

A community publication of Copperarea.com

### OBITUARIES

## **Jacobo Gonzales Kame**

It is with great sadness and sorrow but also with heartfelt joy in knowing that he is now in heaven that the family of Jacobo Gonzales Kame (aka Kamei) announces his passing on Saturday, July 25, 2020. Jacobo was the second son of Yonegiro "JY" Kamei and Genoveva Gonzales.

Jacobo married Luz Quesada on March 24, 1941 and had 5 children, Jaime (Catalina), Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Guzman, deceased (former husband Abe), Jacob "Jake" (Danira), Roxane "Roxie" Alvarado (Arturo) and Joe

# The Superior Sun

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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

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Michael "Jomiko" (Andrea). In addition to his 5 children, Jacobo also is survived by 14 grandchildren, 23 greatgrandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren. Jacobo was preceded in death by his loving wife of 74 years Luz, his daughter Lizzie, brother Alfredo G. Kame, and parents, Yonegiro and Genoveva.

Jacobo unfortunately experienced a part of United States history that now is viewed as a racist over-reaction to persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States. Jacobo, Luz and Jaime were interred at the Poston Internment Camp in Poston, Arizona after President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942 requiring the relocation or internment of all persons of Japanese Ancestry. Unfortunately, while driving to the Poston Internment Camp on May 2, 1942, Jacob, Luz, Jaime and Yonegiro as well as 7 relatives of the Yoshikawa family were in an automobile accident in Mesa, Arizona, from which Yonegiro died of his injuries a few days later.

Jacobo was raised and educated and lived his entire life in Hayden. Jacobo's first job was working as a butcher at Kame General Merchandise, the family grocery store in San Pedro and was known to make the "best" chorizo in town. Jacobo worked for Kennecott Copper Corporation for over 30 years and retired because he wanted to travel. He especially enjoyed Las Vegas and Hawaii. Jacobo also worked as a police officer for the Town of Hayden for a number of years.

Our Dad was a very good man but a man of very few words. If we did something wrong, his look would convey his disappointment in us. His look also made you straighten up real fast. Our Dad taught us to be responsible, hard-working, and a person that could be trusted and counted on not only by words but



also by example. He was always working hard yet he never complained. Dad taught his sons how to repair all things in our home or vehicles as well as how to hunt and fish or even to just enjoy camping.

Dad was a special "partner" to Roxie in her "after school chores" as he always gladly helped her so that she could spend time with friends or even watch TV. Dad was a man whose family came first as there is nothing he enjoyed more than visits from all his children and grandchildren.

Thank you Dad for being the loving, kind, compassionate Man you were. Roxie was especially blessed and honored to take care of you and share the last years of your life. May God Bless You. Until We meet again in Heaven to experience eternal life, we will love you and will miss you every day of our lives.

Services for Jacob were held Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020 at St. Josephs Catholic Church in Hayden, AZ. He was laid to rest at Fairview Cemetery in Superior.

## Tommy 'Zepol' Lopez

Tommy "Zepol" Lopez was born on Oct. 12, 1971 to Joey and Olga Lopez in Globe, Arizona. He passed away at the young age of 47 on Aug. 4, 2020.

Tommy is preceded in death by his father Joseph Lopez, Jr., his grandparents Paul and Enedina Castaneda and Joe and Helen Lopez. He is survived by his wife Kristina, children - Andrew, Jesse, Jasmine and Antonio, his dog Riley, his mother Olga, his brother Joseph and family, Mario and his family.

He grew up in Superior where he attended and graduated from Superior High School in 1991. During his high school years, he played basketball for four years. He met his wife Kristina when he was employed at Pixley Richards. They were married for 25 years and made their home in Superior. They have four children, Andrew, Jesse, Jasmine and Antonio. He was employed at Central Arizona Florence Correctional Complex for about 22 years as a correctional officer.

Tommy was involved in the Superior Little League where he coached many of the players, including his sons. He was also involved at the Superior Jr. and Sr. High School where he helped run the clock and keep score at many of the football, volleyball and basketball games.

Tommy had a passion in playing horseshoes. He would play locally and in surrounding communities. He and his brothers have helped organize many horseshoe and cornhole tournaments that would benefit



anyone in need of assistance. He was well known for running pool games at Los Bros and even at the VFW.

