also off it. Some seniors on this year's team were critical of the lack of senior leadership, especially last year, and vow to be the best leaders they can be this year.

They're motivated to make this season special and know their younger teammates are looking to them for leadership.

“The senior class has stepped up so much compared to last year,” said returning All-Division senior linebacker Todd Avery. “Last year we didn't have many big senior leaders, but

this year we've seen more leaders and the team is working hard, probably the hardest we've ever worked.”

On the heels of what he called the best summer camp since he became head coach, Hart believes the team's depth, as well as its experience, has the Yotes more ready than ever compared to previous seasons.

“We're so much further ahead as far as where the offense is, where the defense is, and where our special teams is,” Hart told the Ledger during a recent practice. “We're so much further ahead than we've been, just because these guys have been in the program (for several years).”

“Obviously, speed has been our thing – trying to be as fast as we can – but they've been really dedicated in the weight room,” the third-year head coach added. “So we're a lot bigger than we've been before.”

The Coyotes have been a strong running team since Hart took over and a stubborn one too. That's mainly because they've been such a successful rushing team but also the result of a less-than-efficient passing game in previous years. That will not be the case this season.

“We're going to be able to open it up a little bit in the passing game, which is really big for us so teams can't stack the box,” Hart said.

Avery is expected to pull double-duty this season, playing his normal linebacker position in addition to playing as a receiver on offense. Senior Trey O'haver is expected to be another receiving threat for the Yotes this season.

But who will get them the ball?

Ethan Hunt, last year's starting quarterback, appears to have the inside track to be named the starter again this season. The senior signal-caller worked to improve his game in the offseason and is excited to put it on display with the help of

Avery and O'haver.

“I've really learned to get out of the pocket,” said Hunt, describing the improvements he's made. “I've learned to get away from (the rush). My arm strength is improved a little bit – I feel like I can throw the ball harder – and we'll be able to get the ball downfield a little better than we did last year.”

The strength of the Coyotes for the past two seasons has been their defense and it will be again this season, which is a good thing because, as we all know, defense wins championships.

Last year, junior defensive end Coda McLaws was nearly unstoppable as he led the Coyotes in tackles and sacks. He was also second on the team in tackles-for-loss. Many consider McLaws one of the best defenders in the state, including his head coach, who has plans to move him around so opposing teams can't key on him.

“I'm excited, definitely, to be moving around,” McLaws said. “I'm excited to see what other guys can do at their positions. It's going to be a great experiment to see what happens and I'm excited to see what Coach Hart has in store for (us).”

The AIA's new division and section alignments resulted in the Coyotes remaining in Division IV and a member of Section III, which includes four playoff teams from a year ago – Coolidge, Florence, Fountain Hills, and Combs. Casa Grande and Coronado round out the six-team section.

“We have a legit section,” Hart said. “We're excited about it. We want to take on that tough competition. Our non-conference schedule is absolutely no joke (either). But that was done on purpose and I think the boys are ready (for the challenge).”

The Coyotes open their season on Aug. 28 at Estrella Foothills, one of seven playoff teams from a year ago on this year's schedule. Kickoff for the opener is scheduled for 7 p.m.

COMBS

Continued from page 7



Joshua Espinoza (Sr), OL/DL – 5'9" 205

This season will be Espinoza's first as a member of the Coyotes' football team after transferring from Illinois. The senior lineman has made a positive impression on his head coach and teammates in a short time since joining the team, proving to be player all of them believe can add another dimension to the Yotes' stifling defense. Espinoza's arrival appears to be a case of the rich-getting-richer on a defensive unit that could be among the best in Division IV.



Combs' head coach Jesse Hart leading linemen through drills during a practice last week.

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The Bubbly Hostess Makes an Artichoke & Prosciutto Salad

ARTICHOKE AND PROSCIUTTO SALAD

Serves 4

Recipe adapted from "Classic Italian Recipes"

12 oz. marinated
bottle of quartered
artichokes, drained
10-12 cherry tomatoes,
halved
1 cup
halved Kalamata olives
8 thin slices of
prosciutto cut into thin
strips
1 tablespoon fresh basil
leaves, julienned
4 oz. burrata, cut into
bite sized pieces
fresh basil sprigs, to
garnish

Dressing

4 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons red wine
vinegar
2 small garlic cloves,
crushed

2 tablespoons course ground Dijon mustard
salt & pepper, to taste

Combine the artichokes, tomatoes, olives, and prosciutto in a mixing bowl. Toss gently to combine.

To make the dressing, put all of the ingredients into a screw-top jar and shake vigorously until the ingredients are thoroughly blended.

Pour the dressing over the salad and toss together.

Transfer the salad to individual plates, sprinkle the torn basil on top, add the pieces of burrata to each plate, and garnish each with basil sprigs. Serve immediately.



Artichokes, prosciutto, olives, basil... and OK, even tomatoes...what's not to love? I am not a huge fan of tomatoes that are not made into a salsa or pasta sauce, but even threw some cherry tomatoes into this salad for myself. Quartered of course, not whole. The beauty of this salad is that you could also skewer most of the ingredients and make an appetizer out of it.

This is a super easy dish - perfect for lunch or even as a first course at a dinner party. I was inspired by a recipe I found in a cookbook that I have owned for years called "Classic Italian Recipes" - I think it was one of those Costco finds, all I know is that I have used it for years! I added a few pieces of burrata to the salad as well, I couldn't resist.

I love to hear feedback! Please visit my blog at www.thebubblyhostess.com.



THE BUBBLY HOSTESS

By Heather Sneed
Special to the Ledger

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