Services for Tommy will be held Saturday, Aug. 15, 2020 at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Rosary will begin at 9:30 a.m. followed by Mass at 10 a.m. He will be laid to rest at Fairview Cemetery.

Family was assisted with exceptional services by Superior Funeral Home.

Obituaries are published free of charge in the Superior Sun. If you have an obituary you would like us to print, submit it online at copperarea.com, click on "Customer Service."

You can also request our newspaper through the mortuary or funeral home.

## **OBITUARIES**

## Conchita 'Connie' S. Lopez

Conchita "Connie" S. Lopez, 65, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020, in Superior, AZ. She was born on Dec. 8, 1954, in El Fuerte, Mexico, in the state of Sinaloa.

Conchita, or "Connie", was a CNA for 30 years. She was happily married to the late Steve Lopez Sr., for 34 years. She enjoyed spending time with her family, dancing, going with her husband to his music events, and going to the casino.

Conchita is preceded in death by her husband, Steve Lopez, parents, Angel and Maria Soto; and brother, Filiberto "Paco" Soto. She is survived by her sons, Steve (Toni) Lopez Jr., Jimmy (Alex Contreras) Lopez, and Eduardo Lopez; and grandchildren, Stephanie, Audrina, Ashley, Jimmy Jr., and Natalie. She is also

survived by her brothers, Miguel (Graciela) Soto, Camillo (Veronica) and Jose (Lupita); and sisters, Dora (Manuel) Sarmiento, Lydia (Manuel) Ortega, Martha (Rogelio) Torres, Andrea



(Luis) Villalobos and Yolie Soto.

A viewing will be held on Thursday, Aug. 13, 6-8 p.m. at the Superior Funeral Home. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, Aug. 14, at St. Francis Church of Assisi in Superior, with interment to follow at Fairview Cemetery. Rosary will start at 9:30 a.m., followed by Mass at 10 a.m.

## Donetta Wright



Donetta Wright, 58, passed away at her home in San Manuel on July 9, 2020, of unknown cause.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Gregory Bryan Arnett; sister, Darla Wright

Starks; grandson, Bently Adonis Wright; grandparents, George Wright, Lillie Belle Wright Wall, Donald (duck) and Edna Graham; and aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her parents, Donald and Donnie Wright; sister, Kimberly Wright; brother, George Wright; best friend, Tammy Valenzuela; children, Kristie Arnett, Jennifer Arnett, Bryan Arnett, Kimberly Arnett and Nicholas Wright; 11 grandchildren; one greatgrandchild; and two nieces, Chelsea and Jessie Starks.

Donetta was born in Superior, where she received her formal education. In 1985, she made her life in San Manuel. She was a homemaker and loved having game nights with her parents, children and grandchildren. Donetta loved helping people and was with the Lions Club for many years. Dancing was an enjoyment to her. She will always be remembered as a wonderful, loving, caring person. Her heart was beautiful as she was.

Services will be held Saturday, Aug. 15, at 11 a.m. in the San Manuel First Baptist Church, located at N. First Ave. in San Manuel, with lunch to follow. Pastor Kevin Duncan will officiate.

## Superior Police Report

Items are given to The Superior Sun by the Superior Police Department and reflect information available at the time the report is compiled.

Activity listed July 26 - Aug 1. July 29

Burglary was reported on the 700 block of Simpson St.

of Simpson St. **Aug. 1** 

Road Rage was reported on the 1000 block of US Hwy. 60.

Calls not listed include: traffic (16), information (3), alarm (2), citizen assist (1), civil matter (2), illegal shooting (1), neighbor problem (1), unwanted person (1), trespassing (1), animal problem (4), attempt to locate (1), suspicious activity (1), welfare check (3), agency assist (2) and medical (1).

# Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Arizona Corporation Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$18.47 per month and business services are \$35.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or broadband service per household, which can be on either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 20 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone or broadband service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-244-1111 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



# COPPER CORRIDOR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please note: many events have been canceled or postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please check with organizations when planning to attend events listed.

#### **Summer Hours for Hayden**

The Town of Hayden Public Works Department has begun its summer hours. The hours are from 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please plan on having garbage available for pick up one hour earlier.

#### **BYOM: Bring Your Own Masks**

Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center is asking everyone to bring their own mask when you come to the hospital. Thank you.

#### **VFW Meetings Resume**

The VFW Post 2767 (San Manuel) meetings have resumed. The Post meets at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month at the San Manuel Elks Lodge.

#### **Dudleyville Burn Ban**

Effective May 1 - Sept. 30 a BURN BAN is in effect for the Dudleyville Volunteer Fire District which includes the area of Dudleyville, Indian Hills and Aravaipa. Burn permits for both residential and agricultural purposes are not valid during this time.

## Tri-Community Food Bank is Open

The Tri-Community Food Bank located at 108 Redwood Drive in Mammoth continues to be in business. We are observing social distancing. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. To be eligible you must show proof of address that you live near or in Mammoth, San Manuel and Oracle and have an income within the federal poverty guidelines. The thrift shop is closed and is not accepting donations. Call 520-487-2010 for more information.



#### Join the Sea Lions Swim Team

If you are interested in joining the Sea Lions Swim Team, we are practicing at the Mammoth Pool, Monday – Friday from 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. We welcome swimmers of all ages and abilities. Please contact Alex and Wendy Gort at 896-2190 for more information.

#### Free Dump Day

Free Dump Day in Kearny will be returning as soon as Pinal County Public Works and Health Department determines that it is safe to allow dumping at the Kearny Transfer Station. Until the return of Free Dump Day it is recommended that residents take advantage of vouchers issued by Pinal County that can be used at the Dudleyville Dump. Vouchers are available at the Mammoth Office of Supervisor Pete Rios. Call (520) 487-2941 for information.

#### Census 2020

Census 2020 responses help your community get its fair share of more than \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, health care, roads, public works and other vital programs. If you haven't returned your family's Census 2020 information please do so as soon as possible. Help your community get its fair share!

#### **Mammoth Pool is Open**

The Mammoth Pool is open to the Public. The schedule will be changing throughout the summer, so please check out our Facebook page for the latest news and schedule updates. You can also check the Town of Mammoth website or call the pool at 487-2031.

#### Eagle One Veteran Outreach

Visit Eagle One Veteran Outreach Center online at hohp4heroes.org. Eagle One provides veterans a place to learn about and apply for all services available to them.

#### **Local Parks Information**

Until further notice, the ramadas at Kearny Town Parks and campgrounds at Kearny Lake are closed for public use. Likewise, the Winkelman Flats have been closed by the Town of Winkelman.

## Town of Hayden Water Line Construction

The Town of Hayden is beginning the CDBG Water Line construction project within the next couple of weeks. Certain streets in San Pedro will be closed during the project. Residents will be notified when streets will be closed and traffic will be detoured.

### **AUGUST**

## Fairview Cemetery Cleanup Day - Superior

Rebuild Superior, Inc. is hosting another cleanup day at Fairview Cemetery on Aug. 8, 6-9 a.m.. We will focus on the northwest sections that have significant overgrowth. Weed-eaters will be helpful to clear the brush so it can be raked out. Water and shade will be available for volunteers. Please bring your own gloves and tools, extras will be available. Masks and social distancing will be in effect so we can maintain everyone's health and safety. For more info contact Manny Guzman at (520) 261-0249.

## Enchilada Dinner at the San Pedro Valley Lions Club

On Saturday, Aug. 8 the San Pedro Valley Lions Club, located at 115 S. Main St. in Mammoth will be serving flat enchilada, rice, beans, cupcake and drink for \$9 a plate, from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Call 520-487-2000 with any questions.



Burger Dinner at the San Pedro Valley Lions

On Saturday, Aug. 22, visit the San Pedro Valley Lions Club, located at 115 S. Main St. in Mammoth from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. for a tasty dinner of a hamburger or cheeseburger, fries, cupcake and drink for \$9 per plate; extra burger for \$4 Call 520-487-2000 with any questions.

### **SEPTEMBER**



## 5 Pollo Rojo Dinner at the Lions Club

Don't be a chicken! Come to the San Pedro Valley Lions Club, at 115 S. Main St. in Mammoth, from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Saturday Sept. 5 for a red chili chicken with potatoes dinner with rice, beans, cupcake and drink for \$9 per plate. Call 520-487-2000 with any questions.

## **COPPER CORRIDOR CHURCH DIRECTORY**

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> Carlos Gonzalez 520-487-2219

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## Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

San Manuel Ward • 101 S. Giffin Ave.

Bishop Jim Bingham 520-385-4866

Sunday Morning Meetings: Sacrament 10 a.m. Scripture Study 11 a.m.

### Church of the Good Shepherd

Bottom of School Hill, Kearny

Pastor Jimmy Nelson 520-363-7283

www.thegoodshepherd.pbworks.com

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

UMC in cooperation with the Episcopal Church & the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America We stand in awe of God and of one another

#### Family Life Christian Center

56 Kellner Ave., Superior
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520-689-2202

Sunday Prayer 9:45 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. 2nd Sunday Miracle Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 6 p.m.

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#### **First Baptist Church**

103 W. Galiuro, Mammoth

Pastor Joe Ventimiglia 520-405-0510

Sunday School – 9 a.m. Sunday Worship – 10 a.m. Prayer Meeting Wed. – 5:30 p.m. Movie Night Last Friday of the Month – 7 p.m.

"The Church on the Hill"

#### First Baptist Church Full Gos

1st & Nichols, San Manuel

Pastor Kevin Duncan 385-4655

Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Discipleship 5 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.

Love God, Love People

Pastor James Ruiz

520-896-2771

Join us at Noon

402 Danbury Rd., Kearny

www.lwcoracle.org

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LWC Kearny

### **Full Gospel Church of God**

301 E. Webb Dr., San Manuel

Pastors Michael & Bea Lucero Sr. 520-385-1250 • 520-385-5017

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. No Evening Service Wednesday 6 p.m. Teen Group 3rd Friday of every month at 6 p.m.

#### Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Church

501 Victoria Circle, Kearny

Rev. Fr. George Kunnel (Pastor) 520-363-7205

Daily Masses Tues. 5:30 p.m.; Thurs. 8:30 a.m. Saturday Vigil 6 p.m.; Sunday Mass 9 a.m. Sunday Religious Ed for Children, Youth Ministry & Jr. High Youth Groups 10:15 a.m.

#### **Kearny Church of Christ**

103 Hammond Dr., Kearny

Minister George Randall 520-363-7711

Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

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## Lighthouse Assembly of God

Hwy. 77, MP 134, 1/2 mi S of Winkelman

Pastor David Wade 520-356-6718

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www.lwcoracle.org Find us on Facebook @ LWC Oracle

### Oracle Assembly of God

1145 Robles Rd. Oracle

Pastor Nathan Hogan

Sunday Prayer 10 a.m. Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

#### **Oracle Church of Christ**

2425 El Paseo Oracle

**Richard Ferris** 520-818-6554

Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

## Oracle Seventh-Day Adventist Church

2150 Hwy 77 Oracle

Pastor Michael Soto

Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 a.m. Saturday Worship Service 11 a.m.

### Advertise Your Church

Here!

## Pathway of Hope Foursquare Church

3270 E. Armstrong Ln., Tucson (Behind Golden Goose)

> Pastor Karen Kelly 520-344-4417

Saturday Worship 9 a.m.

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www.pathwayofhope.net pastorkaren@pathwayofhope.net

## Presbyterian Church of Superior

100 Magma Ave., Superior **520-689-2631** 

Worship Service Sunday: 10 a.m. All are welcome.

Anonymous prayer box located at Save Money Market. We will pray for you!

### St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

11 Church Ave., Superior

Fr. Samuel Jandeh 520-689-2250

Weekday Mass Tues.-Fri. 8 a.m. Saturday 5 p.m. • Sunday 9 & 11 a.m. Confession: Sat. 4-4:45 p.m. or by req. www.stfrancissuperior.org

### San Pedro Valley Baptist Church

Dudleyville Road, Dudleyville

Pastor Anthony DaCunha 520-357-7353

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Evening Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

### **Superior Harvest Church**

Hill St. & Stone Ave., Superior

Pastor Albert M. Rodriguez 480-354-4499 H 480-329-3647 C

Sunday Morning Service 10 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study 5 p.m. **Victory in Jesus** 

#### Vista United Methodist Church - San Manuel

801 S. McNab Pkwy., San Manuel

Fred Baum, Pastor 520-825-1985

(Info & Prayer Requests)
ONLINE SERVICES
Sunday live at 10 a.m.
www.vistaumc.org or Facebook/Vista UMC

Community, Friendship & Faith

To be included in the weekly church listing, please call 520-363-5554 or 520-385-2266.

## New mayors for Kearny and Mammoth; Pete Rios wins primary

The 2020 Primary Election included several local municipal elections including the party primary elections for the federal and state offices.

At press time, the unofficial election results showed that Kearny and Mammoth have elected new mayors. Jamie Ramsay (345) defeated Debra Sommers (229). Patricia "Patsy" Armenta (211) defeated Joe Dietz (84) as Mayor of Mammoth. Both will take their seats in January 2021. Pete Rios also beat Ruben Leos in the Democratic Primary for Pinal County Supervisor District 1. Rios does not have opposition in the November election.

Rose Bradford (457) and Samantha Misita (413) have been voted back into their seats on the Kearny Town Council. David Herrera (390) also won a seat on the Kearny Town Council. At press time Copper Area News was unable to verify who will need to move to a run off election for the Mammoth Town Council elections. The results for the Mammoth council were as follows Michael Martinez (205), Terry Adams (165), Alvaro Anaya (151), Joe Brewer (137) and there were 199 write in votes. In order to secure the seat in the primary, a municipal election candidate must secure fifty percent plus one to secure the seat.

Hayden re-elected Dean Hetrick as mayor along with council members Rosalinda Lopez and Bernardino Cruz. Anita Hinojos and Louis "Chacho" Bracamonte were re-elected to the Winkelman Town Council. Winkelman appoints their Mayor. Vanessa Navarrette (433), Olga Lopez (393) and Bruce Armitage (364) were all re-elected to the Superior Town Council. The incumbents did not have any opposition in their race. The Superior Home Rule, Proposition 443 passed 382-103 votes. After the votes were all tallied and accounted for, incumbents. Rep. David Cook and Rep. Frank Pratt will advance to the November General Election where they will face democrat Sharon Girard. TJ Shope (R) will challenge former Senator Barbara McGuire (D).

## Rebuild Superior hosts cemetery clean up

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Rebuild Superior Inc. hosted a cemetery clean up on Saturday. Many families gathered to help clean some of the older sections of the cemetery.

Due to COVID-19 the Town of Superior is no longer able to use inmate labor to help maintain the cemetery and other public areas.

### PETE **RIOS** SAYS THANK YOU

TO ALL PINAL COUNTY DIST, 1 VOTERS. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN THE PRIMARY & LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR HELP IN NOVEMBER.

PAID BY FRIENDS OF PETE RIOS

Rebuild Superior Inc. plans to host another cemetery clean up on Oct. 24, 2020.

The organization is also raising funds to help fund clean ups and other organizational projects you can donate online or you may contact Rebuild Superior President, Manny Guzman at 520-261-0249 or you may mail donations to Rebuild Superior Inc. PO Box 187, Superior, AZ 85173.



Rick Cartier | Submitted

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### 20. Help Wanted

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520-385-4265

### 20. Help Wanted

### Special Education Director Needed

Hayden-Winkelman Unified School
District is now accepting applications for
a Special Education Director for the 202021 School Year. Applications will be accept
until Monday, August 24th at 5:00 PM in
the District office at 824 Thorne Avenue,
Winkelman, Arizona 85192. For additional
information, please contact superintendent
Jeff Gregorich at 520-437-5941.

The Copper Basin News has a newspaper route (in Hayden for the San Pedro & surrounding area) open immediately.

Call or text James at 480-620-5401.

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### 25. Instruction

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### 80. Rentals

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# AIA modifies fall sports calendar amid pandemic

#### By Andrew Luberda

Copper Area News

As professional sports leagues and collegiate sports continue to be affected by COVID-19, so too is high school sports in Arizona. The Arizona Interscholastic Association modified its fall sports calendar and provided guidance for schools to follow in each fall sport.

"The health and safety of our student participants, coaches, officials and essential personnel, including volunteers, is the primary concern for the return of interscholastic athletics and activities," said AIA Executive Director David Hines in a release distributed to the media. "We are very grateful to those who share our commitment of a return to these highly beneficial educational activities and athletics."

The following details the calendar modifications:

#### Golf

First practice – Aug. 17

First competition – Aug. 24

Championships - Oct. 26-29 (Div. I), Nov. 2-5 (Div. II)

#### **Cross Country**

First Practice - Aug. 24

First Competition – Sept. 9

Championships - Nov. 12-13

#### **Swimming & Diving**

First Practice - Aug. 24

First Competition - Sept. 14

Championships - Nov. 5-7

#### **Badminton**

First Practice - Aug. 31

First Competition - Sept. 14

Championships - Nov. 7 (Individuals), Nov. 9-12 (Teams)

#### **Fall Soccer**

First Practice - Aug. 31

First Competition - Sept. 16

Championships – Nov. 4-7

#### Volleyball

First Practice - Aug. 31

First Competition - Sept. 21

Championships - Nov. 12-21

#### Football

First Practice - Sept. 7

First Competition - Sept. 30-Oct. 3

Championships – Dec. 11/12 (4A-6A & Open)

Among the notable calendar changes is the start of the football season, which was scheduled to start on Aug. 17. The new start date comes on the heels of a proposal submitted to the AIA by the Arizona Football Coaches Association, which sought a later start date, in part, to accommodate those districts and schools that lag behind others around the state due to executing different stages of their re-entry phases.

Additionally, according to the release, "(the) new schedule does allow for schools and districts who are not able to start on the earliest possible date to join competition when feasible and still be eligible for the postseason, provided those school teams meet conference minimums."

"We would like to thank our member schools and our school communities for their patience as we worked through the challenges to develop this plan," Hines said.

Coaches around the Copper Corridor share both concern and optimism about completing the fall season.

"The virus is real, and it is a killer," Superior football head coach Ryan Palmer wrote in an email to the *Copper Area News*. "It should not be taken lightly. The safety of the students is the most important aspect to consider.

"There are a lot of different opinions on the virus and a return to normalcy. There is no perfect path or simple solution. The AIA and government officials are doing the best they can with a seemingly impossible situation. The AIA has done well in providing guidance and modifications for schools to follow in accordance with NFHS, state and local restrictions and recommendations."

San Manuel Athletic Director Damon Lovato supports the modified schedule too.

"I like the staggered start modification," he wrote in a text. "I still have questions about how schools re-entering in the middle of the season would look, but I think it's great for (our) student-athletes."

Social distancing practices give Palmer the greatest trepidation in protecting the health and safety of the students, but it is possible.

"If there is a high school football season, I believe that the 1A Conference has the best opportunity in successfully completing it," Palmer said. "Although our resources are limited, so are our numbers

"I feel safer on a 200-yard practice field, outside in the sunshine, with 20 student-athletes split into groups of 10 or less, than I do stopping at a busy grocery store on my way home to grab a gallon of milk. Football is a contact sport, but there is also only one game played per week, which limits the opportunity for exposure with other schools."

In an effort to address some of the concerns of Palmer and most certainly other coaches in all sports, the AIA provided member school athletic directors and administrators "guidance" and modifications to follow.

Included in those modifications is how teams prepare during warmup and pregame, social distancing in the bench area, the wearing of masks by coaches, how the game ball and/or equipment will be cleaned and sanitized, and the "handshake line," which aims to prohibit "handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, hugs, etc. should occur pre or post-game/match."

Volleyball, for example, will not switch sides between games. Limits on invitational tournaments for some sports will be imposed as well.

Team personnel and game officials will also be required to adhere to modifications that, in addition to face masks, include how to report game results, communicate with each other and players, and, perhaps most importantly, stay away from the court or field if they are feeling any symptoms related to COVID-19.

"We owe it to our members to provide a direction," Executive Board President and Safford Athletic Director Toni Corona stated in the AIA's released statement. "It may be challenging to get everything going for all the schools at one time but with good communication, we can provide the best possible experience for our students in this unprecedented time. This Board and the AIA staff will continue to provide information and guidelines as we proceed."



All fall sports, including football, will have a different look and feel to it during the COVID-19 pandemic.